

have
your say

Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4

Engagement Report

July 2026



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL

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Attachments

1: Survey Verbatim Feedback

2: Written Submissions

3: Interactive Map Data

4: Community Drop-in Session Data

5. Communications Report



Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Council undertook community engagement between 11 June and 15 July 2026. The engagement sought input on the places and coastal environments people value, the issues and hazards of greatest concern, and the approaches that should guide future coastal management.

Community members and stakeholders were invited to participate through drop-in sessions, online mapping, a quick poll, a survey and written submissions.

A total of **279 contributions were received** through the Have Your Say page and **70 people attended** the drop-in sessions. The project page recorded 1,826 visits from 1,289 visitors and 629 document downloads.

Across the engagement, community expressed a strong connection to the region's beaches, estuaries, rivers, lakes and coastal reserves. Beaches and headlands were valued for recreation, walking, health and wellbeing, natural beauty and cultural connection. Rivers and estuaries were valued for swimming, boating, fishing, wildlife and everyday community use.

The strongest collective themes were:

- Protecting natural and cultural values
- Maintaining safe and inclusive access
- Responding to erosion and changing coastal processes
- Improving water quality and estuary health
- Balancing growth, development and infrastructure
- Retaining the natural character of coastal places
- Strengthening monitoring, communication and collaboration

Survey respondents strongly supported protecting and restoring natural ecosystems, followed by beach and dune restoration and improved planning controls. Feedback also showed that priorities and management needs vary across the region, reinforcing the importance of considering both common themes and the environmental, recreational and community context of individual locations.

The findings will be considered alongside technical studies, legislative requirements, focused stakeholder feedback and other evidence as coastal management options are developed and assessed. The community will have a further opportunity to review and comment on the draft CMP during its public exhibition, expected in early 2027.

About this report

This report presents findings from feedback received during the engagement period through survey, quick poll, interactive map, written submissions and community drop-in sessions. Each activity is reported separately, while the **What We Heard** section brings the findings together to identify the main themes across all feedback sources.

Participants could share feedback through more than one activity, so contribution figures should not be added together as a count of unique participants. Themes reflect recurring values, concerns and suggestions; they do not represent a vote for or against a particular issue.

The findings include both region-wide themes and matters specific to individual locations. De-identified verbatim feedback, detailed submissions, interactive map data and drop-in session records are included in the attachments. Community feedback will be considered alongside technical studies, legislation and stakeholder advice as CMP management options are developed and assessed.

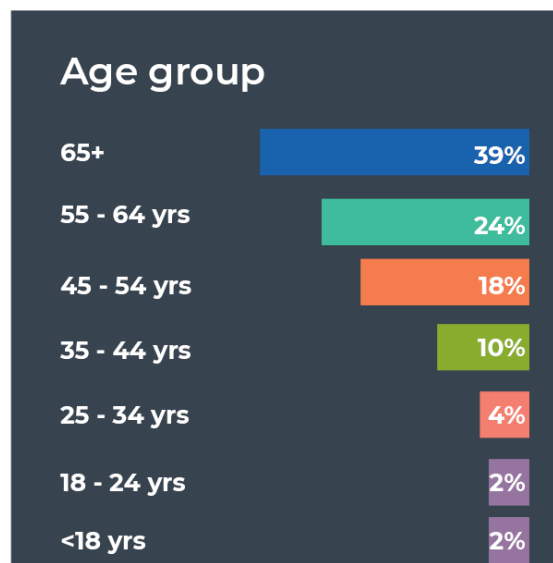
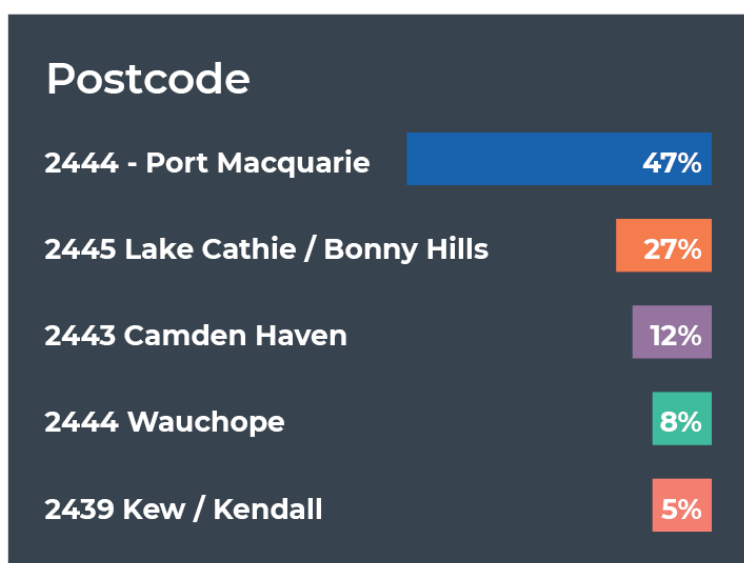
Who we heard from

Feedback was received from community members across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region through the Have Your Say activities, in-person drop-in sessions and stakeholder meetings.

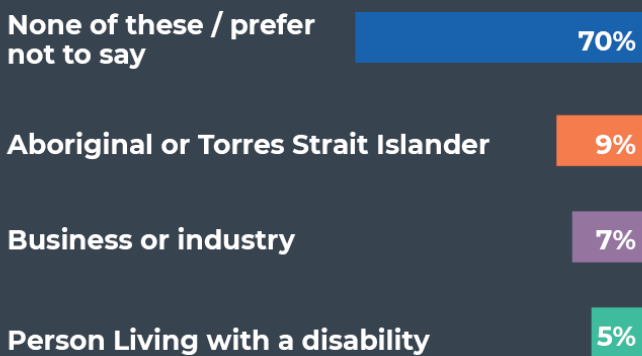
Participants included residents from coastal, estuary and inland communities, regular users of local beaches and waterways, community organisations, government agencies, Aboriginal representatives, industry groups and other place-based stakeholders.

Demographic information was voluntarily supplied by respondents through the survey only and provides an indication of who completed that activity, rather than a profile of everyone who participated in the broader engagement process.

Survey participants



Identity



Drop-in session participants

Eight drop-in sessions were held across Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Laurieton and Bonny Hills, with daytime and evening sessions offered in each location. A total of 70 people attended. Demographic information was observed but not formally collected. General observations indicated that most participants were aged 55 years or over, with some participants aged 45-54 years. The gender mix was relatively even overall, with limited representation from younger age groups.

Focused stakeholder meetings

Stakeholder engagement is continuing throughout the CMP's five-stage development process. Alongside broader community engagement, Council is meeting with Aboriginal organisations and knowledge holders, government agencies, neighbouring councils, community and industry groups, and relevant Council teams. Feedback from these discussions will be considered alongside community input and technical evidence as management options are assessed and the draft CMP is prepared. Meeting outcomes are not included in this report solely because some discussions occurred during the consultation period.

What we heard

This section summarises the main themes identified across all engagement activities. It brings together shared priorities and location-specific feedback, with more detail provided in the following sections on each engagement method and attachments.

Protecting natural and cultural values

Protecting coastal environments was the strongest and most consistent priority across the engagement. Survey respondents ranked environment and cultural heritage as the most important CMP focus area, and protecting and restoring natural ecosystems was the most frequently selected future management approach.

Participants valued the region's beaches, headlands, rivers, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, dunes and coastal reserves for their natural character, biodiversity, cultural significance and contribution to community wellbeing. Feedback emphasised the importance of retaining native vegetation, wildlife habitat, open space and natural coastal processes, while protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage and other places of local and historical significance.

Many participants expressed a preference for retaining the natural character of coastal places and avoiding unnecessary formalisation or development in sensitive areas. Revegetation, weed management, dune restoration, habitat protection and environmental education were commonly suggested actions.

Maintaining access and recreation

Access and recreation rated the second-highest ranked CMP focus area. Beaches, waterways and coastal reserves were valued for walking and cycling, swimming, surfing, fishing, boating, paddling, wildlife viewing, relaxation and social connection.

Participants supported safe, practical and inclusive access to these places. Suggestions included maintaining and improving pathways, stairs, boardwalks, boat ramps, fishing areas, river access and beach entry points. Disability access was raised particularly in relation to swimming locations, breakwalls, foreshore paths and recreational facilities.

Feedback also identified the need to balance recreational access with environmental protection. This included concerns about the effects of vehicles, boats, fishing activity, dogs and increased visitation on dunes, shorebirds, turtles, waterways and cultural sites.

Responding to erosion and coastal change

Beach erosion, shoreline recession, riverbank erosion, dune loss, landslip and sediment movement were recurring concerns across the region. Participants described changes to beaches, riverbanks, channels, vegetation and access infrastructure, with several locations identified as requiring ongoing monitoring or intervention.

Feedback supported a range of management responses rather than a single approach. These included revegetation, beach and dune restoration, sand nourishment, maintenance of



existing protection works, improved drainage, monitoring and site-specific infrastructure where necessary.

Participants also raised questions about how structures such as breakwalls, bridges, rock/sand bags and proposed coastal infrastructure may affect sediment movement, erosion, flooding and surf conditions. There was a strong expectation that future actions should be based on local evidence and consider both immediate needs and long-term coastal processes.

Improving water quality and estuary health

Water quality and the health of rivers, lakes, estuaries and smaller coastal waterways were prominent themes. Concerns included stormwater and wastewater discharges, litter, sedimentation, reduced tidal movement, acid sulphate soils, declining seagrass and changes to fish, shellfish and bird populations.

The Lake Cathie - Lake Innes system was one of the most frequently discussed areas. Participants raised differing views about entrance management, water movement, dredging, the relationship between the two lakes and the influence of bridges and other infrastructure. Despite differing views on the preferred response, there was broad agreement about the need for clearer long-term management, improved monitoring and better coordination between responsible agencies.

Water quality concerns were also raised for waterways at Bonny Hills, the Hastings River, Queens Lake and the Camden Haven system. Participants called for improved testing, public information, pollution prevention and coordinated management of the land and infrastructure that influence waterway health.

Planning for growth and development

Participants raised concerns about the cumulative effects of population growth and development on coastal environments, waterways and infrastructure. These included increased stormwater runoff, pressure on wastewater systems, vegetation clearing, loss of natural buffers, traffic, parking and greater demand on recreational areas.

Improved planning controls for future development was one of the three most-supported management approaches in the survey. Feedback called for coastal hazards, environmental values and infrastructure capacity to be considered early in land-use and development decisions.

Some contributors also sought clearer information about how coastal hazard and vulnerability mapping may affect future planning controls, existing land uses and development assessment. This was particularly evident in detailed business, industry and technical submissions.

Local priorities and differing views

Some feedback was associated with particular locations and communities.



At Bonny Hills, feedback focused on erosion, dune and vegetation loss, stormwater and wastewater concerns, development pressure and protecting the natural character of Rainbow Beach and nearby coastal places.

At Lake Cathie and Lake Innes, the main issues were entrance management, water quality, flooding, tidal movement, ecosystem health and long-term responsibility for managing the system.

In the Camden Haven area, participants focused on river and beach access, ageing marine and recreational infrastructure, erosion, shoaling, navigation, habitat decline and the effects of vehicles and other recreational use.

Along the Hastings River and North Shore, riverbank erosion, safe access, flood conveyance, navigation and proposed foreshore works were prominent.

The proposed ocean pool at Oxley Beach was one of the most frequently raised individual issues. Both support and opposition were expressed. Support focused on accessible swimming, community health and tourism benefits, while opposition focused on environmental and cultural impacts, coastal hazards, access, parking, construction and ongoing costs. Opposition was more prevalent within the interactive map and written submissions.

These location-specific findings demonstrate that region-wide themes cannot always be translated into a single preferred response. Management options will need to respond to the environmental conditions, uses and values of each place.

Monitoring, information and community involvement

Participants supported continued monitoring, research and community involvement as the CMP progresses. There was interest in contributing local observations, citizen science, volunteer effort and place-based knowledge to future management.

Feedback on the engagement process was mixed but generally recognised the value of in-person discussion. Many participants found the drop-in sessions informative and appreciated access to Council staff, consultants and detailed maps. Others requested additional sessions, online options and more promotion to reach a broader cross-section of the community.

Some participants found the CMP information complex and asked for simpler summaries, clearer maps, local examples and more direct explanations of responsibilities, funding, timing and how community feedback will influence decisions. Transparent reporting and continued engagement were seen as important to maintaining trust as management options are developed.

Engagement approach

Between 11 June and 15 July 2026, Council undertook community engagement to inform Stages 3 and 4 of the Coastal Management Program.

People could participate through community drop-in sessions, an online and paper survey, a quick poll, interactive mapping and written submissions. Focused stakeholder discussions were also held as part of the broader CMP engagement process.

These methods provided different ways for people to share the coastal places they value, the issues and hazards of concern, and their priorities for future management. Feedback will be considered alongside technical studies, stakeholder input and other evidence as management options are developed and assessed.

Engagement Reach



Communication and promotion

A cross-platform communications campaign supported the engagement program, helping raise awareness of the Coastal Management Program and providing clear, accessible information about how the community could participate. Promotion included Council websites and email newsletters, social media, local media coverage and advertising, customer service digital screens, signage at 40 locations across the region and promotion through local community Facebook groups.

The campaign generated more than **42,000 social media impressions across 20 posts**, supported by print and radio coverage and email newsletters distributed to approximately 5,000 subscribers. A brochure, Easy Read guide, coastal hazard fact sheets and two explanatory webinars were also developed to help community members understand the program and provide informed feedback.

The full communications report is in Attachment 5.

Social media posts

Static social media posts, video (reel) and social media stories.



[View Facebook post](#)
[View LinkedIn post](#)



[View Facebook post](#)
[View Instagram post](#)
[View LinkedIn post](#)

Have Your Say Data

The Have Your Say page offered several ways to provide feedback, with one contribution permitted per person through each method. As participants could use more than one method, the figures represent contributions rather than unique participants.

Potential overlap was considered when identifying themes. Themes indicate the range of matters raised, not a vote or measure of support, and are reported together with feedback received through the drop-in sessions in the **What we heard** section.

Input methods and participation levels

A total of **279 contributions** were received through the following Have Your Say channels:

- 98 quick poll responses
- 91 surveys: 79 online and 12 paper
- 58 interactive map contributions
- 32 written submissions

Have Your Say page statistics:

- 1,826 page visits from 1,289 visitors
- 629 document downloads
- Social media was the most common referral source, accounting for 31% of visits

De-identified verbatim feedback from all contributions is included in Attachments 1 and 2.



Quick Poll

Which coastal management focus area matters most to you?

Environment and cultural heritage 51%

Planning and development 26%

Access and recreation 20%

Coastal economy 3%

Leadership and collaboration 0%

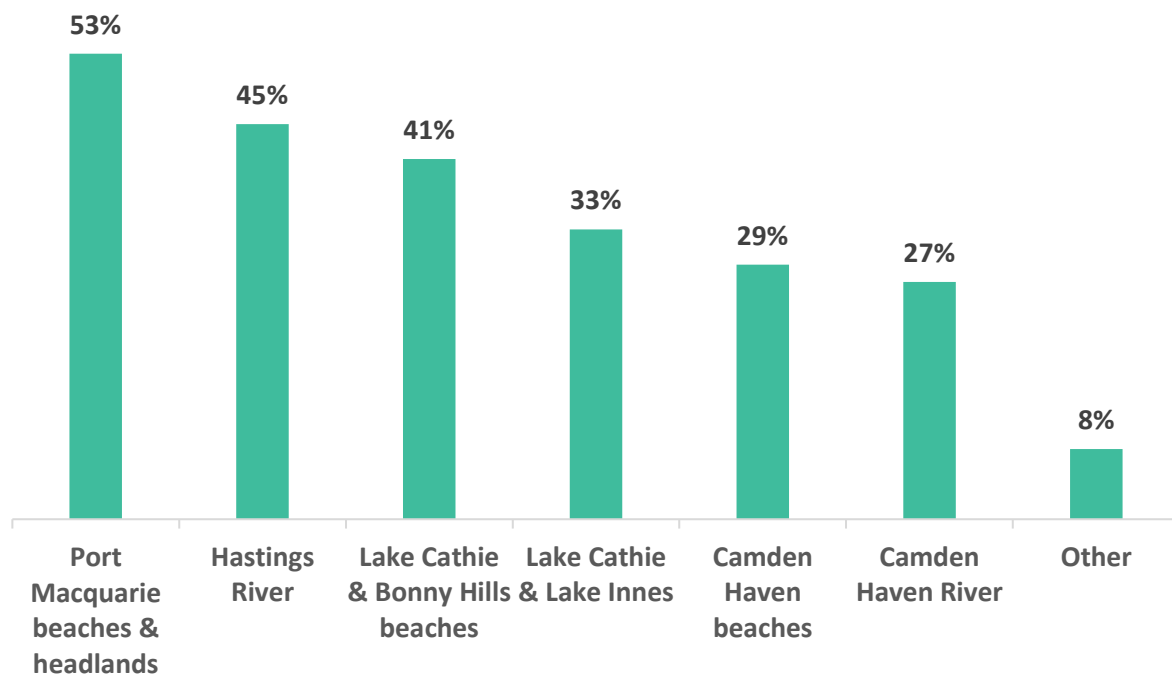
98
responses



Survey Responses

Section 1: Understanding and connection to the coast

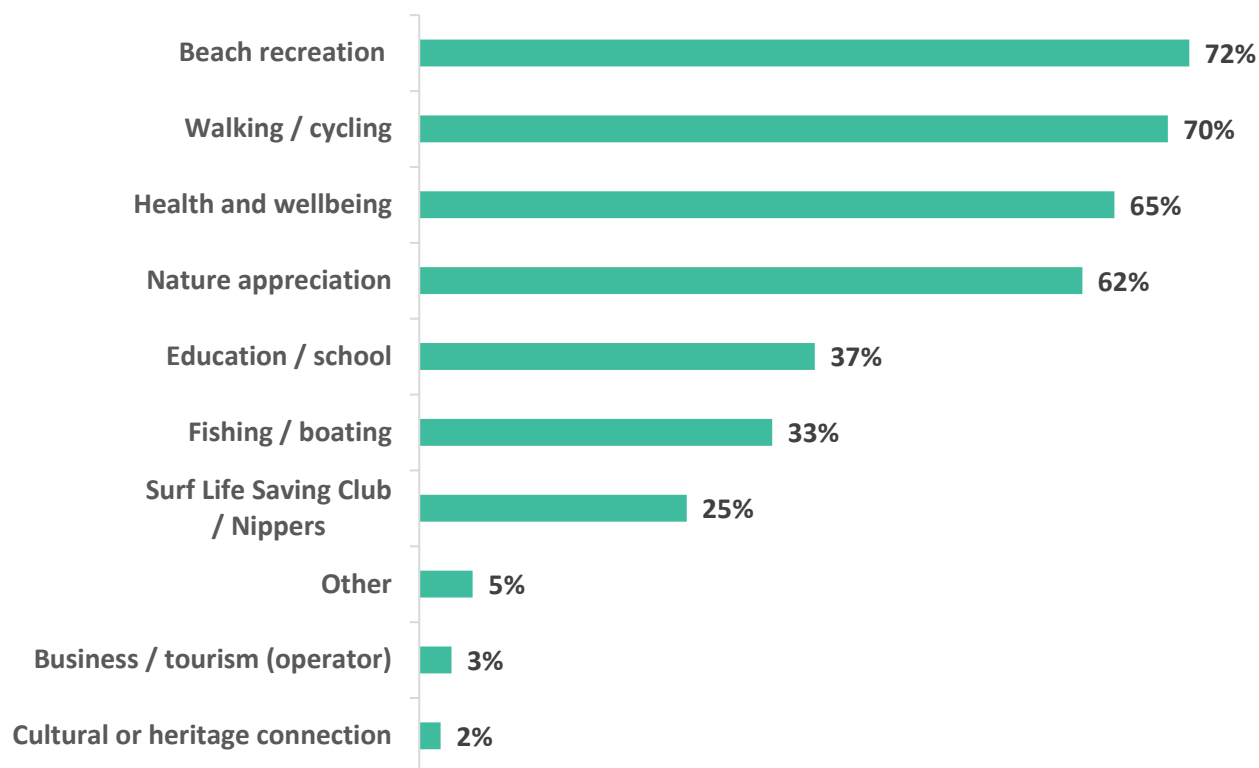
Q1. Which areas of the Port Macquarie Hastings coastline, estuaries or waterways are most important to you? (Max 3)



Other:

- Queens Lake
- Kooloonbung Creek
- Lake Innes
- Wilson river and Maria river
- LGA wide
- Along Ocean Drive near park

Q2. How do you primarily use these areas?



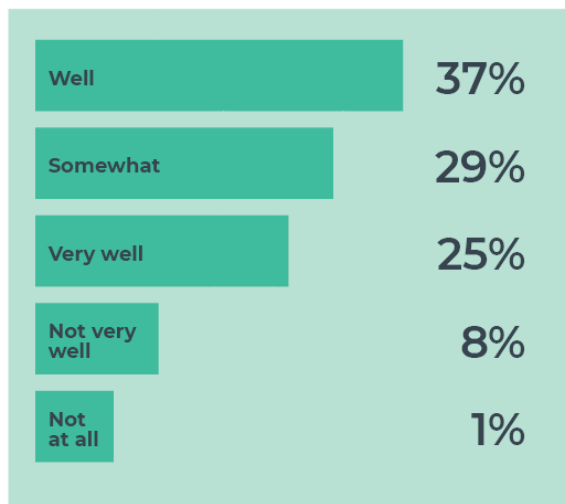
Section 2: Focus areas and priorities

Q3. Please rank the following Coastal Management Program focus areas in order of importance to you. (1 is most important to you and 5 is least important).

The lower the number the more highly valued the focus area.

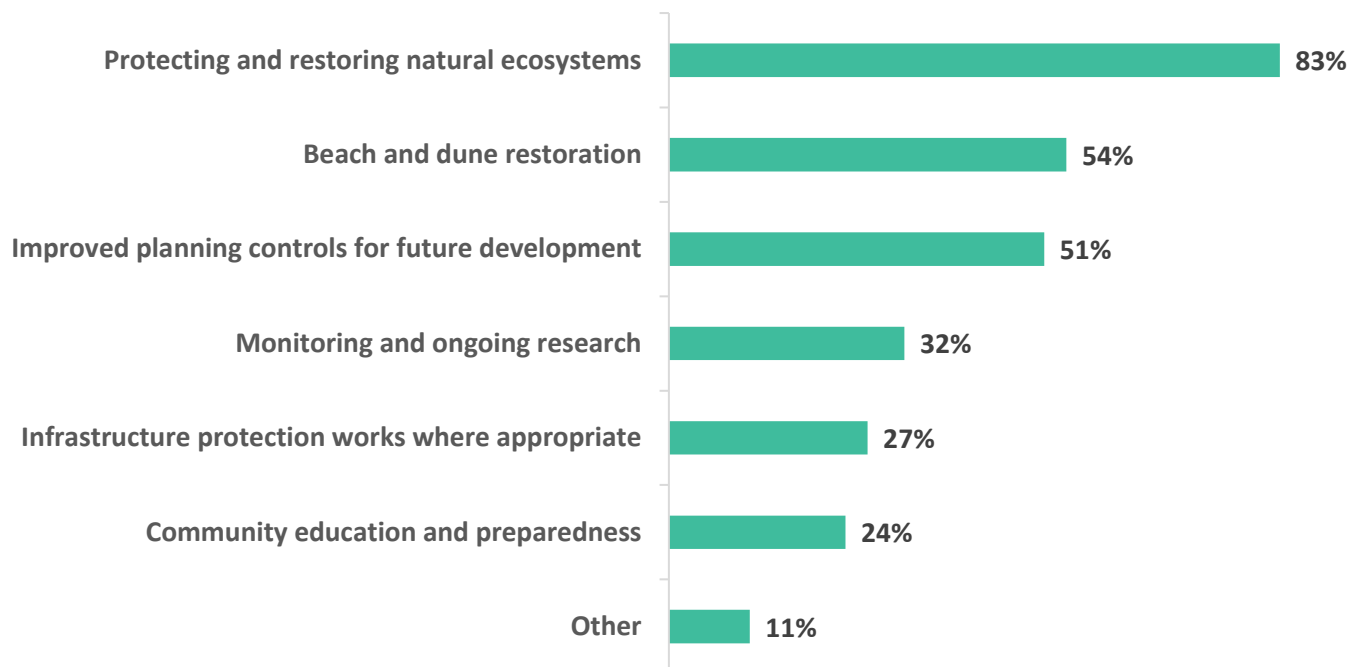
2.0	Environment & Cultural Heritage – Protecting coastal ecosystems, improving water quality, and recognising cultural heritage and First Nations values
2.3	Access & Recreation – Ensuring everyone can safely enjoy the coast now and into the future
2.7	Planning & Development – Supporting sustainable land use and resilient development while adapting to coastal risks
3.1	Coastal Economy – Supporting tourism and coastal industries that rely on healthy, resilient coastal environments
3.7	Leadership & Collaboration – Working together to plan for a changing coastline

Q4. How well do the proposed focus areas reflect what matters most to you?



Section 3: Response to coastal hazards and management approaches

Q5. Which approaches do you think should play the biggest role in future coastal management? (Max 3)



Q6. Are there any specific coastal or estuarine places where you have concerns or think improvements are needed?

Respondents identified places across the CMP area, with the strongest concentration of feedback relating to Lake Cathie and Lake Innes, and Oxley Beach.

At Lake Cathie and Lake Innes, concerns focused on entrance management, water quality, beach erosion, public safety and the ecological health of the connected lake system. Views differed on whether the entrance should be regularly opened or allowed to operate more naturally, while several respondents proposed restoring the separation of Lake Innes and Lake Cathie.

Feedback about Oxley Beach largely related to the proposed ocean pool, including potential environmental and cultural impacts, coastal hazards, cost, access, parking and changes to the beach's natural character. Other places identified included Rainbow Beach, Town Beach, North Haven, the Camden Haven River, North Shore and sections of the coastal walk. Broader concerns included shoreline and dune erosion, waterway health, damaged infrastructure, beach vehicle access, coastal vegetation, wildlife protection, development pressures and wastewater impacts.

Q7. Are there any coastal or estuarine places you value highly or think should be protected into the future?

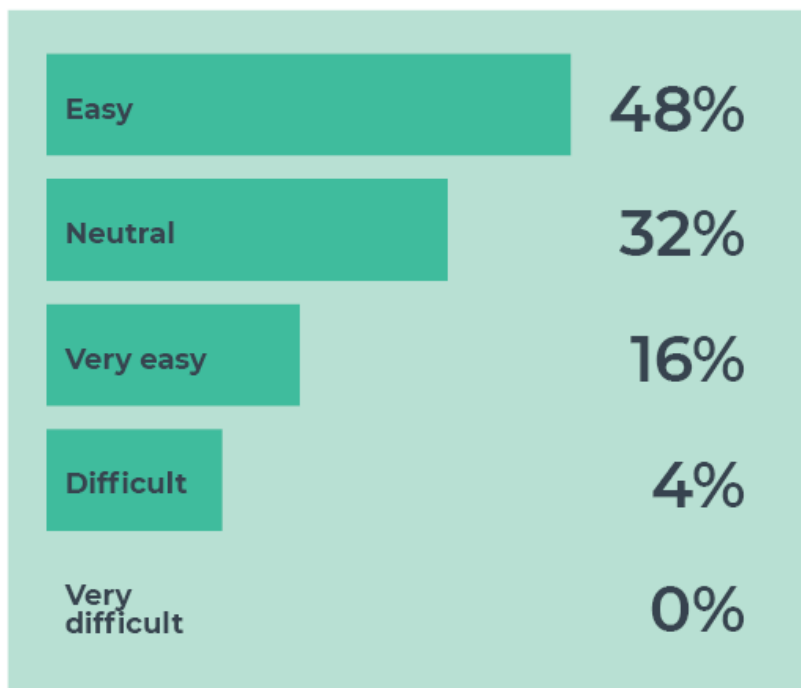
Respondents identified beaches, estuaries, rivers, lakes, foreshores and coastal bushland across the CMP area as places that should be protected for their environmental, cultural, recreational and community value.

Oxley Beach was the most frequently identified location. Respondents valued its natural and relatively undeveloped character, tranquillity, biodiversity, cultural significance and use for recreation and community activities. Many linked its future protection to opposition to the proposed ocean pool and other permanent development.

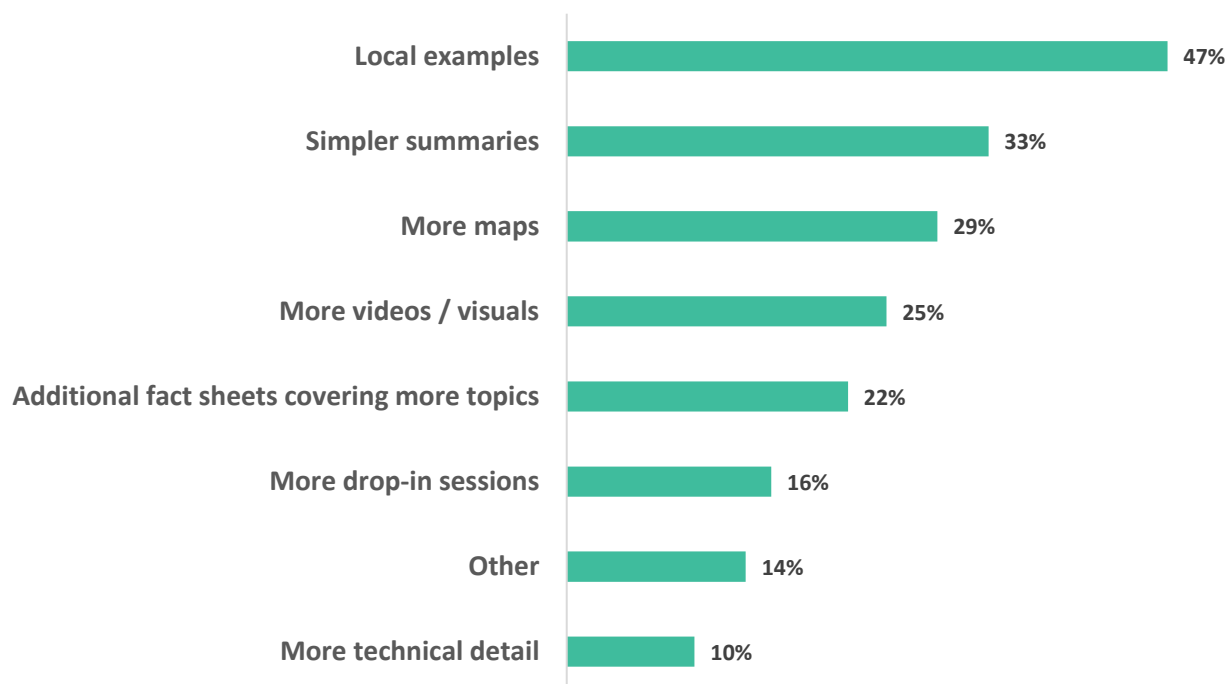
Other frequently mentioned places included Lake Cathie, Lake Innes, the coastline between Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills, the Camden Haven River, North Haven and Dunbogan foreshores, Town Beach, Shelly Beach, Lighthouse Beach, Rainbow Beach, the Hastings River and North Shore. Respondents also highlighted the importance of protecting native vegetation, wildlife habitat, coastal access, shared paths, sandbars and the natural character of beaches and waterways.

Section 4: Understanding the Draft Coastal Management Plan

Q8. How easy was the information to understand?



Q9. What would help improve your understanding?



Respondents most commonly asked for clearer and more accessible information, including functional maps, plain English explanations and more detail about environmental sensitivities, identified priorities and how decisions are influenced.

Other suggestions included broader promotion of engagement opportunities, clearer responses to community questions and greater transparency about stakeholders and decision-making. Several respondents considered the information and engagement approach helpful or professional.

Q10. Please share any other feedback on the CMP or the engagement process here.

Additional comments largely reinforced themes reported elsewhere, including Oxley Beach, Lake Cathie and Lake Innes, coastal erosion, development pressures, vegetation protection, public access and the management of natural coastal environments. Differing views on the proposed Oxley Beach ocean pool were again evident.

Feedback on the engagement process was mixed but generally recognised the value of providing opportunities to speak directly with Council staff and consultants. Several respondents described the drop-in sessions, maps and Have Your Say information as useful, informative and professionally presented, and valued being able to attend sessions in local areas.

Suggestions for future engagement included holding more drop-in and online sessions, promoting opportunities more widely, involving young people and environmental or recreational groups, and providing clearer responses to community questions. Some respondents also sought greater transparency about decision-making, funding, timeframes and how feedback will influence the CMP, while others considered the survey too broad or complex.

“ I am concerned about all places because they are all interconnected and affected by the same issue - climate change

”

“ This needs to be a considered response to hold on to the natural beauty of the river while improving access for people to enter the river ...

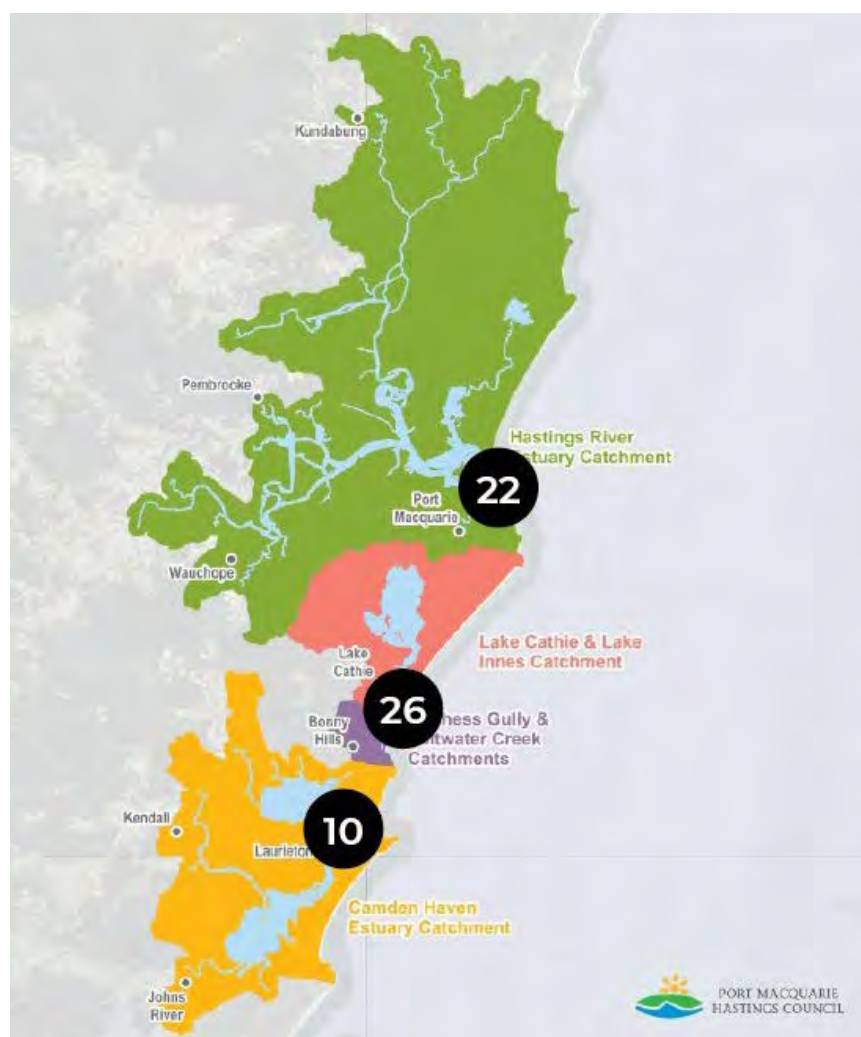


Interactive Map

Participants placed markers on the interactive map to identify valued places, coastal issues and suggested improvements. Each marker included a location and comment, with participants also able to select one or more CMP focus areas and upload supporting material. Markers represent contributions rather than unique participants, as individuals may have placed more than one marker.

There were **58 markers** dropped by **32 respondents**; **4 images** and **1 supporting document** were uploaded.

Verbatim comments and attachments are included in Attachment 3.*



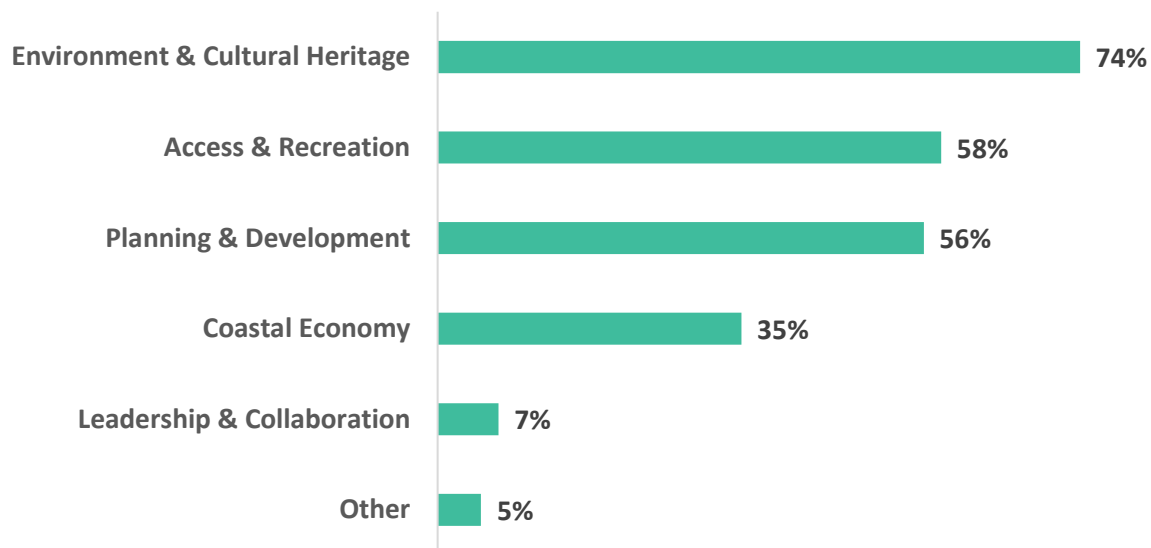
**Two supporting documents uploaded through the mapping activity (relating to the proposed Oxley Beach ocean pool and dune erosion near the Dunbogan sand quarry) have been noted but not appended, as they are already held or being considered through other Council processes. Relevant coastal management issues have been reflected in the key themes where appropriate.*

Top contributions by location

Locality	Markers	Key Feedback
Bonny Hills	22	- Feedback focused on protecting the natural character of Bonny Hills while addressing erosion, water quality and the impacts of growth. - Respondents also raised native revegetation, low-impact walking access, the Spoonies Beach boat ramp and maintaining coastal reserves for recreation and community use.
Port Macquarie	19	- All markers related to the proposed ocean pool at Oxley Beach, with 16 opposing the proposal and three supporting it. - Opposition centred on environmental impacts, coastal hazards, changes to the natural setting and ongoing costs, while support highlighted accessibility and potential community and tourism benefits.
Camden Haven	10	- Feedback focused on safe and accessible foreshore areas, protection of waterways and improvements to existing coastal and marine infrastructure. - Matters raised included stormwater litter, erosion and revegetation, dinghy and river access, navigation facilities and maritime heritage.
Lake Cathie / Lake Innes	5	- Respondents called for clearer and more active long-term management of the lake system. - Priorities included entrance management, improved water movement, investigation of returning Lake Innes to freshwater and stronger coordination between Council and State agencies.
North Shore	2	- Feedback focused on riverbank erosion, stabilisation and safe access to the foreshore and river. - Respondents also raised the need for clearer priorities and better community consultation on future foreshore works.

Identified CMP Focus areas

Participants could select multiple focus areas. Totals therefore exceed the number of map markers.



Other:

- Pedestrian safety
- Financial responsibility

“

Revegetation of buffer zones with native plants which are known to reduce erosion.

”

“

Raised walkways to protect the land and enable access for all abilities.

“

A Footpath of any kind along the foreshore reserve is not a priority in our neighbourhood. Erosion of the riverbank is of more concern in some areas as it is eroding the reserve

”

Written Submissions

Council received **32 written submissions** from community groups and organisations, businesses and industry representatives, and individual community members.

