



PWCS

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MEDIA RELEASE

- **PWCS ACQUIRES MORE TERMINAL 4 OFFSET LAND**
- **PUBLIC ACCESS TO ELLALONG LAGOON DRAWS CLOSER**

Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) has taken another step in implementing its environmental strategy supporting the Terminal 4 (T4) project by acquiring 242 hectares of land at Tomago from Hunter Development Corporation (HDC).

In close proximity to the T4 site, the area includes significant saltmarsh meadows and wetlands.

Under the terms of the acquisition, PWCS is obliged to restore and enhance the land's biodiversity features to boost migratory bird and fauna activity.

Some parts of the land have been in decline for many years, primarily because of hefty restorative costs.

"PWCS is very proud to secure this significant land and play a long-term role enhancing its environmental value," PWCS CEO Hennie du Plooy said.

"The community can be assured the land will be both cared for and protected from future development

"A priority is to talk with local environmental experts to work out how we can deliver the best conservation outcomes at the site.

"The improvements will complement major clean-up work at the actual T4 site, which is currently a contaminated materials storage area in need of remediation."

PWCS also said it was moving closer to its aim of enabling the public to access and enjoy the 406 hectare Ellalong Lagoon wetlands site near Cessnock.

PWCS acquired the site earlier this year as another major T4 offset area, with a commitment to funding, restoring and protecting the site and opening it up for public use.

Recognised nationally for its bird and fauna qualities, the sensitive site has previously been targeted by residential developers.

Ecological monitoring is underway at the site, and PWCS has engaged Wetland Care Australia to develop a management plan which is expected to be finalised in coming weeks.

A range of local bodies including the Ellalong Residents Wetlands Protection Group and the Rural Fire Service have been consulted to ensure the best land management plans are enacted.

“The bottom line is Ellalong Lagoon has been locked away from developers forever,” Mr du Plooy said.

“In conjunction with public wishes, PWCS’ aims are to restore, enhance and open this special land up for public enjoyment.

“There are many hurdles to cross, including looking at how we could make the site safe and accessible for the public in a manner that creates negligible impacts. Given the sensitivity of the site, these matters need to be considered gradually and carefully.

“PWCS also believes that the land could ultimately be transferred to public ownership - by being turned into a National Park, for example.

“On that front we are happy to have ongoing discussions with the New South Wales Government to see if or how that could be possible.”

PWCS is also looking at other T4 offset sites in the Hunter Valley and New South Wales.

Meanwhile, PWCS said its commitment to delivering T4 had taken another significant step forward, with the Board approving additional expenditure of \$60 million dollars to progress more advanced engineering and design work.

PWCS has committed nearly \$2 billion to loader expansions over the past 12 years.

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