



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lake Macquarie Suburb Scuppered by Geo Names Board

The Geographical names Board of NSW has rejected a proposal by Lake Macquarie City Council to create a suburb named Lake Macquarie which would have made use of a portion of the existing suburb of Speers Point.

Responding to the decision, State Member for Lake Macquarie and former mayor Greg Piper said;

"I am very disappointed with the decision and feel that the Board has denied the opportunity for Lake Macquarie to differentiate itself from other areas through a proposal that would have had very little, if any, adverse impact on any resident living today, but would have benefitted businesses almost immediately, and I believe, the greater community over the longer term."

"The reason given by the Board for its decision relating to avoiding confusion, would effectively rule out any location within the Local Government Area (LGA) using the name Lake Macquarie. However, that flies in the face of the reality for most LGA's in NSW, including Lake Macquarie's neighbours of Newcastle, Maitland and Wyong."

"For example, residents of Budgewoi in Wyong, Maryland in Newcastle, or Metford in Maitland would no doubt frequently say they were from those LGA's when out of the area. This doesn't create confusion; it is the reality for most people."

"I believe the Board has also placed too much emphasis on a petition that lacked credibility, having been raised prior to a public information session which set aside misinformation and which saw many people change their view."

"It is important to distinguish Lake Macquarie from both Newcastle and Port Macquarie. The decision is disappointing, makes no sense and deprives Lake Macquarie residents of the potential benefits from an improved identity for the city. I hope that the Council seeks to have this decision reviewed."

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