To avoid repeating lengthy and often overlapping summaries in the body of the report, each submission is represented in the register below by its primary matters. This approach gives every submission an individual and equivalent entry, while keeping the section accessible and proportionate.

The register should be read alongside the **What We Heard** section, where all written submissions have been considered as part of the broader thematic analysis. Feedback has not been excluded because it is not described in detail in the register.

Community member submissions have been deidentified and categorised by locality, while submissions from organisations and businesses are identified.

[Full submissions are included in Attachment 2.](#)

Community groups and organisations

No.	Submitter	Key matters raised
1	Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club	Recognition of Surf Life Saving facilities as critical emergency infrastructure; support for the future replacement and expansion of the Flynns Beach facility; protection of rescue and emergency access.
2	Revive Lake Cathie	Restoration and coordinated management of the Lake Cathie–Lake Innes system; water quality, entrance management and water movement; monitoring, public information and community involvement. Revive Lake Cathie also submitted suggestions for long term planning directly to the consultant. That information will be considered during development of the Draft CMP and is not included here.
3	Port Macquarie Surf Museum	Recognition of the proposed National Surfing Reserve; coastal heritage, education and stewardship; ongoing participation in CMP implementation between Town Beach and Lighthouse Beach.
4	FAWNA	Impacts of discarded fishing tackle on wildlife; additional disposal bins and permanent signage; responsible-fishing education, birdwatching and ongoing community partnerships.

5 Protect Oxley Beach

Opposition to major permanent infrastructure at Oxley Beach; protection of natural, environmental and cultural values; coastal hazard exposure and long-term financial risk.

Business and industry

No.	Submitter	Key matters raised
6	King & Campbell Pty Ltd	Clearer explanation of how Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping may inform future planning controls; improved plain-English consultation material; consideration of extending consultation following updates.
7	Horton Coastal Engineering	Concerns that the Stage 2 assessment may overstate future coastal risk; review of the assumptions and probability boundaries used; provision for site-specific hazard assessments.
8	Adbri	Site-specific consideration before coastal mapping informs planning constraints; recognition of existing lawful land uses and the Dunbogan Quarry's regional economic role; further consultation on future planning responses.

Community members

No.	Submitter	Key matters raised
9	Bonny Hills	Managing growth in line with infrastructure capacity; protecting water quality, natural character and coastal buffers; walking access, recreation and the Spoonies Beach boat ramp.
10	Bonny Hills	Foreshore and creek erosion; possible seepage through the dune; loss of mature vegetation; revegetation and extension of sandbag protection.
11	Bonny Hills	Regeneration of native coastal vegetation, particularly she oaks, to support long-term dune stability.
12	Bonny Hills	Clarification of proposed toilet facilities at Rainbow Beach Reserve, including change rooms, showers and gender-separated amenities.

13	Bonny Hills	Potential health risks associated with poor water quality near the Rainbow Beach creek outflow; monitoring and public warnings following rainfall.
14	Bonny Hills	Erosion at Rainbow Beach Park Reserve and Saltwater Creek; loss of trees and beach access; concern that existing sandbagging is insufficient.
15	Bonny Hills	Protection of Rainbow Beach and the southern coastline from further clearing and development; ecological mapping, habitat protection, cultural interpretation and conservation-led tourism.
16	Bonny Hills	Infrastructure and wastewater upgrades before further growth; stronger scrutiny of rezoning; protection of green spaces and use of nature-based coastal management.
17	Lake Cathie	Inclusion of long-standing Lake Cathie–Lake Innes management priorities in the certified CMP; water flow, dredging, water quality and acid sulfate soils; clearer government accountability.
18	Port Macquarie	Support for construction of the proposed ocean pool at Oxley Beach.
19	Port Macquarie	Simplification of the engagement process; protection of heritage buildings; removal of graffiti and some public art; greater use of natural materials and native vegetation.
20	Port Macquarie	Opposition to the Oxley Beach ocean pool due to environmental values, maintenance costs, safety, insurance and parking pressures; consideration of alternative locations and priorities.
21	Port Macquarie	Proposed second Hastings River breakwall or flood bypass to improve river outflow, reduce flooding and address sand accumulation near Pelican Island.
22	Port Macquarie	Concerns about coastal recreation cost estimates and funding priorities; limited provision for Town Beach, the southern breakwall and parking.
23	Port Macquarie	Opposition to the ocean pool due to potential impacts on protected habitat and the sensitive coastline at Oxley Beach.

24	Port Macquarie	Opposition to the ocean pool due to environmental, maintenance, safety and financial concerns; preference for beach accessibility, waterway restoration and community facilities.
25	Port Macquarie	Support for the ocean pool alongside integrated planning for urban growth, parking, traffic, coastal access, public amenity and the visitor experience.
26	Port Macquarie	Opposition to a large concrete ocean pool; protection of the natural coastline, geology, vegetation and walking trails.
27	Port Macquarie	Opposition to the ocean pool on environmentally zoned and coastal hazard-exposed land; protection of Oxley Beach's natural beauty and cultural heritage.
28	North Shore	Riverbank erosion, debris and lack of safe river access; stabilisation and access improvements; broader consultation on proposed foreshore works.
29	Camden Haven	Wildlife injuries caused by fishing line and unsafe fishing practices; permanent signage, tackle-disposal bins, clean-ups and education; promotion of birdwatching.
30	North Haven	A safer and more accessible river edge near the Ocean Drive playground for children, older people and people with disability.
31	Region-wide	Retaining a natural coastline; regeneration of native coastal vegetation and targeted management of bitou bush.
32	Region-wide	Protection of the connected coastal landscape from Tacking Point to Camden Haven; infrastructure that keeps pace with growth; walking and cycling connections and cumulative development impacts.

Community Drop-in sessions

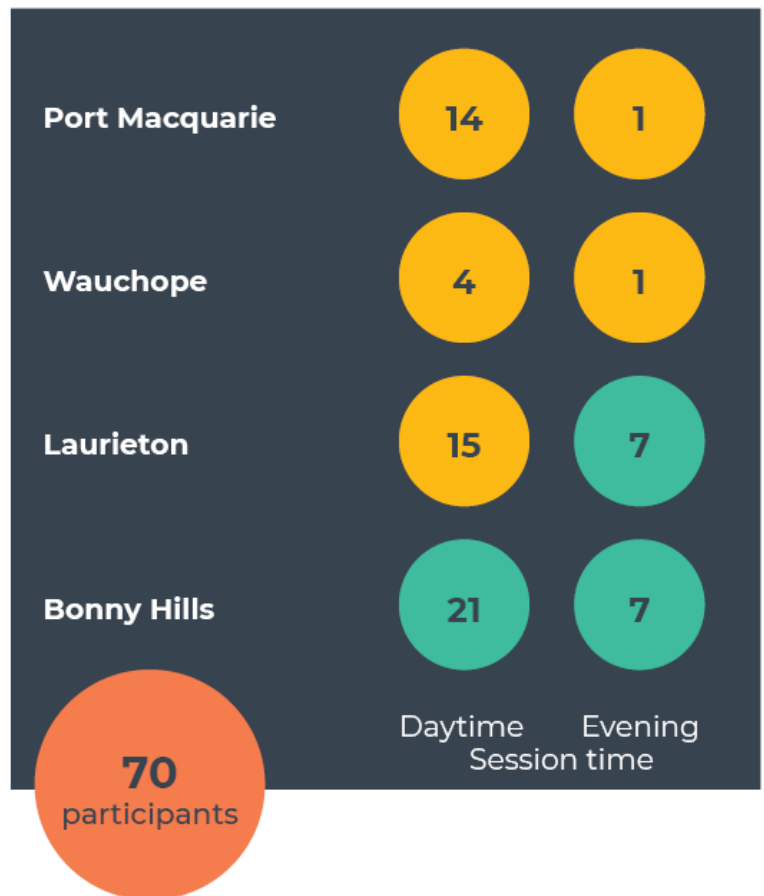
Drop-in sessions were held in Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Laurieton and Bonny Hills, with both daytime and evening sessions offered at each location. A total of 70 people attended, with Bonny Hills recording the highest attendance at 28 participants.

The sessions were staffed by Council and consultant representatives. Participants could discuss and map issues relating to any part of the CMP area, rather than only the location where they attended.

Findings are organised by session location to show what was most important to attendees at each session. Feedback was captured through mapped post-it note comments and project consultant summaries.

Session maps and transcribed comments are included in Attachment 4.

Drop-in Session Attendance



Common themes across the sessions

Recurring matters included public access, erosion and sediment movement, water quality, ecosystem health, infrastructure condition, recreation and development impacts. These activity-level findings will be considered alongside surveys, submissions, mapping and other engagement inputs when identifying the overall themes of the consultation.

Port Macquarie session

Discussion covered the Hastings River entrance, North Shore, Settlement Point and several Port Macquarie beaches. Participants emphasised protecting natural character, conservation areas and cultural heritage while considering future coastal works and recreational infrastructure.

The potential effects of coastal structures were a prominent topic, including how an ocean pool at Town Beach could affect sediment movement and surf breaks. Erosion, bank stability, flood mitigation and informal shoreline protection were also discussed.

Key themes included:

- **Natural character and cultural heritage:** Retaining conservation values, native vegetation and landscape character, and protecting Aboriginal heritage and bird habitat.
- **Coastal structures and sediment movement:** Potential effects of an ocean pool, training walls, breakwalls and rock bags on erosion, sediment transport and surf conditions.
- **Access, recreation and safety:** Safer and more inclusive waterfront access, pathways, swimming areas and boating facilities.
- **Maintenance and access management:** Vegetation, drainage, parking, pedestrian conflicts and unauthorised vehicle access.
- **Public benefit:** The need for publicly funded CMP actions to demonstrate clear community benefit.



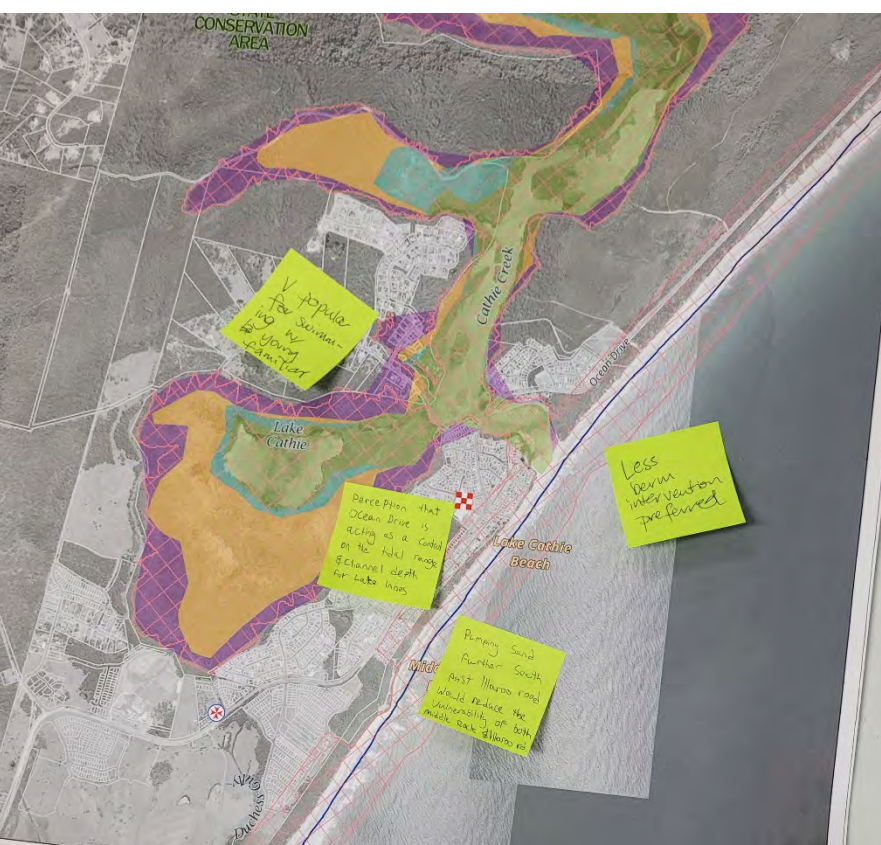
Wauchope session

Although held in Wauchope, most discussion related to Lake Cathie–Lake Innes, Queens Lake and the Hastings River entrance. This shows participants attended based on convenience or interest rather than focusing only on the host location.

Discussion centred on entrance management, sediment build-up, tidal flushing and flood conveyance. Participants questioned whether bridges and other structures restricted tidal influence and contributed to reduced water quality.

Key themes included:

- **Entrance management and flushing:** Interest in dredging, wider bridge openings and maintaining open entrance conditions for longer.
- **Flood conveyance:** Concern that constrained waterways may not adequately convey flood flows.
- **Water quality and ecosystem health:** Sedimentation, seagrass decline, fish habitat, restoration and coordinated monitoring.
- **Recreation and access:** Walking, cycling, foreshore access and clearer information about boat-ramp suitability.
- **Community stewardship:** Interest in contributing observations, monitoring data and volunteer effort to future CMP actions.



Laurieton session

The Laurieton session generated detailed discussion about the Camden Haven River and Inlet, Queens Lake, Stingray Creek, Grants Beach, Pilot Beach and Dunbogan. Participants described the area as an important environmental, recreational and tourism asset, while identifying concerns about ageing infrastructure, changing waterways and declining habitat.

Access was a strong theme, including fishing, boating, kayaking, swimming and disability access. Participants also recognised that new infrastructure and increased use must be balanced with environmental protection.

Key themes included:

- **Public access and accessibility:** Safer and more inclusive access to beaches, swimming areas, boat ramps, boardwalks and fishing locations.
- **Infrastructure condition:** Ageing or deteriorating wharves, jetties, pools, boat ramps, boardwalks, the former pilot station and Marine Rescue facilities.
- **Erosion, shoaling and navigation:** Shoreline erosion, changing channels, sediment build-up and reduced navigation depth.
- **Ecosystem decline:** Concern about seagrass, mangroves, oysters, cockles, pipis, fish, birdlife and wetland habitat.
- **Recreation and tourism:** Strong support for boating, fishing, kayaking, swimming and wildlife viewing.
- **Vehicle management:** Concern about 4WD impacts on turtles, shorebirds, dunes and Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- **Education and stewardship:** Support for citizen science, interpretation and greater community involvement.



Bonny Hills session

The Bonny Hills session focused strongly on coastal erosion, development pressure, stormwater and water quality. Discussion extended beyond Rainbow Beach to Bartletts Beach, Spoonneys, Tank Stream, Duchess Gully, Saltwater Creek and Lake Cathie–Lake Innes.

Participants described changes in beach width, dunes, vegetation and cliff stability. Some Illaroo Road residents considered the existing rock bags effective when maintained and preferable to a large rock revetment, while others expressed frustration about the pace of action.

Key themes included:

Coastal erosion and shoreline management: Erosion, landslip, dune and vegetation loss, with support for revegetation, stabilisation and monitoring.

Development pressure: Concern about increased runoff, vegetation loss, infrastructure pressure and reduced environmental values.

Stormwater and water quality: Runoff, wastewater discharges and possible sewer leaks affecting Duchess Gully and Saltwater Creek.

Natural environment: Protection of mature trees, wetlands, wildlife corridors and natural character.

Recreation and visitor management: Access, parking, pathways, signage and user conflicts in popular areas.

Local identity: Recognition that Bonny Hills includes several distinct and valued coastal places.

Lake Cathie–Lake Innes processes: Flooding, flushing, water quality and the possible influence of the Ocean Drive and Kenwood Drive bridges.



Conclusion & Next Steps

The engagement provided a broad range of community perspectives on coastal and estuary places people value, the issues and hazards of concern, and the approaches that should guide future management. While several priorities were shared across the region, the feedback also highlighted the different environmental, recreational and community needs of individual locations.

The findings in this report will be considered alongside technical studies, legislative requirements, focused stakeholder input and other evidence as management options are developed and assessed. Stakeholder discussions will continue throughout the remaining stages of the CMP.

The next steps are to:

- further investigate and assess potential management options
- consider the environmental, social, cultural, economic and practical implications of each option
- prepare the draft CMP, including proposed actions, responsibilities and priorities
- report back on how community and stakeholder feedback has informed the draft CMP
- place the draft CMP on public exhibition, expected in early 2027, before it is finalised and presented to Council.



Attachment 1: Survey Verbatim Feedback

Q5. Which approaches do you think should play the biggest role in future coastal management? (Max 3)

Community Recreation

Recognise and conserve our newly described Port Macquarie Serpentine Themeda Headland Grasslands (Peel 2026)

Keep Lake Cathie open.. It's a great asset and brings locals and tourists all year.. plus the wild life dies when it's closed.. I see so many dead fish

Keeping lake cathie open to the ocean

Once again these run into and on from each other across the LGA. By Protecting and restoring natural ecosystem and Beach and dune restorations has to come from PMHC improved planning controls for current and future development, reviewing recent at risk or issue causing developments adding stress onto Infrastructure protection works where appropriate, Monitoring and ongoing research with this all being feedback and consultation with community education and preparedness.

Maintaining and restoring existing shorelines for continued safe use for community of river flats and foreshore

Greater controls and standards for future land development in line with the ethos of the local community and history.

Being more honest with the community. Population growth, the interests of land developers always trumps PMHC's responsibility to protect coastal environs.

Protecting the natural beauty. Not interfere with the delicate and unique, untouched coastline and estuaries.

Ensuring well designed PMQ coastal walkway access and delivering new quality maintenance and upgrade initiatives. Whilst the dunes look OK to me I have noticed some red earth erosion points on the fore dunes between Flynns and Oxley Beach that may need attention.

Q6 Are there any specific coastal or estuarine places where you have concerns or think improvements are needed?

River street north haven boat ramp. Bad condition post bridge works

River Street North Haven boat ramp left in bad condition after bridge renewal

The rockwall along the walking path of North Haven near the sandbar. This area is used by a large amount of locals and tourists but the access to the sandbar is a hazard to everyone's safety.

The rock wall 50 M south of the community hall

Along Ocean Drive near new children's park needs easy access to water for children and parents. It would be nice to see a little beach near park with sandstone blocks as retainer wall and removal of oyster rocks as well.

"-Diamond Head Beach and Grants Beach - I'd like to see 4WDs removed from beaches in the area for environmental impacts especially now with known coastal hazard areas / climate change. I've witnessed unnecessary parking on the beach at Diamond Head (when there is a car park right there), and I've seen speeding / unsafe driving practices (high speeds with dogs running alongside and driving up near dunes) at Grants Head Beach. I've also heard that some dogs have been hit and injured due to unsafe 4WDs entering / exiting the beach at speed.

<https://www.unisc.edu.au/about/unisc-news/news-archive/2025/march/study-calls-for-a-radical-re-think-of-4wd-beach-use-to-protect-coastal-ecosystems>.

-North Haven River park (adjacent to 585 Ocean Drive) - Some locals have put up photos of a proposed "seawall" that they would like to see in the area near the play equipment (south-west of the North Haven River baths) to swim and access the sand bank. However, I don't agree with this built style of access and would prefer to see a more environmentally friendly approach (there is already a swimming area set aside at the river baths and there is also important seagrass present. Bank erosion/undercutting does need addressing in the area though and inundation can occur at high tides.

-Lake Cathie - ICOLL management and coastal erosion is important to continue addressing - understand this is often difficult with community expectations"

"This submission concentrates on the Bonny Hills region and specifically concerns erosion at Rainbow Beach Park Reserve foreshore and along Rainbow Beach frontal dune.

Noted there has been renewed sand bagging pillows installed at lifesaver tower section recently, seems to be a better quality pillow here but suggest will need to be extended, especially to the north to be effective protection for the Park Reserve !

Also the following comments are a progression to previous interactions on beach erosion with council over several years, as follows:-

Refer to our previous letters from Bonny Hills Landcare Ref. BnR01 5th November 2024 and Ref. BnR02 13th August 2025 , both of which stated it was back in June / July 2024 when we first discussed the foreshore erosion."

Rainbow Beach foreshore at Rainbow Beach Reserve - erosion

Wilson and Maria estuary water quality health chemicals from farming tea tree and plastics rubbish and flood debris.

Please consult Peel (2026): Subtropical Grasslands: Port Macquarie Serpentine Themeda Headland Grasslands report. This Report is currently in Council and being examined internally by relevant groups. It speaks directly to coastal management, restoration and conservation of our nationally significant grasslands that only occur in Port Macquarie between Alman Hill and Miners Beach. Only 15% remains, the other 85% has been lost to urban and coastal development. Though listed under the TSC, it is currently the subject of a TSC and EPBC Act nomination.

The lake at Cathie needs to be addressed. The regular opening of the lake needs to be a priority

"Lake Cathie lagoon

Lake Cathie river section where it meets the lagoon & ocean

Lake Cathie small bridge on Kenwood Drive"

"Lake Innes must be closed off from Lake Cathie .

As it originally was until it was opened by men for fishing purposes . Lake Innes is now sick.

Lake Cathie should be kept open now as 1000 of homes now have run offs & affect our once pristine lake .

Narrabeen lake is so similar & the council open it quickly so no major digging just a small digger . It works its a family favourite . Lake water is polluted yet visitors unaware swim in it. People from Port to & Wallca come to stay & lake swim."

"The separation of Lake Innes and Lake Cathie to retire the natural system for Lake Cathie opening and closing; restore Lake Innes to freshwater over a decade. This freshwater water would be a recreational asset and wildlife sanctuary.

Rainbow beach requires protection from extremes in weather. The current practice of allowing vehicles on the beach south of middle rock is damaging the beach and dunes as well as being extremely dangerous for the public using the beach. With the housing development decide this beach there are many more people using the beach including holiday makers not use to the beach.

There are frequent situations of people having close misses with vehicles and drivers without permits driving too fast and getting bogged. It is becoming a dangerous beach due to vehicles."

Beach nourishment Cathie , regularly dredging lake Cathie

Lake Cathie. Please keep it open..

"I don't believe that 4WD access is necessary to Middle Rock/Rainbow beach as there is sufficient pedestrian access.

I do not support a sea pool at Oxley beach, instead a netted area in the river located near Marine Rescue at West Port may be a better option.

Shaded areas are required along the pathway from the town Green in Port heading East towards the Little Shack as it's too hot to sit on the seats along the pathway."

Oxley Beach should be protected from development.

I am concerned about the proposed "ocean pool" at Oxley beach and the impact it will have on multiple levels ie: damage to the existing pristine area due to construction, the cost of such an unnecessary pool including maintenance costs, proposed access to the pool.

"More education about marine wildlife eg the dolphins and turtles and how boating and fishing affect them. There is too much rubbish in the Laurieton area that flows into the Camden Haven Inlet and then ends up on our beaches. Too many fisherman do not pull in their lines when the dolphins are around or boat users not slowing down when entering and using the inlet/ river especially when the dolphins are in the system.

Fisherman rubbish (line hooks sinkers etc) is constantly being collected along the break walls.

Could there be Council run clean ups (looking at conducting a beach clean up, coming into turtle season, for example?) or workshops for kids in the area to cover these topics?"

Lake Cathie needs to be kept open to the ocean. Needs a breakwall to be built.

"Town Beach is the location where I believe improvements are needed. The foreshore vegetation directly opposite The Observatory and Rotary Park has become noticeably untidy, with a build-up of dead wood, unmanaged scrub, and overgrowth around seating and pathways. The nearby Observatory and Rotary Park precincts have been beautifully upgraded and present extremely well, but the Town Beach vegetation in this specific area appears neglected in comparison.

While I support retaining vegetation that stabilises dunes and reduces erosion, the dead wood and overgrown scrub in these non-stabilising zones do not contribute to coastal protection. Instead, they reduce the amenity, presentation, and visitor experience of what is one of Port Macquarie's most prominent and heavily used beach.

I recommend selective, environmentally-sensitive maintenance to remove dead wood and tidy overgrowth while preserving all vegetation essential for dune stability."

"Lake Cathie - fish protection and over fishing.

Proposed ocean pool - enviro and cultural impacts"

Southern Breakwall Upgrade and undertake Town Beach Masterplan.

"Erosion at lake Cathie and the exposure of coffee rock

Erosion at town beach

Parking and safe access from the southern end of Flynn's beach"

Oxley Beach needs to stay in it's Natural beauty. We have environmental concerns about the area as well as the actual Aboriginal people do not want the Ocean Pool due to the increasing talk about what would actually be a concrete footprint with amenities parking and that would have to be put there. etc etc there would be an enormous cost as well to maintain this area.

1. Protecting and restoring Lake Innes to its once freshwater status would improve the Lake Innes Lake Cathie Estuarine System water quality, recreational opportunities, and environmental and biodiversity of this special place in Port Macquarie LGA

2. Cathie Lagoon at the berm and Foreshore Area; this is well-used, and the concerns raised by the community are the quality of the water for swimming.

Need for more education, signage, and regular testing and updates to the community could reduce this concern.

3. The small creeks that drain from Rainbow Beach at Bonny Hills present concerns to the community and tourists, with concerns about water quality from the runoff that comes out of the nearby water treatment plant and concerns about health issues."

Pilot Beach, Dunbogan

I am concerned that Oxley Beach is included as an item to investigate an ocean pool.

Flynn's Beach grassed area

"Shoreline Drive, North Shore. Application 010.2026.00000266.001 PAN 631937

The shoreline recession in this area is of growing concern. As a resident of North Shore, I use the large sandy flat area to swim laps at high tide (having a place where I can swim in natural clean salt water but also stop and stand up on clean firm sand when needed due to ill health has been a godsend. I am not strong enough to swim in the ocean and have adverse reactions to chemicals in pools. So, I use the high tide several times a week to swim laps out the front of 64 Shoreline Drive, throughout most of the year, to have this part of the river clean and accessible is paramount to both my physical and mental wellbeing. With a spectrum of growing young families and a lot of long-term elderly residents here. The ongoing ease of use of this stretch of river is paramount. a lot of local fish off the bank and also on the sand flat at low tide. lots of local kids and visiting grandkids and families with small children come to enjoy the safety of this stretch of sand flat and river. I believe these areas of accessible sandy flats are a huge part of why many choose to live on the North Shore to begin with. Playing, swimming, fishing and gathering as families and community is paramount to our wellbeing and chosen lifestyle. We give up a few creature comforts that the mainland residents have to enjoy the quality of life we have on the Hastings."

Yes ..Lake Cathie is confused.

It suffers from people making short term decisions based on a 'bandaid' solution rather than a long term plan to keep the beautiful nature of the lakes entrance , the surrounding water ways , vegetation and wildlife in a natural balance ."

Boat ramp at Bonny hills

The sand bar on North Shore across from settlement point road

North Shore, in front of houses 46-64. The proposed plan does not reflect what the residents, visitors and tourists want.

Huge ongoing concerns around the overdevelopment of the region and the pressure put on wastewater treatment plants and how that affects the quality of the waterways and estuaries from a river health perspective, from a primary producer perspective. Port Macquarie's Hastings River is able to grow and harvest some of the country's most amazing oysters (and

provide fantastic recreational fishing), and this iconic and unique industry is largely at the feet of councils ability to plan, manage and mitigate risk to ensure oyster farmers are able to continue to harvest and sell. When the river is closed due to sewage spills, they are unable to sell and as a primary producer that is a huge hit which has ripple effects across the economy.

Oxley Beach needs full protection from THE REAL THREAT that the Ocean Pool presents!

South Beach Dunbogn from the National Park North

"Rainbow beach, grants beach, lighthouse beach.

These any any other beaches that allow 4WD access as the 4WDs are destroying the beaches and contributing to beach erosion. The access also allows idiots who drive dangerously and I've even seen them drive from the beach up into bushland and dunes above the beach. I have never seen a ranger police 4wd beach access."

Oppose Oxley beach tidal pool due to a variety of reasons including impact on marine ecosystems, beach corrosion, safe accessibility, parking etc. I do not support the tidal pool in the first place let alone at Oxley Beach.

Breakwall stability into the future

"Oxley beach is a largely undeveloped beach. It has some high conservation values but does require work to repair beach erosion, and greater protection of important remnant native vegetation.

This beach must not be open to proposals like the Ocean pool that will destroy this natural area that is subject to ocean hazards. Developments like this pool will just make Oxley a crowded place like Town, Flynn's, Lhouse. Oxley beach must remain concrete pool free and natural to protect important environmental elements"

"The foreshore at Camden Haven River (North Haven) has eroded considerably over the last few months. People are moving rocks to access the river which has escalated the erosion.

The North Haven river pool is also at risk of collapsing into the river.

This needs to be a considered response to hold on to the natural beauty of the river while improving access for people to enter the river for swims and access to the sandbar at low tide."

PMHC political leadership primary focus is on appeasing land developer interests, and nothing of an environmental nature. Certainly this does not mean all councillors and all staff. Just a problematic majority. Otherwise, you would not have dumped council's former coastal vegetation preservation order. You would not have terminated most of your community planning and environmental management committees, including the former Port Macquarie Hastings Coast and Estuary Committee, which successfully functioned for over two decades. And, you would have abided with the recommendations of your native vegetation management plan, overturned by land development interests and National Party councillors. Because of your negligence large areas of coastal land in the Bobs Creek/Herons Creek areas are currently being heavily logged to point of entire destruction. Land previously not included for construction of Camden Haven High School owing to multiple environmental constraints has more recently been trashed to make way for extensions to Lakewood. Lake Cathie will soon cease to exist as a rare coastal lake due to intensity of use. To be truthful, a book could be written about what PMHC has done to destroy most of its coastal environment, which makes your current tokenistic effort laughable, if it were not such a serious issue.

Oppose Oxley beach tidal pool due to a variety of reasons including impact on marine ecosystems, beach corrosion, safe accessibility, parking etc. I do not support the tidal pool in the first place let alone at Oxley Beach.

Ocean pool development. I think it is better to have an ocean pool rather an aquatic centre. Less cost and more natural swim spaces.

Oxley Beach - proposed ocean pool. I am concerned with the effect on the delicate ecosystem of the rock platforms and the beach through the creation of the pool and the increase in human traffic.

Beach erosion at Lake Cathie. Safety at Lake Cathie when lake is open i.e. Lifeguards being able to see the swimmers on outgoing tide, currently tree is in the way so tower would be a huge asset or hut.

Safety at Lake Cathie when lake is open. Lifeguard tower needed at Lake Cathie present site as lifeguards can only see the beach/ocean and not the lake when it is open and the channel is running. Family rescued 2 lots of people from different areas. Unfamiliar with lake outgoing tides.

I am concerned about all places because they are all interconnected and affected by the same issue - climate change. It concerns me that some councillors do not support taking climate change into consideration when making decisions.

Putting an ocean pool at Oxley Beach is a concern. Not justified on benefit / cost, parking or environmental risks.

Fishermen leaving fishing line on both sides of the break wall!

Improvements that I think are needed on the Dunbogan side of the break wall is to fix the path because there are parts where the concrete path is cracked and one is higher than the other and people trip, including me.

The recent weather damage at Town Beach. Concerns the retaining wall will collapse and erosion eat into the grassed area or even the footpaths. It needs to be reinforced to prevent further erosion.

How can you possibly improve something that is already perfect? Or do you mean develop and make common?

Oxley Beach: coastal inundation, tidal impact, weed (red) inroads, fish and animal habitat, seasonal impacts - storms, wind, shorter daylight hours.

"As a regular user of Kooloonbung Creek I think it's time to do some repairs/maintenance/upgrades in the following areas:

*Brokey Bridge (pontoon) and Sykes walk:

*mid-half circuit walk pontoon bridge."

Lake Innes is suffering from the resident in lake Cathie and council constantly opening the lake and dragging the acid surface and debris with it. Lake Innes is more than what you can access in a boat and the edges of the lake which none bothers too look at if full of acid sulfate along all edges of the national park, you guys and revive lake Cathie just don't see it because it's better suited to the needs of lake Cathie residents to ignore what's really going on. Separate the lakes, put in a small dam system at the entrance that was opened in the 1930, the same entrance that keeps widening when you open it artificially. Its basic physics, the water height required to keep Cathie open is hindered by having to fill Lake Innes also. Not to mention the change to the eco systems when the lake is closed, frogs and wildlife blossom, then it reverts to mud flats that harbour mosquito infestations like swarms of bees.

Town beach & Oxley beach

More needs to be done in regards to environmental vandalism, large signs erected like in the past and fines given to those doing damage and an education campaign so that people understand the importance of coastal vegetation.

I am very concerned about the proposed ocean pool in Port Macquarie and its environmental impact on such a beautiful beach. Given the small percentage of Port Macquarie Hastings residents who would use such a pool, I believe both the initial and ongoing costs to be an extremely inequitable use of council funds.

1. Degraded quality and unsafe non-smooth walking surface with multiple trip hazards for older and other less able people using our key coastal walk sections - extending from southern end of Oxley Beach up to Windmill Hill, then again heading further south from the top of the stairs in the forest stepping down and then onto Flynn's Beach.
2. Fore-dune erosion extending from north of Flynn's Beach to Oxley Beach.
3. Seriously reduced established she-oak vegetation at the eastern end of Town Beach. The loss of so many older beach-side trees has become visually significant and reduces overall valuable shade opportunities in this beautiful prime location."

"I am concerned about the damaging environmental effects of acid sulfate release during the repeated drainage of Lake Innes when the Lake Cathie lagoon is opened. I am also concerned about the increased fire risk of exposure of large areas of dry peat when water levels are low in Lake Innes. Such fires are difficult to control and allow for fire to travel undetected for long distances.

Restoring the separation between Lake Innes and Lake Cathie would alleviate both risks almost completely.

Separating Lake Cathie would allow for the lagoon entrance to be managed more easily; reducing risk of flooding, and improving the Lake Cathie area for tourism. Lake Innes restored would be the largest fresh water body on the NSW coast. Stable permanent water levels in Lake Innes would allow for development of environmental tourism showcasing the natural attractions as well as the indigenous and colonial history of Lake Innes and potentially allowing infrastructure to support non-motorized water-craft recreation, birding, fishing and tourism.

Separately, a swimming pool at Oxley Beach would be a grave mistake, as the natural beauty of Port's beaches is one of the major attractions for residents and tourists alike."

Rainbow Beach, Lake Cathie - the lake and its beachfront, Lake Innes.

"A primary concern is the proposal to build a concrete pool on Oxley Beach. I have expressed my strong objections to this in a separate proposal and will not go into detail here. In brief, it would desecrate a pristine piece of coastline, have significant negative environmental and aesthetic impact, does not achieve the stated aims of accessibility and is a total waste of limited financial resources.

The recent weather impact on our beaches, particularly Town Beach, demonstrates the need for proactive measures to protect of coastline and beautiful beaches.

We must ensure that the coastal headland along Pacific Drive remains free of infrastructure particularly any building of any sort. Clearly this does not include paths or access points to the beaches or minor infrastructure such as bins, water ""bubblers"" etc.

I believe consideration must be given to dredging the river mouth/bar in response to an increasingly extended sand bar extending from Town Beach north to about half way across the river mouth. We need to keep the entrance to the river safe for all vessels"

Feral deer are wandering over Lighthouse and Miners Beaches at night, causing damage to dunes and vegetation. Council should engage professional shooters under carefully managed conditions to cull these animals.

Yes significant Coastal erosion on Lake Cathie beach putting Illaroo road at risk this is ongoing long term issue that urgently needs funding & ongoing maintenance

Sea Acres rainforest health and ecosystems - the rainforest is dying. Lake Cathie Waterway health is a costly continual problem. We need qualified scientists and oceanographers to help make a sustainable waterway.

I am concerned about Oxley beach and the possible construction of a ocean pool. My main concerns are the cost to build then the ongoing costs to maintain.

"Oxley Beach is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed coastal environments in Port Macquarie. The site is zoned C2 Environmental Conservation and is a recognised coastal hazard area subject to ongoing erosion, slope instability, storm surge, flooding, East Coast Low events, powerful ocean swells, debris inundation, sea foam and excessive marine weed accumulation. Historic storm events have deposited large logs, vessels, livestock carcasses and other debris across the beach.



It is fundamentally unsuitable for major permanent infrastructure. The proposal would introduce an extensive and highly intrusive development footprint, including a large reinforced concrete ocean pool constructed on the sand, twin pump systems, pump pits and housing, intake and discharge pipelines extending into the ocean, retaining structures, pathways, shelters and ancillary facilities. Additional infrastructure on the adjoining hillside is proposed in an area where evidence of land instability and landslip processes is visually apparent.

The construction and ongoing presence of this infrastructure would interfere with natural coastal processes, including sand transport, erosion and deposition patterns, wave energy and refraction processes, and the dynamic functioning of the beach system. The proposal would effectively urbanise a highly sensitive and hazardous coastal environment.

Equally concerning is the exposure of the infrastructure itself to extreme coastal conditions. The asset would be highly vulnerable to wave overtopping, storm damage, coastal inundation, sand movement, floodwaters, stormwater flows and debris impacts associated with East Coast Low events. As sea levels rise and coastal hazards intensify, the frequency and severity of these impacts will only increase.

This raises serious questions regarding the long-term feasibility, insurability and financial sustainability of the development. The asset is likely to require continual maintenance, repair and replacement at substantial public expense, creating an ongoing liability for Council and the community. Such expenditure is inconsistent with the principles of coastal hazard avoidance, sound asset management and ecologically sustainable development. Rather than adapting to coastal hazards, the proposal seeks to place significant public infrastructure directly within them.

Oxley Beach, Port Macquarie

Oxley Beach is one of the most valued and unique coastal places in the Port Macquarie region and should be protected for future generations. It is cherished not only for its natural beauty and scenic character, but also for the diverse ways in which the community uses and connects with the area.

People use Oxley Beach for quiet reflection, observing wildlife and natural coastal processes, walking, running, surfing, swimming, sunbathing, fishing, diving and simply enjoying a peaceful beach experience away from more urbanised areas. It is also an important place for community gatherings, memorial services and weddings, creating lasting social and emotional connections for many residents and visitors.

The beach has significant Aboriginal cultural values and continues to be used for cultural practices and ceremony. Maintaining the natural character and integrity of this place is important to preserving those cultural connections.

Oxley Beach is also the only beach in the local area where dogs are permitted on-leash, making it an important recreational space for many residents and contributing to community wellbeing.

What makes Oxley Beach particularly valuable is that it remains a relatively undeveloped and natural coastal environment. People value its tranquillity, open space, sense of connection with nature, and its ability to provide passive recreation and cultural experiences without the need for extensive infrastructure. Protecting Oxley Beach from inappropriate development and maintaining its natural coastal processes, scenic qualities, biodiversity and cultural significance should be a priority for future coastal management."

"Lake Innes should be returned to fresh water.

No removal of the sand bar at Lake Cathie - it is a natural phenomenon. Council should resist residents pressure to remove the bar.

More planting of mangroves and other native vegetation along shorelines and dunes.

No more development allowed within potential inundation and flooding areas.

I oppose the construction of the proposed sea baths. This must be stopped."

All of our beaches, coastlines and marine environments should be protected and kept as nature intended. They are perfect as they are and the only human involvement should just be ensuring it's care so we can enjoy it alongside the marine life and delicate ecosystems that belong there.

Town Beach as a user friendly social attraction. Oxley Beach as a nature reserve, Nobbys Beach as an off-leash dog friendly facility

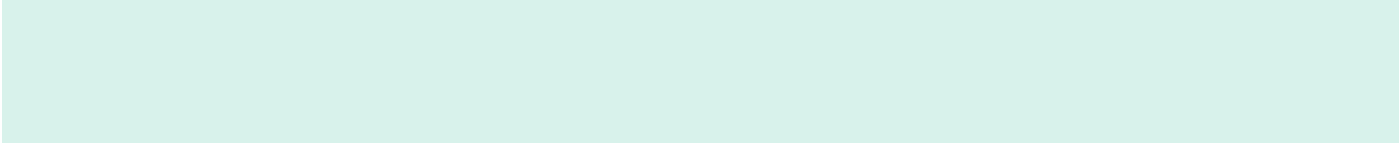
Lake Cathie - the lake area has been done very nicely and experiences a fair bit of traffic, I think there is opportunity to improve the surrounding area, for example the foreshore of aqua cres and bundella might help distribute visitors to further parts of the lake and the beach, particularly when the lake is closed it seems like more people access the beach side from aqua cres but there isn't allot of parking or bbq space etc. I also think this will help reduce the impact the number of visitors has in just the foreshore area.



