



Marine Turtles



Turtle embayment area at Eraring Power Station inlet canal

Turtle species

There are seven types of marine turtles in the world. The six species found in Australian waters are the:

- Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*);
- Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*);
- Flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*);
- Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*);
- Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriaces*); and
- Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).



Release of tagged turtle

Marine turtles in Lake Macquarie

Green, Loggerhead and Flatback turtles are known to occur in Lake Macquarie and have made their way into the Eraring Power Station inlet canal.

All marine turtles are protected by law and most are classified as a threatened species under NSW and Commonwealth legislation.

Eraring Energy is committed to protecting these special creatures and works with organisations such as the Native Animal Trust Fund, Taronga Zoo, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and other experts to develop plans and policies to manage turtles in the canal.

Turtle embayment area

A number of structures have been removed from the inlet canal to ensure healthy turtles can return to the Lake of their own accord.

Eraring Energy also constructed a turtle embayment area in the inlet canal based on the advice of an international turtle expert, Dr Colin Limpus, from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Green turtle released from the Eraring Power Station Inlet Canal

The embayment area provides a place for the turtles to rest and warm up in the colder weather, whilst also providing a safe access point for trained Eraring Energy staff to capture turtles that are sick or injured.

Turtles at risk

Eraring Energy has a licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to capture, tag and release turtles.

Turtles are removed when their health or safety is assessed as being at risk. When this occurs, the Eraring Energy Environment Team record important information about the turtles such as size and weight. This data contributes to the scientific knowledge of the species in Lake Macquarie. The

information is logged in the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Atlas and helps experts to develop conservation strategies for the species.

The turtles are also tagged so they can be recognised if encountered again.

Eraring Energy is currently investigating options to exclude turtles from the inlet canal, and has formed a Marine Turtle Management Strategy Working Group including members from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Lake Macquarie City Council, Native Animal Trust Fund and Responsible Fishing Association to assist with revising its current Marine Turtle Management Strategy.

Further information about marine turtles can be found on the Department of Environment and Heritage website: <http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/species/turtles/>

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