Don't destroy coastline with an ocean pool on the beach

Like a number of other locations in the vicinity, the banks of the Camden Haven River - both north and south - require constant monitoring and measures should be put in place to ensure residential property is never at risk short term and long term.

Threatened migratory shorebirds use sand bars and mud flats in Camden Haven estuary and are threatened by tourists and recreational users particularly with dogs in boats - more protection and education is needed. There should be wider consideration of impacts of dogs in coastal areas.



Q7 Are there any coastal or estuarine places you value highly or think should be protected into the future?

B2B pathway North Haven/dunbogan used by visitors and locals

B2B pathway North Haven/dunbogan used by visitors and locals alike daily.

The sandbar provides fun activities and should be protected as well as given better access

The access to the sand bar/estuary. Safe access for families to enter the river

To upgrade foreshore along Ocean Drive North Haven

Beach to beach shared path - this is a great recreation route!

Oxley Beach - there should be no ocean pool

Oxley beach

Bonny Hills - Rainbow Beach Park Reserve foreshore erosion was inspected with Council July 2024 , possibility proposed of extending/improving previously installed retaining 'pillows' which slow foreshore erosion.

Wilson and Maria river.

Oxley Beach, our beautiful untouched natural beach needs to remain untouched.

The largest remaining areas are between Alman Hill and Rocky Beach, including Oxley Reserve and the mown area to the south of Oxley Oval

Lake Cathie

The wild flowers at Perch hole creek LC & the Christmas bell plains ocean drive near golf course Port

Rainbow beach and Lake Cathie including the lagoon. This areas define Lake Cathie town and community.

Keep lake cathie open.

Lake Cathie and Lake Innes

I believe that there has been sufficient development in our region and we should now be saying no to the State or Federal governments for anymore development. It is ruining the character of the area and making it into a city without facilities to support

Oxley Beach: no coastal pool

Oxley beach

The wharfs along the Camden Haven River hold historical value and are used by locals and visitors, these need to be preserved.

Oxley Beach to remain untouched, no ocean pool.

Perpendicular Point

I value Town Beach highly and believe it should be protected into the future. As Port Macquarie's only beach patrolled 365 days a year, it plays a central role in community recreation, visitor appeal, and coastal identity. Its natural dune system, safe ac

The kidney lake area is special for its birdlife and wildlife. With so much development happening in Lake Cathie this area needs protected.

Town Beach, Shelley Beach

Oxley beach need to be protected, the ocean pool is going to end up another expensive glass house disaster to satisfy those who moved from the city, there is plenty of infrastructure that needs addressing before this could even be considered

Oxley Beach

1 Both Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills shoreline access is a concern, with the majority of access points deteriorating with very poor upkeep of infrastructure such as stairs, platforms, and signage. 2 Safety of those using Cathie Lagoon and Rainbow Beach at

There are few, if any, that I think shouldn't be protected.

Oxley Beach

Oxley Beach, All other PMQ beaches, Hastings River Banks

Oxley Beach should remain a natural environment, maintaining the current ecosystem, providing a walk and play area with No concrete pool

Shoreline Drive, North Shore. Application 010.2026.00000266.001 PAN 631937 The shoreline recession in this area is of growing concern. As a resident of North Shore, I use the large sandy flat area to swim laps at high tide (having a place where I can swim

Yes Lake Cathie as I mentioned in comment 8 as well as what have been affectionately called 'Big Vinegar' & 'Little Vinegar' all my life .. on Bonny Hills. Re assess the sewerage scheme and evaluate the ratio of population to sewerage capacity .

Spooney's Beach at Bonny Hills - it is a secluded beach, great for families and recreational swimming/ activities

Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie, Camden Haven

The sandbar over on North Shore, west of the ferry towards Limeburners creek.

the sand bar on the western side of the settlement ferry.

Hastings river, north shore and north wall, Town beach, breakwall, oxley beach (no ocean pool), lake Cathie, Bonny hills, north haven

Aa above, Oxley Beach needs full protection from THE REAL THREAT that the Ocean Pool presents!

It is hard not to consider it all important. But my specific area of concern is from the Camden Haven River to the border of the Crowdy Bay National Park

Shelly Beach, Hastings River

Oxley Beach

The riverfront parks both Hastings and Camden haven are beautiful, relaxing and great places to take family and friends

OxleyBeach is quiet, natural and scenic with signifcant environmental assets. No pools must be allowed which are not consistent with C2 conservation mangement plans

All rivers, foreshores in the PMHC LGA

There is well over two hundred acres of coastal forest between Cluley's Road and Queens Lake currently being extensively logged. Large private landholdings in the Bobs Creek are have also been recently trashed. The former features large wetlands.

All areas should be protected and cared for

All of our beaches and rivers - they are all essential. Once gone they are gone.

Beach from Lake Cathie down to Bonny Hills due to erosion issues. The current use of the rock bags has made a huge difference to beach loss.

Beach front from Lake Cathie towards Bonny Hills due to erosion issues.

All these places are valued by the people who live nearby. I live near North Haven Beach and Camden Haven River so I value protecting them and restoring the bushland around them.

Town Beach for optimal surfing conditions. Access to North Shore Beach for 4W driving

Camden Haven River - everyday use

The Camden Haven River. I use the river for walking along it, recreation and nature.

The Bonny Hills Rainbow Beach should not be touched. None of this coastline should be developed

Lighthouse Beach for many forms of recreation

Oxley Beach

Lake Innes. Put it back to fresh water. And separate the lakes

Oxley beach should continue to be highly protected from development. It is C2 zoned for very good reasons. To allow the Olympic sized pool that's being proposed would be devastating. I love Oxley beach for its natural beauty, a beautiful quiet beach.

Camden Head needs protection from constant push to have vegetation removed. I love seeing the Glossy Black Cockatoos here.

Oxley Beach This beach is a quiet spot to commune with nature as it is not popular as a swimming beach

Town Beach - loss of key beachside native vegetation - esp. the serious She Oak losses following storms, age etc

Lake Innes when full is a natural wonderland that should be available to all residents to enjoy. Our visitors to the area always remark how wonderful it is that the Port Macquarie beaches are separated from development and manmade structures.

All the locations I have listed in Q8.

As mentioned, the threat to Oxley Beach of the proposed "Ocean Pool" must be removed. Port offers an incredible diversity of beach landscapes from highly utilised surfing beaches, to quiet, recreational beaches, to hidden gems. This must be preserved.

Oxley Beach - NO ocean pool!!

Lake Cathie beach great for tourism

Oxley Beach - no tidal pool this is a waste of everyone's money and has devastating environmental impacts

The natural beauty of Oxley beach

Oxley Beach is highly valued for its natural beauty, tranquillity and undeveloped character. Used for walking, surfing, swimming, fishing, diving, quiet reflection, memorial services, Aboriginal cultural ceremony and as the area's on leash dog beach

Lake Innes for natural values, Queens Lake for natural values, Hastings River for natural values

Oxley beach should definitely NOT have a pool. It's home to 9 endangered species and we need to respect it in its natural state. None of our beaches need a concrete pool to destroy ecosystems, put waste in our water and destroy the insanely stunning beach

Oxley Beach, Shelly Beach, Nobbys Beach

grants head is one of my favourite spots along the coast, and the trail that goes along it is a bit of a mess the more people use it.

all places and areas

Silly question. No estuary should get council's priority based purely on the number of respondents to this question. All coastal and estuarine places are worth preserving.

All natural estuaries esp Camden Haven, Katang NR -beautiful full of wildlife - should be protected and appreciated. Coastal walk of Port Macquarie are equally beautiful but more impacted by people, higher use - plan to protect

Q9. What would help improve your understanding?

Maps that work

Overall very professional information and interaction achieved by Council and consultants!

More transparent information about Stakeholders, more transparency surrounded political influences

More promotion of community input opportunities.

More honesty. PMHC has allowed mass environmental destruction of its coastal areas for decades, which currently continues in the form of heavy logging in the Herons Creek/Bobs Creek coastal forests and wetlands draining into Queens Lake. On past form, PMHC will do little if anything to protect its coastal environments, especially if such protection affects the interests of land developers.

It would be good if more people had access to this information as it is important to the future.

Where are the maps or info that show how delicate the areas are and how they should not be developed?

Specific answers to questions from the public and better public consultation

It is always good to hear about what important initiatives Council has already identified.

I think it is all good

The 5 main strategies you asked respondents to prioritize early on in your survey were way too similar and ridiculously verbose. Once again, Council has misjudged its constituents. Plain English that does not try to cover every base is best.

Q10. Please share any other feedback on the CMP or the engagement process here.

I would like to raise a safety concerns regarding river access to the popular sandbar at North Haven opposite the public gym/playground approx 50m south of the community hall. Given the popularity of this location with locals/tourists that is mainly used for fishing/swimming/water activities. However, the currently oyster covered rock wall is sharp and slippery causing frequent injuries when people enter the water. I believe a great solution would be the installation of a sand beach access for families to enjoy a safe day on the water.

I missed the drop in session so some more of those would have been great.

Allowing development on or along coastlines/beaches should not be approved. We all value our beautiful coast.

I am not sure that these questions actually allow for relevant feedback on various important aspects of the CMP. I also think the CMP should facilitate the Ocean Pool project at Oxley Beach.

"It is apparent from CMP information for Stages 3 and 4 by council and consultants that Climate Change effects are real and predictable ! It is apparent to the Bonny Hills community that all along the east perimeter of the Rainbow Beach Park Reserve impacts are regularly occurring during high tide storm surges this increasingly causing erosion of this foreshore. The installed 'pillows' only seem to slow the foreshore erosion and are themselves being damaged.

High rainfall events are also causing bank erosion of the creeks flowing onto Rainbow Beach, especially where Saltwater (Little Vinegar) Creek flows along the north side of the Park Reserve.

Progressively the Park Reserve foreshore and creek bank are being eroded from underneath. Also, especially where there are no 'pillows', many mature trees have been undermined and as a consequence have fallen over. We can't afford to lose more trees from along the east (and north) edge of the Reserve."

The area seems to suffer from a lack of communication between residents and council. eg: when they have info to share, how do residents find out about this.

"Occasional street lights along ocean drive for save night driving to protect native animals on the 100klm zone .

More signs with 1st nations names of places . Also the tribe names .

NZ does this so well. It's interesting"

The staff at the drop in events were very helpful. The drop in events were useful.

"I would love to see Lake Innes restored to its former glory. It was once one of the most pristine freshwater lakes in NSW. If the system were restored then boardwalks around the lake could be created for all to enjoy attracting migratory birds back into the area etc

I am also very passionate about our beautiful rock platforms and keeping their biodiversity. Wash House beach is probably one of the most diverse in NSW, which I still keep a close eye on, however there have been times recently when the population of starfish declined dramatically along with other species of snails."

Not sure if this is the right place for this feedback, however, if planning is under way for recreational parks in the area or replacement of picnic tables/chairs, could the design be considered to be inclusive of elderly and disabled people who need to be able to slide into the seat and also space for people in wheelchairs to join the table.

More oversight of approved developments during the construction stages. Major developments close to my property have left several matters in a less than adequate condition.

My additional feedback relates to general upkeep and safety around Town Beach. Some of the overgrown vegetation areas have become spots where homeless individuals occasionally camp, and this can feel intimidating when walking past, especially where tents are set up close to pathways. A more proactive approach to keeping the foreshore clean, tidy, and well-managed would help ensure the area feels safe and welcoming for everyone, while still supporting the CMP's broader goals for coastal protection and public amenity.

Online sessions are easier for working families to attend.

It seems to be too large and expensive for effective public engagement.

"The community drop-in days were very informative.

It is disappointing that more community members didn't attend these sessions to understand the complexity of the environment, stakeholder's roles, future expectations of the climate changes, financial and government challenges.

The PMHC "Have Your Say " page was well done."

It is a little disappointing to see that the Oxley Beach ocean pool is being pursued as an option when there are many more feasible locations to activate for public swimming at far less cost, less cultural and environmental damage

As a resident that is being directly effected by this proposal, I pray that council understands that the majority of the residents of Shoreline Drive that this plan directly effects would have not purchased their riverfront homes to begin with if there were oysters reefs, timber snagging structures or mudflats instead of large usable sandy flats and river access out front.

Please .. let's be a community that prides itself on values that support providing a loving caring and healthy environment now and the future.

My family have been fishing from the bank along the reserve for generations as well as hiring boats from the boat shed and swimming and fishing along the sandbar. This is one of the safest and family friendly parts of the river. Putting oyster reefs and a criss cross log setup along the bank will stop any bank fishing and be a big risk for my mob when we gather to swim and fish. The local indigenous community are not happy.

The plan for placing oyster reefs in a public recreation area is crazy, it's like putting razor blades in a childrens playground. The log placement along the bank will collect debris and rubbish and will be an eyesore, it will smell and the proposed sandstone steps are a waste of money. The residents just want the work that was started years ago to continue from where council left off. Additional rock and concrete steps are sufficient in many parts of Port, why all of a sudden they want to change the process?

Please protect Oxley Beach's threatened Ocean Pool. Your submission was wonderful, however the Councilors (except for one) disregarded it. Now it's getting discredited in part by that pool committee. Please continue fighting for Oxley Beach..don't allow it to be exploited and destroyed!!

The drop-in sessions were very good. The maps excellent (if not a little out of date), The presentation of the information was very good. The fact that key staff/consultants were quick to offer guidance and assistance was greatly appreciated. I had just come back from holidays and had not been able to read a great deal of information beforehand - those there to help were very good at working through at least some of the issues I was interested in. I attended the drop in at Laurieton and it was useful not to have to travel to PM.

No development of our beautiful untouched pristine areas, this is why people have moved here, dont change a good thing.

Need to address specific issues eg Ocean Pool

Our beaches must not be open to random developments like the proposed ocean pool or other such developments without broad formal independent assessment and community consultation occurring first

"As already advised elsewhere in this brief submission, PMHC has always placed its coastal environs behind the interests of property developers. It has only been through campaigns waged by a small number of conservationists between 1975-200 that prevented ruinous proposals like the Settlement Point Bridge, and associated mass development of the North Shore. Conservationists (yes, myself included) also stopped the Dunbogan Canal Estate, and a regional waste facility proposed by PMHC for a high conservation forest near Ryan's Road. Conservationists, not PMHC, stopped development of the slopes of North Brother, including a proposed chairlift, as well as sandmining of the Christmas Bells Plains and a host of other junk proposals backed to the hilt by PMHC councillors and former senior staff. Unfortunately we were unable to stop the koala killings and rapacious urbanisation of Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills - more so in the form of the former Rainbow Pacific development scheme.

Excuse the cynicism, but given PMHC's easily verifiable history of destroying its coastal environment, and given the pecuniary involvement of key councillors in advancing this destruction, I have no faith in this current exercise."

Having drop in sessions and engagement sessions help residents actually be able to understand the Council's forward planning and ideas in relation to issues as they arise and help us all work together (hopefully).

"The current work done along Illaroo Road is working really well and without having past engagement sessions we would not be having such a turnaround with erosion issues along this part of the coastline.

Engagement sessions help us all to actually understand the process going forward."

There should be more feedback to the community as this is important information. Need to engage with youth - perhaps get into schools?

"I have listened to a lot of the information for and against the proposed Oxley Beach Ocean Pool, including attending the meetings.

I strongly support this project, disagree with the opposition group, who have been scaring people with their personal opinions and misinformation.

There would be so many positive, healthy benefits to this project and especially in Tourism and Health. The Ocean Pool Committee have done a lot of great work so far and I hope it will happen."

It would seem you are a big group of property developers.

Enjoyed the opportunity to discuss my thoughts and provide my feedback to staff. Very impressive maps and very able and courteous staff.

Please no Oxley ocean pool

Close lake innes, separate the lakes and keep all residents happy not just the entitled Sydney riders moving to cathie.

"The current work done along Illaroo Road is working really well and without having past engagement sessions we would not be having such a turnaround with erosion issues along this part of the coastline.

People move to the Hastings for the natural beauty of our coast, by removing vegetation or failing to protect it we loose value not only to residents and visitors but also for the nature that lives here. The more vegetation removed to more erosion and the less natural beauty, its simple.

"Thanks for the chance to comment. I would like to have my say on the Ocean Pool proposal at Oxley Beach too - I'm not that keen on it at that location for the following reasons:

it is on the shady side of Flagstaff Hill

relatively poor and steep access - How on earth are the less mobile going to access Oxley Beach without totally taking most of the beach over with roads and concrete?

3, Place making - the power of 10 - (you can google the principle) Ocean Baths/Pools are best if they are co-located or placed near or with other complementary uses. Together they are then better utilised and activated. If most people want an ocean pool despite the ongoing maintenance costs - lets at least put it somewhere where it will really become a viable connected hub for recreation and long term community engagement."

Thank you for engaging on this important issue

It is good that PMHC is finally working to complete its CMP as I hear most other Councils have already done this work some time ago. I still believe your implementation date of mid 2027 (another year away) is too long a timeline.

"While somewhat biased, I genuinely believe Port Macquarie has the best beaches of anywhere on the Mid-north Coast and Northern Rivers. The majority of beaches are visually accessible from the various vantage points along Pacific Drive, and the variety of beach environments caters for diverse needs of the community. To suggest some beaches are ""under-utilised"" is naive and shows a critical lack of environmental awareness. It is important that we have quiet recreational beach landscapes like Oxley and Nobby's Beaches just as it is that we have highly active surfing beaches such as Town, Flynn's and Lighthouse Beaches. One of the most extraordinary things about the Port coastline is that there are some beaches that are essentially untouched by infrastructure and offer a pristine coastal landscape that has not dramatically changed in hundreds of years. And that these beaches are easily visually accessible is a tremendous achievement. For the majority of the population, they are also physically accessible.

My view is that we must preserve this diversity and the natural coastal landscape at all costs.

People move to the Hastings for the natural beauty of our coast, by removing vegetation or failing to protect it we lose value not only to residents and visitors but also for the nature that lives here. The more vegetation removed to more erosion and the less natural beauty, it's simple.

"Thanks for the chance to comment. I would like to have my say on the Ocean Pool proposal at Oxley Beach too - I'm not that keen on it at that location for the following reasons:

That Council sees Coastal and riverine management as a major priority is a credit to Council and that commitment must be maintained.

Whether the damage to Lake Innes and the associated impact on Lake Cathie can be reversed I am not sure. But investigations and planning in this area should also be afforded a high priority.

My concern is that many local residents have moved here from the city. People from large cities grow up in an urbanised environment. Parks are full of playgrounds, tables, walkways, manufactured gardens and artistic structures. Urbanisation extends to the very edge of the foreshore at beaches with buildings, parking areas, cafes, seating and fenced walkways to the very edge of the sand. The neighbouring headlands are covered in buildings. For such

people urbanisation becomes the norm, part of the landscape. So they come to a place like Port and see the open spaces, the quiet beaches, the uncluttered parks and see it as wasted space. WE need to resist that view of the world. We are not the city and should never need to become like the city in terms of the urban environment."

No details of how any of the management plan will be funded or any time frames of when the work will be implemented. This needs to be included.

No tidal pool. These are a thing of the past when we didn't know better.

Protecting Oxley Beach from a major piece of infrastructure (Ocean Pool) strongly aligns with the objectives of the Coastal Management Program. Oxley Beach is a known coastal hazard area, exposed to erosion, shoreline recession, storm surge, East Coast Low events, flooding, landslip and sea level rise. The CMP promotes risk avoidance, protection of natural coastal processes, conservation of environmental and cultural values, and ensuring public assets are resilient to coastal hazards. Maintaining Oxley Beach in its largely natural state avoids placing infrastructure in high-risk areas, preserves coastal ecosystems and scenic values, and supports ecologically sustainable management for current and future generations.

The CMP looks good and comprehensive. Engagement process good though you may need to advertise it more widely and to specific groups such as Hastings Bird Watching Club, the local National Parks Association, walking and cycling groups, Nature School, CSU etc

No ocean pools destroying our coastlines. Protect the natural beauty that we are lucky enough to enjoy as they are.

Please take this in the spirit it is meant but once again this attempt at community engagement wreaks of a group of people with too much time on its hands. Residents should not be required to provide such feedback and especially feedback that could lead to an incorrect read on community priorities as a result of respondent numbers and postcodes. What percent of the week do council decision makers spend in the field, versus in the office? I bet not a lot. Which of your/our coastal estuaries are in most need of attention is best learned through getting out and about and doing the hard yards on foot. It's the only way!!!! Stop the housing developments, forget the aboriginal carvings and just focus on the beach & river erosion.

Council has the responsibility to consider future needs and sustainability of our environment so is hopefully engaging directly with environmental groups like Landcare and bird observers not just with recreational users, businesses and residents.



Attachment 2: Written Submissions

Community groups and organisations

1 Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club

Dear Coastal Management Program Project Team,

Please find attached the submission of Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club in response to the Draft Coastal Management Program (Stages 3 & 4).

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge and thank Council for the significant work undertaken in developing the Draft Coastal Management Program and for providing the community and key stakeholders with the opportunity to contribute to this important strategic planning process.

As one of the region's longest-serving volunteer emergency service organisations, Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club strongly supports the objectives of the Coastal Management Program and, in particular, its commitment to improving aquatic and coastal safety, enhancing community resilience and ensuring the sustainable management of our coastline.

Our submission is intended to be constructive and forward-looking. It seeks to ensure that the Coastal Management Program appropriately recognises the critical role Surf Life Saving plays in delivering public safety and emergency response services and that the Program supports, rather than unintentionally constrains, the future replacement, redevelopment and expansion of the Club's facilities as community needs continue to grow.

The submission also highlights the strategic alignment between the Coastal Management Program and the adopted Flynns Beach Master Plan, which identifies the future replacement of the existing Surf Club facility. Given the anticipated growth in the Port Macquarie-Hastings population, increasing visitor numbers and the expanding operational demands placed on Surf Life Saving, we believe it is important that the final Program provides sufficient flexibility to accommodate future infrastructure that meets the community's long-term aquatic safety needs.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with Council officers to discuss the matters raised in our submission and to explore how the Club can continue to work collaboratively with Council throughout the implementation of the Coastal Management Program and future planning for Flynns Beach.

Thank you for considering our submission. We appreciate Council's commitment to engaging with stakeholders throughout this process and look forward to continuing to work together to achieve positive outcomes for our community.

Yours faithfully,

Glenn Caldwell

General Manager
Destination Sydney Surrounds North

2 Revive Lake Cathie



REVIVE LAKE CATHIE
voice of the lake

To: The General Manager, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Date: 15th July 2026

Subject: Submission - Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4 (Lake Cathie / Lake Innes Estuarine System Priorities)

Introduction:

Revive Lake Cathie Inc (RLC) as a founding local stakeholder deeply invested in the long-term health of our waterways. We appreciate the opportunity to submit formal feedback on Stages 3 and 4 of the Coastal Management Program (CMP). While broad management strategies across our coastline are necessary, the critical ecological state of the Lake Cathie and Lake Innes Intermittently Closed and Open Lake and Lagoon (ICOLL) system requires immediate, targeted intervention.

To prevent catastrophic environmental degradation, improve water quality, and restore recreational amenity, I urge the Council to explicitly integrate and champion the following seven priority objectives within the final CMP framework:

1. Reversion of Lake Innes to Freshwater and Acid Sulfate Soil Mitigation

The artificial opening in 1933, of the channel connecting Lake Innes to Cathie Creek has drastically altered the ecosystem, converting it into an intermittent semi saline environment. When water levels drop during dry periods or artificial breaches, exposed sulfidic lakebed sediments oxidize to form devastating quantities of sulfuric acid and toxic iron floc, which impacts the remaining water, wildlife, nature reserve and the communities wellbeing.

- **Action Required:** The CMP must officially adopt and actively work with NPWS towards the goal of decoupling Lake Innes from Cathie Creek to return it to its historical freshwater state. Submerging these acid sulfate soils under a stable freshwater body is the only proven method to stop the ongoing chemical deterioration of the lakebed, protecting the broader Lake Innes Nature Reserve.

2. Legislative Reform Advocacy for Environmental and Biodiversity Acts

The primary roadblock to restoring the lake system is the restrictive regulatory overlap between local, state, and federal laws. Current strictures under the **Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act** and the **NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016** heavily penalize modifications to established marine or estuarine environments—even when those environments were artificially created and are actively causing ecological damage via acidification.

- **Action Required:** The CMP must mandate that Council and other stakeholders like Nation Parks and Wildlife Service work together to actively lobby both the NSW State Government and the Federal Government to amend or create specific exemptions within these biodiversity acts. Legislative reform is urgently needed to legally enable the active ecological reversion and remediation of Lake Innes without facing paralysing bureaucratic legal delays and red tape.



3. Kenwood Drive Bridge improve the flow between Lake Cathie and Cathie Creek.

The existing constriction under the Kenwood Drive bridge significantly throttles natural hydrodynamic movement within the system, crippling tidal exchange and trapping poor-quality, acidic water within Lake Cathie.

- **Action Required:** The CMP must include designs and funding of an upgraded, for high-flow access structure at Kenwood Drive. Maximizing the cross-sectional water flow under this bridge is vital to improving the tidal prism and flushing capacity within the Lake Cathie along with improved filtration of the runoff from the new and existing developments that have grown significantly around the edge.

4. Managed Summer Openings for Cathie Lagoon

The physical closure of the sand berm during hot summer periods routinely leads to stagnant conditions, extreme hyper salinity, and high-water temperatures. These factors can trigger severe, harmful algal blooms, other bacteria rendering the waterway unsafe for swimming and recreation.

- **Action Required:** The final Lake Cathie Entrance Management Strategy within the CMP must establish a clear protocol for targeted summer openings and proactive high target water levels within the lagoon entrance. Manual trigger levels must be adjusted to proactive allow flexible, climate-dependent berm grading during peak summer months. This operational flexibility will maintain optimal water flow, lower water temperatures, and protect the lagoon's recreational amenity. Crucially, this proactive management must be structured to avoid triggering unintended acid-pumping mechanisms from Lake Innes. Even if Lake Innes is eventually decoupled from the lower system, a minimum water level trigger must remain in place to guarantee the improved water quality and safe swimming and recreational areas requested by the community.
- During poor water quality times as described a joint PMHC and NSW Public Health education for the community to understand the issues for safe water use.

5. Community and Scientific Observations for Catchment Management

The entire estuarine footprint must drive immediate council action, as piecemeal management of individual sections will fail without considering the entire estuarine system holistically. This urgency is fuelled by firsthand, distressing community observations of severe declines in water quality, driven by a system that now swings more frequently between extreme climate scenarios every single year. This rapid volatility inflicts compounding damage on the entire ecosystem, resulting in stagnant, discoloured water, offensive odours, and visible iron floc and acidic runoff. These shifting extremes actively destroy aquatic habitats, threaten native birdlife, and strip away the recreational safety of the lagoon for local families during peak times.



- **Action Required:** To combat this accelerating ecological decline, we ask for an urgent, collaborative approach; council must work alongside the community and utilize real-time telemetry from projects like the local Smart Water Quality Monitoring Buoy to drive evidence-based entrance management. All engineering interventions to combine findings from the Soil Conservation Service, Royal Haskoning DHV (RHDHV), Rhelm and numerous other reports over the years to stabilize and protect the delicate marine and bird life of the Lake Innes Lake Cathie Estuarine System.

6. Coastline Erosion and Hazards

Revive Lake Cathie supports the Coastal Management Program that prioritizes ecosystem-led adaptation, utilizing nature-based solutions and joint stewardship to restore the natural resilience of all beaches, estuaries, and river systems across our LGA while ensuring council includes the community in the planned progress.

Action Required: foster authentic community partnerships by collaborative, ecology-focused initiatives as well as engineering solutions.

- **Community-Led Dune Care:** Expand and fund localized Coastal Care and Landcare partnerships to actively involve residents in indigenous revegetation and dune stabilization projects.
- **Living Shorelines Expansion:** Prioritize soft engineering and nature-based solutions, such as mangrove restoration, saltmarsh protection, and oyster reef creation, to naturally buffer riverbanks and estuaries.
- **Citizen Science Networks:** Establish community-driven monitoring programs where locals can contribute to data collection, beach photo-monitoring, and waterway health tracking.
- **Collaborative Design Forums:** Host interactive, community-specific workshops where residents and coastal engineers co-design adaptation pathways for high-risk zones.

7. Public Education Strategy

Rebuilding community trust through transparent communication is the foundational pillar of the Coastal Management Program, aimed at repairing the fractured relationship between the council and the community. By validating community observations and addressing regulatory gridlocks, the CMP program seeks to transform scepticism into active partnership for long-term waterway restoration and community wellbeing..

Action Required:

To implement this education strategy effectively, Council action plan needs to focus on transparency, real-time data, and community ownership by:

- **Transparent communications and historical context** by a timeline detailing the artificial opening of Lake Innes, visually contrasting its historical freshwater state against today's hyper-saline, acid-prone environment.
- **Jargon-free explainers:** explaining the chemistry behind acid sulfate soils and iron floc, showing exactly how low water levels trigger toxic chemical reactions. Why breakwalls, permeant opening at berm are not suitable and the way a ICOLL works.



REVIVE LAKE CATHIE
voice of the lake

- Legislative transparency: Publish a clear "road map" of the regulatory overlapping red tape (e.g., EPBC Act and NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act) to show the community the exact legal hurdles Council is lobbying to overcome.
- Live data integration and telemetry access guide the community to these Public data dashboard:
- Trigger level notifications: Create an SMS or email alert system that notifies subscribers when lagoon water levels approach manual trigger points for climate-dependent berm grading.
- Citizen science programs: Partner with local environmental groups like Revive Lake Cathie Inc to run guided water quality monitoring days, training residents to document visible iron floc and acidic runoff and general water quality parameters.
- On-site signage: Install educational boards at high-traffic recreational zones like the Perch Hole, Kenwood Drive Bridge and the lagoon entrance at Foreshore Reserve to explain hydrodynamic flow restrictions and summer management strategies.

Revive Lake Cathie Inc (RLC) appreciate the opportunity to submit formal feedback on Stages 3 and 4 of the Coastal Management Program (CMP).

The future of the Lake Cathie and Lake Innes estuarine system rests on our collective ability to pivot from passive observation to decisive, system-wide restoration. RLC remains deeply committed to its founding advocacy role, relentlessly championing the environmental health of these waterways on behalf of our local community and we remain "The Voice of the Lake".

We look forward to partnering with Council to transform these strategic priorities into urgent, on-the-ground action.

Regards

President
Revive Lake Cathie Inc

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

3 Port Macquarie Surf Museum



Port Macquarie Surfing Museum

(Port Macquarie Surfing History Association Inc.)

P.O. Box 161, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Alan Jeffrey | president@portmacquariesurfingmuseum.com.au | 0459 564 674

Donna Liver | secretary@portmacquariesurfingmuseum.com.au | 0408 304 151

A Not-for-Profit organisation dedicated to the research, preservation, and celebration of all known surfing disciplines, connected with Australian and International beach culture.

Submission to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Draft Coastal Management Program

Submitted by: Port Macquarie Surfing Museum / Port Macquarie Surfing History Association Inc.

Subject: Alignment of the Port Macquarie Surfing Museum and proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve with the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Draft Coastal Management Program

Area of interest: Town Beach to Lighthouse Beach, including the Hastings River entrance, surf zone, beaches, headlands, coastal walk, surf lifesaving areas, public access points and associated community places.

1. Introduction

The Port Macquarie Surfing Museum / Port Macquarie Surfing History Association Inc. welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Coastal Management Program process. We support the Council's work to plan for the long-term management of the coastline, estuaries and waterways using best available evidence, community input and practical management actions.

This submission explains how the Port Macquarie Surfing Museum and the proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve align strongly with the Coastal Management Program's aims, including coastal stewardship, environmental protection, cultural recognition, safe public access, recreation, education, community wellbeing and long-term coastal resilience.

2. Summary of Alignment

The proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve is a community-led coastal stewardship initiative. It does not seek to exclude other users or create new land tenure controls. Instead, it recognises the shared cultural, environmental, recreational and historical significance of the Town Beach to Lighthouse Beach corridor and provides a positive framework for education, care and respectful use.

The Coastal Management Program process identifies the need to understand coastal hazards, values, recreational use, environmental health and future management options. The museum and reserve proposal can assist Council by contributing local knowledge, surf heritage records, community networks, volunteer capacity, education material and place-based interpretation for the coastline between Town Beach and Lighthouse Beach.



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3. Key Areas of Alignment with the Coastal Management Program

Coastal Management Program	Alignment with the Port Macquarie Surfing Museum and proposed National Surfing Reserve	Potential practical contribution
Coastal values and community knowledge	The reserve proposal records the community value of Town Beach, Flynn's Beach, Shelly Beach, Lighthouse Beach, and related coastal places as locations for surfing, walking, swimming, surf lifesaving, family, tourism, and heritage.	Provide local surf history information, oral histories, photographs, user knowledge, and community feedback to support the Council's understanding of coastal values.
Coastal hazards and responsible public use	The proposal recognises changing sandbanks, rips, river-mouth currents, open-beach exposure, erosion, access pressures and safety considerations across the reserve corridor.	Support education on surf safety, rip awareness, beach access, changing conditions, and the responsible use of formal tracks and public areas.
Environmental protection and stewardship	The reserve values of Share, Respect and Preserve align with dune care, beach clean-ups, protection of coastal vegetation, wildlife awareness, stormwater awareness and careful visitor behaviour.	Partner with Council, coastal-care groups, schools and surf clubs on annual stewardship activities, education campaigns and practical volunteer projects.
Cultural recognition and Sea Country	The proposal acknowledges that the coastline is within Birpai Country and that cultural material must be guided by appropriate Birpai representatives and with appropriate permissions.	Support respectful engagement, approved Acknowledgement of Country wording, cultural review of interpretation material and inclusion of Sea Country values where authorised.
Recreation, access and coastal lifestyle	The reserve recognises inclusive shared use of the coastline by surfers, swimmers, walkers, surf lifesavers, fishers, families, tourism operators and visitors.	Provide constructive input on access, signage, visitor information, surf etiquette, safe use, coastal walk links and interpretation points.
Education, interpretation and community engagement	The Port Macquarie Surfing Museum is a ready-made community education partner with a focus on surf history, local identity, artefacts, storytelling and public engagement.	Develop school resources, oral history projects, museum displays, reserve interpretation, youth stewardship activities, and community events that complement Council engagement.



Port Macquarie Surfing Museum

(Port Macquarie Surfing History Association Inc.)

P.O. Box 161, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Alan Jeffrey | president@portmacquariesurfingmuseum.com.au | 0459 564 674

Donna Liver | secretary@portmacquariesurfingmuseum.com.au | 0408 304 151

A not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the research, preservation, and exhibition of all things surfing, old and new, combined with Australian and international beach culture

Long-term implementation and monitoring	The proposed Local Stewardship Committee creates a structured community contact point for ongoing dialogue with Council and the Coastal Management Program.	Contribute observations, community feedback, annual review notes, volunteer activity records and practical suggestions for future CMP actions.
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4. Why the Museum and Reserve Proposal Support Council's Objectives

The Port Macquarie Surfing Museum preserves the stories, surf craft, photographs, memorabilia and community knowledge that explain how local people have used and cared for the coast over time. This heritage record can help Council's Coastal Management Program understand not only physical coastal processes, but also the social, cultural and recreational values attached to particular beaches, surf breaks, access points and public spaces.

The proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve would give these values a visible and practical stewardship framework. It would encourage respectful shared use, surf safety, environmental care, cultural recognition, youth education, and stronger collaboration among Council, Traditional Owners, surf lifesaving clubs, surfers, environmental volunteers, tourism bodies, schools, and the wider community.

The proposal also aligns with the Coastal Management Program's intent for community engagement. Council is seeking input about what people value, what local knowledge should be considered, where issues or opportunities exist, and what actions may guide coastal management over the next decade and beyond. The museum and reserve committee can provide a constructive, organised and ongoing community voice for the Town Beach-to-Lighthouse Beach corridor.

5. Suggested Coastal Management Program Actions

1. Recognise the proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve as a positive community stewardship initiative aligned with the Coastal Management Program.
2. Include the Town Beach to Lighthouse Beach corridor as a focus area for integrated interpretation, access, recreation, heritage, cultural recognition, environmental education and surf safety messaging.
3. Invite the Port Macquarie Surfing Museum / Port Macquarie Surfing History Association Inc. and the proposed Local Stewardship Committee to participate in relevant CMP engagement, mapping, interpretation and implementation discussions.
4. Work with Birpai representatives to ensure any cultural wording, Sea Country interpretation, ceremony, signage or educational material is developed respectfully and only with appropriate permissions.
5. Explore opportunities for joint education projects, including surf safety, rip awareness, dune care, beach access, oral history, coastal heritage, museum displays, school resources and guided coastal interpretation.



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A Not-for-Profit organisation dedicated to the research, preservation, and exhibition of all historic surfing disciplines associated with Australian surf history and beach culture.

6. Consider how future signage, maps, visitor information and public education can reinforce shared use, beach safety, respect for Country, environmental care and local surf heritage without increasing overcrowding or unsafe behaviour.
7. Identify practical annual stewardship actions that could be supported by the museum, surf clubs, schools, environmental groups, tourism partners and volunteers.

6. Proposed Partnership Approach

We propose that Council, the Coastal Management Program team and the Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve Local Stewardship Committee establish a simple working relationship during the development of the CMP. This does not need to create formal obligations, funding commitments or approval rights. It would provide a practical communication pathway so local surf heritage, recreational use, environmental stewardship, visitor education and cultural recognition can be considered early and constructively.

The museum and reserve committee can assist by sharing verified local history, helping gather community feedback, supporting education projects, identifying surf-related access and safety issues, contributing to interpretation concepts, and connecting Council with surf lifesaving, boardriding, bodyboarding, longboarding, schools, tourism and environmental networks.

7. Call to Action for Council

We ask the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to take the following practical steps as part of the Draft Coastal Management Program process:

1. Formally note the Port Macquarie Surfing Museum and proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve as aligned community partners in coastal education, heritage, recreation and stewardship.
2. Include the Town Beach to Lighthouse Beach corridor in CMP implementation planning as a place-based opportunity for surf heritage interpretation, environmental care, safe access and respectful shared use.
3. Nominate a Council contact point to liaise with the museum and the proposed Local Stewardship Committee during the exhibition, finalisation and implementation of the Coastal Management Program.
4. Support a joint working discussion with Council officers, Birpai representatives, surf lifesaving clubs, environmental groups, schools, tourism partners and surfing community representatives to identify practical first-year actions.
5. Consider incorporating museum-led interpretation, oral-history material, surf safety education, coastal-care activities and youth engagement into future CMP actions, signage, community programs and grant opportunities.



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A Not-for-Profit organisation dedicated to the research, preservation, and exhibition of all historic surfing disciplines, associated with Australia and International beach culture.

8. Closing Statement

The Port Macquarie Surfing Museum and proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve strongly support the intent of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Coastal Management Program. Together, they offer a community-led way to recognise the coastline's surfing, cultural, historical, environmental, educational and recreational values while encouraging practical stewardship for the future.

We respectfully ask Council to recognise the alignment among the Coastal Management Program, the Port Macquarie Surfing Museum, and the proposed Port Macquarie National Surfing Reserve, and to maintain ongoing engagement with the museum and the future Local Stewardship Committee as the CMP is developed, exhibited, implemented, and reviewed.



Collaboration of Council, Community and Culture



FAWNA (For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid) thanks Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Coastal Management Plan.

As the lead wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organization in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA there are issues that we feel are not adequately addressed or not given sufficient prominence.

We are grateful for the development and implementation of the marine debris initiative as it stands so far with the placement of stickers on some waste bins and the instigation, in collaboration with FAWNA and Ozfish, of fishing tackle collection bins in some sites. We are also grateful for the social media campaign developed by Laura Meredith.

However, it is easy for these initiatives to fade into the background of time. Some of the bins, with their stickers have been removed to less optimal places, and Laura's project has been relegated to the past. With additional fishing locations identified, the extension of the stickers/signs and fishing tackle debris bins are minimal with several sites devoid of such much-needed resources.

As a reminder, every 'lost' or discarded length of fishing line into the environment has the potential to impact wildlife for up to 600 years. Stainless steel hooks and lures for a minimum of ten years. As such, recreational fishing tackle discarded today will continue to add to the threat accumulation for years, decades and centuries to come. Research from Griffith and Charles Darwin Universities (Thomson, VK; Jones, D; McBroom, J; Lilleyman, A; Pyne, M, 2020) has highlighted this threat with findings that the single deadliest threat to coastal seabirds, including Ospreys, Brahminy Kites, Whistling Kites and Sea-Eagles, is discarded fishing tackle.

This is not just an issue for the volunteer organizations such as FAWNA that currently receives no government funding, or the dedicated volunteers who give of their own time and resources to rescue entangled wildlife, often with tragic results. It is also an issue for the many caring members of the public who find seeing wildlife suffering such often horrific injuries highly distressing and traumatising.

In any given 12 months period FAWNA will receive close to 200 calls from distressed members of the public regarding wildlife entangled in discarded recreational fishing tackle, most usually pelicans, brush turkeys, cormorants, ospreys and other seabirds. However, magpies, kookaburras and even flying-foxes are not immune as discarded fishing line is easily blown into trees and surrounding bushland where it becomes an almost invisible trap. Marine turtles have also been victims

As a related aside, Birdwatching is big business for Australia with Tourist Australia estimating that Birdwatching pours billions into Australia's tourism industry each year - an estimated 2.6 billion dollars in one financial year, ending in June 2024, from international 'twitchers' alone and another \$636 million from domestic overnight travellers (ABC News - 15 Feb, 2025).

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council area has clearly but perhaps opaquely benefited from the birdwatching industry with over 4,300 listings submitted on the premier eBird site in the six months period from January to June 2026. It is likely that the 300 birdwatchers who made these submissions, of 356 different bird species, are a significant under rather than over-estimation of the number of people who enjoy the birdlife of the area.

As such, protection of our native birds is not just an environmental and cultural consideration, it also clearly and squarely fits within the Access and Recreation as well as the Coastal Economy categories as well.

FAWNA would ask that protection of our birds and other wildlife be granted greater priority and resources than currently allocated. We wish to advocate for stronger engagement and education of fishers and the general public on the dreadful consequences of discarded fishing tackle, and/or unsafe fishing practices that involve fishing near sea- and shorebirds, casting in unsafe environments, including in proximity to trees and foliage, and the need for safe disposal.

Recognition and enhancement of bird-watching as a low impact recreational activity has added advantages, and could, in some format, be included in Council promotions such as community education, photographic competitions and dedicated bird-watching events and trails. Such activities would attract even more dedicated birdwatcher tourists and their dollars to the area.

More permanent signs, such as MidCoast Council are now employing would also have marked benefits as awareness raising tools as would the wider dispersal of fishing tackle disposal bins.

These are pressing, urgent issues and of significant importance, not only to relieve the unnecessary deaths and suffering of our wildlife, including identified threatened species, but also to highlight the natural beauty that attracts so many people to visit, and take up residence to this still beautiful coastal environment. There is a real opportunity, *now* to partner with FAWNA and Ozfish make a meaningful and substantial difference in these regards over the next months and years.

References:

Sexton-McGrath, K. (15/2/25) ABC ' Birdwatching and twitchers pump billions into Australia's tourism industry'. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-15/tourism-industry-twitchers-birdwatching/104919868>

Thomson, VK; Jones, D; McBroom, J; Lilleyman, A; Pyne, M, (2020). 'Hospital Admissions of Australian Coastal Raptors Show Fishing Equipment Entanglement is an Important Threat'. *Journal of Raptor Research*, 54 (4), pp. 414-423

5 Protect Oxley Beach

Protect Oxley Beach Submission - Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4

(22 June 2026)



Submission by Protect Oxley Beach

Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Protect Oxley Beach welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on the Coastal Management Program (CMP) Stages 3 and 4.

We strongly support the intent of the Coastal Management Act 2016 and the NSW Coastal Management Framework, which seek to achieve healthy coastlines and resilient communities through the protection of coastal processes, avoidance of coastal hazards, conservation of environmental and cultural values, and the long-term sustainability of public assets.

The technical investigations undertaken by Council as part of Stage 2, including the Coastal Hazard Assessment Study and Coastal Vulnerability Area Mapping, provide an important scientific basis for future decision-making and should guide management actions during Stages 3 and 4.

Oxley Beach is a highly vulnerable coastal environment

Oxley Beach is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed coastal environments within the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA. It is zoned C2 Environmental Conservation, reflecting its high ecological, scenic and environmental values.

Importantly, Council's own Coastal Hazard Assessment Study and Coastal Vulnerability Area Mapping identify areas of Oxley Beach and adjoining land as being subject to coastal hazards and future vulnerability associated with:

- Coastal erosion;
- Shoreline recession;

Protect Oxley Beach Submission - Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4

(22 June 2026)

- Coastal inundation;
- Storm surge and wave overtopping;
- Flooding and debris impacts;
- Powerful ocean swells and East Coast Low events;
- Slope instability and landslip;
- Sea level rise and increasing coastal risk over time.

The Stage 2 studies recognise that coastal hazards are expected to intensify and that a growing number of assets will become exposed over time. The studies were specifically undertaken to support risk-informed planning and adaptation.

Accordingly, Oxley Beach demands a precautionary and risk-based management approach.

The Coastal Management Program should avoid creating new risks

The NSW Coastal Management Framework is intended to manage the coast in an ecologically sustainable manner for the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of current and future generations. Its objectives include:

- Protecting and enhancing natural coastal processes;
- Managing current and future risks from coastal hazards and climate change;
- Conserving environmental and cultural values;
- Maintaining public access and amenity;
- Supporting resilient and financially sustainable public assets;
- Avoiding the transfer of environmental and financial liabilities to future generations.

The purpose of the CMP is not to facilitate urbanisation of active coastal systems, but rather to understand hazards and implement management actions that avoid unnecessary exposure and improve long-term resilience.

Major infrastructure at Oxley Beach is inconsistent with these principles

Protect Oxley Beach is concerned that the proposed ocean pool development would introduce substantial permanent infrastructure into a mapped coastal hazard area.

The proposal includes:

- A large reinforced concrete pool constructed on the sand;

Protect Oxley Beach Submission - Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4

(22 June 2026)

- Twin pumps and pump pits;
- Pump housing and electrical infrastructure;
- Intake and discharge pipelines extending into the ocean;
- Retaining walls and engineered structures;
- Concrete pathways;
- Shelters and ancillary structures;
- Amenities and associated infrastructure on the adjoining hillside where evidence of instability and landslip processes is visually apparent.

This level of development would fundamentally alter one of the few remaining natural beaches in Port Macquarie and effectively urbanise a highly dynamic coastal environment.

Natural coastal processes should be preserved

The Stage 2 Coastal Hazard Assessment recognises that shoreline behaviour is influenced by sand transport, storm events and sea level rise. Long-term sediment loss and increasing hazard exposure are identified as key drivers of change.

Major infrastructure within the active beach system has the potential to interfere with:

- Sand movement and sediment transport;
- Erosion and deposition processes;
- Wave energy and refraction;
- The dynamic functioning of the beach system;
- Natural adaptation to changing coastal conditions.

Rather than adapting to coastal hazards, the proposal seeks to place significant public infrastructure directly within them.

This is contrary to the principles of hazard avoidance and ecologically sustainable development that underpin the Coastal Management Act 2016 and the CMP framework.

Significant environmental and financial risks

The proposed infrastructure itself would remain highly vulnerable to:

- Wave overtopping;
- Storm damage;

Protect Oxley Beach Submission - Coastal Management Program Stages 3 & 4

(22 June 2026)

- Coastal inundation;
- Floodwaters and debris impacts;
- Sand movement and erosion;
- East Coast Low events;
- Sea level rise and increasing climate risks.

Construction costs continue to escalate. Estimated maintenance costs of approximately \$500,000 annually do not include major repairs, replacement or reconstruction following severe weather events.

The long-term insurability of infrastructure situated within a recognised coastal hazard area is uncertain. Consequently, future maintenance and damage costs are likely to become a burden on Council and ratepayers.

Sound asset management principles require infrastructure to be located where risks are manageable and lifecycle costs are sustainable.

Oxley Beach has outstanding environmental, cultural and community value

Oxley Beach is highly valued by residents and visitors for:

- Surfing, swimming, fishing and diving;
- Walking, running and passive recreation;
- Quiet reflection and appreciation of nature;
- Memorial services and weddings;
- Aboriginal cultural values and continuing cultural connections;
- Being the only on-leash dog beach in the local area.

Its value lies precisely in its largely undeveloped and natural character.

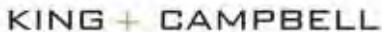
The NSW Coastal Management Framework recognises that healthy coastlines support social, cultural, recreational and economic wellbeing. Protecting Oxley Beach is entirely consistent with these objectives.

Recommendations

Protect Oxley Beach respectfully requests that the Coastal Management Program:

1. Recognise Oxley Beach as a mapped coastal hazard and coastal vulnerability area requiring a precautionary approach.
2. Prioritise the protection and enhancement of natural coastal processes.

6 King and Campbell



SM
Please quote our ref no: Coastal Management Program & Coastal Hazards Assessment Engagement Plan

14 July 2026

The General Manager
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
PO Box 84
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

ATTENTION: Mr Ben Foster

Dear Ben,

RE: SUBMISSION REGARDING THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF THE PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STAGES 3 & 4

Introduction

King & Campbell welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission in relation to the public exhibition of the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Coastal Management Program (CMP) Stages 3 and 4.

We acknowledge the considerable work undertaken by Council, its consultants and the independent peer reviewers in preparing the Coastal Management Program and the supporting technical documentation.

This submission is confined to the transparency and adequacy of the current public consultation process. It should not be interpreted as expressing any opinion regarding the scientific methodology, technical analysis, assumptions, modelling, mapping or conclusions contained within the Coastal Hazard Assessment (CHA) or the associated Coastal Vulnerability Area (CVA) mapping.

Given the complexity of the technical material and its potential implications for land use planning and private property, we consider that those matters warrant separate consideration by appropriately qualified technical specialists. Accordingly, nothing in this submission should be taken as accepting, endorsing or rejecting the technical content of the Coastal Hazard Assessment or the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping.

Rather, this submission is directed to whether the consultation materials adequately inform the community of the significance of the mapping currently on exhibition and its acknowledged role in informing future land use planning.

The significance of the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping

Council's report considered at its Ordinary Meeting of 21 May 2026 makes it clear that the Coastal Hazard Assessment and the associated Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping have a broader purpose than simply informing the preparation of the Coastal Management Program.

urban design

civil engineering

architecture

town planning

landscape architecture

surveying

interior design

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integrated solutions | enhancing community

Council resolved to note that:

- the Coastal Hazard Assessment and Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping had been completed as part of Stage 2 of the CMP;
- following community consultation, the outcomes would inform Stages 3 and 4 of the Coastal Management Program; and
- those outcomes would also inform *"the development of any planning proposals required to potentially embed CVA mapping into applicable planning instruments."*

Council's accompanying report similarly explains that the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping has been prepared to inform future planning proposals and forms an important input into the preparation of the Coastal Management Program.

The consultant's Technical Note further explains that the Coastal Vulnerability Area maps have been prepared in accordance with NSW Government guidance and provide an integrated representation of coastal hazard exposure for the 2120 planning horizon.

Accordingly, the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping is not merely descriptive hazard mapping. Rather, it represents the strategic evidence base upon which future planning decisions may ultimately rely.

The significance of the mapping is not clearly communicated

Despite the acknowledged importance of the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping, its significance is not readily apparent from Council's public-facing consultation material. The "Have Your Say" webpage prominently displays mapping described as "Tidal Inundation Maps".

However, those maps form part of the broader Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping prepared during Stage 2 of the Coastal Management Program.

While links are provided to the Stage 2 reports, there is no clear or prominent explanation that:

- the exhibited mapping represents Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping;
- the mapping has been prepared specifically to inform future land use planning; or
- Council has identified the mapping as the evidentiary basis for considering future planning proposals.

A reasonable member of the public viewing the consultation webpage could readily conclude that Council is simply seeking comment on tidal inundation projections. Unless a person independently locates the May 2026 Council report, accesses the Stage 2 technical reports, reviews several lengthy technical documents and understands the distinction between hazard mapping and Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping, they are unlikely to appreciate that the mapping currently exhibited is intended to provide the technical basis for future planning controls affecting private land.

In our opinion, the importance of the consultation should not depend upon members of the public independently discovering and interpreting multiple technical reports before understanding the significance of what is being exhibited.

The potential implications for affected landowners

The Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping potentially affects a substantial number of residential and other privately owned properties throughout the Port Macquarie-Hastings local government area.

Council's own report acknowledges that the mapping may ultimately be incorporated into planning instruments through future planning processes.

Should that occur, future planning controls may influence matters including:

- redevelopment opportunities;
- subdivision potential;
- development assessment requirements;
- building design standards;
- infrastructure requirements;
- property values;
- financing and insurance considerations; and
- the long-term use and enjoyment of land.

Whether any particular planning controls are ultimately adopted is not the present issue. Rather, the important point is that this consultation represents the first opportunity afforded to affected landowners and the broader community to comment upon the evidentiary basis that Council proposes to rely upon when considering future planning controls.

Many affected landowners are unlikely to appreciate that significance if Council's consultation material does not clearly explain the intended role of the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping.

This consultation is the first step in a planning pathway

Council correctly explains that the Coastal Hazard Assessment and Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping do not themselves introduce planning controls. However, that statement does not answer the present concern.

Council has also expressly acknowledged that the outcomes of this consultation will inform Stages 3 and 4 of the Coastal Management Program, including the development of planning proposals that may embed the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping into applicable planning instruments.

Accordingly, the current exhibition is not simply an exercise in publishing technical information. It is the first formal step in a planning pathway that Council itself acknowledges may ultimately result in statutory planning controls affecting privately owned land.

While any future amendments to planning instruments will necessarily be subject to separate statutory assessment and public consultation processes, those future processes will inevitably be informed by:

- the technical evidence currently being exhibited;
- the strategic policy directions emerging from the current consultation; and
- the community feedback received during this stage of the Coastal Management Program.

The current consultation therefore has significance extending well beyond preparation of the Coastal Management Program itself.

Where a consultation forms part of the evidentiary and strategic foundation for future statutory planning decisions, principles of transparency, meaningful community participation and good administrative decision-making require that members of the public clearly understand:

- the purpose of the consultation;
- how the information may be used in the future;
- the relationship between the current consultation and future planning controls; and
- why participation at this stage is important.

These considerations are particularly important where the information may ultimately influence the planning rights and development opportunities of a substantial number of privately owned properties.

Members of the public cannot reasonably be expected to make informed submissions if they are unaware that the mapping currently exhibited may later become the basis for future planning controls.

The issue is therefore not whether planning controls are being introduced through the current exhibition. Plainly they are not.

Rather, the issue is whether Council has adequately informed the community that this consultation represents the first opportunity to comment upon the technical mapping that may later underpin future planning controls.

In our opinion, the current "Have Your Say" webpage does not adequately communicate that significance or enable members of the community to readily understand the role that the exhibited mapping is intended to play in future planning decisions.

Meaningful consultation requires informed participation

Meaningful community consultation requires more than making technical reports available for download.

It requires that members of the community be clearly informed:

- what information is being exhibited;
- why it is important;
- how it may be used in the future; and
- why participation at this stage matters.

Council's own report appropriately explains that the Coastal Hazard Assessment and Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping do not themselves introduce planning controls, while simultaneously acknowledging that they provide the technical foundation for future planning proposals.

That important context is largely absent from the public-facing consultation webpage. Instead, the webpage presents the mapping primarily as "Tidal Inundation Maps", a description which understates the broader planning significance of the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping and risks giving affected landowners an incomplete understanding of the purpose of the consultation.

The importance of early transparency

Transparent consultation is particularly important where technical studies may later become the accepted evidence base for planning decisions. Once technical work has been adopted by Council as its preferred evidence base, subsequent planning discussions often proceed on the assumption that the underlying technical work has already been completed and accepted.

If affected landowners do not appreciate the significance of the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping at the point it is first exhibited, there is a real risk that meaningful participation is deferred until a later planning proposal, by which time the technical foundation may already be regarded as settled.

That outcome is inconsistent with the objective of informed community participation.

The purpose of this submission is not to oppose or delay the Coastal Management Program. Rather, it is to encourage a consultation process that provides the level of transparency necessary for affected landowners and the broader community to understand the role that the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping is intended to play in future land use planning before that planning pathway progresses further.

Providing this context now would strengthen, rather than undermine, the integrity of the Coastal Management Program and Council's future planning processes.

Requested actions

For the reasons outlined above, we respectfully request that Council:

1. Clearly identify the mapping currently exhibited includes Coastal Vulnerability Area (CVA) mapping, rather than presenting it simply as "Tidal Inundation Maps".
2. Amend the "Have Your Say" webpage to include a prominent explanation that:
 - o the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping has been prepared to inform future land use planning;
 - o Council has identified the mapping as the evidentiary basis for considering future planning controls;
 - o no planning controls are being introduced through the current consultation; and
 - o this consultation represents the first opportunity for the community to provide input before future planning controls are developed.
3. Provide a concise, plain-English explanation of the relationship between:
 - o the Coastal Hazard Assessment;
 - o the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping;

- the Coastal Management Program; and
 - any future planning controls that may arise.
- 4. Consider extending the exhibition period following amendment of the consultation material to ensure the community has a genuine opportunity to respond to the information once its broader significance has been clearly explained.

Scope of this Submission

This submission is confined to the transparency and adequacy of the current public consultation process and should not be interpreted as expressing any opinion on the scientific methodology, technical analysis, assumptions, modelling, mapping or conclusions contained within the Coastal Hazard Assessment or the associated Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping.

Given the complexity of the technical material and its potential implications for land use planning and property owners throughout the local government area, those matters warrant separate technical consideration by appropriately qualified specialists.

Accordingly, nothing in this submission should be taken as accepting, endorsing or rejecting the technical content of the Coastal Hazard Assessment or the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping. Our comments are limited to the adequacy of the consultation process and whether the information currently presented to the community appropriately communicates the significance of the mapping and its acknowledged role in informing future planning decisions.

Conclusion

The current exhibition provides public access to substantial technical information. However, access to information is not synonymous with informed consultation.

Council has acknowledged that the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping is intended to inform future planning controls and may ultimately be embedded within applicable planning instruments.

In those circumstances, we consider that the current consultation should clearly communicate that it represents the first opportunity for the community to comment upon the strategic evidence that may underpin future planning controls.

Enhancing the transparency of the consultation by more clearly explaining the purpose and intended future role of the Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping would promote informed community participation, strengthen confidence in Council's decision-making processes and improve the integrity of both the Coastal Management Program and any future planning proposals that rely upon this work.

King & Campbell has prepared this submission in its capacity as an independent planning consultancy with extensive experience in strategic land use planning, environmental planning and development assessment throughout New South Wales. The submission is intended to assist Council in achieving a transparent and effective community consultation process and should be read in that context.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on phone ([REDACTED])

Yours sincerely

King & Campbell Pty Ltd

[REDACTED]

7 Horton Coastal Engineering

Horton Coastal Engineering Coastal & Water Consulting

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Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
(sent by email only to council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au)

16 July 2026

Submission on Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Coastal Management Program (CMP)

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This submission of Horton Coastal Engineering Pty Ltd is made in response to the request to "Have Your Say on the CMP" at <https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/coastal-management-program-stages-3-4>.

The report author, Peter Horton [BE (Hons 1) MEngSc MIEAust CPEng NER], is a professional Coastal Engineer with 35 years of coastal engineering experience. He has postgraduate qualifications in coastal engineering, and is a Member of Engineers Australia (MIEAust) and Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) registered on the National Engineering Register (NER). He is also a member of the National Committee on Coastal and Ocean Engineering (NCCOE) and NSW Coastal, Ocean and Port Engineering Panel (COPEP) of Engineers Australia.

Peter has considerable experience in coastal hazard definition studies along the NSW coast. This includes experience in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area, including assistance with a peer review of the Lake Cathie Hazard Study for Council in 2012.

Peter was one of the early developers of probabilistic coastal hazard definition methodologies in 2013, as discussed further in Horton et al (2013, 2014) and Horton and Britton (2015).

The focus of this submission is on what are considered to be some significant limitations to the Stage 2 report that has been completed (*Coastal Hazard Assessment Study, PMHC CMP Stage 2, Version 4.0, 14 February 2025*). This report was considered at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 May 2026.

The limitations of the Stage 2 report, in particular what is considered to be an overconservative and statistically invalid determination of coastal hazards, has consequential impacts on management options that will be developed in Stages 3 and 4 of the CMP. It also unnecessarily sterilises development that is not at significant risk of coastal hazards over planning periods exceeding 100 years.

2. KEY LIMITATIONS OF STAGE 2 REPORT

2.1 Preamble

The three key limitations of the Stage 2 report are considered to be:

1. a statistically invalid determination of sea level rise that was applied in the probabilistic hazard assessment;
2. an incorrect interpretation of the probabilities for the future planning periods as annual exceedance probabilities and not encounter probabilities; and
3. a consequential inappropriate use of the 1% encounter probability line to define the extent of the Coastal Vulnerability Area (CVA).

These three matters are discussed in turn below.

2.2 Limitation 1 – Statistically Invalid Determination of Sea Level Rise

In the Stage 2 report, probabilistic hazard lines were determined for 1%, 2%, 5% and 10% exceedance probabilities. The SSP5-8.5 sea level rise scenario¹ was exclusively applied to determine sea level rise for all of these probabilities, based on Table 9 of the Stage 2 report as depicted below:

Table 9: Adopted SLR projections for this study in metres relative to 1995 - 2014 baseline (for Port Macquarie, NSW).

Quantile	2040	2050	2070	2100	2120	Comment
5 th percentile	0.09	0.13	0.20	0.27	0.32	SSP1-2.6
17 th percentile	0.11	0.16	0.24	0.34	0.41	SSP1-2.6
50 th percentile	0.17	0.25	0.42	0.75	0.98	Mid-value between above (17 th %ile) and below (83 rd %ile) values
83 rd percentile	0.24	0.34	0.61	1.15	1.54	SSP5-8.5
95 th percentile	0.29	0.41	0.73	1.39	1.88	SSP5-8.5

As evident above, at the 83rd percentile and higher (ie, 17% encounter probability and lower), the adopted sea level rise is exclusively driven by the SSP5-8.5 scenario (as circled above in red by the author of the report herein).

This is not statistically valid, as there are four other SSP sea level rise scenarios (SSP1-1.9, SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0) that must be considered. Exclusively choosing one scenario, which is not even a more likely scenario, means that the probabilities determined in the analysis are no longer valid. To be valid, all the inputs to the probabilistic analysis should be selected on the basis of evidence, and should not be forced to achieve a particular conservative outcome.

Furthermore, the SSP5-8.5 scenario has been dismissed as implausible by competent scientific opinion, eg see Ritchie and Dowlatabadi (2017a, b), Hausfather and Peters (2020), Burgess et

¹ SSP stands for 'shared socioeconomic pathway'. The five illustrative SSP scenarios considered in Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2021) represent varying projected greenhouse gas emissions, land use changes and air pollutant controls in the future.

al (2020), Pielke and Ritchie (2021) and Pielke et al (2022). Most of these authors also identify SSP3-7.0 as inappropriate (too conservative) to use.

Based on van Vuuren et al (2026), the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment is likely to adopt a highest emissions scenario that is expected to result in forcings below SSP5-8.5. This statement is from authors working on a project (the Scenario Model Intercomparison Project) that will provide a set of scenarios for the next IPCC assessment report (with this phase of inputs for the next IPCC assessment known as CMIP7).

The NSW Government recently sought feedback on a proposed *Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy* (SEPP). The consultation period was from 17 February 2026 to 16 March 2026. In the consultation materials there was a draft *Climate Change Scenario Guidelines* document (DPHI, 2026).

In DPHI (2026), adoption of a minimum SSP2-4.5 emissions scenario and a 25-50 year planning period for local development is advised. The more severe SSP3-7.0 and a 50 to 100 year planning period applies as a minimum to State Significant Development and rezoning.

That stated, van Vuuren et al (2026) was published on 7 April 2026, after the *Climate Change and Natural Hazards SEPP* consultation period ended. There has been considerable discussion on van Vuuren et al (2026) in the media and in the scientific fraternity in recent months. It is important to note that the highest ('high') scenario in CMIP7 results in forcings below SSP3-7.0 (Pfalz, 2026), see Figure 1.

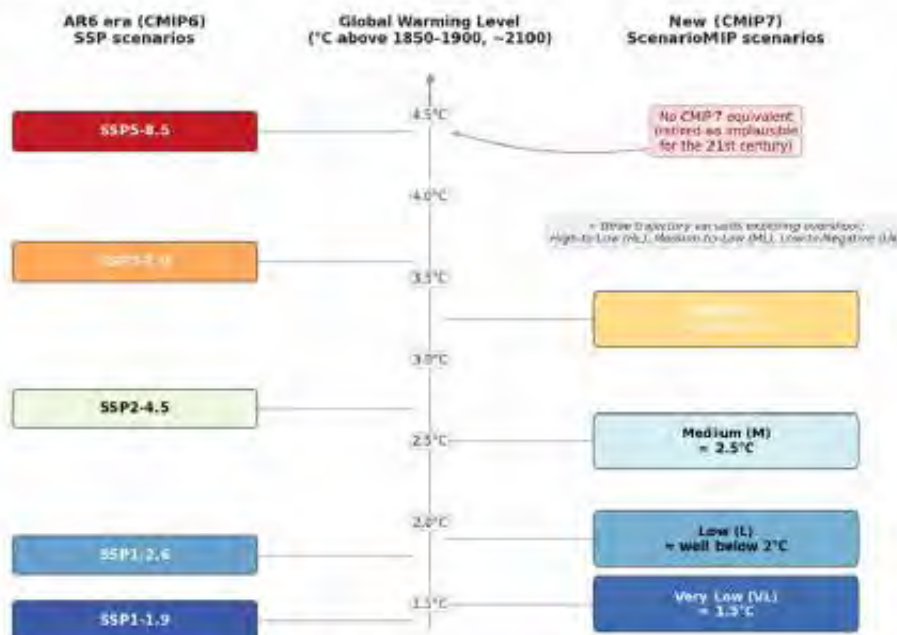


Figure 1: Comparison of SSP's used in the current IPCC (2021) assessment on left with proposed scenarios for next IPCC assessment on right (Pfalz, 2026)

Therefore, it can be argued that even using SSP3-7.0 is overconservative for a State Significant Development and rezoning, with the highest scenario for CMIP7 being between SSP2-4.5 and SSP3-7.0.

In the Stage 2 report, probabilistic hazard lines have been produced for an implausible scenario, making them overconservative and without any statistical validity.

2.3 Limitation 2 – Incorrect Interpretation of Probabilities

It is important to note that the Stage 2 report future planning period probability lines are **not** Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) lines, but represent a probability of exceedance over the stipulated planning period applying to the particular line. This is analogous to an encounter probability, where (for example) a 1 in 5,000 AEP event over a 50 year life has a 1% probability of occurring at least once over that life, and a 1 in 500 AEP event has a 10% probability.

At many locations in the Stage 2 report, the encounter probability lines are incorrectly described as AEP lines. For example, in the CVA mapping technical report (Attachment 2), it is stated that “For the purposes of mapping the CVA, the 1% AEP erosion hazard extent for the 2120 planning horizon was adopted”, and all the maps incorrectly describe the lines as 1% AEP lines. On page 71 of the main Stage 2 report, it is incorrectly stated that that “The 1%, 2%, 5% and 10% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) of the erosion hazard are then mapped for each planning year”, with a similar error on page 73.

2.4 Limitation 3 – Inappropriate Use of the 1% Encounter Probability Line to Define the Extent of the CVA

A consequence of Limitation 2, namely incorrectly describing the future probability lines as AEP's, is that this misleadingly supports adoption of the 1% line for planning purposes, such as mapping the CVA extent.

Planning authorities may default to the 1% probability exceedance level as they are accustomed to adoption of the 1% AEP event for planning purposes for other natural hazards such as flooding. They may think that they are doing the right thing. However, as the coastal hazard lines are actually encounter probabilities, this is essentially equivalent to adopting a 1 in 5,000 AEP (0.02% AEP) event for a 50 year life, or a 1 in 10,000 AEP (0.01% AEP) event for a 100 year life.

To put this in context, based on *Australian Standard AS1170.0:2002*, a 1 in 500 AEP event for ultimate limit states is considered to be appropriate for defining wind and earthquake actions for a design life of 50 years, for normal residential structures (Importance Level 2). An equivalent 1 in 1,000 AEP event applies for a design life of 100 years. In both cases, the event has a 9.5% probability of occurring over the design life. That is, the 10% lines from the Stage 2 report are equivalent to Australian structural engineering practice consistent with the National Construction Code.

For Importance Level 3 structures (major structures affecting crowds), a 4.9% probability is adopted for a 50 year life, and a 3.9% probability for a 100 year life. For Importance Level 4 structures (post-disaster structures), a 2% probability is adopted for a 50 year life. That is, even if the 5% or 2% encounter probability lines from the Stage 2 report were used, this would be applying a standard well beyond what would apply to a normal residential structure in Australian structural engineering practice consistent with the National Construction Code. If the 1% encounter probability is used, as is proposed in the Stage 2 report to define the CVA extent, this is applying a standard well beyond what would apply to even a post-disaster structure in the National Construction Code.

3. EXAMPLE OF IMPACT OF STAGE 2 REPORT LIMITATIONS

The limitations of the Stage 2 report described in Section 2 herein not only produce probabilistic hazard lines for an implausible scenario, making them overconservative and without any statistical validity, but compound the overconservatism with selection of 1% encounter probability lines (equivalent to a 1 in 10,000 AEP or 0.01% AEP event over a 100 year life) to define the CVA extent.

The NSW Government recently sought feedback on a proposed *Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)*. The consultation period was from 17 February 2026 to 16 March 2026. In the consultation materials there was a draft *Climate Change Scenario Guidelines* document (DPHI, 2026).

In DPHI (2026), adoption of a minimum SSP2-4.5 emissions scenario and a 25-50 year planning period for local development is advised. The more severe SSP3-7.0 and a 50 to 100 year planning period applies as a minimum to State Significant Development and rezoning. In Local Planning Direction 4.2, it is noted that "a planning proposal must not rezone land which would enable increased development or more intensive land-use on land within a coastal vulnerability area".

Given that the extent of the CVA is defined by the 1% line at 2120 in the Stage 2 report, it is relevant to compare the location of a more appropriate 10% line for the SSP3-7.0 scenario which is consistent with DPHI (2026), see Figure 2.



Figure 2: Comparison of 1% line at 2120 from Stage 2 report (used to define CVA extent) in red, and a statistically valid and more appropriate (and still conservative) SSP3-7.0 line at 2020 in green, in relation to land being considered for rezoning (yellow) at Bonny Hills

The green line in Figure 2 was derived from the *NSW Coastal Erosion and Inundation Hazards and Exposure Assessment* (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water [DCCEEW], 2025). This green line is still conservative (noting that SSP3-7.0 is overconservative as per Figure 1), would satisfy the requirements of DPPI (2026) for a planning proposal, and would enable a planning proposal to potentially proceed over most of the yellow boundary land in Figure 2. Adoption of the red line to define the CVA extent is not statistically valid, is overconservative, and unreasonably sterilises land from rezoning that is at an acceptably low risk of damage from coastal processes over a 100 year life.

4. WAY FORWARD

It is recognised that Council and DCCEEW may be resistant to modifying the Stage 2 report, given the time and cost involved, and pressure to get the CMP certified. However, the Stage 2 report hazard lines are unequivocally statistically invalid and overconservative. It is not reasonable for the community to bear the economic costs of the limitations of this Stage 2 study. These are statements of fact.

At the very least, 10% exceedance lines, and not 1% exceedance lines, should be used to define the CVA extent and for other planning purposes. If the Stage 2 report is not modified, there needs to be a mechanism to allow site-specific assessment of coastal hazards using a statistically valid approach, that can locally vary the CVA.

Horton Coastal Engineering has no interest in "applicant favourable" hazard lines, and exposing itself to liability from poor or over-optimistic technical advice. Two inappropriate extremes can sometimes be applied in development control setbacks (Horton and Britton, 2015), namely:

- the over-optimistic denial of risk scenario where virtually no controls are applied on development, and climate change related sea level rise is a myth to be ignored; or
- the over-conservative doomsday scenario where every coastline hazard parameter selected is upper bound, which can sterilise development that is highly unlikely to be at significant risk within its design life.

It is considered that the Stage 2 report hazard lines are overly conservative, and Horton Coastal Engineering would welcome the use of hazard lines that are based on sound technical analysis and that are appropriately conservative.

It is recognised that Baird peer-reviewed the Stage 2 report and seemingly endorsed it. However, they may not have been aware of the limitations of the Stage 2 report that have been outlined herein. Horton Coastal Engineering requests that the issues outlined herein are not ignored, but are confronted head-on. Horton Coastal Engineering would welcome a meeting with Council, DCCEEW and Baird to discuss an appropriate way forward for the CMP given the limitations of the Stage 2 report.

Peter Horton has had a paper accepted for the NSW Coastal Conference in November entitled "Lies, Damn Lies and Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Lines - What Should Change?", where he will be confronting these issues head on.

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6. SALUTATION

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Horton via email at peter@hortoncoastal.com.au, or via mobile on +61 407 012 538.

Yours faithfully

HORTON COASTAL ENGINEERING PTY LTD



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15 July 2026

Mr. Robert Fish
General Manager
Port Macquarie Hastings Council
P O Box 84
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Via "have your say" portal.

Dear Mr. Fish,

Adbri Submission: Port Macquarie Hastings Council draft Coastal Management Program

Adbri welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Port Macquarie Hastings draft Coastal Management Program (draft CMP).

Adbri is a leading Australian construction materials and manufacturing company and is a long standing contributor to the Port Macquarie Hastings region through the operation of the Dunbogan Quarry and associated concrete and construction materials supply network. These operations play an important role in supporting regional housing, commercial development, public infrastructure and local employment across the Mid North Coast.

Adbri directly employs 52 people across its Mid North Coast operations, supports approximately 30 additional contractor positions, and supplies construction materials that account for approximately 28 per cent of concrete production within the region. The Dunbogan Quarry is a strategically important resource capable of supplying up to 85 per cent of local sand aggregate demand when operating at full capacity.

Adbri supports Council's commitment to the long term management of coastal hazards and preparation of a draft CMP in accordance with the NSW coastal management framework. Adbri recognises the importance of ensuring the region's coastline is managed in a manner that protects environmental, community and economic values.

Our submission is concerned with two focus areas:

- **Planning and development** and how the outcomes of the Stage 2 coastal hazard assessment may be used to influence future planning and development instruments and decision making; and
- **The coastal economy** and the need recognise strategic resource based land uses as contributors to the economy and broader regional prosperity.

The following comments are provided in support of a balanced, evidence based and proportionate CMP that recognises both the long term management of coastal hazards and the need to consider site specific circumstances, existing land uses and broader community and economic outcomes when developing future management responses.

Coastal Vulnerability: Future Planning & Development

Adbri acknowledges the need for coastal hazard assessments to inform long term coastal risk management and strategic planning. However, we are concerned that strategic scale hazard assessment and mapping may ultimately be interpreted as a basis for future planning constraints without sufficient regard to site specific circumstances, demonstrated risk and broader economic considerations.

While the Coastal Vulnerability Area (CVA) mapping identifies potential future hazard exposure to 2120, the mapping is based on deliberately precautionary and conservative assumptions, including adoption of the 1% AEP erosion hazard extent and upper range sea level rise projections. The accompanying Technical Note acknowledges that the mapping is intended as a strategic planning tool and remains subject to significant uncertainty relating to future sea level rise, local coastal processes, geological controls and site specific conditions that may not be fully captured by a regional scale assessment

In this context, it is important that the mapping is considered alongside observed and documented site conditions. Adbri's Dunbogan Quarry is located on Diamond Head Road, Dunbogan, landward of the Dunbogan Beach dune system. Long term monitoring and historical analysis demonstrate that, while the shoreline undergoes periodic fluctuation associated with natural climatic cycles and beach rotation, the beach system has generally remained in a state of dynamic equilibrium, with the backing foredune remaining vegetated, stable and accreting in height over time. These observed and documented conditions suggest that the local coastal environment has demonstrated a high degree of resilience and stability despite natural shoreline variability.

Having regard to both the demonstrated stability of the site and the acknowledged uncertainty associated with long term regional hazard modelling, Adbri considers that the Stage 2 findings support a measured and site specific approach to risk assessment through the later stages of the CMP. This would help ensure that any future management responses are evidence based, proportionate to the level of risk and informed by local circumstances before measures that may affect future land use or development opportunities are contemplated.

As Council progresses the draft CMP from hazard identification (Stage 2) and options development (Stage 3) towards the identification of management actions (Stage 4) and implementation measures (Stage 5), Adbri encourages continued engagement with key stakeholders and a balanced approach that avoids reliance on strategic mapping alone when considering future planning and development outcomes.

In this regard, any future management responses relating to planning and development informed by the CVA mapping should:

- recognise the strategic nature and inherent uncertainty of regional scale hazard mapping;
- enable site specific technical investigations to refine the understanding of risk for individual sites;
- consider the timing, likelihood and consequence of identified hazards alongside the operational life of existing land uses;
- evaluate the social and economic implications of proposed planning controls; and
- ensure any future amendments to statutory planning instruments are proportionate to the available evidence and informed by stakeholder engagement.

The above approach is consistent with the intent of the CMP framework and broader NSW strategic planning processes, which recognise that hazard identification is only the first step in determining appropriate management responses.

Coastal Economy and Regional Development

Adbri supports the draft CMP's recognition of the economic, environmental and community values of the region's coastline. While the exhibition material emphasises recreation, tourism, environmental protection and community access, there is an opportunity to also recognise the contribution of appropriately located strategic resource based land uses to the regional economy and the essential services and infrastructure they support.

The Dunbogan Quarry is an established resource extraction operation that supplies sand for local concrete production and the broader construction sector, supporting housing, infrastructure and economic development across the Mid North Coast. Importantly, the quarry has operated at the site for more than 30 years without adversely affecting coastal processes. The operation is located behind a substantial and stable dune system, and available investigations indicate that the quarry has neither influenced shoreline behaviour nor been impacted by coastal processes throughout its operational history. The evidence also indicates that the site is unlikely to be affected by or contribute to coastal hazards within its remaining operational life.

In developing future management actions and planning responses, consideration should be given not only to potential long term coastal hazards but also to the demonstrated compatibility of existing land uses with coastal processes and their contribution to regional growth, infrastructure delivery and the construction supply chain. Given the quarry's importance to local construction material supply, any future planning measures that unnecessarily constrain the operation could have broader implications for housing delivery, infrastructure projects, construction costs and regional economic activity across the Mid North Coast.

Recognising this diversity of land uses will support more balanced and evidence based decision making and help ensure the CMP appropriately reflects both coastal risk management objectives and the economic activities that underpin the long term prosperity and resilience of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

Scope of consultation documents & further consultation opportunities

Adbri notes that the current consultation is identified as relating to Stages 3 and 4 of the CMP process. However, the material exhibited appears primarily focused on communicating the outcomes of the Stage 2 technical investigations and seeking feedback on coastal values, issues and priorities.

As management options and implementation measures are developed through Stages 3 and 4, Adbri encourages Council to provide stakeholders with a further opportunity to review and comment on any proposed management actions, planning responses or statutory recommendations, particularly where these may have implications for existing lawful land uses or future development opportunities. This would enhance outcomes and support transparent decision making and help ensure that future actions are balanced, evidence based and proportionate to the level of risk identified.

Conclusion

Adbri supports Council's commitment to delivering a balanced and evidence based Coastal Management Program and encourages the continued use of a flexible, risk based approach as the CMP progresses.

While coastal risk management is an important objective, future management actions and planning responses should also recognise the contribution of established land uses that support regional employment, housing delivery, infrastructure development and economic growth.

In summary, Adbri encourages Council to:

- adopt a balanced and proportionate response to the use of hazard mapping in the development of management responses;
- undertake further engagement following the development of management responses, in particular those that have the potential to influence planning and development outcomes; and
- acknowledge the contribution of strategic resource operations to the long term economic resilience of the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

We thank Port Macquarie Hastings Council for the opportunity to comment on the draft CMP and welcome continued engagement as the project progresses. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact the undersigned at 

Yours faithfully,



Community Members

9 Community member – Bonny Hills

Written Feedback- Coastal Management Program.



15th July, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the Port Macquarie Hastings region.

We choose to make Bonny Hills home because of its beautiful natural coastline, relaxed village feel and strong sense of community. It is a place where we can gather, connect with nature and appreciate the surrounding environment.

I appreciated the opportunity to attend the community engagement session and the genuine encouragement for residents to share their ideas and values. It was valuable to speak with Council representatives, including Ben Foster, Jack and Alex, the consultants from Rhelm, and members of the Bonny Hills Progress Association. It was encouraging to see everyone committed to listening to the community and working together to help shape the future of our coastline.

It was also encouraging to hear that community feedback will help shape the priorities and actions of the final Coastal Management plan. I am also invested in how the CMP will influence the Draft Rainbow Beach Development Plan, which so many members of our community took the time to contribute to.

I support the Coastal Management Program's commitment to protecting our coastline while planning for the future. As Bonny Hills continues to grow, I believe it is essential that planning decisions balance future development with the protection of the environmental, recreational and lifestyle values that make our community so special.

My comments focus on preserving the natural character and village feel of our community, prioritising infrastructure before further growth, and supporting nature based coastal management solutions. I hope these comments contribute to protecting and enhancing the unique qualities of Bonny Hills for current and future generations.

1. Prioritise infrastructure before growth

As part of the Coastal Management Program, Council has a responsibility to ensure that planning decisions for the next 10 years and beyond support sustainable coastal communities while protecting the natural coastline, village character and coastal lifestyle that define our communities.

Before implementing strategies that facilitate population growth or increased development density along the coast, council should ensure that existing infrastructure, including the treatment plant, roads, drainage, public amenities, parking and community facilities has the capacity to meet current and future demand before accommodating additional growth.

Council's own planning identifies Bonny Hills and Lake Cathie as among the fastest-growing areas in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region (Coastal Recreational User Needs Analysis Report, Section 7.4).

Careful long term planning is essential to ensure growth does not compromise the environmental, recreational and lifestyle values, coastline and village character that define our coastal communities and support the objectives of the CMP.

Water Quality: Future planning should consider the long term sustainability and capacity of the Bonny Hills Waste Water Treatment Plant and supporting infrastructure, together with the cumulative impacts of future development, increased stormwater runoff, coastal change and more frequent heavy rainfall events.

The impact of these combined pressures on contaminating and polluting the creeks that feed and flow into the downstream coastal waters of our popular beaches such as Rainbow beach is a concern. Duchess Creek, Saltwater Creek and Greenhills Gully all flow into the coastal waters of Rainbow Beach, where our community swims, surfs, fishes, dives, participates in surf lifesaving and nippers, and gathers with family and friends. Following rainfall events, many people already avoid entering the water because of concerns about water quality and the potential risk of illness.

Protecting the health and quality of our waterways should be a priority and planning should aim to minimise these impacts so people can continue to safely enjoy our coastline. Protecting water quality also protects the recreational, environmental and economic values that make Rainbow Beach such an important asset for both residents and visitors.

Planning and Rezoning: The CMP identifies protecting our coastal environments, maintaining community access and recreation, improving environmental outcomes and planning for the future as key focus areas. When considering planning proposals that increase development density within our coastal communities, Council should clearly demonstrate how these decisions support, and not compromise, the commitments of the CMP.

Higher density development has the potential to place increasing pressure on infrastructure, public open spaces, coastal reserves and facilities while also changing the coastal lifestyle, village atmosphere and connection to nature that residents value. These environmental and lifestyle qualities are fundamental to the identity of our coastal communities. Once these qualities are lost, they cannot be recovered.

Strategic Land Use planning: The CMP provides an opportunity to identify long term planning strategies that support sustainable growth while protecting our coastline through proactive planning, reducing the need for costly hard engineering solutions in the future.

Potential strategies include directing future growth to lower risk inland areas where appropriate, establishing coastal hazard and setback zones, maintaining natural coastal buffers, protecting public open spaces and native vegetation, and acquiring or dedicating land for conservation and future coastal resilience.

Planning should also consider the cumulative impacts of development. While individual developments may appear acceptable in isolation, the combined effect of increasing development can place significant pressure on infrastructure, beach access, public open spaces, environmental values and the coastal character of our communities. Considering these long term impacts will help ensure future growth protects, rather than gradually change the environment and coastal lifestyle values of the community.

2. Protect the natural character of Bonny Hills

One of the things I value most about Bonny Hills is its natural, undeveloped coastline. Our coastal reserves should remain places where people can gather, connect with nature and enjoy the relaxed village atmosphere that makes our community so special. As our community grows, it is important that planning and development decisions continue to protect these environmental and lifestyle values.

Future planning should continue to:

- Retain native vegetation, natural coastal buffers and open green spaces, reflecting the strong community feedback from the Draft Rainbow Beach Development Plan.
- Use native landscaping and designs that blend naturally with the surrounding environment.
- Minimise unnecessary hard infrastructure (e.g. concrete and bitumen) and protect the natural character and village feel that our community values.
- Prioritise nature based coastal management solutions, including dune restoration, revegetation and stabilisation, wherever practical.
- Protect public open spaces that provide opportunities for recreation, connection with nature and community gathering.
- Ensure future development complements the natural landscape and coastal village character rather than incrementally changing the qualities that attract people to Bonny Hills.
- Consider the cumulative impacts of development on coastal character, environmental values and public open space, rather than assessing developments in isolation.

Many local residents, including young families who are invested in the future of Bonny Hills, supported these same values through the Draft Rainbow Beach Development Plan consultation. I hope this shared vision is also reflected in the Coastal Management Program. As longer term strategies are developed, I hope there is an opportunity to prioritise solutions that strengthen the coastline while working with natural coastal processes and allowing the environment to recover wherever possible.

As Bonny Hills continues to grow, I hope future planning and development complement the natural character of our community, ensuring the coastline, village atmosphere and connection to nature that define Bonny Hills are protected for future generations.

3. Maintain Community Access and Recreation

Maintaining and upgrading existing community facilities and coastal access as our population grows will help ensure residents and visitors can continue to safely enjoy our coastline well into the future.

Boat Ramp: The Spoonies Beach boat ramp is such a valuable community asset and an important resource for the local fishing community. Maintaining safe access, appropriate drainage to minimise erosion, and preserving this facility supports our chosen coastal lifestyle for the many locals and future generations.

Coastal walking track and beach access:

Rainbow Beach Headland Path: Consideration of the Rainbow Beach headland walking track in the longer term planning. The path from the Rainbow Beach (SLSC) to Spoonies Beach via the caravan park is one of the few coastal paths regularly used by locals and is an important recreational access. Locals and visitors use this path to access the track from Spoonies to Bartletts and Grant's headland, walk their dog, check the surf or simply enjoy the view of the Rainbow Beach headland. This is an important community pathway, not just an access track for caravan park visitors. It is narrow in places and becomes busy, particularly high traffic times like school holidays periods.

Track from Southern end of Headland to Spoonies: As use of the area continues to grow, I would encourage improvements that provide safe, all weather access (the short track from the southern end of the caravan park to Spoonies is muddy and slippery after rain) while retaining the natural character of the area. A design that blends with the surrounding environment (maybe looking at National Park walking tracks) would align in keeping with the natural feel that the community values.

Dog friendly access to our coastline: As a responsible dog owner, Rainbow Beach is our primary place to walk our dog and, like many others in the community, we regularly walk from Rainbow Beach towards Middle Rock. Accessible coastal areas where people can responsibly enjoy the outdoors with their dogs are an important part of our community and our active coastal lifestyle. I believe promoting responsible dog ownership through education is the best long term approach to ensuring these much loved community spaces can continue to be enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this process. I hope these comments help support a Coastal Management Program that balances future growth with preserving the natural character and village feel of Bonny Hills, protecting the health of our waterways, and supporting the coastal lifestyle that residents and visitors value. I also hope the strong community feedback received through both this consultation and the Draft Rainbow Beach Development Plan continues to guide future planning so that Bonny Hills remains a healthy, resilient and welcoming coastal community for generations to come.

Coastal Management Program | Submission | 15 July 2026

[REDACTED] redacted

Transcribed verbatim from two (2) email submissions from the same submitter. These are considered one (1) submission)

EMAIL 1: Transcript

Thanks for organising the public meeting and working on the coastal erosion plan.

Further to my comments at the meeting, attached are photos of current erosion happening along the loony hill beach foreshore dunes from water seepage presumably from the water treatment works.

I haven't pictured it but there is significant death of mature trees above the dunes and no plans to help replant this area.

We have a large population of black cockatoos who rely on the she oaks and banksias for food.





There is ongoing erosion along the beach foreshore with imminent loss of mature trees.



There is ongoing erosion along both little and big Vinegar or Duchess creeks, with loss of significant mature trees.



Whilst I very much appreciate the recent sandbagging done to the main part of the front beach, it appears to not be high enough at the first set of wooden stairs to the north. There is erosion from recent storms, hi tides at a higher level than the sandbags have been put.

There is no sandbagging to the south of the construction of the new deck, again an area significantly impacted by storms and big tides.



Thank you for your interest and helping prevention of further erosion.

EMAIL 2: Transcript (one identifying image has been removed)

Further to my submission earlier today with current beach erosion, here are some family photos from 2020, showing duchess creek in the back ground
Its sad to see how much has been eroded in 6 short years



11 Community member – Bonny Hills

I have been coming to Bonny Hills for 63 years (grandparents lived here) and feel local native coastal sheoaks and similar plantings are crucial to erosion. When plants seeded naturally, there would be seedlings growing behind the mature trees so that if the parents died (or were killed by erosion) there would be the newer trees growing behind them. Sandbags won't win a battle with the sea, a thicker layer of bush is required not just a few token trees for ambience.

12 Community member – Bonny Hills

I just wanted to enquire if the plan includes construction of new toilet facilities? And If so, could you advise the structural layout of these facilities, including if they will be gender segregated, include change rooms and showers?

Thank you for your time and efforts to improve Rainbow beach reserve.

13 Community member – Bonny Hills

Coastal Management Program | Feedback | July 2026

My submission is relating to the water quality flowing out of the creek next to the caravan park into the middle of Bonny Hills Beach, and how it made me sick.

My name is [REDACTED] and I was born in Port Macquarie, and I have lived in the area most of my life.

On 30th May I was to surf in an annual memorial contest.

The sun was out, but it had been raining for a month. Hence, the creek was flowing dirty and smelly.

We had to paddle out from the middle of the creek to reach the outer bank to the left. During the hard paddle out, I swallowed a teaspoon of dirty sea water. After 20 minutes, we returned to shore and I felt okay and drove home.

Four days later, I lost my appetite and was having night sweats and aching muscles. After visiting my doctor and having blood tests, I was admitted to hospital for urgent antibiotics, as my white blood cell count was over 20,000.

During a week in hospital, I was examined by 12 doctors, including infectious diseases, immunologists and vascular surgeons, as well as blood tests. I had MRIs, CT scans, X-rays and sonograms.

The doctor said my episode was caused from swallowing the sea (dirty) water and had inflamed my immune system.

I bring this to your attention as I would feel worse if other people get sick because they were unaware.

Thank you for listening.

[REDACTED]

14 Community member – Bonny Hills

Have Your Say -- Coastal Management Program

 -- July 2026 (no pix)

Introductory comments

This submission concentrates on the Bonny Hills region and specifically concerns erosion at Rainbow Beach Park Reserve foreshore and along Rainbow Beach frontal dune.

Noted recently there has been renewed sand bagging 'pillows' installed at lifesaver tower section of the foreshore. Seems a better quality 'pillow' used here but suggest this type will need to be extended to the north to be an effective protection for the Park Reserve !

Also the following comments for CMP on erosion are a progression to previous interactions with council over several years. Refer to our previous letters from Bonny Hills Landcare Ref. BnR01 5th November 2024 and Ref. BnR02 13th August 2025 , both of which stated it was back in June / July 2024 when first discussed the foreshore erosion. At the time any restoration method would require substantial retentive methods and implementing any proposal would be subject to funds made available via the Coastal Management Program.

Meanwhile erosion has continued unabated along the length of the Park Reserve .

Progressively the entire foreshore is being eroded from underneath, especially where there are no 'pillows' , where many mature trees have been undermined and have fallen over.

FYI below some pictures of Rainbow Beach foreshore older 'pillows' and erosion :-

Also FYI a picture below of Rainbow Beach foreshore bank erosion at Saltwater Creek :-

Some further pix of Rainbow Beach erosion provided below:-

“spring” flowing under foreshore dune (treated effluent from WwTPlant) causing “cave” .

In recent years flows at this location (near old flag) seemed to have increased and hence this erosion has increased the width and depth of cave. The vegetation and trees have fallen here and then been taken away during wave action especially during storms.

“”exposed”” roots of mature sheoak on front edge of foreshore dune.

In recent years this erosion has increased. There has been no replenishing of foreshore dune with sand deposits previously by the sea during North Easterly winds.

Background (for reference) wrt Council Community Plan – LIVEABLE and ENVIRONMENT

Historically the community has raised concerns for many, many years about the beach (along east side) and the creek (along north side) at Rainbow Beach Park Reserve.

COMMUNITY (STRATEGIC) PLAN for Bonny Hills

-COMMUNITY OUTCOME 2 – LIVEABLE

2.1 Plan, maintain and improve our beaches and foreshores, open spaces, play spaces, sports fields, parks, swimming pools, and community facilities, libraries and services.

Specific Comment on *plan, maintain, beaches, foreshores, parks*

Many many years ago a portion of the foreshore of the Park Reserve was “sand bagged” with large ‘pillows’ near the beach access steps to control erosion. However, all along the east perimeter of the Reserve impacts are regularly occurring during high tide storm surges increasingly causing erosion of this foreshore. The ‘pillows’ only seem to slow the foreshore erosion and are themselves being damaged.

High rainfall events are causing bank erosion of the creeks flowing onto Rainbow Beach, especially where Saltwater (Little Vinegar) Creek flows along the north side of the Park Reserve.

Progressively the Park Reserve foreshore and creek bank are being eroded from underneath, consequently one of the beach access steps has had to be removed. Also, especially where there are no ‘pillows’, many mature trees have been undermined and as a consequence have fallen over. We can’t afford to lose more trees from along the east (and north) edge of the Reserve.

-COMMUNITY OUTCOME 3 – ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Protect and enhance the environmental health of our natural areas, bushland, biodiversity corridors, native flora and fauna, rivers, lakes, beaches, and water catchments.

Specific Comment on *protect and enhance, bushland, biodiversity corridors*

The Community Strategic Plan for the environment is highly important to the Bonny Hills community and must ensure that we maintain and improve biodiversity.

The Council’s Coastal Management Program according to reports to PMH Council meetings states the many Stages involved and the progress to-date. The expected completion dates for Lake Cathie / Bonny Hills CMP are Stage 3 2026, Stage 4 2027 and final Stage 5 2027 .

15 Community member – Bonny Hills

If I were on council and what I say would come to be, I would say, council leave the wild and roughed Rainbow Beach and surrounds wild. It is so beautiful to me. I love it like it is. Wild and untamed. Its really important to have some places left just like God made them. Please leave the wild bush and coast along as it is. Its a true privilege for us locals to walk and watch the nesting eagles swing and sway above in the air and high tree tops. Its wonderful to find that you are all alone on the shore and you can almost touch nature's heart in this place. To come here is to witness nature, alive and breathing. Wild and untamed and I ask council to please leave it this way. This way, the way I love it.

Coming to this pristine area from other parts of the New South Wales Coast, one is overcome by just how unique and special this place really is. That being its perfect coastline, in a completely natural state for much of the coast surrounding Port Macquarie region. I see this place as not just unique but a one of a kind. In that we have very special and highly delicate native animal populations who are co existing side by side what is a fairly industrious area that being the town or small city of Port Macquarie. This happens nowhere else in Australia let alone the world. But I am extremely concerned and feel very compelled to pressure council to become far more proactive in its efforts to protect and even re establish these delicate nature zones. If you have a precious jewel and that we do have with our pristine natural coastline here, then you should work hard towards ensuring its survival, protecting it like a father would his children and even more than that being, to invest resources into gathering expert knowledge as to how to preserve and ensure its longevity.

Visiting rainbow beach, coming from Byron Bay region I was completely taken with just how clean, and untouched, undeveloped and unspoiled the coastline was. The coastal areas and estuaries south of Port to Bonny Hills down to Laurieton and Camden Haven and beyond, they are just so special and so unique.

I strongly suggest that council initiates a plan and management task for the future, that strictly protects the pristine delicacy of this coast line and prohibits any destruction of the natural bush, wetlands or coastline habitats whatsoever. I would love to see legislation and policy created by this council in this area that totally activates a protection movement for the world class native flora and fauna we have here. I would love to see this council take strong and active steps towards a better future for our wonderful native wildlife and habitats by prohibiting any further clearing of native bush, along the coast and otherwise and I would love to see council in the near future put in place strong and future based conservation and protection plans and

strategies that not only care for what we have but move to strengthen these natural zones and places.

Attending the CMP pop up meeting in Bonny Hills, reviewing the material available and talking with different members of council and also member of the group that created the data, I was very confused by the total lack, discussion or relevance made to any kind of mapping in relation to certain to breeding sites, delicate bird life, habitats and nature haven areas. For me this should have stood first and foremost as one of the key leading considerations and consultative areas zoned and looked at in this CMP study. However it was none. Instead of letting this coastline become like all other parts of NSW, up for the highest bidder, open to property developers and the likes, I strongly suggest council sees the rare and far more valuable option for the short and long term by capitalising on that which make this place far more special and infinitely more valuable. I hope council has the gift of foresight when it comes to looking into the future, because as soon as we open our gates to property developers from out of town and those without a true sensitivity of the area, to those who have no love and do not cherish our natural assets we condemn ourselves, the region and the future of our coast to face the same fate as all other coastal places who did not take a stand and prioritise the delicate heritage of the natural state of the area.

Research shows more and more that people are seeking natural places to visit, pristine landscapes and unspoiled animal and marine observation areas. To visit on their holidays, to spend recreational time and even travel to as a destination from overseas. Lets become known for our pristine nature haven. Lets put a stop to further clearing of the local coastal bush and put up a big sign that says **protected**. This place and the natural assets it boasts could easily be world heritage listed. Lets create wonderful nature reserves where the untouched and pristine character of this totally unique Australian bush and coastline can become known not only throughout Australia but across the world. For its absolute dedication to conservation, its work to preserving our wonderful local coastline and natural bush there around.

Every day I walk here I am completely blown away by the high presence of the native grasses, native fungi, moss and of course the stunning and abundant local flora and fauna. I mention first here the native local grasses and native local shrubbery. It is unlike anywhere I have seen in Australia. The number of native plants are in dominant numbers. The entire bush floor all the way along the coast is almost completely native. Council possibly doesn't know how rare this is. In so many places, even just a few hours North up the coast like in Byron Bay, these native grasses do not exist. Or exist in such small and dwindling pockets. It is in these key nature havens

that our special migrating and nesting birds find sanctuary and do what is needed to ensure they will be returning generation after generation. These areas are so precious rare and valuable. Has council ever had these such breeding grounds along the coast assessed for the rare and special species? I believe we should be studying these wonderful native grasses and shrubs. I think council should employ the services of experts in both the local flora and fauna to document and formally map where these very special species dwell and inhabit. Ensuring that there can be no mistake made in the future.

I know that money and the flash of property developers is no doubt appealing for many here to sell out and allow for more development but I can say that with absolute certainty should these coastal pristine parks and waterways be managed in a way such as I suggest here. For example maps that show the special breeding areas and other highly technical information about rare flora and fauna, this would become a far greater asset and long term sustainable interest and jewel in the local crown.

Let me also point out that I think its the significant absence of herbicide that is so wonderful and has meant that after rain here I see sometimes ten different types of incredibly beautiful and rare mushrooms and fungi. These are the signs and evidence of a healthy soil and mycelium populations. This is not to be found in other areas along the coast with higher population, like Byron Bay where there is so much spraying that no fungus ever grows and few native grasses ever appear. There is a drastic lack of frogs and other wildlife because of this awful fact in these places further north. I hope that council takes it very seriously that the wonderful balance of the local native bush ensures that there is minimal mosquitoes for example. Minimal foreign creepers and other kinds of over growing and introduced species of plants. It is the complete balance that exists here along the coast that I really think we need to protect and ensure the survival of. This is a huge reason why I also believe it is key to protect the balance of the bush and coastline wetlands.

Lets get creative with the way we visualise the future of this beautiful and precious coast. Lets think outside the box and do what we can to avoid the problems that many other coastal areas face because of the large wiping out of the natural balance. Right now the beautiful bush along the coast takes care of itself with its balanced flora and fauna. This is a very valuable asset for the region and I feel that it should be very much protected.

Those people who came up from Sydney to create those CMP maps where not aware, and had very little true knowledge and certainly no love for the area in a deeper sense. There was no discussion of animals or birds or fish or the local plant life along the coast and in the surrounding bush. They

seemed like property developers and I am deeply concerned as to why we would need people from outside the area to tell us how to manage things that they clearly had no knowledge of and defiantly no deeper appreciation of.

A possible idea for a wonderful approach to ways to put us apart from other places in Australia. The maps and charting of the area according to its delicate flora and fauna. To highlight protection zones and ensure the survival of these special places, as a creative and innovative approach to still keeping a very healthy tourist dollar in the area, these maps and other resources could also include the depiction and offer a highly detailed information resource, regarding sacred sights of the first nation peoples for example. Listing and telling the stories and folk laws and cultural significance of the particular places. It could be in-depth and would be potentially fascinating for visitors and locals alike. To grasp a deeper understanding of the coastal places and vast and rich spoken history and cultural stories linked to the places, the animals and indeed the flora as well. This is an untapped and potentially huge new industry for the area that would be one that protects and ensures the survival of these wild places in their beautiful and wild states. The area could pioneer this kind of inclusive and productive approach to our tourism and just our cultural knowledge in general.

Living in beautiful Bonny Hills I look out over the view from my street that on some days I can see all the way to port and others I am totally taken aback with the rugged beauty and jaw dropping spectacular coast line. But I see like an ugly eyesore the growth of the villages where the forest stops and large and mammoth housing developments sit. It is such an eye saw. Lets prevent any further damage to this beautiful area. Many of those houses are not even lived in so it is not a question of need. Lets step up now and turn the whole place into a nature reserve for people to visit and see the natural and awe inspiring coast. Lets reforest and assist our koala populations and other native animals in the area.

Thank you kindly if you have taken the time to read this entire document. I feel so utterly compelled to ask council to tread so carefully in how it lets the future of this wonderful gem unfold. Not long ago I sat in a airplane to Sydney and as we were coming into land the woman seated next to me was looking out her window. She was filled with an emotion and she turned and told me, " that was where she grew up, a place called Avalon". It looked very beautiful from up in the air where we sat, but I will never forget the poignance of what she said next. "It was full of Koalas and then the council made some different projects and developed some areas. The locals and she remembered being one them as a kid, tried to fight councils moves to

clear certain parts. Unfortunately they didn't take heed and went on with their developments and horrifically there are no Koalas there anymore." It was due to ignorance and lack of knowledge and understanding. It was some temporary council members who made some devastating decisions for the short term, that changed the wonder of the place forever. As far as I see it, no single Koala tree or native trees that supports delicate wildlife on this coastal region should be ever cut down again. We risk to loose too much. Lets not have a story like this one from Avalon. Instead lets take key and positive and proactive steps to completely change the way that coastlines and native habitats on the NSW coasts are managed. Lets treasure our wonderful and special jewels and never loose sight of what is important. Lets take innovative and strong steps to create an totally different future for this region. We are in a pivotal position and it can go either way. Either council allows one property developer after another to take and clear their piece of our heritage or council does something amazing and protects every thing that is valuable for the future generations to come. COUNCIL I ASK YOU TO PLEASE LET THE WILD PLACES STAY WILD. ESPECIALLY THE WONDERFUL RAINBOW BEACH. THANK YOU.

11/07/2026

FEEDBACK ON THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the development of the Coastal Management Program (CMP). As a resident of Bonny Hills, I appreciate the long-term vision this program establishes for our coastline. Please find my submission below, organised around the Council's key areas of focus.

1. Supporting Safe Access, Recreation, and Coastal Lifestyles

- **Maintaining a Village Feel:** As the CMP sets actions for the next decade and beyond, it is vital that any coastal development or hazard-mitigation infrastructure preserves the distinct "village feel" of our community. Low-impact, sympathetic designs should be prioritised over large-scale, intrusive engineering or commercialisation that alters the character of our coastal township.
- **Prioritising Infrastructure Over Expansion:** Before any strategies are implemented that facilitate population extension or increased density along the coast, Council must focus on upgrading and improving our existing, under-strain infrastructure. Our current roads, drainage, amenities, and parking need to be resilient enough to handle existing demand and coastal hazards before we look to accommodate future growth.
- **A critical priority is the urgent upgrade of our current Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Over the past few years, there have been several bypass/release events that have severely impacted the quality of our waterways. These incidents actively endanger the health of our community, swimmers, and local marine life. We cannot consider population growth while our primary environmental infrastructure is failing to safely manage current volumes.

2. Protecting Coastal Environments, Waterways, and Cultural Heritage

- **Access to Natural Green Spaces:** Protection of our coastal ecosystem must go hand-in-hand with community well-being. The CMP should explicitly protect and enhance public access to intact, natural green spaces (e.g., Duchess Creek walkway, Rainbow Beach reserve, Bartlett's Beach headland and walkway to Spooney's) and coastal buffers (e.g., Rainbow Beach reserve,

Spooney's Bay, and Bartlett's Beach). These areas act as crucial carbon sinks, natural wildlife corridors, and essential recreational zones that define our lifestyle.

- **Strengthening the Rezoning Process:** Currently, the process for requesting land rezoning seems far too accessible, allowing developers to push for shifts that threaten local character (such as moving from Low-Density Residential R2 to Medium-Density R3, or converting environmental corridors into light industrial zones). The CMP must push to strengthen and heavily scrutinise this process. Any proposed zoning change should be strictly questioned against a core metric: *Does this change protect or detract from the village atmosphere, lifestyle, and environmental values of our community?*
- **Low-Impact Access:** Footpaths, boardwalks, and viewing platforms should be designed to prevent erosion and protect native vegetation while ensuring the community can continue to connect with our natural environment.
- **Implementing Sustainable Vegetation Buffers:** Planting vegetation buffers should be prioritised as a sustainable, nature-based strategy to mitigate coastal erosion. This approach preserves natural shoreline dynamics and acts as a flexible, adaptive barrier against storm surges and rising sea levels. To achieve this, the CMP should consider the following:

- *Select Native Species:* Council should choose local, deep-rooted coastal vegetation tailored to specific zones. For example, fibrous grasses and salt-tolerant groundcovers should be used to trap sand on the seaward dune front, while larger trees and shrubs are utilised to stabilise embankments.

- *Environmentally friendly products:* Combine these targeted plantings with biodegradable products, such as coir (coconut husk) rolls and natural fibre blankets, to hold loose soil and sediment securely in place while the plants establish their root systems.

- *Protect the Buffer:* To ensure long-term success, Council must install physical barriers, such as raised walkways (not concrete) and protective fencing, to prevent foot traffic and off-road vehicles from trampling vulnerable plants and destabilising the area.

3. Managing Coastal Hazards

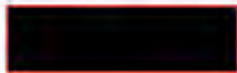
- **Strategic Land-Use Planning:** To truly manage risks for the next decade and beyond, the CMP must embed proactive planning tools that keep development out of high-risk coastal zones. Rather than relying solely on reactive engineering, Council should implement strict hazard setbacks, enforceable

floor-level requirements, and frameworks for strategic managed retreat (relocating critical assets landward over time as risks escalate).

- **Nature-Based Solutions:** In addressing beach erosion, shoreline recession, and tidal inundation, I encourage Council to favour nature-based solutions (such as dune restoration, revegetation, and preservation) where possible. These methods protect the environment while maintaining the natural, un-engineered aesthetic that contributes to our village identity.

I support a Coastal Management Program that actively protects our environment but urge Council to ensure that the next 10 years are defined by fixing what we currently have, preserving our natural green assets, and protecting the unique village atmosphere that makes our community special.

Many thanks,



The PMHC Coastal Management Program — Stages 3 & 4

Implications for Lake Cathie: Management, Future Prospects and Government Responsibilities

Prepared for information purposes – June 2026



Where the CMP Process Currently Sits

PMHC has commenced community engagement and consultation activities as part of Stages 3 and 4 of the CMP, following completion of detailed technical studies examining local coastal processes, hazards and values. Critically, consultation remains open until 15 July 2026 — meaning there is still a window for community voices, including those of Lake Cathie residents, to be heard.

This is not the end of the process. There will be another opportunity to review and comment on the draft CMP before it is finalised.

Lake Cathie's Place Within the CMP

Lake Cathie has been explicitly in scope since the beginning of this process. When Council endorsed the scoping study, it resolved to focus on four key areas, with the Lake Cathie/Lake Innes and Bonny Hills estuaries being one of them, and included background studies into the Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills estuaries in its operational plan and sought funding under the Coastal Management Grant Program.

Cathie Creek is classified as a lagoon-type estuary with an intermittently closed entrance connecting Lake Cathie with the sea. In 1933, a channel was dug between Lake Innes to the north and Cathie Creek, greatly expanding the size of the estuary — and debate continues to this day about turning what was a freshwater lake into an estuarine system, and about future management plans.

What the CMP Could Mean Specifically for the Lake

Stages 3 and 4 move from hazard assessment into management options and implementation. For Lake Cathie, the CMP framework would formally address:

Coastal and Estuarine Hazards

Including shoreline erosion, inundation risk from sea-level rise, and the lake's notoriously problematic entrance dynamics. The 2025 NSW Coastal Erosion and Inundation Assessment provides detailed statewide information on coastal erosion, tidal inundation and coastal overwash out to 2150, underpinning local CMP work. The Lake Cathie entrance — its tendency to close, its flooding behaviour, the adequacy of the Kenwood Drive Bridge — all fall squarely within this scope.

Community-Identified Priorities

The Revive Lake Cathie group's strategic framework advocates for the following actions, all of which align closely with what a certified CMP could formalise as funded works:

- Dredging of the Lake Cathie/Lake Innes Estuarine System to improve tidal flow
- Widening and lengthening of the opening under Kenwood Drive Bridge
- Decoupling of Lake Innes from Cathie Creek to return it to freshwater
- Minimising acid sulphate soil (ASS) contamination
- Regular baseline water quality monitoring

Getting these items into a certified CMP is crucial — because that is what unlocks state funding.

Development Controls

A certified CMP affects how development consents must consider coastal hazards under the State Environmental Planning Policy. The Ocean Drive planning proposal — a recent rezoning of land at Lake Cathie — illustrates how closely planning decisions and coastal management are linked.

The Funding Mechanism — Why Certification Matters

The NSW Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants Program provides technical and financial support to local councils on a 2:1 ratio, meaning the State contributes \$2 for every \$1 contributed by councils. This is significant: actions that remain in uncertified reports or consultant studies attract no such funding. Once the CMP is certified, PMHC can apply for implementation funding to actually execute works.

Having management actions formally identified within a certified CMP positions Council to access State funding opportunities, supporting the delivery of priority projects while reducing long-term costs for the community. This is precisely why the history of consultant reports being ignored is so frustrating — those reports existed outside a formally certified framework and therefore created no obligation on anyone to act or fund.

Responsibilities: State Government vs Council

This is where the situation becomes genuinely complicated, and where communities are often left feeling let down.

Council's Obligations — Legally Binding

Under Section 22 of the Coastal Management Act 2016, a local council is to give effect to its coastal management program, including in the preparation of its planning proposals and development control plans under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The phrase 'is to' in NSW legislation is mandatory, not discretionary.

The State's Obligations — Notably Weaker

Other public authorities (other than local councils) are merely required to have regard to coastal management programs to the extent that those programs are

relevant to the exercise of their functions. 'Have regard to' is a much softer obligation than 'give effect to.' It means the State can consider and then decide not to act — which is essentially what has happened with Lake Cathie's previous consultant reports.

State Oversight — Gaps Identified

Oversight sits with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the NSW Coastal Council. However, the NSW Auditor-General's 2025 review found significant gaps: DCCEEW has not developed a strategy for framework implementation that sets out how it will prioritise its activities, nor provided evidence of strategic analysis to identify priority locations requiring more timely engagement due to higher levels of risk. This is a damning finding that explains much of the State's inaction.

The Bottom Line for Lake Cathie

The Stages 3 & 4 process represents the most important opportunity for the lake in years, for several reasons:

- The window to influence is still open — submissions close 15 July 2026. Residents and groups like Revive Lake Cathie should be making detailed submissions now, ensuring the lake's specific issues are formally on the record.
- A certified CMP creates legal obligations that unendorsed consultant reports never did. Once certified, PMHC must give effect to its actions through planning instruments and budgets.
- State funding becomes accessible only after certification. Without a certified CMP, the lake's problems remain aspirational rather than funded.
- The State's accountability is weak but not zero — the NSW Coastal Council can conduct performance audits of CMP implementation, and the Minister must table audit reports in Parliament. Public and political pressure at that level is the real lever on State inaction.

The pattern of consultant reports gathering dust reflects a systemic problem that this CMP process — if community pressure ensures Lake Cathie's needs are properly embedded in it — has the potential to break. But that requires active engagement in the current consultation, not waiting to see what Council produces.

Sources: NSW Coastal Management Act 2016 · PMHC Have Your Say (haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au) · NSW Audit Office Coastal Management Report 2025 · NSW Environment & Heritage · Revive Lake Cathie (revivelakecathie.com.au)

18 Community member – Port Macquarie

Hello just writing in for my support of building an ocean pool at Oxley beach despite the coordinated attempts by a vocal few. An ocean pool is needed and quick I just can't be bothered filling out the survey.

19 Community member – Port Macquarie

Honestly, could you please make this process simpler?

Its disjointed, unnecessarily long & wordy etc etc

My feedback anyway:

- 1) Protect all heritage buildings
- 2) Get rid of classless, unsightly, breakwall rock graffiti on Hastings river & ban any further "contributions"
- 3) Get rid of tasteless , gaudy talentless " Community Art" murals on beach boardwalk walls
- 4) Replace breakwall rock graffiti & boardwalk wall murals with rock friendly native plants on rocks & overhanging plants on walls which will help prevent further graffiti
- 5) No more work to skate park at breakwall..it just attracts noisy boom box bogans.

This is a beautiful regional city. We dont need to ape the worst of city "culture".

Kids should be on the beach or river banks swimming, fishing, bike riding or exploring not skate boarding on ugly concrete monstrosities.

- 6) Use natural materials & native plants & flowers to compliment our beautiful natural environment. Ditch the ugly heat bank concrete

20 Community member – Port Macquarie

Good afternoon, I would like to submit my thoughts on the Coastal and area Plan. In particular, I wish to comment and register my concern re the proposed Ocean Pool at Oxley Beach. Apart from the fact that the area, as I understand, is protected and of great geological significance, it is a beautiful, natural beach where I, and many others, have taken children and grandchildren and now great grandchildren to explore rock pools and the varied marine life therein not to mention watch the birdlife which uses that area to breed and feed. It's part of those children's history too as early forebears contributed to the growth of the town from convict days. In fact a relative who is a Doctor of Environmental Science and Sustainability was horrified when we discussed the proposed pool.

Surely there are other sites for a pool, for example Shelley Beach, Town Beach or Lighthouse Beach all of which have amenities and available parking. Why does it have to be a concrete structure? My understanding is one has not been built for around 60 years.

As a ratepayer I strongly object that Council would have to maintain a pool at Oxley at a currently estimated \$180k- we all know that would regularly increase particularly after heavy rain, erosion, flooding and the removal of debris and detritus after such an event. Not to mention the damage to the required pumps! I found it interesting that an article regarding the Bondi Icebergs who say they need to clean their pool weekly. Would Council be doing this? Also who pays for a lifeguard, Insurance and who would be responsible for OH&S?

Parking at Oxley is at a premium at times when the Oval and Tennis courts are in use, and it will only be worse if the Surf Museum relocates to the area.

In my opinion, any Government funding for Port Macquarie, could be better utilised. We need sports grounds and the Pool upgraded, I'm sure more people use these areas than would use a concrete pool.

Thanks for accepting this email, I trust my objection and questions will be considered.

21 Community member – Port Macquarie

As we have lived along the Hastings River since 2006 we have constantly noticed the sand build-ups around the reserve named Pelican Island. We have also been affected by the floods and feel that if a second breakwall was built at the bend of the Hastings River it will let the some of the water get out before the riverbend and that would also prevent a lot of the water build-up and ease the flooding of the CBD area. The build-up of the sand at Pelican Island will soon impact the running of the ferry to the Northshore.

(Attachment follows)

Hastings River Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan

Location of Potential Flood Management Options

Where to from here?

The flood management options that have been identified for consideration by the Committee are listed on the back of this brochure and are highlighted here. Potential planning measures are also listed overleaf.

Any written submissions regarding the list of potential flood management options should be directed to:

Mr Gordon Cameron
Port Macquarie - Hastings Council
PO Box 84
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Your comments will be considered by Council's Floodplain Risk Management Committee as part of the process involved in determining the range of options that will be investigated by Council's Consultants.

The results of the investigations will be presented in a report that will be placed on public display. You will be invited to review and comment on the findings.

Once finalised, the Floodplain Risk Management Study will provide the basis for development of a Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the area.

The Plan will ultimately be used as the framework for implementing works aimed at reducing the flood risk and for modifying planning controls so that they more consistently address the potential flood hazard.



Hastings River Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan

Potential Flood Risk Management Options

Structural Options

Council has commissioned WorleyParsons to undertake the Floodplain Risk Management Study. In consultation with Council, the Consultants have identified a number of structural options that could potentially be implemented to reduce flood damages and reduce the flood risk.

These options and their primary objective are outlined in the following table. Their location is shown on the central pages of this brochure. As part of the investigation process, Council wants to confirm that all potential options have been considered.

Due to your local knowledge of flooding in the area, you may know of other options that may be equally worthy of consideration. Council would be interested to hear of these. Council is also interested to learn of your views on the options presented in this brochure. Please feel free to answer the enclosed questionnaire and return it to Council.

Potential Structural Options	Objective
S1 North Shore Levee - Scenario A (West of Ferry Terminal)	Protection of the western section of North Shore from flooding including the area where development has historically been allowed under previous policies.
S2 North Shore Levee - Scenario B (West of Unnamed Creek)	Flood Protection of an extended area of North Shore extending west from the unnamed creek near the inlet boat launching ramp.
S3 Settlement Point Ring Levee	Raising of Settlement Point Road to reduce the frequency of flooding of properties along the western side of Settlement Point Road and the creation of a ring levee linking to high ground at Settlement Shores.
S4 Hibbard Levee	Construction of levee and raising of Hastings River Drive and Hibbard Drive to improve the degree of flood protection and to provide a flood evacuation route to Port Macquarie.
S5 Settlement Point Ring Levee & North Shore Levee (Scenario B) (Option S2 & Option S1)	Flood protection for North Shore (west of unnamed creek) and Settlement Point.
S6 Settlement Point Ring Levee, North Shore Levee & Hibbard Levee (Option S5 & Option S4)	Flood protection for North Shore, Settlement Point & Hibbard.
S7 North Shore Levee (Scenario B) & Hibbard Levee (Option S2 & Option S4)	Underpin to assess the combined impact of all 3 individual levee options.
S8 North Shore High Flow Bypass Channel	Flood protection for North Shore and Hibbard. Underpin to assess the combined impact of Options S2 and S4. To reduce flood levels in very large events by allowing a proportion of the floodwaters to 'bypass' Port Macquarie and discharge more directly to the ocean.

Property and Response Modification Options

Apart from aiming to address existing flood problems, the State Government's Flood Phone Land Policy also endeavours to prevent inappropriate development that could cause flooding problems in the future.

Accordingly, the Committee wants to consider any potential planning or emergency response strategies that could be implemented to allow better management of floodplain lands.

A list of potential planning options is provided in the following table. Council would welcome any comments you may have on these options.

Potential Property and Response Modification Options	Objective
P1 Voluntary House Raising Scheme	To reduce the potential for damages to those properties that will not benefit from the structural measures.
P2 Preparation of Development Control Plan (DCP) addressing Flood Policy	To update PMHC's Interim Flood Policy so that it is consistent with the latest flood data and so that it specifies appropriate building controls for development on flood liable land.
P3 Recommendations for modifications to flood related clauses within Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP)	To ensure that land-use is compatible with the predicted flood hazard and accounts for floodway areas defined as a consequence of the latest flood data.
P4 Development of Community Flood Awareness Program	To provide residents with an understanding of predicted flood behaviour and flood evacuation protocols.
P5 Review flood emergency response protocols and provide recommendations for updates to the SES's Local Flood Plan (LFP)	To use the latest computer modelling results as a basis for updating SES's LFP and thereby improve evacuation efficiency and emergency response management during floods.
P6 Voluntary Purchase Scheme	Purchase of properties and removal of houses susceptible to significant flood damages, particularly in North Shore and Settlement Point.

Hastings River Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan

Community Information Brochure & Questionnaire

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and its Floodplain Risk Management Committee have commenced work on preparation of a Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan for the lower Hastings River Valley.

The primary aim of the project is to develop a range of strategies and measures that could be implemented to reduce the potential flood risk to people living in or adjacent to the floodplain.

This brochure provides an overview of the work that has been completed to-date and the steps involved in preparing and implementing the floodplain risk management plan.

The brochure also outlines a range of potential options that could be implemented to reduce existing flood damages, reduce the risk for loss of life and better manage the flood hazard.

The strategies also need to consider the impact that future development may have on flood behaviour.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is interested to learn your views on the options that are being considered. In this regard, there may be other options that you believe should be considered.

Therefore, Council would appreciate if you could complete the questionnaire that is enclosed in the centre of this brochure and return it to Council using the Reply Paid address provided on the back page (no postage stamp required).

Background

The Hastings River and its lower floodplain have a long history of flooding. Since European settlement of the area in the early 19th Century, major floods have occurred in 1894, 1929, 1954, 1963, 1968 and 1978. Most of these floods caused substantial damage and disruption to those living in or adjacent to the floodplain.

To minimise the impact of future flood events, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has been working toward the development of a Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the region.

Computer modelling has shown that the combination of heavy rainfall in the Hastings River Catchment and high tides can result in flooding of low lying developed areas of Port Macquarie, Settlement Point, North Shore and Hibbard.

Major flooding of parts of Rawdon Island and Wauchope can also occur.

The Plan is to be developed in accordance with the NSW Government's Flood Phone Land Policy and will set out a range of strategies that can be implemented to better manage the flood risk and reduce potential flood damages.

NSW Government's Flood Policy

The State Government's Flood Phone Land Policy is directed at providing solutions to existing flooding problems, and to ensuring that future development is compatible with the flood hazard and does not create additional flooding problems.

The management process for implementing the government's Flood Policy involves four sequential stages. These stages are:

- 1. Flood Study**
This determines the nature and extent of the flood problem.
- 2. Floodplain Risk Management Study**
This identifies and evaluates management strategies for the floodplain for both existing and proposed development.
- 3. Floodplain Risk Management Plan**
This outlines the management strategies that are to be adopted, their projected benefit and cost, and potential funding opportunities.
- 4. Implementation of the Plan**
This involves construction of those flood management options recommended in the Plan, as well as implementation of those planning measures that could help to ensure new development is compatible with the flood risk.

Progress to Date

The first stage in the floodplain management process involved preparation of the Hastings River Flood Study, which was adopted by Council in August 2006.

The Flood Study details the predicted extent of inundation and the predicted height and depth of floodwaters for floods of differing severity. This has highlighted areas where major flooding could occur in the future.

Since then the Committee has proceeded with the preparation of a Floodplain Risk Management Study aimed at resolving the flooding problems that were identified by the Flood Study. This has included the identification of a range of structural and planning options that could reduce future flood damages. These options are outlined overleaf.



22 Community member – Port Macquarie

The cost estimates for the COASTAL RECREATIONAL USER NEEDS ANALYSIS are nonsense. You have \$24,000 for Town Beach and \$15,000,000 for Oxley Beach. The Town Beach Masterplan is unfunded. Nothing for the Southern Breakwall. Allowances for additional carparking at all beaches except Town Beach which has the highest parking demand already.

23 Community member – Port Macquarie

Please do not allow the ocean pool to go ahead. Destruction of protected habitat and sensitive coastlines will do irreparable damage. Port Macquarie and its land is unique, please do not allow it to be destroyed.

24 Community member – Port Macquarie

There is very misleading information and contradicting information regarding an ocean pool

- environmental risks- cultural, land management and protection
- Financial risks and funding
- community risks and overall safety within the community

And so on

To produce and build an ocean pool within port macquarie would be an absolute turn around in a negative way, it would contaminate and breach environmental protections, degrade and erode surrounding native habitats for local species and introduce further waste.

We only have to look at maintenance at the local pool. We can see that putting a pool on the beach would be like saying lets build a beach at the local pool. To be honest it would be cheaper to dump sand at the local pool and call it a beach then make it a day..

Maintenance costs, waste management, pollution, erosion and so on money would be better invested in disability access into town beach lighthouse and surrounding beaches re-juvenating native waterways and removing foreign waste in midnorth coast, trolleys in waterways, dirty needles in local beaches in bathrooms. There we go another investment idea upgrade facilities in midnorth coast.

To meet regulations would be a nightmare, this is a dream that should not be brought to light.

Why add a body of water to another body of water , a pool in a beach may aswell not use the the already in use pool and through that in the too hard basket. build better access would be the go to not a pool in the ocean. Logic and commonsense why fill the ocean with concrete ..

Whats the point of havening to throw money into a pit when it could be allocated for other avenues, school transportation bus lanes redirecting ambulance acces through to the industrial area to save many lives upgrades on hospital emergancy access.

Doesnt take much to look at google maps and see a better future for port macquarie. Increase property size blocks takle mental health developpe traineeships, apprenticeships within local region.

Invest into the local land council

The list could go on

Putting a pool in the ocean is like playing pokies you either win or lose and i highly doubt there would be a win. Might look good feel good but you lose financially.

Cheaper to move town pool to the beach and call it a day.

Better yet build a beatutifull aquarium and rack in money for science.

Future generations and current will retire here build a new aquatic or aquarium centre build an ice rink build emergency lanes and acces for ambulances pave the way for the future. We are not like sydney we are locals we dont need fancy new toys to play with we need a committed path to sustaining our beautiful town and preventing it from falling into the likeness of sydney, brisbane, melbourne. Bring back port macquarie for what we love it for.

Kind regard

Ps a pool in the ocean lmao what next a beach in kmart a forest inside port central. Dont be the next failure for port macquarie.

25 Community member – Port Macquarie

I welcome the opportunity to provide input into the Coastal Management Program.

The CMP aims to protect our coastline while ensuring future generations can continue to enjoy the environmental, recreational, tourism and lifestyle values that make Port Macquarie unique. In my view, these objectives cannot be considered independently of the cumulative impacts of increasing urban density within the coastal precinct.

The Town Beach, Oxley Beach and Rotary Park area already functions as one of Port Macquarie's most intensively used recreational and tourism precincts. Throughout much of the year, and particularly during holiday periods, parking is at or near capacity, public facilities experience heavy demand, and road congestion affects access to these important community assets.

The planned ocean pool at Oxley Beach is expected to further increase visitation to this already highly utilised coastal corridor. While this will provide an excellent community facility, it also

reinforces the need for strategic planning that recognises the carrying capacity of surrounding infrastructure.

An example of this cumulative pressure is the recently approved major government high-density residential development within the Port Macquarie CBD, due to commence in 2027. The approved development provides limited on-site parking relative to its residential yield, creating the potential for increased reliance on surrounding public and street parking. Unless adequate parking is ultimately provided within the development, overflow parking has the potential to extend well beyond the immediate locality into the broader coastal precinct, including the Oxley Beach, Town Beach and Rotary Park corridor, all located within approximately 900 metres of the site.

This demonstrates why the Coastal Management Program should consider the cumulative effects of major urban development on coastal access, parking capacity, visitor amenity and the long-term functionality of Port Macquarie's coastal recreational areas.

The Coastal Management Program should also recognise the importance of protecting the visual amenity of Port Macquarie's coastal precinct. The appeal of the Town Beach, Oxley Beach and Rotary Park corridor extends beyond the beaches themselves. It includes the overall appearance, cleanliness and accessibility of the surrounding streets and public spaces that form the gateway to these important community and tourism assets.

In addition to increased demand on parking and transport infrastructure, major high-density residential developments require careful planning and ongoing management to minimise impacts on the surrounding public domain. These can include graffiti, illegal dumping, kerbside waste accumulation during collection periods, overflowing waste storage areas and other issues affecting the visual presentation of the streetscape. While these matters may not occur in every development, they are recognised planning considerations that should be addressed proactively, particularly where developments are high density and located on major arterial roads leading to key tourism destinations.

Given the location of the approved CBD development due to commence in 2027 on a principal route to Port Macquarie's coastal attractions (Cnr Gordon and Grant Sts), it is reasonable to ask what measures are proposed to minimise these potential impacts and preserve the visual amenity of this important tourism corridor. The Coastal Management Program should encourage planning processes that ensure appropriate waste management, rapid graffiti removal, maintenance of public spaces and other mitigation measures are incorporated into developments that have the potential to affect the coastal environment and visitor experience.

The Coastal Management Program should therefore acknowledge that cumulative development pressure within the CBD and adjacent coastal precinct has direct implications for coastal accessibility, visitor experience and the long-term sustainability of tourism. As residential density increases, demand also increases for parking, open space, pedestrian access, recreational facilities and supporting infrastructure.

Maintaining easy public access to beaches, parks and coastal attractions is essential not only for local residents but also for the tourism industry, which is a major contributor to the Port

Macquarie economy. If increasing development progressively reduces accessibility or diminishes the relaxed coastal character that attracts visitors, the long-term economic and community impacts should be recognised within coastal planning.

I encourage Council to ensure that future land-use planning and the Coastal Management Program are closely integrated so that decisions regarding urban density adequately consider cumulative impacts on:

- public access to the coastline;
- parking availability within the coastal precinct;
- traffic congestion affecting coastal access;
- recreational infrastructure capacity;
- tourism amenity;
- the character, cleanliness and liveability of the coastal environment;
- visual amenity of key coastal gateways and public spaces; and
- the long-term resilience of the coastal precinct.

Protecting our coastline means more than managing erosion, flooding and environmental hazards. It also means preserving the character, cleanliness, accessibility and attractiveness of the surrounding coastal precinct. As Port Macquarie continues to grow, planning decisions should ensure that cumulative urban development does not gradually erode the qualities that make our coastline such a valued asset for residents, visitors and the local economy.

The success of the Coastal Management Program will ultimately be measured not only by how effectively it protects our coastline from natural hazards, but also by how well it safeguards the amenity, accessibility, character, liveability and visitor experience that define Port Macquarie as one of Australia's premier coastal destinations.

By recognising the cumulative impacts of urban development on coastal infrastructure, tourism, public amenity and community wellbeing, the Coastal Management Program can help ensure that future generations inherit a coastline that remains resilient, welcoming and worthy of the reputation Port Macquarie has built over many decades.

Thank you for considering this submission.

26 Community member – Port Macquarie

The thing that makes Port Macquarie unique is the fact that our coastline has been so beautifully preserved and made available for all. Please keep it that way. It has unique geology and coastal vegetation. I love the walking trails but we absolutely can't spoil it all with a huge concrete swimming pool. How it's even got this far in the process bewilders me. I trust the council to have the sense to hold their position that it's inappropriate and unsustainable- and politically driven.

Preserving Port Macquarie's natural environment and cultural heritage: protecting Oxley Beach.

In response to the request made by Port Macquarie Hastings Council for community input regarding their Coastal Management Plan, I would like to answer the question asked "what coastal place is important to you", by saying categorically, Oxley Beach. In relation to another question asked, "what coastal issues should Council consider" I want to suggest that based on information given in their Coastal Management Plan fact sheets, construction of an ocean pool at Oxley Beach is not appropriate.

The following are issues for consideration and also reasons why the proposed ocean pool at Oxley Beach should not go ahead. The fact sheets outline studies on beach erosion and shoreline recession and state that under management guidelines "intensification of development on vulnerable coastal land" will be controlled. The proposed construction of an ocean pool, on land that is already C2 zoned, is totally at odds with this guideline. The other issue is climate change and the effects of coastal and tidal inundation which "is expected to increase pressure on beaches over time". Given this, is an ocean pool at Oxley Beach viable, in the long term?

Development is necessary for a town to thrive, but any development should be judiciously considered and not affect places of significant natural beauty and heritage. Oxley Beach, is one of those places. These special places need to be preserved and protected for people to appreciate and to benefit from. If an ocean pool is built with all its accompanying structures, it will be a blot on what was a beautiful pristine beach and headland, sacrificed to boost tourism.

I've lived in Port Macquarie for twenty-five years and visited for fifty years before that. Over this time, I've seen enormous and inevitable changes, but I cannot stand by and let this sacrilege happen without protesting. An ocean pool is a want not a need, but either way, not at Oxley Beach.

28 Community member – North Shore, Camden Haven and North Haven

I have lived [on the north shore - address redacted] for 32 years. We raised 3 children here and now have 4 grandchildren. PMHC have never provided any form of riverbank stabilization or even a set of stairs for access to the tidal sandflat.

I requested the condition of the riverbank and its building rubble and car tyres be reviewed by PMHC. In 2022 [Council engagement staff - names redacted] obliged with a 90 minute site meeting. Notes were taken and promises made. In late 2024 after consultation with [Council environmental staff - names redacted] council re-visited the concerns raised in 2022. Progression of a council proposal moved forward and a select number of 'riverfront' residents were consulted. We were constantly reminded that preliminary drafts were just that, quote: 'at this stage it is only lines on paper' and 'until a DA is prepared there is no point in involving the wider community because the proposal is incomplete...'

A DA has been lodged and to my knowledge only addresses 2 - 66 Shoreline Dr (even side of the street) plus Sand Fly alley were notified. With a reply time of 30 days.

A short while ago a very small corflute sign was placed near the ferry push bike shelter promoting 'have your say' CMP advertising, promoting a PMHC long term strategy, soliciting public response. NO MENTION of the DA that imminently & directly affects Shoreline Dr. and the greater Nth Shore.

The vision on the sign appeared to be of Dunbogan with an elaborate walkway.

I am so frustrated by the lack of inclusivity by PMHC. to all Nth Shore residents. I have spoken to dozens of residents who advised me that they know nothing about the DA application and most people didn't notice the corflute sign as well.

I made the time to visit your pop up session 29 /6/2026 at Council HQ and met again with [Council staff - name redacted], who can verify that I had an extensive conversation with [Consultant staff - name redacted] who appeared to know little about the Nth Shore project, [they] took extensive notes which amazed me, especially as [their] company is so invested in the DA submission and its contents.

If council solicits an opinion please supply feedback.

29 Community member – North Shore, Camden Haven and North Haven

Dear Ben,

Council has asked the public for feedback and submissions on the next stage of developing the CMP. It is unfortunate that Council did not receive any feedback regarding the impact of recreational fishing on wildlife and the environment in the CMP Stages 1 and 2 - at least, there is nothing addressing this in the 81-page PMHC Coastal Recreational User Needs Analysis Nov 2023. I hope that despite having missed earlier opportunities to raise this issue, it is not too late to bring it to Council's attention now, for action, albeit that the CMP is in Stage 3.

As you will recall, in June and July 2025 there were talks involving Council, Department of Primary Industries (DPI Fisheries) and FAWNA Inc about the issue of recreational fishing harming wildlife, and the fact that there was incredibly little in place in terms of public education to help mitigate this problem. One of the outcomes of our discussions was that Council was to arrange for the placement of approximately 90 FAWNA-designed stickers and 90 DPI "Keep It Clean" stickers on Council bins in selected fishing locations across the region. As of January 2026 (some three months after the 27/10/25 deadline), only 30 FAWNA stickers had been placed, and this initiative fell into the background of things that will not be fully seen through.

In any event, the stickers that were placed have proved to be an unsatisfactory and ineffective means of raising public awareness, because the longevity of some was as little as two months (before bins were inadvertently relocated, as was foreshadowed - see photo below), and also because these stickers are somewhat hard to read, given they are not at eye-level like regular signs but lower down. Another action point from our meetings was for Council to create a page on their "Connect Ed" website for the provision of online education. If this has been done, I am not aware of it.



With this in mind, I am again approaching Council to request that something be done to address the very real and heartbreaking problem of wildlife entanglements, causing injuries and deaths, caused by both indiscriminately discarded fishing line and tackle as well as irresponsible fishing practices. I urge Council to come up with a better strategy than the bin stickers.

As an example of the approach of another Council, when FAWNA approached MidCoast Council about this issue, they committed to (and are in the process of) installing metal signs that incorporate both the FAWNA design as well as their logo, in partnership, in targeted fishing hotspots - as part of their CMP, to address the issue of fishing waste and its harm on wildlife and the environment. I am also attaching examples of metal signage of other Australian councils aimed at tackling this issue and related issues, for your reference.

May I please present to you again the problem, including my own personal experience as a resident of Laurieton for the past three years.

Firstly, there is a large amount of fishing waste left behind in the environment instead of disposed of safely. Fishing line in particular, left lying on the ground, poses a huge risk to many types of birds - all they have to do is accidentally step into it and there is a high chance their feet will become entangled in it, leading to eventual loss of limbs and ultimately an early death if they cannot be rescued. I have even seen people accidentally stepping into fishing line and then having a nuisance of a time trying to untangle it from their own feet. How much harder for animals, who do not have hands such as we do, and can only try to peck at this impossibly stubborn plastic with their beaks - which is a virtually futile endeavour most of the time.

Secondly, there is the problem of fishing line ending up in tree branches or on power lines where it is then difficult, if not impossible, to remove. Once again, this poses a risk of entanglement to birds and other animals that use these trees - and let me tell you, it is a very distressing sight to see a bird dangling upside down high up in a tree, and no animal should have to suffer this kind of cruelty because of the actions of humans. This type of rescue requires the involvement of the Fire Brigade or a specialist arborist, and often, because neither are available immediately, the bird will die before it can be reached.

The third problem is people's actual fishing practices, namely, not taking care when wading birds are around. 'Live hookings' are not as uncommon as we would hope. The fisher's only problem after cutting the line is that they have to set up their line again with new tackle. But for the bird who flies away with a hook embedded in its flesh, there is an infection risk, pain, not to mention the risk that the line now attached to it may become entangled on any surface it comes near. Additionally, because many people like to feed wild birds, and thus these animals have associated humans with a 'free meal', it is not a rare thing for a bird to actually consume a fisher's bait, hook and all, thinking it is food for them. To my knowledge, these cases will naturally result in a painful death unless the bird is able to be caught, taken to a vet, and the gear surgically removed - which does not happen often since wildlife are extremely hard to catch.

Recreational fishing is not a harmless activity, but I am not suggesting it is the fault of fishers; some of them simply haven't been educated properly about certain things. When I was younger and used to fish, if a wading bird was approaching in the direction of my line, I'd ask those with me if I should draw the line in, just to be safe, but the response was always, "She'll be right, those birds know what to do". But inevitably an occasion came when a pied cormorant did not 'know what to do' and became tangled by my line, and I cut the line in a panic, and noticed that the bird never resurfaced. I have not fished since then.

Unfortunately, I have seen 'live hookings' by similarly ignorant fishers who assume birds will get out of their way. (Who is in who's environment here?) This is especially a problem with children fishing unsupervised (and it is not a child's fault, as they obviously don't know and have not been taught how to fish safely if birds are nearby). Certainly, Council and DPI could implement programs for school-aged children to teach them how to fish respectfully and safely. I would even dare suggest that there be some sort of restrictions introduced so that children under a certain age are required to be supervised by an adult while fishing - though I appreciate this is probably not the correct platform for raising this.

As another example, we have witnessed walkers who see a discarded fishing lure (with line still attached) on the ground and they pick it up and place it upon a fencepost, as if it were a lost hat or glove, and they think they are doing the right thing by leaving it there for the owner to collect later. Within minutes, seagulls are landing on that same fence, and there is a recipe for disaster.

And though I do not wish to criticise, I couldn't help but notice that in Council's short video advertising the CMP, there is footage of what appears to be a mother and young child feeding bread to some wildlife that is not quite seen in the picture. Whether this be ducks or even fish, feeding them is a "no-no", as processed foods made for humans are not appropriate foods for birds, and in the case of swans, bread is even a choking hazard. The fact is that there are many such things that we all do, not meaning any harm, but which actions have a negative effect. And so we need that education and awareness so that we can stop doing these things.

As someone who lives next to the Laurieton Riverside Track and so this is my local walking track, I can tell you honestly that on most days, if I step onto the various fishing jetties and boat ramps dotted along it, I have found abandoned fishing line and tackle that I've had to pick up and dispose of. (This is not about me - it is about the wildlife and environment - but I have to say, I am truly tired of cleaning up after other people, on such a regular basis).

Also, people are not supposed to fish from certain bridges (eg Dunbogan Bridge, Stingray Bridge in North Haven), and yet they do, and nothing is done about it, and I have collected much fishing line from bridges too (see attachment). During summer holidays, I feel I have no choice but to avoid this walk, because in the past I was constantly encountering pelicans with fishing hooks sticking out of them, as well as gulls with only one foot and peewees limping from line tangled around their feet (see attachment), and it was just too distressing to see this kind of thing on a daily basis.

Each time such an injured bird is reported to FAWNA, they are so good to send volunteers to attempt to rescue it, but often this takes multiple attempts over weeks, with volunteers sometimes driving a long distance to attend, and often birds need to be euthanised because their injuries are too severe. There is really a lot of effort and expense that goes into trying to help a single bird. Council has no idea because it is not your rangers who attend these callouts. FAWNA volunteers cover all our own petrol and other expenses and give up our free time to do this kind of work - and it is emotional and stressful work, not to mention extremely time-consuming. We are working hard at fixing problems that have already occurred, yet nothing is being done proactively to try to prevent/reduce injuries from happening in the first place.

All of the above is to try to highlight that there is a real need for more awareness in the community about the impacts of poor fishing practices on wildlife and the environment.

If I might now provide some suggestions for the types of things that might be done to ameliorate the problem.

1. Provision of signage on how to fish responsibly wherever a fishing amenity is provided. In the PMHC Coastal Recreational User Needs Analysis, page 4, fishers are well catered for, with an existing 14 wharves, 10 pontoons/jetties, 28 boat ramps, 2 formal fishing platforms, and 27 fish cleaning tables. Until FAWNA collaborated with Council in 2025, zero of these Council-provided amenities included any information about responsible fishing to protect wildlife. (The closest it came was a handful of T-Angler bins for fishing waste, but these do not provide any info on responsible fishing). The present status is that only a handful of sites in this LGA contain a bin sticker, and a handful have been fitted with temporary FAWNA signs that I have placed. The vast majority remain completely unsignposted as regards responsible fishing, and this is not good enough.

I note the CMP includes multiple proposed new fishing amenities as well as upgrades to existing fishing infrastructure. I would request that, as an absolute minimum, Council would provide responsible fishing signage on at least any new facilities and those set for an upgrade. This could be the existing FAWNA-

created design that was used on the 'bin stickers', or Council could formulate something simpler that incorporates the tips on keeping the environment clean and respecting the wildlife. Unfortunately, responsible fishing is not merely a matter of "common sense". As the examples given above demonstrate, people need guidance and reminders of how their actions affect nature, and physical signage at the very locations where the fishing takes place is possibly the best way of achieving this.

2. A desirable add-on to signage is the provision of dedicated fishing tackle waste bins at each new or upgraded fishing amenity. Presently, some locations in the LGA do have these bins installed, which are emptied by volunteers from a number of organisations, including OzFish and FAWNA and others. What would be impressive on the part of Council is if you could provide more of these tackle bins in locations that do not presently have them, and also in all locations that are set for a new or upgraded fishing amenity, and also source the volunteers to maintain them. As a former wildlife carer, I can tell you that FAWNA volunteers are some of the busiest people in the community, and we shouldn't have to add emptying these bins to our routines. It would be really good if other recreational users could give a little of their time and contribute to keeping our coastal areas clean and safe, and Council certainly has the channels to reach a wider amount of people, some of whom may potentially be happy to volunteer if they know there is a need.



3. What Council did with the "Living with Koalas" series of signs in koala corridors is a great template for what could be done here to protect coastal birds. Those signs were not the burdensome "do this, don't do that" type signs that I understand Council is reluctant to overemploy. Rather, these signs were attractive, educational signs that functioned for both town beautification and for public education on how to help protect koalas.



The Mid North Coast has some really beautiful native coastal birds, and it would be lovely to highlight these as an attraction in selected coastal areas shared by fishers and other recreational users, perhaps by installing a series of attractive educational signs similar to what was done with "Living with Koalas". This would be a modern and enhancing approach, and potentially a more effective way to bring gentle education to fishers about how to fish responsibly, and also awareness to the public about how they can help protect our wildlife and the environment.

To give you a local example, the Camden Haven Inlet is home to more than just pelicans and seagulls; a highlight for the birdwatching community is the pair of Ospreys nesting at the Laurieton Oval for the second year in a row. There is also the stunning Brahminy Kite that is regularly seen flying over the river. Unfortunately, raptors are one of the most at-risk birds for fishing-tackle related deaths. A series of attractive signs, each highlighting a different native bird of the area in which it is located, incorporating a small tip on how fishers and members of the public alike can do their part to keep them safe, would be a fantastic means by which coastal areas could be enhanced and modernised, the public educated, wildlife and the environment protected, and the burden on rescue and cleanup volunteers reduced.



On this point, in the PMHC Coastal Recreational User Needs Analysis, **birdwatching** was identified as one of the "most popular coastal recreational wintertime activities" and one of the "most participated in activities as part of a community group", according to the community survey undertaken in Apr-May

2023 (page 34). The premier site for Australian birdwatchers, eBird, records that for the six months from Jan-Jun 2026, over 300 birdwatchers have submitted over 4,300 "bird lists" in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA - that is an average of about 170 checklists per week or 25 checklists per day, all in our LGA.

Unlike with fishing, birdwatchers require very little infrastructure to be able to enjoy their activity, and they leave behind a much, much smaller footprint than fishers. It would be amazing if Council would provide something for this community group, and the attractive educational signs mentioned above would tick this box as well as all of the other goals noted above. Council could even make such a signage series into something of a "bird trail" throughout the various coastal and riverside towns. It would be a low-cost, virtually maintenance-free attraction that would promote a healthy and completely harmless recreational and touristic activity throughout this LGA.



Another point is that, according to eBird, there are 365 different bird species that call Port-Hastings home (across various times of the year). Who is protecting these birds? Is anything being done in terms of conservation and protection? One of Council's five guiding principles or focuses in the CMP is to "Protect Environmental Values", and I appreciate that attention is being given to preserving coastal ecosystems and habitats from the angle of erosion and climate impacts. However, should not this guiding principle also include protecting coastal birds whose habitat is becoming increasingly filled with fishing line that takes years to break down? Should it not include protection of marine life from the increasing amount of plastics and other hazardous waste accumulating in our waterways?

4. I would like to suggest that Council undertake periodic underwater cleanups in fishing hotspots, and not leave this sort of thing up to unfunded volunteer organisations who lack the resources.

5. It would be good for Council to create a webpage on their "Connect Ed" site dedicated to providing fulsome information on how fishers and members of the public alike can do their part to keep our environment clean and safe for

wildlife. FAWNA can send you information to contribute to this. If a QR code could also be made, this would enable advertising of the website on other platforms. For example, there are fishing clubs willing to include such a link on their advertisements for fishing tournaments and the like.

Finally, in the attachments are photos I took in 2025/26 mostly from along the Laurieton Boardwalk or from the Dunbogan Bridge. (Please note, most of these are relatively 'minor' forms of animal injury. I have not gone through the FAWNA rescue logs to bring the very horrific cases to your - or my - attention). These are just a sample of some of the problems I have personally encountered as a walker just trying to enjoy my local walking track. I have put forward this submission as a member of the public, but I am also still a FAWNA member and happy to provide any further information you may want. I would also encourage you to get back in touch with the FAWNA Vice President, Kym Kilpatrick, at kym.kilpatrick@gmail.com or 0412 369 677, to collaborate on an action plan.

Thank you very much for reading this lengthy submission.



30 Community member – North Shore, Camden Haven and North Haven

On the North Haven foreshore I think it would be a good idea to make the river edge safe and accessible, especially around the new children's playground on Ocean Drive. It is dangerous for the little ones and the elderly and disabled.

31 Community member – Region-wide

Please keep the coastline as natural as possible and preserve or regenerate native flora.

Spot manage the bitou weed problem.

Thank you and enjoy your day.

OUR COASTLINE

A Vision for the Coastal Landscape from Tacking Point to Camden Haven

Acknowledgement of Country

Yui Birrbay Barray - This is Birpai Country.

I respectfully acknowledge the Birpai People, the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters extending from Tacking Point to the Camden Haven. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their enduring connection to Country.

A Personal Perspective

I grew up in the Hastings. Although my career took me away for almost forty years, I returned regularly with my children to visit grandparents, extended family and lifelong friends. Returning in retirement reinforced my appreciation for this remarkable coastline. This paper is not about opposing growth. It is about ensuring that growth strengthens rather than diminishes the qualities that make our coastline so special.

Our Coastline

The coastline from Tacking Point through Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills to the Camden Haven is one connected landscape. Beaches, dunes, native coastal bushland, estuaries, mangrove forests, state forests and the mountain backdrop support healthy communities, biodiversity, recreation and tourism.

The Challenge

Growth is inevitable, but it should complement rather than redefine our coastline. Recent proposals, including increasing building height on Ocean Drive at Lake Cathie from 8.5 metres to 14.5 metres (approximately 71%), demonstrate the importance of considering cumulative impacts. Ocean Drive from Tacking Point to Laurieton should be recognised as both a strategic transport corridor and a scenic drive.

A Vision for the Future

Maintain the distinct identities of Lake Cathie, Bonny Hills and the Camden Haven; protect native coastal bushland, koala habitat, dunes, estuaries and mangroves; invest in parks, sporting fields and recreation; expand walking and cycling networks; preserve public coastal views; and ensure infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

Conclusion

Good planning is about guiding change wisely. Although I lived away from the Hastings for almost forty years, the Hastings never left me. My hope is that future generations inherit a coastline that remains connected to nature, community and place.



Attachment 3: Interactive Map Verbatim Feedback

Interactive Map attachments

The following images were attached to support marker comments.



Spoonies Track



Lake Cathie-Innes Arial



Tree deck seating

Two supporting documents were also uploaded through the interactive mapping activity:

- Ocean Pool Cost Benefit Analysis
- Correspondence and supporting information about the risk of dune erosion and collapse adjacent to the Dunbogan sand quarry, including references to an associated development application modification and earlier submissions to Council.

These documents have been noted but are not reproduced as attachments to this report. Both relate to matters already provided to Council or being considered through separate planning, development assessment or ongoing correspondence processes outside the CMP engagement.

Council acknowledges that aspects of both matters overlap with coastal management planning. Relevant high-level issues, including coastal hazards, environmental risks and future management considerations, have therefore been considered in the analysis and reflected in the key themes where appropriate. Including the documents in full would duplicate material already held and managed through other Council processes.

Marker Comment	Location
Spoonies Bay headland, keep as primitive as possible, no concrete in car park, use Bago gravel and bollards to restrict access to the sloping areas.	Bonny Hills, New South Wales, Australia
Bartlets Beach erosion possible stepped terraces up the slope, using treated timber and lots of planting of low shrubs, so hang glider mishaps are easier to untangle without cutting down the vegetation.	138 Camden Head Road, Camden Head New South Wales 2443, Australia
Oxley Beach is ideal for the proposed Ocean Pool for many reasons: close to the CBD, great access for all including disabled people, protection from northerly swells, supported by the Birpai Traditional Owners, constructability, documented lack of ecology issues and strong community support. The massive impact on the tourism economy cannot be overlooked either.	Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
Near flag pole midway on Rainbow Beach, cave in dune front caused by spring running treated effluent from WWTPlant. Width and depth of cave increased especially in recent years as eroded dune front vegetation and trees fallen onto beach and carried away by wave action. Seems spring flow increased at this location as well, observed 100s dying pippies here in July and June 2026 !	2445, New South Wales, Australia
Spoonies Bay headland, keep as primitive as possible, no concrete in car park, use Bago gravel and bollards to restrict access to the sloping areas.	Bonny Hills, New South Wales, Australia
The lake is a wonderful asset to locals, tourists and businesses when open to the ocean. Something permanent needs to be done to keep it open all year every year	1693 Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie New South Wales 2445, Australia
Is there a possibility that the rubbish that is going through the storm water drains and into the river, be targeted before entering the river. Look at the type of rubbish and is there ample bins/information?	2 Seymour Street, Laurieton New South Wales 2443, Australia
Concrete path along the break wall is damaged in places. Possible hazard for people, especially those who use a walker or are unstable on their feet.	23 Camden Street, Camden Head New South Wales 2443, Australia

Open storm water drain flowing into mangrove area which contains rubbish from the sports ground area.	1 Castle Street, Laurieton New South Wales 2443, Australia
The lake is a wonderful asset to locals, tourists and businesses when open to the ocean. Something permanent needs to be done to keep it open all year every year	1693 Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie New South Wales 2445, Australia
Decouple Lake Innes and revert to a freshwater lake again.	2446, New South Wales, Australia
Develop improved waste collection and filtration systems to stop pollution from reaching the ocean.	893-895 Ocean Drive, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
It is imperative that we maintain the Spoonies boat ramp. It is an extremely valuable resource to past, current and future generations of local fishermen. The boat ramp provides numerous benefits to the community, including important access for water safety teams during the many local, state and national surfing competitions held in Bonny Hills annually. The boat ramp also holds great sentimental value for many in the area.	Bonny Hills, New South Wales, Australia
Beach and reserves to remain natural. Keeping the small-town coastal feel rather than a city forshore design.	6 Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Continued water quality testing of the creek (especially following heavy rainfall) and public data sharing of these tests.	15a Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
The lake system and community greatly benefit when it is open. Something permanent needs to be done to ensure it stays open.	1697 Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie New South Wales 2445, Australia
How often is the stormwater from Greenhills Gully tested as this flows directly into the ocean? How is the collection of plastic waste in this waterway managed?	2445, New South Wales, Australia
Raised seating around Norfolk Pines.	10 Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia

I have three major issues: 1. The Dunbogan Sand quarry presents a very significant risk to the environmental safety of the Dunbogan Peninsula. Separate papers attached. 2. Increasing river heights are increasing the risk of estuarine damage from boats travelling up and down the river (in particular those boats that two skiers and create large wakes. 3. South Beach is continually being damaged by 4wd use. This is particularly so during periods of erosion. When the seas are 'up' the 4wds will drive on the dunes which exacerbates the erosion. Note: I have in the past asked both Council and National Parks to consider closing the beaches during adverse weather events. and have provided images of dune damage, crushed turtles etc. At some point the use of 4wds is going to even more dangerous - even to the driver's themselves.	128 Diamond Head Road, Dunbogan New South Wales 2443, Australia
Improve path for safe pedestrian access from caravan park to Spoonies that is accessible in wet weather	Boat Ramp Beach Access, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
North Shore erosion	5 Marlin Place, North Shore New South Wales 2444, Australia
Maintain Spoonies boat ramp access for launching of boats - is a valuable resource for our local fishing community.	Boat Ramp Beach Access, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Value our natural, undeveloped coastline and open green spaces with future changes and upgrades keeping the village feel of Bonny Hills	6 Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Protecting the quality of our waterways should be a priority. Consider the impacts of current & future development on the long term sustainability of the wastewater treatment system as well as the effects of increased runoff, coastal changes and rainfall on downstream creeks and coastal waters.	East Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Access for marine vessel launching must be maintained for water safety of local events and rescue capability.	Bonny Hills, New South Wales, Australia
Future alterations or additions to the reserve must allow for ongoing running of community events and sporting clubs	6 Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia

Maintain existing walking trail for all coastal users.	13 Honeysuckle Road, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
We value the 'village feel' of Bonny Hills, particularly the access to open green spaces and undisturbed coastal ecosystems.	10 Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Previous planting was unsuccessful, leaving exposed soil which runs during rain. Replanting needed with a greater variety of ground covers and shrubs.	25 Jordan Avenue, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Raised walkways to protect the land and enable access for all abilities.	3 Jordan Avenue, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Revegetation of buffer zones with native plants which are known to reduce erosion. At present, it is predominantly grass and she-oaks.	6 Beach Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Ongoing testing of water quality in relation to sewerage works. Seen an increase in contamination over the past few years, causing illness.	East Street, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Walkway to Spooney's Bay needs consideration, potentially an elevated pathway to reduce erosion of the land.	Boat Ramp Beach Access, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
Critical access for beach launching of boats.	Boat Ramp Beach Access, Bonny Hills New South Wales 2445, Australia
A Footpath of any kind along the foreshore reserve is not a priority in our neighbourhood. Erosion of the riverbank is of more concern in some areas as it is eroding the reserve. But the main priority is Shoreline Drive it is in a dire state of disrepair. Concrete reinforcement in stages over 36 months prioritising the area of the road that is in the most need would be so much more beneficial to North Shore. Along with curb and guttering and drainage out to the river as we do not have these basic infrastructures.	56 Shoreline Drive, North Shore New South Wales 2444, Australia
I believe Lake Cathie should be opened.	25 Orana Drive, Lake Cathie New South Wales 2445, Australia

No ocean pool	12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
The public pier has collapsed and should be removed or (preferably) repaired.	1a Tunis Street, Laurieton New South Wales 2443, Australia
Lake cathie has been a management 'football' for many, many years. I would like to know what PMHC is suggesting in its CMP as the way forward to managing this resource in a sensible and cooperative way with other responsible State Authorities.	26 Tallong Drive, Lake Cathie New South Wales 2445, Australia
Please continue to protect Oxley beach & remain C2 zoned. The pumped Olympic size pool proposal for Oxley beach would be devastating should it go ahead. Oxley beach is recognised as a coastal hazard area, exposed to erosion, landslip, flooding & debris. It is a special & loved little beach by locals & tourists, because it isn't developed and busy. It's the only on leash dog beach. The ocean pool will be a constant financial burden to rate payers.	5 Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
No to an ocean pool at Oxley Beach	12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
Please do not allow construction of a concrete pool on Oxley Beach (or any beach) in Port Macquarie. Keep our coastal areas development free and as natural as possible.	12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
Protect Oxley Beach from overdevelopment	12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
Protect Oxley Beach from the headlands pool	12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
I strongly support the Protecting Oxley Beach group. The proposal to build an ocean pool at Oxley Beach is so wrong as detailed by the above Group. 'Needs' of the community should be addresses before 'wants'.	122 William Street, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia
Not suitable for an ocean pool due to conservation area	12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

This waters edge is a disgrace , erosion and dangerous oyster covered rocks to negotiate for any one wishing to access the sandbar , swim , fish, paddle . It's a very popular area for families and recreational uses. Particularly near the kids playground- would love to see the rocks taken away and a Seawall with steps etc and a natural sandy beach

573 Ocean Drive, North Haven New South Wales 2443, Australia

Port Macquarie would greatly benefit from having an ocean baths, north Oxley Beach

12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

Oxley Beach is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed coastal environments in Port Macquarie. The site is zoned C2 Environmental Conservation and is a recognised coastal hazard area subject to ongoing erosion, slope instability, storm surge, flooding, East Coast Low events, powerful ocean swells, debris inundation, sea foam and excessive marine weed accumulation. Historic storm events have deposited large logs, vessels, livestock carcasses and other debris across the beach. It is fundamentally unsuitable for major permanent infrastructure. The proposal would introduce an extensive and highly intrusive development footprint, including a large reinforced concrete ocean pool constructed on the sand, twin pump systems, pump pits and housing, intake and discharge pipelines extending into the ocean, retaining structures, pathways, shelters and ancillary facilities. Additional infrastructure on the adjoining hillside is proposed in an area where evidence of land instability and landslip processes is visually apparent.

The construction and ongoing presence of this infrastructure would interfere with natural coastal processes, including sand transport, erosion and deposition patterns, wave energy and refraction processes, and the dynamic functioning of the beach system. The proposal would effectively urbanise a highly sensitive and hazardous coastal environment.

Equally concerning is the exposure of the infrastructure itself to extreme coastal conditions. The asset would be highly vulnerable to wave overtopping, storm damage, coastal inundation, sand movement, floodwaters, stormwater flows and debris impacts associated with East Coast Low events. As sea levels rise and coastal hazards intensify, the frequency and severity of these impacts will only increase.

This raises serious questions regarding the long-term feasibility, insurability and financial sustainability of the development. The asset is likely to require continual

12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

maintenance, repair and replacement at substantial public expense, creating an ongoing liability for Council and the community. Such expenditure is inconsistent with the principles of coastal hazard avoidance, sound asset management and ecologically sustainable development. Rather than adapting to coastal hazards, the proposal seeks to place significant public infrastructure directly within them.

Oxley beach should be remain protected from development such as the ocean pool. It is unique and provides people with a quieter beach to frequent, is the only on leash beach. The ocean pool will be a constant financial cost to rate payers.

26 Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

The Ocean Pool at Oxley beach would be one of the best things to happen to Port Macquarie for years. As long as the Council doesn't have pay for the initial cost! Ongoing costs of \$500,000 would be resonable. The pool won't take up the whole beach, the rest of the beach will be still there to access. Over the years, it has never been a very popular beach so the pool would be a great idea. If we could replicate Forsters pool or the Tuncurry Pool is would be very successful.

12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

Please do not destroy this highly protected environment with an above ground concrete pool that would destroy the eco system and also the habitat of many species of sea life. This beach and its environment are perfect how it is and it would be a disaster to destroy it.

12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

Also Hastings Council Ratepayers do not need the burden of the ongoing maintenance costs associated with destroying this environment with a pool.

There are many residents who regularly use Oxley Beach for recreation and reflection, which would not happen if a pool and other buildings are placed here.

Oxley Beach is one of the few remaining largely undisturbed coastal environments in Port Macquarie. The site is zoned C2 Environmental Conservation and is a recognised coastal hazard area subject to ongoing erosion, slope instability, storm surge, flooding, East Coast Low events, powerful ocean swells, debris inundation, sea foam and excessive marine weed accumulation. Historic storm events have deposited large logs, vessels, livestock carcasses and other debris across the beach. It is fundamentally unsuitable for major permanent infrastructure. The proposal would introduce an extensive and highly intrusive development footprint, including a large reinforced concrete ocean pool constructed on the sand, twin pump systems, pump pits and housing, intake and discharge

12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales, Australia

pipelines extending into the ocean, retaining structures, pathways, shelters and ancillary facilities. Additional infrastructure on the adjoining hillside is proposed in an area where evidence of land instability and landslip processes is visually apparent.

The construction and ongoing presence of this infrastructure would interfere with natural coastal processes, including sand transport, erosion and deposition patterns, wave energy and refraction processes, and the dynamic functioning of the beach system. The proposal would effectively urbanise a highly sensitive and hazardous coastal environment.

Equally concerning is the exposure of the infrastructure itself to extreme coastal conditions. The asset would be highly vulnerable to wave overtopping, storm damage, coastal inundation, sand movement, floodwaters, stormwater flows and debris impacts associated with East Coast Low events. As sea levels rise and coastal hazards intensify, the frequency and severity of these impacts will only increase.

This raises serious questions regarding the long-term feasibility, insurability and financial sustainability of the development. The asset is likely to require continual maintenance, repair and replacement at substantial public expense, creating an ongoing liability for Council and the community. Such expenditure is inconsistent with the principles of coastal hazard avoidance, sound asset management and ecologically sustainable development.

Rather than adapting to coastal hazards, the proposal seeks to place significant public infrastructure directly within them.

Oxley Beach is a high conservation zoned land in a known coastal hazards location with inundation, erosion, storm surge, flood impacts, landslips and erosion. It is a totally inappropriate location for a major infrastructure concrete pool with all its associated pumps, pump pits, pump housing, electricity, pipes that will run out to the ocean to collect and return water, retaining walls, railings, shelters and more. It will be subject to normal and extreme weather events, will impact and be impacted by erosion and wave effect, and will be a hazard in relation to flood and debris. The cost to build in this location is excessive, the maintenance at estimate \$500,000 per year is also excessive. This does not take into account costs associated when there are impacts from swells, erosion, storms, landslips and floods. - Those costs will not be insurable and will be a further burden to the community. There are so many other priorities for our community. This also is C2 conservation zoned land and should be protected as such. NO to placing

12 Maritime Lane, Port Macquarie New South Wales 2444, Australia

infrastructure in coastal hazard zones and conservation land. -
Totally inappropriate

Please protect Oxley Beach Port Macquarie from inappropriate and short sighted construction of the proposed ocean pool that will forever alter the landscape and harm the marine life. I am also extremely concerned about the on going cost burden of this pool on the community.

12 Maritime Lane, Port
Macquarie New South
Wales 2444, Australia

No concrete pool at Oxley Beach. Protect our perfectly natural coastlines, beaches and ecosystems as they are. The reason Port Macquarie is so popular is its natural beauty. Let's keep it that way.

26 Pacific Drive, Port
Macquarie New South
Wales, Australia

Do not support in any way the construction of a concrete monstrosity on Oxley Beach. Leave Oxley Beach just as it is.

12 Maritime Lane, Port
Macquarie New South
Wales 2444, Australia

Here are the remains of the first government wharf. They need protection and a sign installed on the B2B Shared Pathway.

3 Laurie Street, Laurieton
New South Wales 2443,
Australia

The entry leads date back to before the wall extensions in 1979. They now take us over the actual bar. The leads should be on the north side of the Inlet with a east west entry line.

6 Pilot Beach Road,
Camden Head New South
Wales 2443, Australia

A dinghy dock is needed here and has been requested since 2006. Search my name for correspondence.

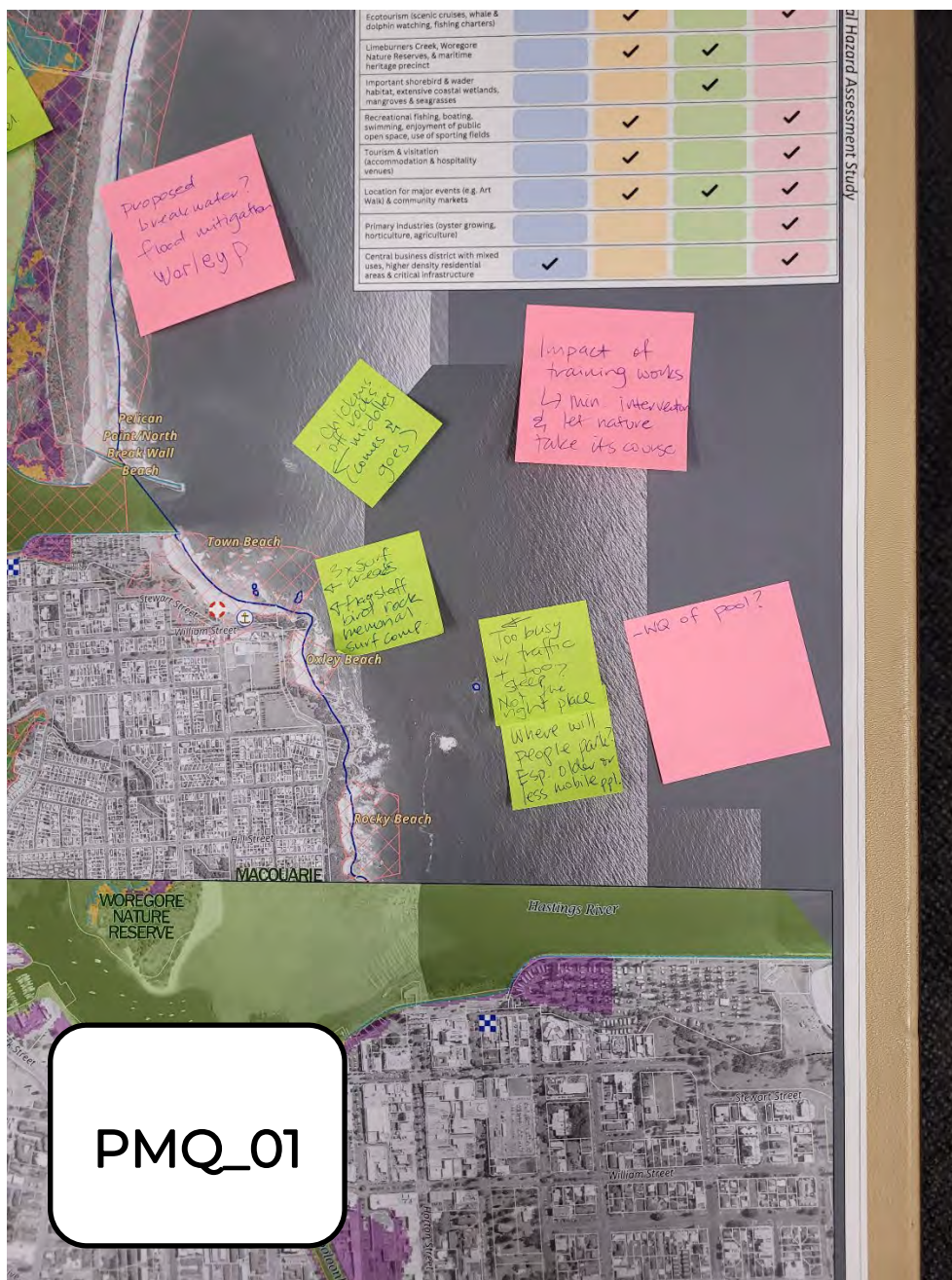
36 The Boulevarde,
Dunbogan New South
Wales 2443, Australia



Attachment 4: Community Drop-in Session Data

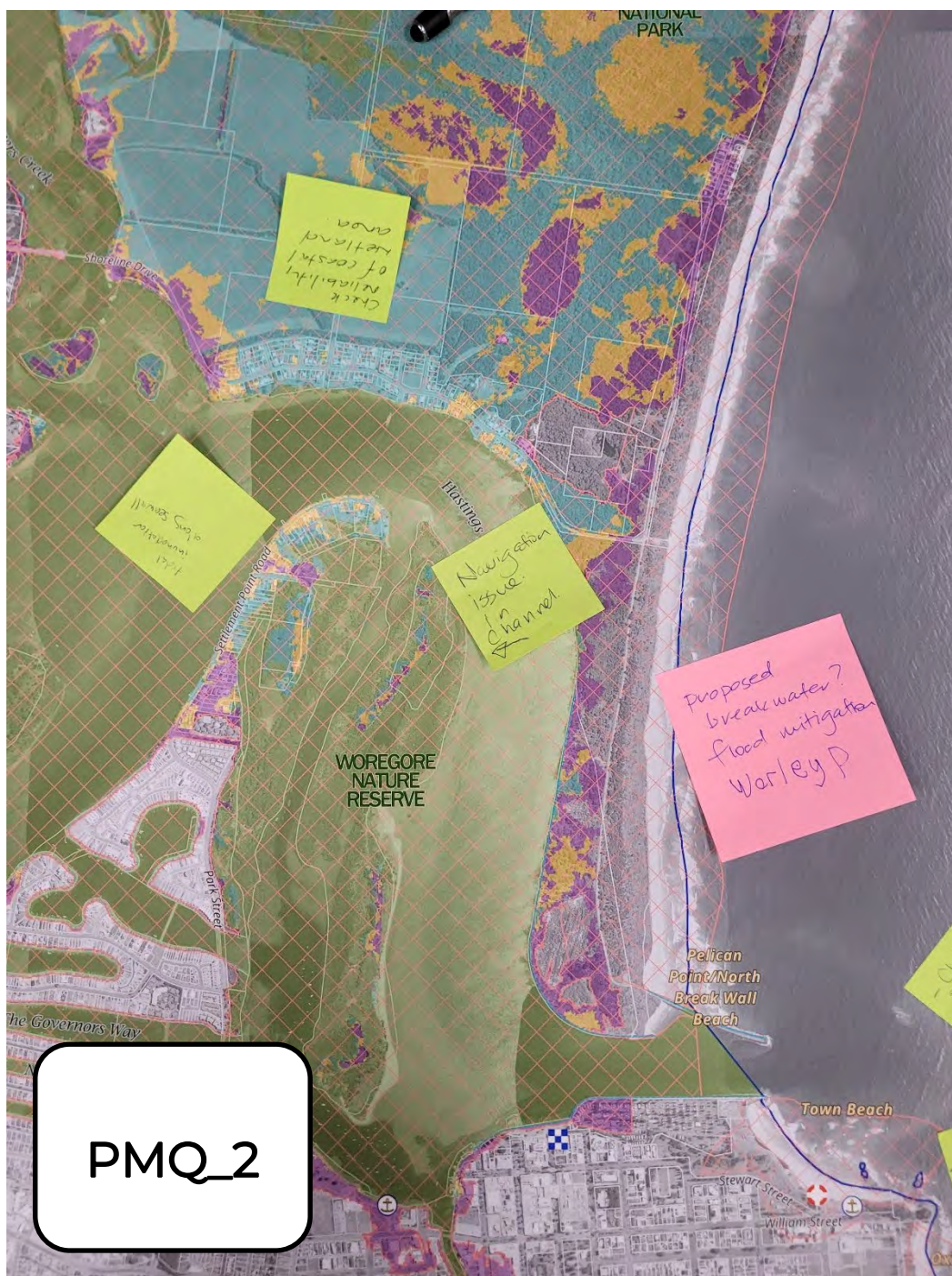
Port Macquarie Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
PMQ01_01	Proposed breakwater? Flood mitigation. Worley P.
PMQ01_02	Impact of training walls → min. intervention & let nature take its course.
PMQ01_03	Chickens off rocks. Middles (comes & goes).
PMQ01_04	3 × surf breaks. Flagstaff Beach rock memorial surf comp.
PMQ01_05	Too busy w/ traffic + too steep? Not the right place. Where will people park? Esp. older or less mobile ppl.
PMQ01_06	Water quality of pool?



Port Macquarie Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
PMQ02_01	Check reliability of coastal wetland area.
PMQ02_02	Tidal inundation of big swell.
PMQ02_03	Navigation issue in channel.



PMQ_2

Port Macquarie Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
PMQ03_01	Needs weed management at Flynn's Beach.



Port Macquarie Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
PMQ04_01	The bags are great! @ Illaroo Rd.
PMQ04_02	Poor line of sight due to trees. Need lifeguard tower.
PMQ04_03	Veg management.



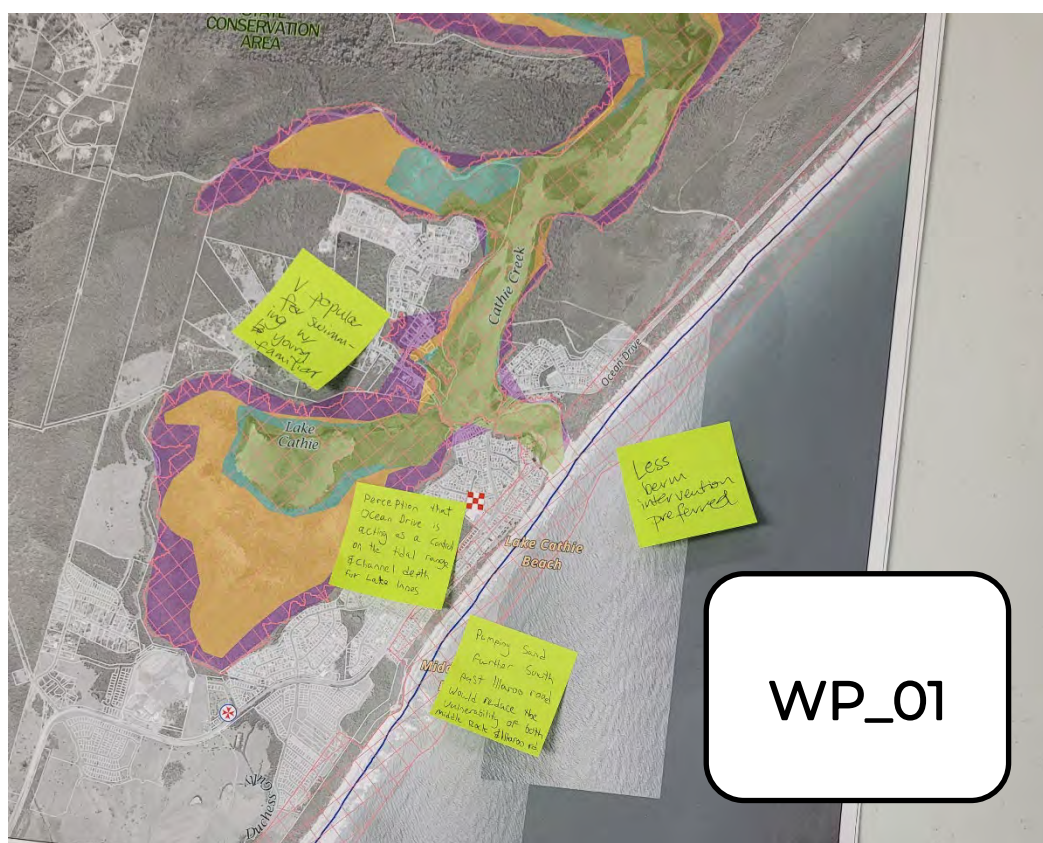
PMQ_05

Oxley Beach

pot. impact
of an
ocean pool
on sediment
transport.
≠ surf
breaks @
Tow Beach?

Wauchope Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
WHOPE01_01	V. popular for swimming w/ young families.
WHOPE01_02	Perception that Ocean Drive is acting as a control on the tidal range & channel depth for Lake Innes.
WHOPE01_03	Less berm intervention preferred.
WHOPE01_04	Pumping sand further south past Illaroo Road would reduce the vulnerability of both Middle Rock & Illaroo Rd.



WP_01

Wauchope Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

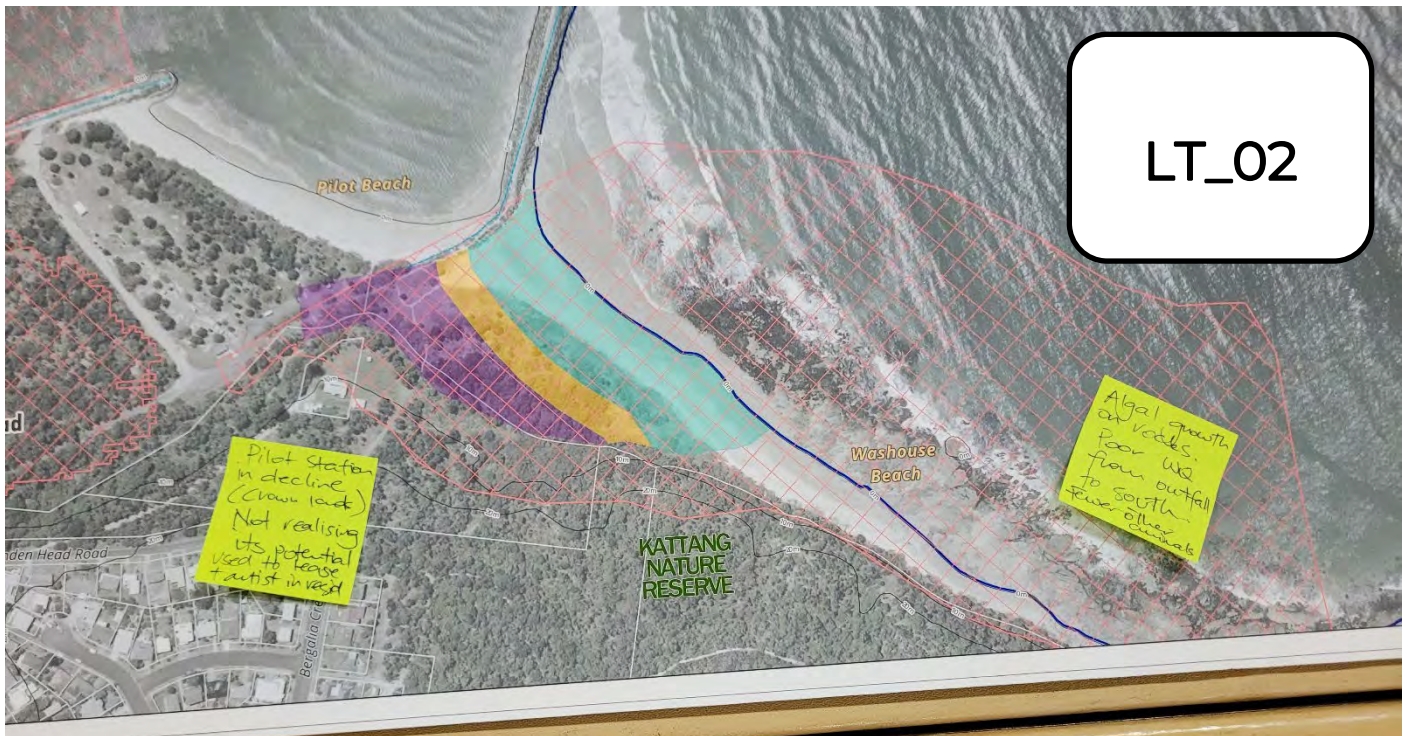
Reference	Transcribed Comment
WHOPE02_01	Flood mitigation through wider trained cut.
WHOPE02_02	Dredge Town Green channel to build wall to stop floods pushing back.
WHOPE02_03	Reclaimed land. ↑

WP_02



Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON01_01	Dunbogan Baths in poor state. Walls falling down. Used to be popular.
LTON02_01	Pilot station in decline (Crown land). Not realising its potential. Used to house an artist in residence.
LTON02_02	Algal growth on rocks. Poor water quality from outfall to south. [Unclear] oil chemicals.



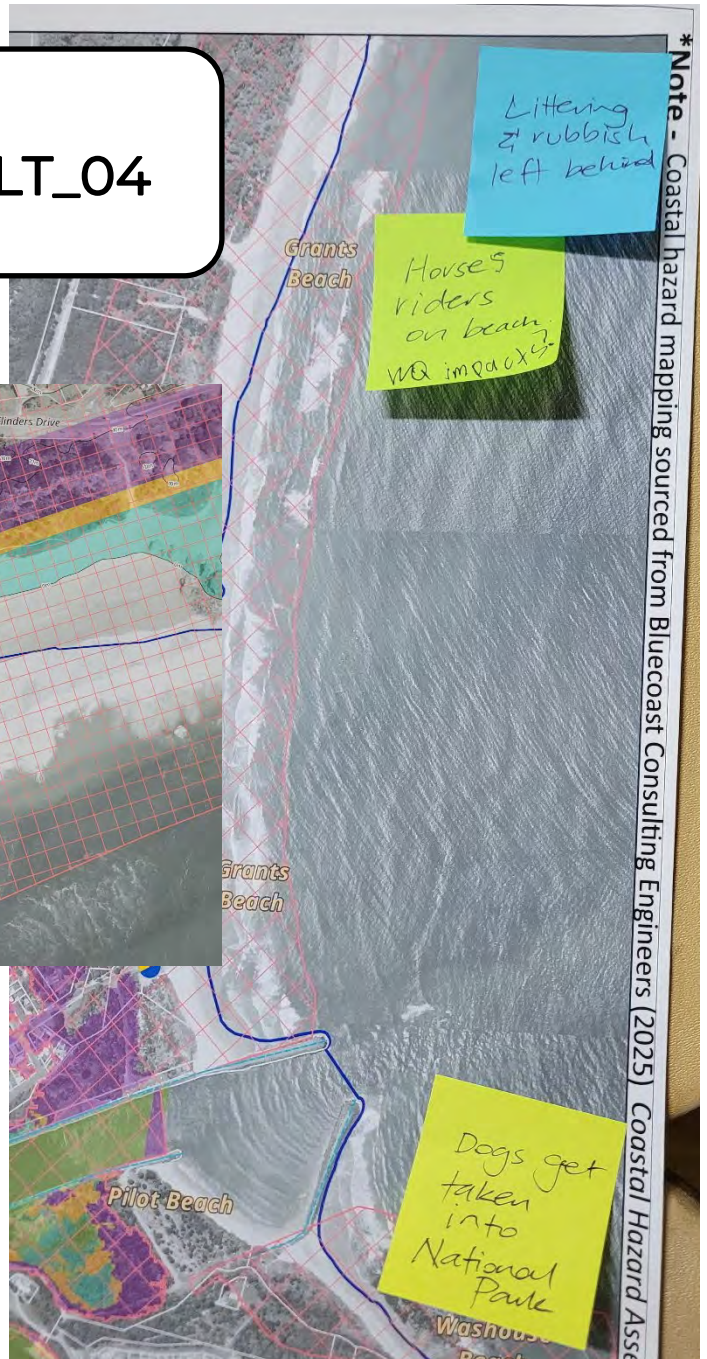
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON03_01	800m sth of 4WD track – pipi kill late June.
LTON04_01	Littering & rubbish left behind.
LTON04_02	Horse riders on beach – Water quality impacts?
LTON04_03	Dogs get taken into National Park.

LT_04



LT_03



Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON05_01	Valued area for biodiversity. Eagles nesting.
LTON06_01	Shoaling → foreshore erosion.
LTON06_02	Improve access + swimming along channels.
LTON06_03	V. popular for PWC + paddle craft & fishing.
LTON06_04	Kayak launching.
LTON06_05	Proposed boardwalk may impact swimming hole.
LTON06_06	Why is a foreshore path needed?
LTON06_07	Swimming area is silted + muddy.



Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON07_01	Stormwater drain from sports field – lots of rubbish.
LTON07_02	V. popular for recreation.
LTON07_03	Not enough boat ramps.



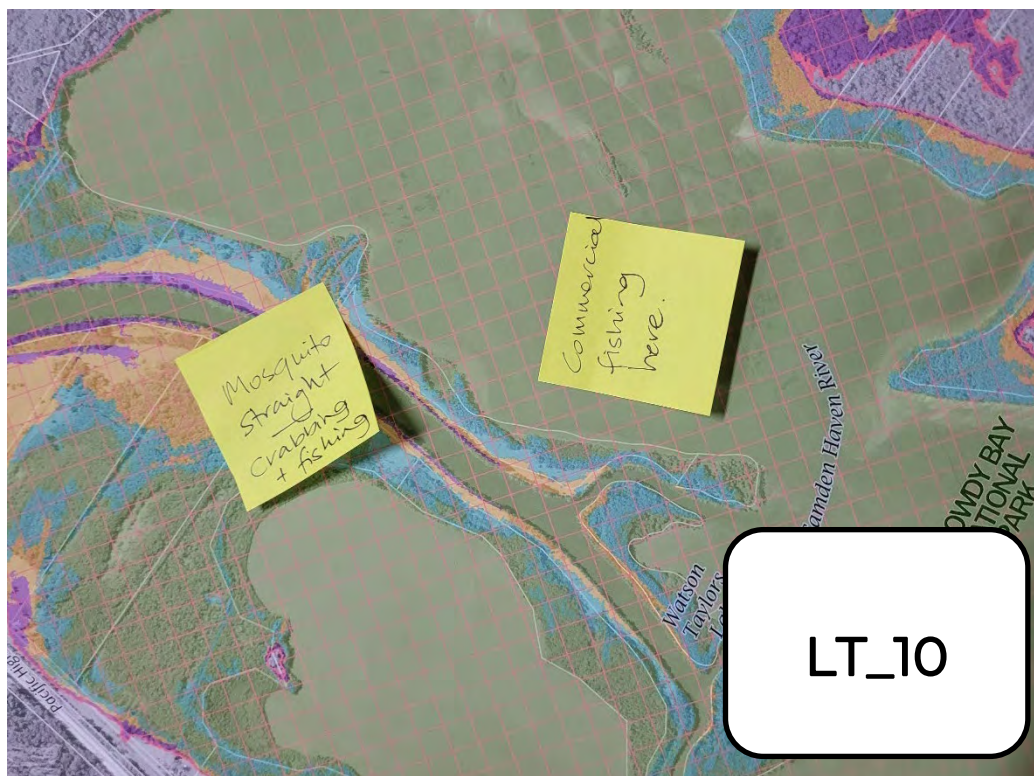
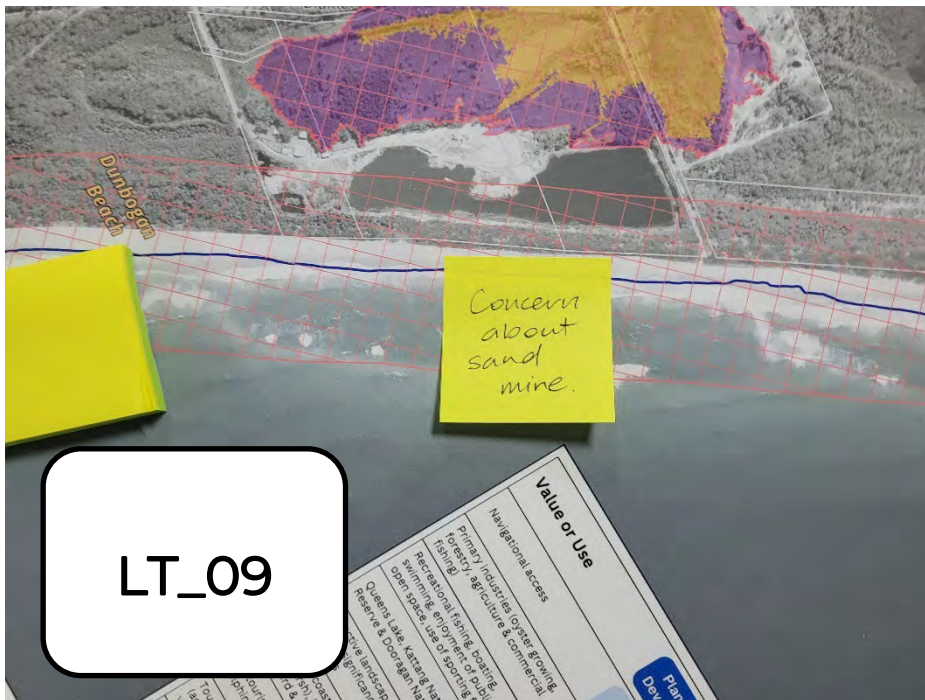
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON08_01	Opportunity to promote safe swimming?
LTON08_02	Foreshore access along Laurieton + use? Opportunities to activate?
LTON08_03	Since Murray flood tide has increased by 0.2m.
LTON08_04	Cemetery Bay?



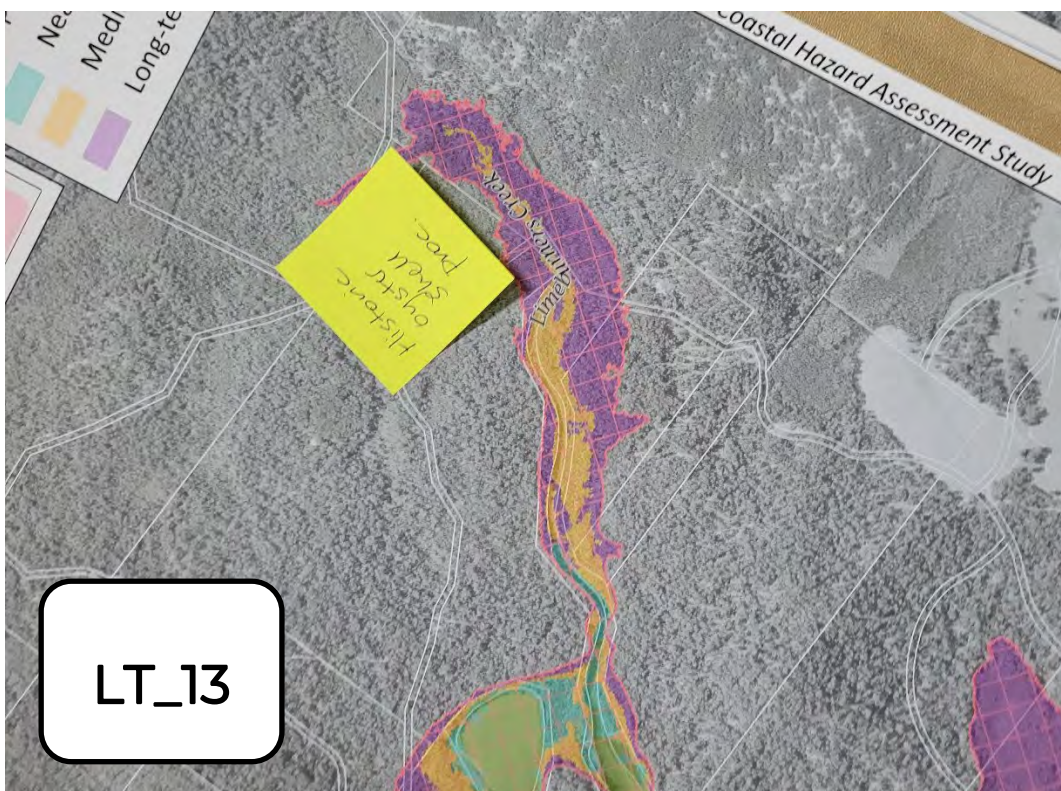
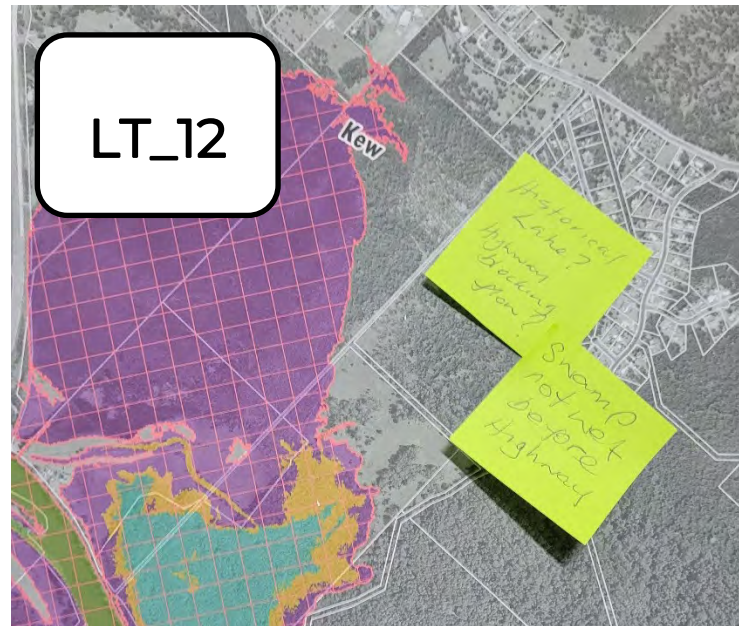
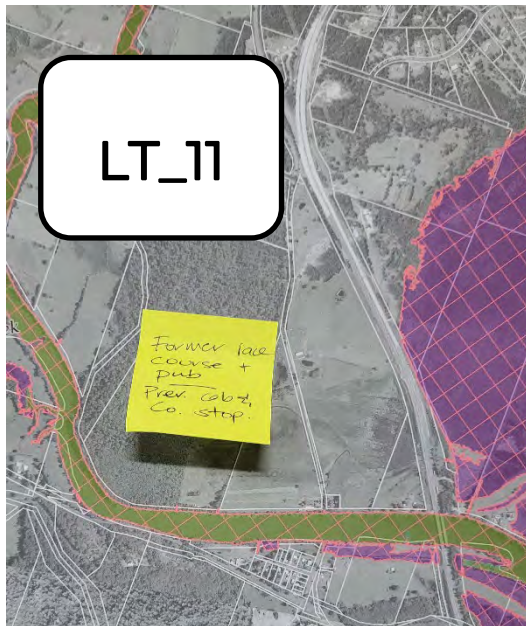
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LT09_01	Concern about sand mine.
LT09_02	Mosquito straight [Strait] – crabbing + fishing.
LT09_03	Commercial fishing here.



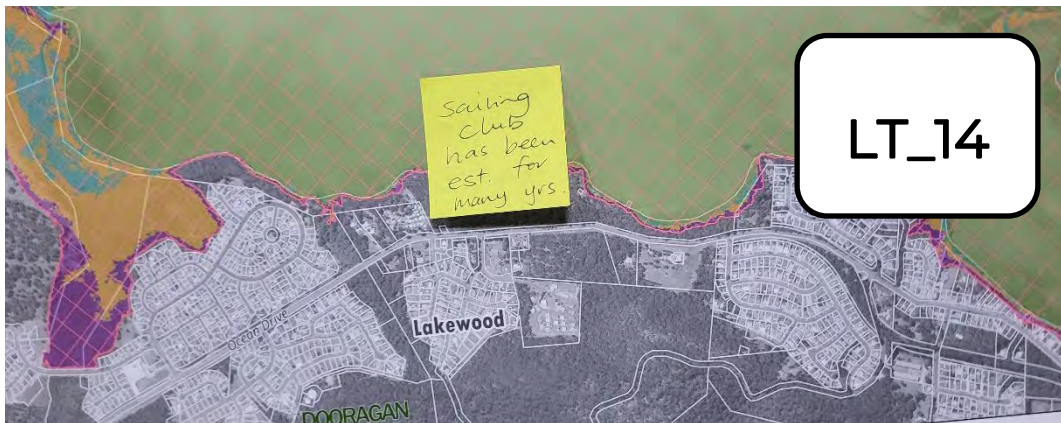
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LT0N11_01	Former race course + pub. Prev. Cobb & Co. stop.
LT0N12_01	Historical lake? Highway blocking flow?
LT0N12_02	Swamp not wet before highway.
LT0N13_01	Historic oyster shell place.



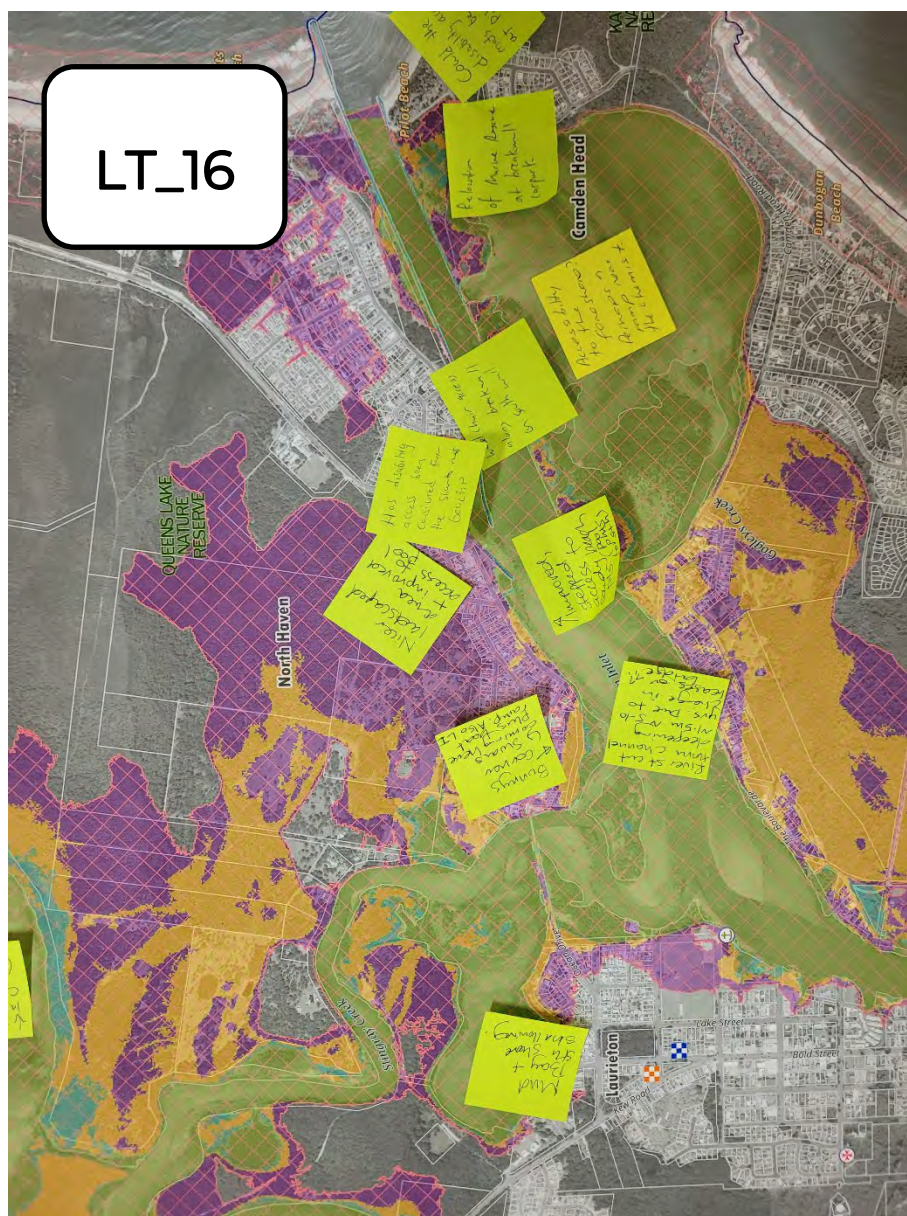
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON14_01	Sailing Club has been est. for many yrs.
LTON15_01	Reshaping northern breakwall to near west-east.
LTON15_02	Grants SLSC → will dune health be better along reserve?



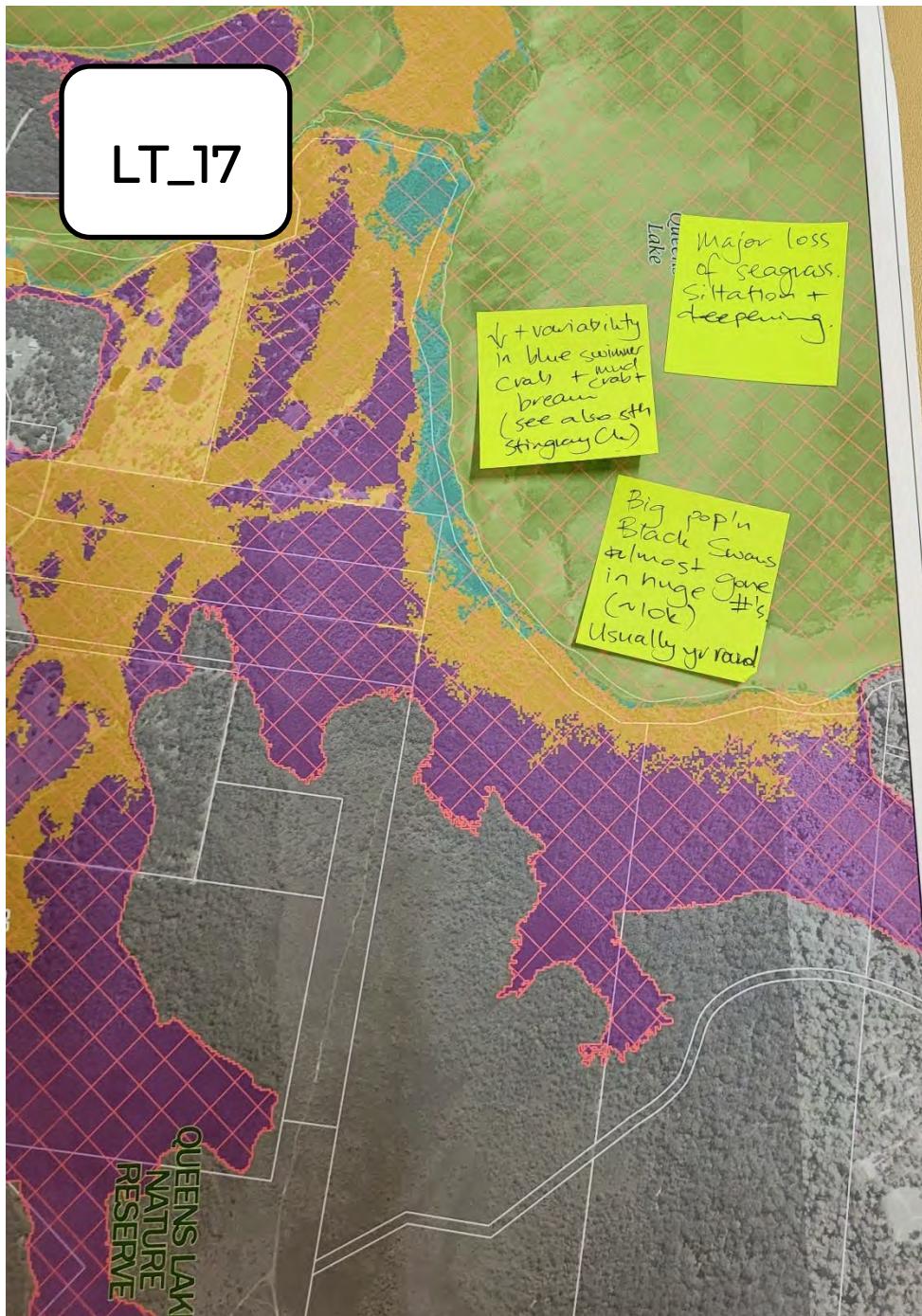
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON16_01	Mud Bay + sth shore shallowing.
LTON16_02	Bunnys & canoe; swans coming here; plus boat ramp. Also LT.
LTON16_03	Nice landscaped area + improved access to pool.
LTON16_04	Has disability access been considered for the shark net beach?
LTON16_05	Wheelchair access along breakwall on south wall.
LTON16_06	Relocation of Marine Rescue at breakwall carpark.
LTON16_07	Could the disability access mats be at Pilot Beach?
LTON16_08	River St cut thru channel deepening ~0.5m in 5-10 yrs. Due to change in leases or budget?!
LTON16_09	Improved, stepped access to sandy beach [parenthetical unclear].
LTON16_10	Accessibility to the foreshore? Perhaps a ramp near the chemist.



Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON17_01	Big pop'n black swans almost gone. In huge #'s (~10k), usually yr round.
LTON17_02	↓ + variability in blue swimmer crab + mud crab + bream. See also sth Stingray Ck.
LTON17_03	Major loss of seagrass. Siltation + deepening.



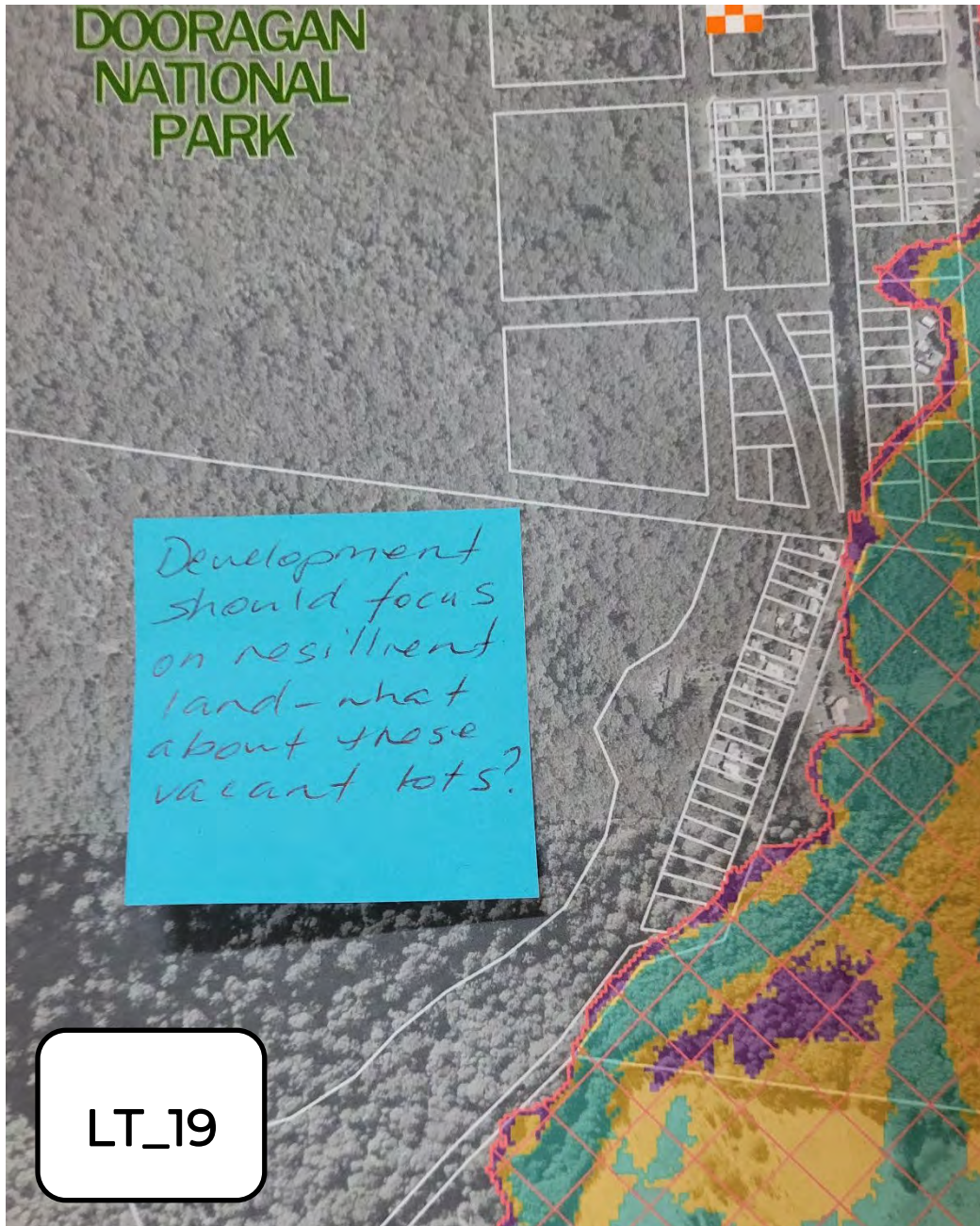
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON18_01	Existing HWY line →
LTON18_02	Post-2021 flood change in river here.
LTON18_03	2021. Wetland walkway + bird hide. Tourism.
LTON18_04	Loss of mangroves here → River mangroves in particular.
LTON18_05	Boat wake erosion last 5-6 yrs. 4 knot speed limit.



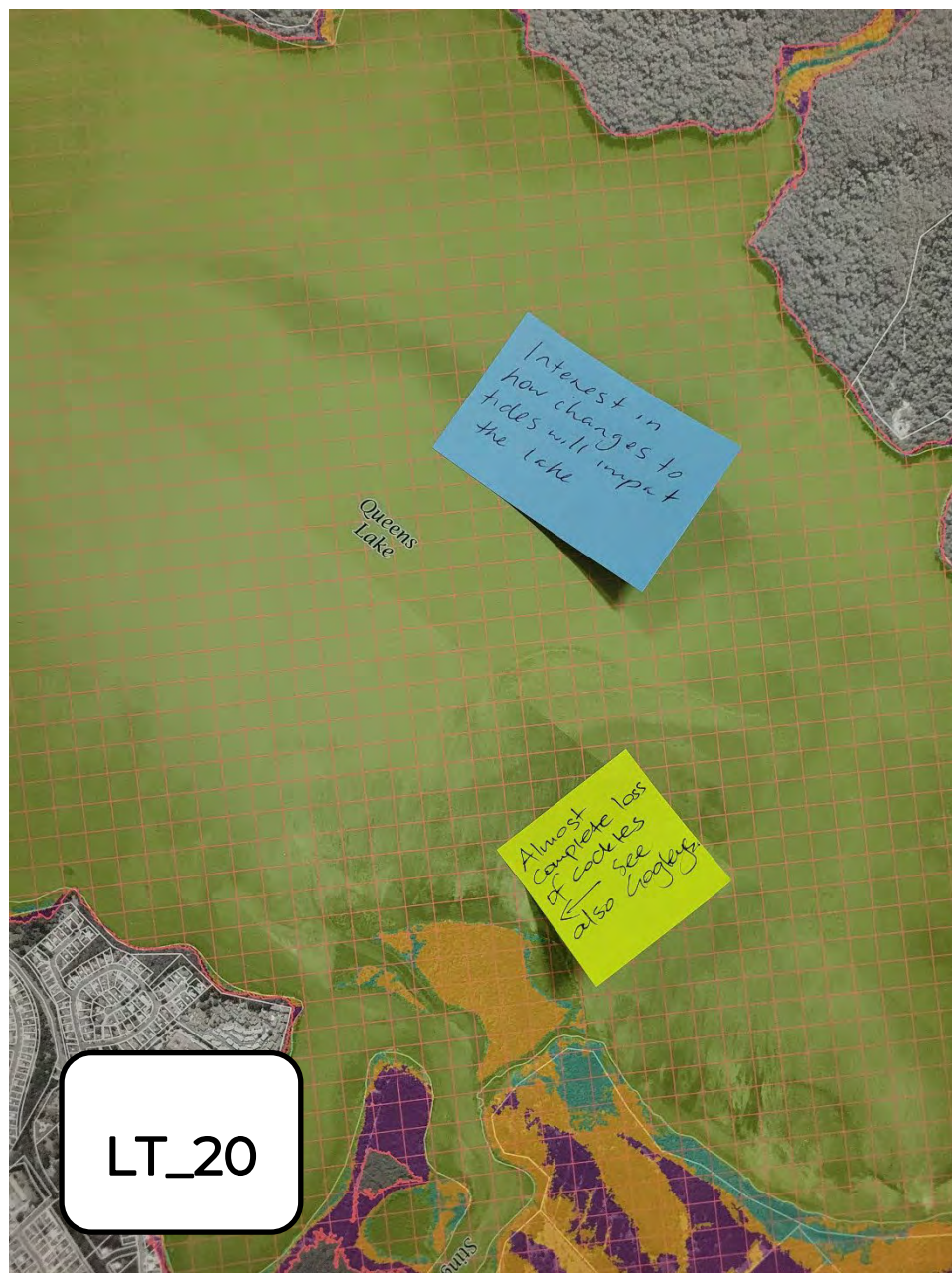
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON19_01	Development should focus on resilient land – what about these vacant lots?



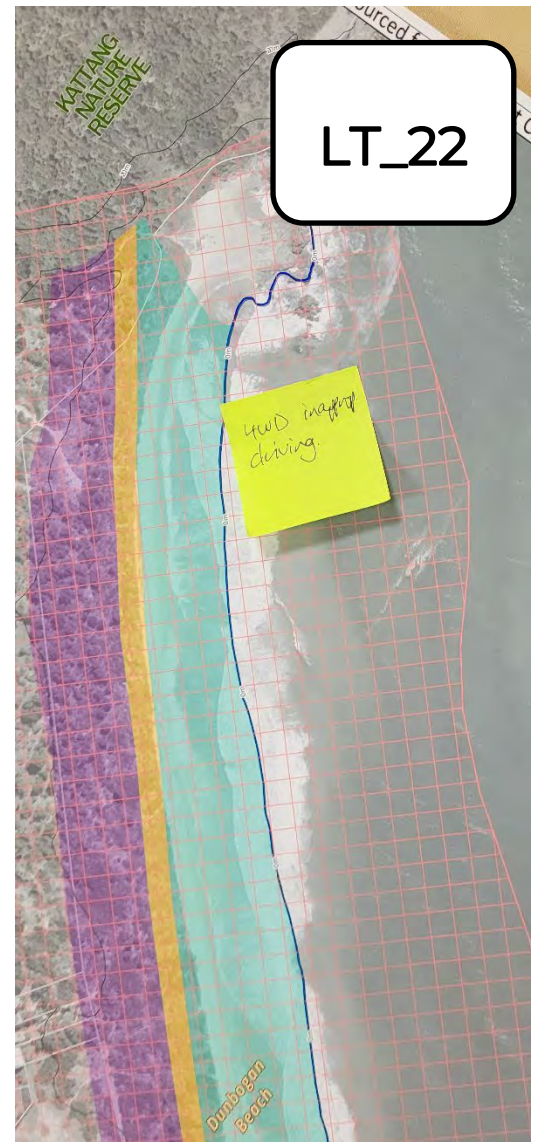
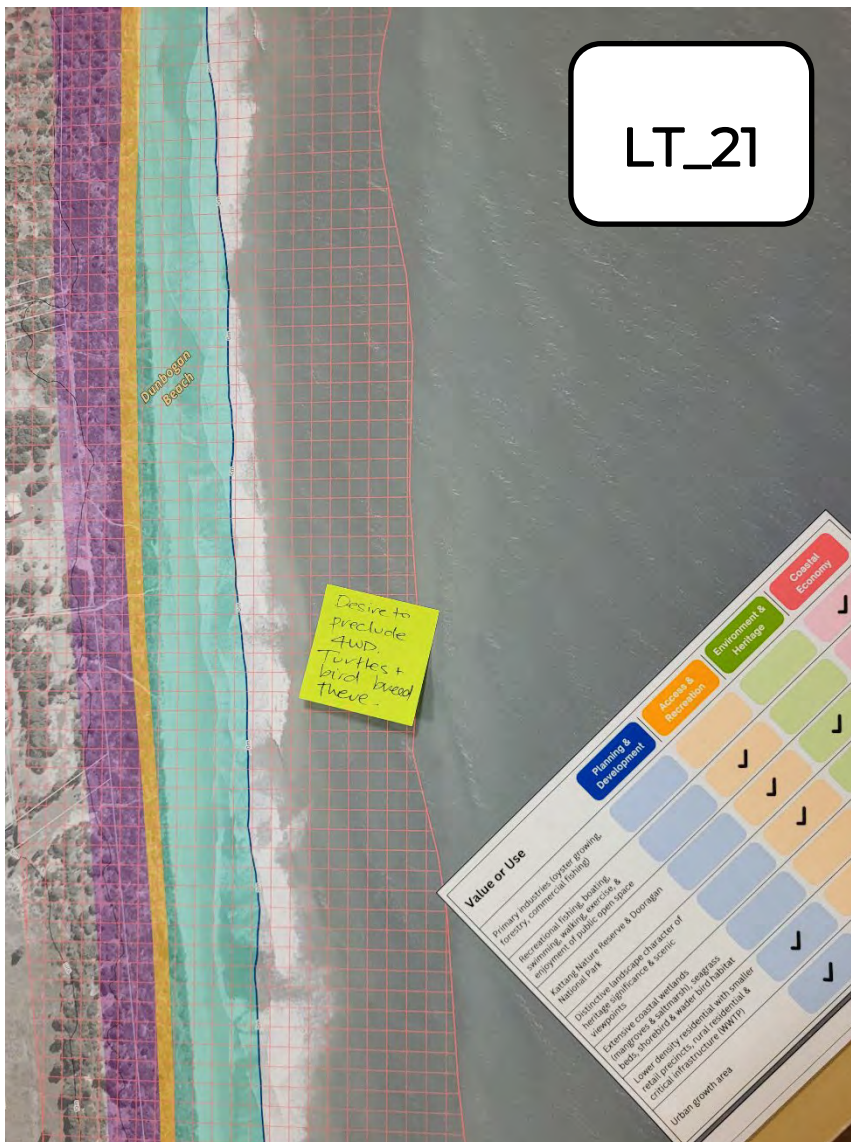
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON20_01	Almost complete loss of cockles. See ↑ also.
LTON20_02	Interest in how changes to tides will impact the lake.



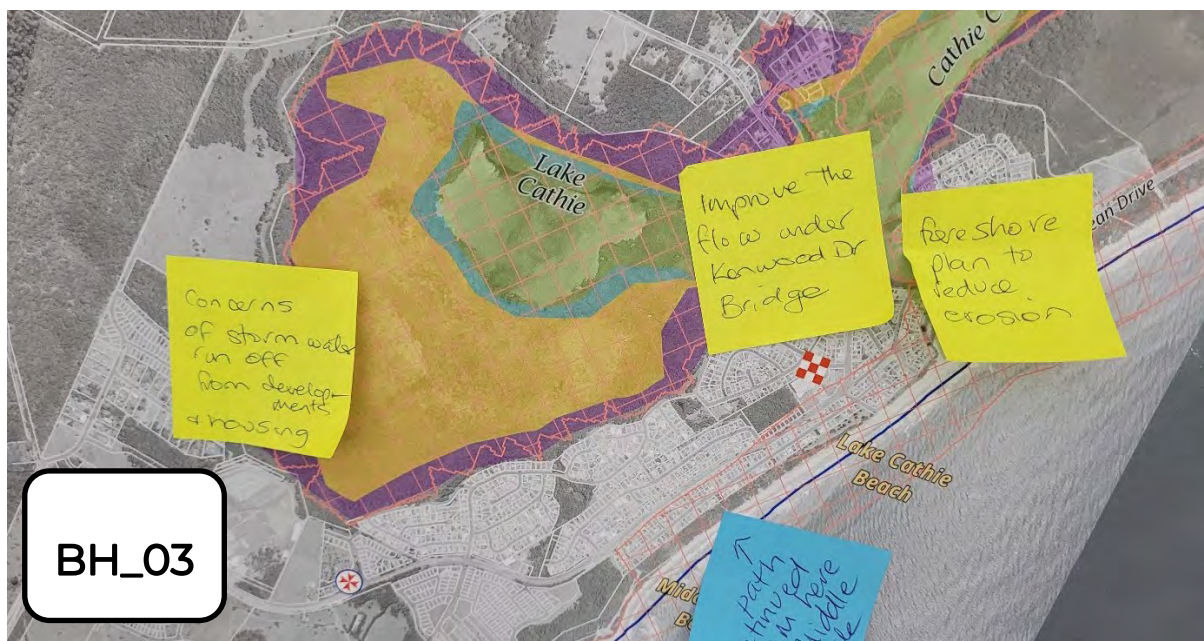
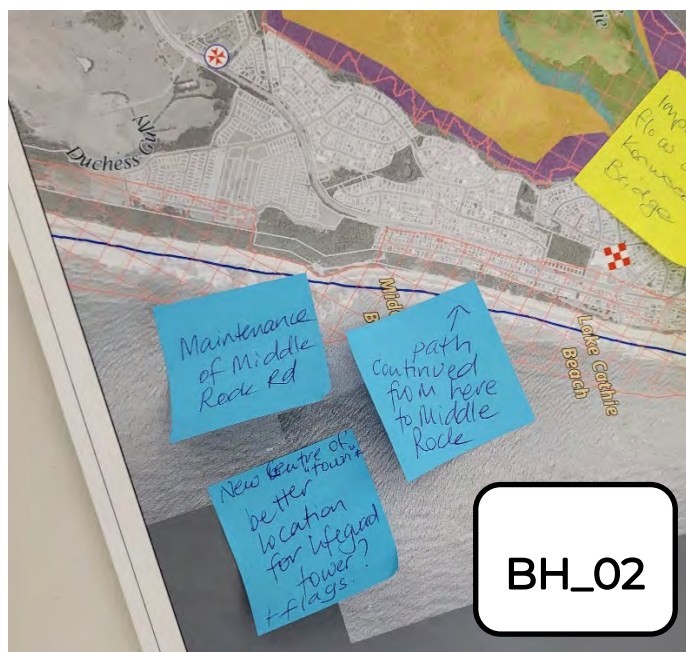
Laurieton Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
LTON21_01	Desire to preclude 4WD. Turtles + birds breed there.
LTON22_01	Interest in how changes to tides will impact the lake.



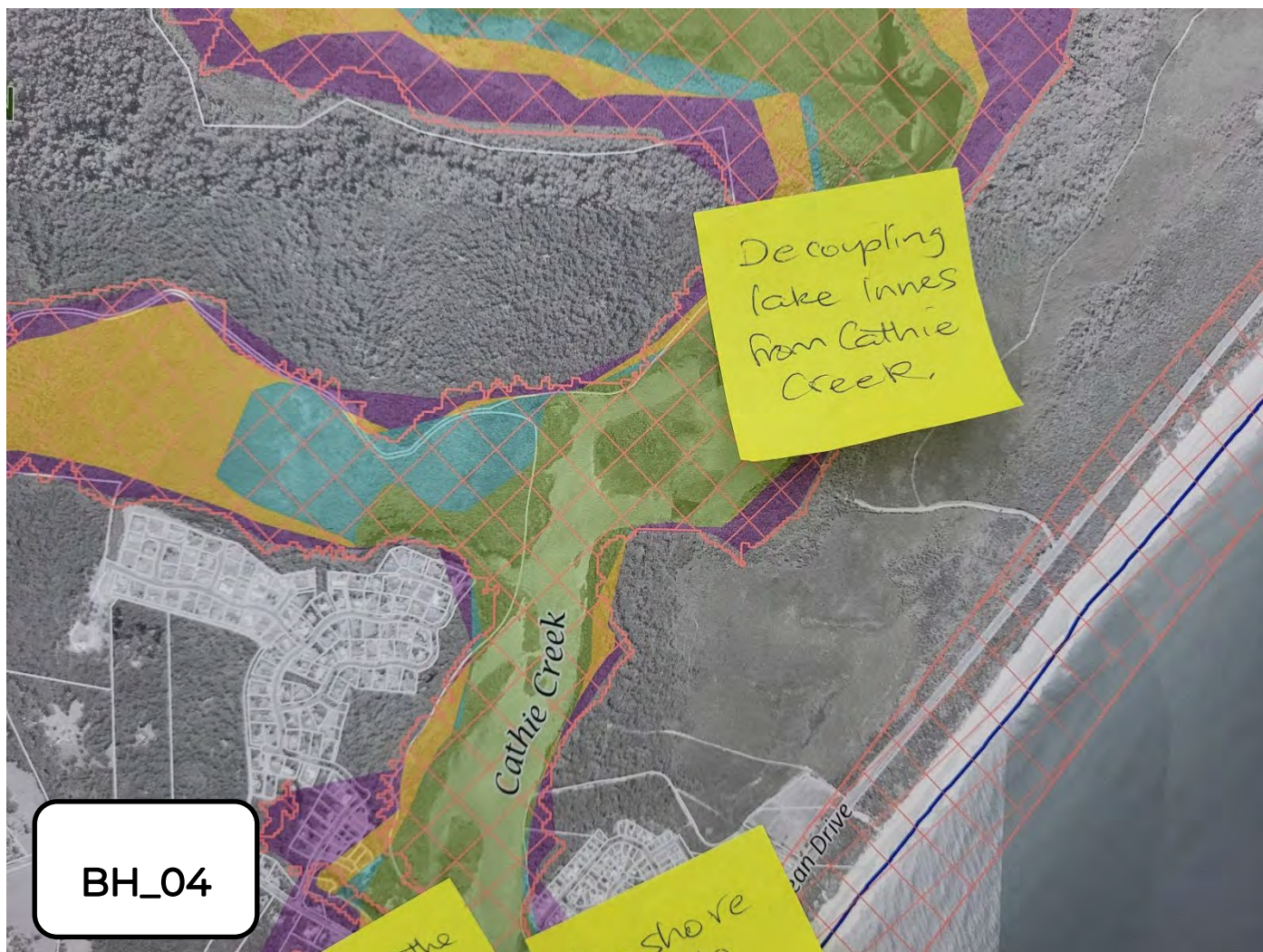
Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH01_01	Prefer mixed retail + residential w/ parking
BH02_01	Maintenance of Middle Rock Rd
BH02_02	Path continued from here to Middle Rock
BH02_03	New centre of town – better location for lifeguard tower + flags
BH03_01	Concerns of storm water runoff from developments & housing
BH03_02	Improve the flow under Kenwood Dr Bridge
BH03_03	Foreshore plan to reduce erosion



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH04_01	Decoupling Lake Innes from Cathie Creek



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH05_01	Relocation/open space opportunity in green space →
BH05_02	Evacuation from the estate around Lake Cathie, Kenwood Dr + Forest Way. Develop the road out to Houston Mitchell
BH05_03	Widen the bridge at Ocean & Kenwood Drive
BH05_04	Close Lake Innes



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

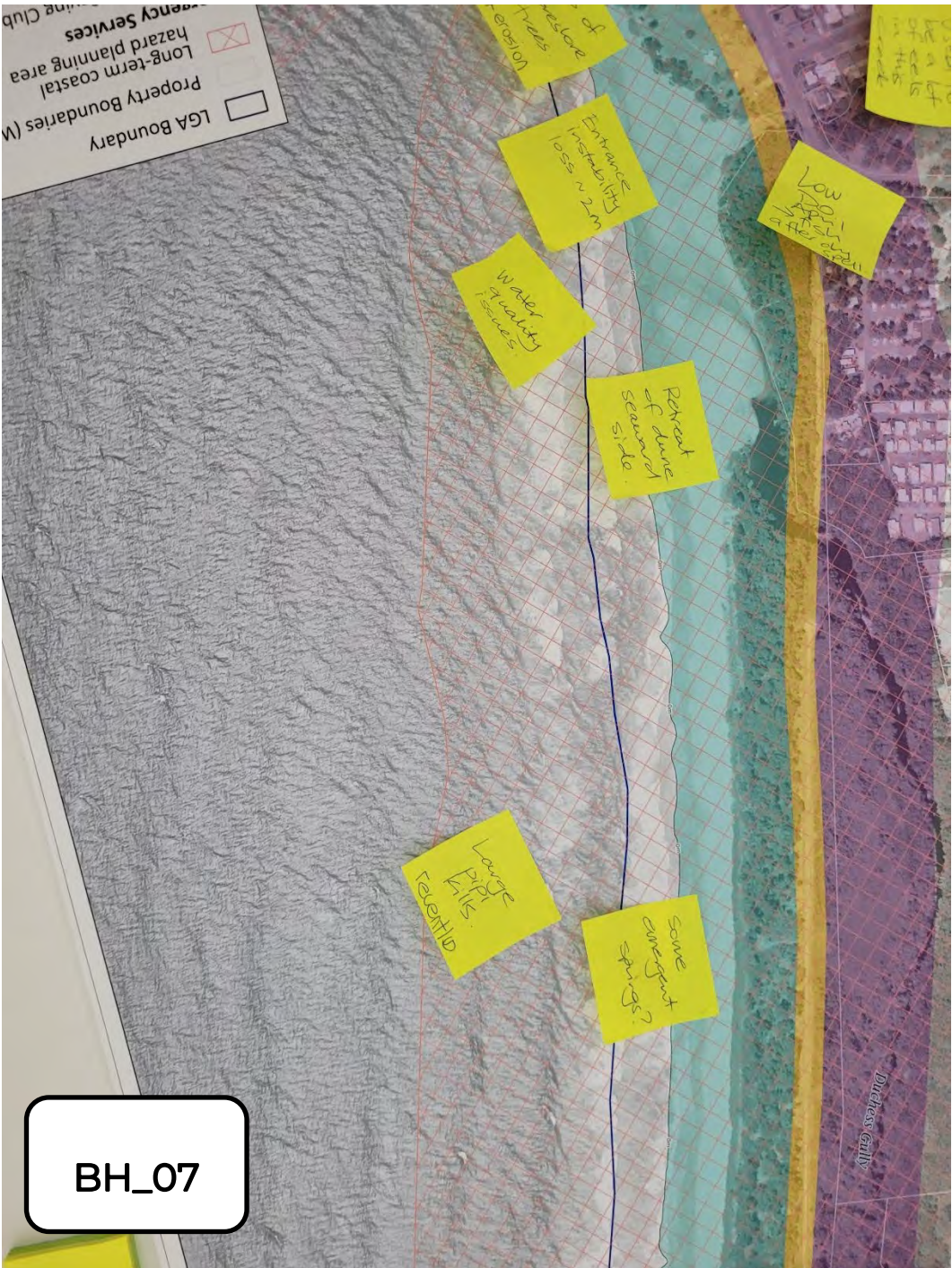
Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH06_01	2017 Pump Station upgrades ↑
BH06_02	Rodney St urgent sewerage system?
BH06_03	Used to be a lot of eels in this creek.
BH06_04	Low DO. April → fish after dry spell.
BH06_05	Retreat of dune seaward side.
BH06_06	Water quality issues.
BH06_07	Entrance instability loss ~2m
BH06_08	Loss of foreshore trees + erosion
BH06_09	Hall Reserve + boat ramp



BH_06

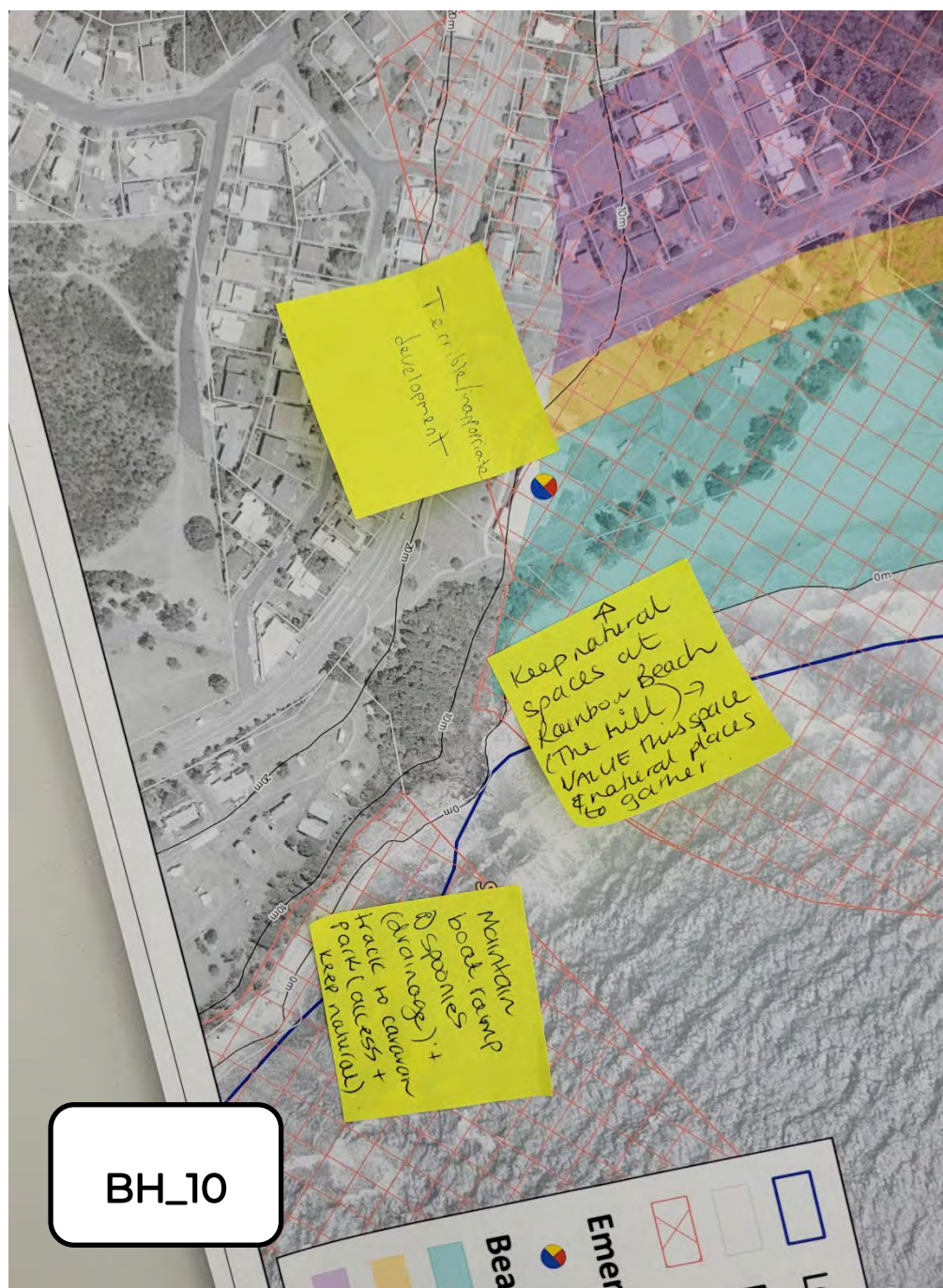
Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH07_01	Some emergent springs?
BH07_02	Large pipi kills recently



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

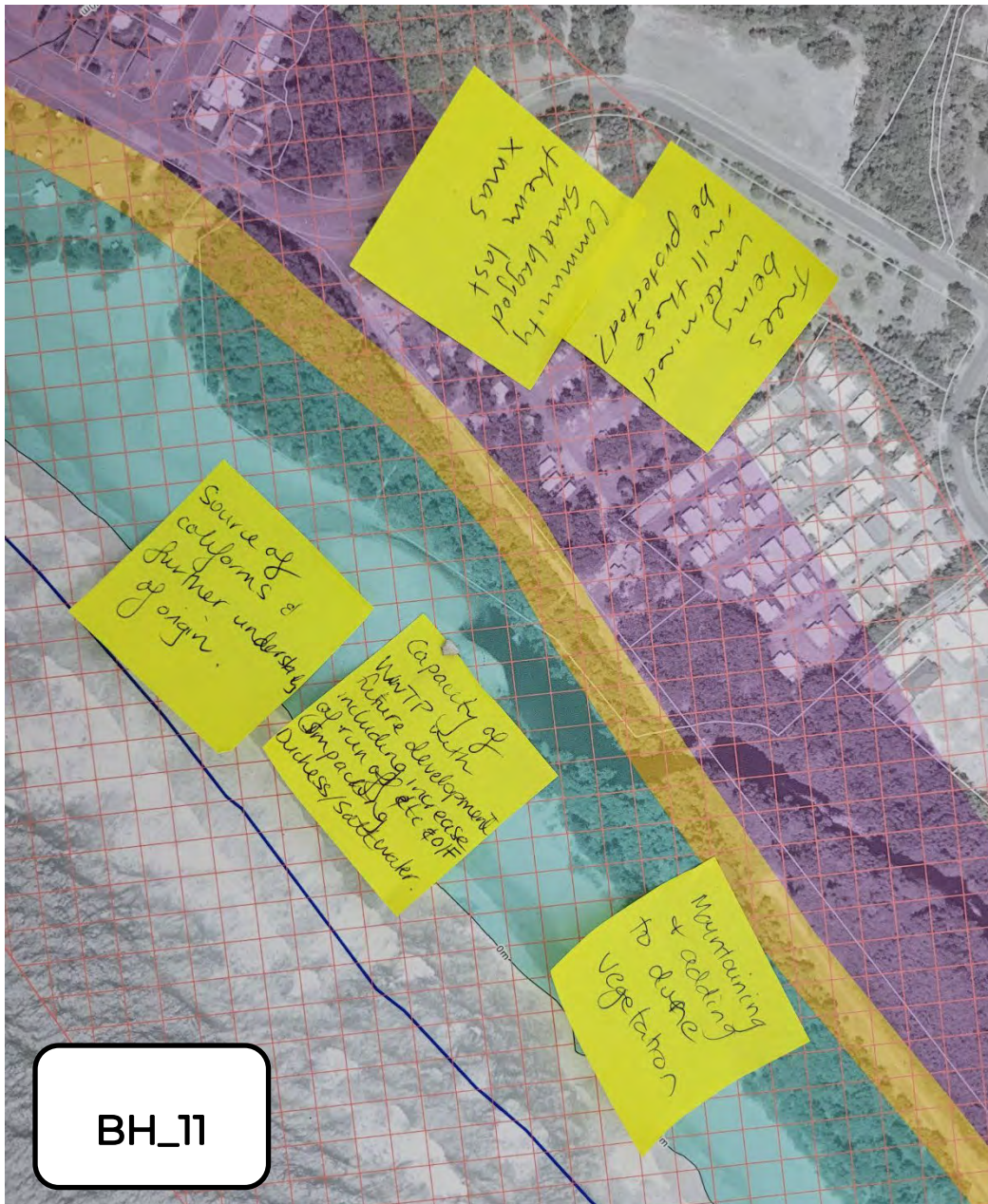
Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH10_01	Terrible/inappropriate development
BH10_02	Keep natural spaces at Rainbow Beach (The hill) → VALUE this space & natural places to gather.
BH10_03	Maintain boat ramp @ Spoonies (drainage) + track to caravan park (access + keep natural)



BH_10

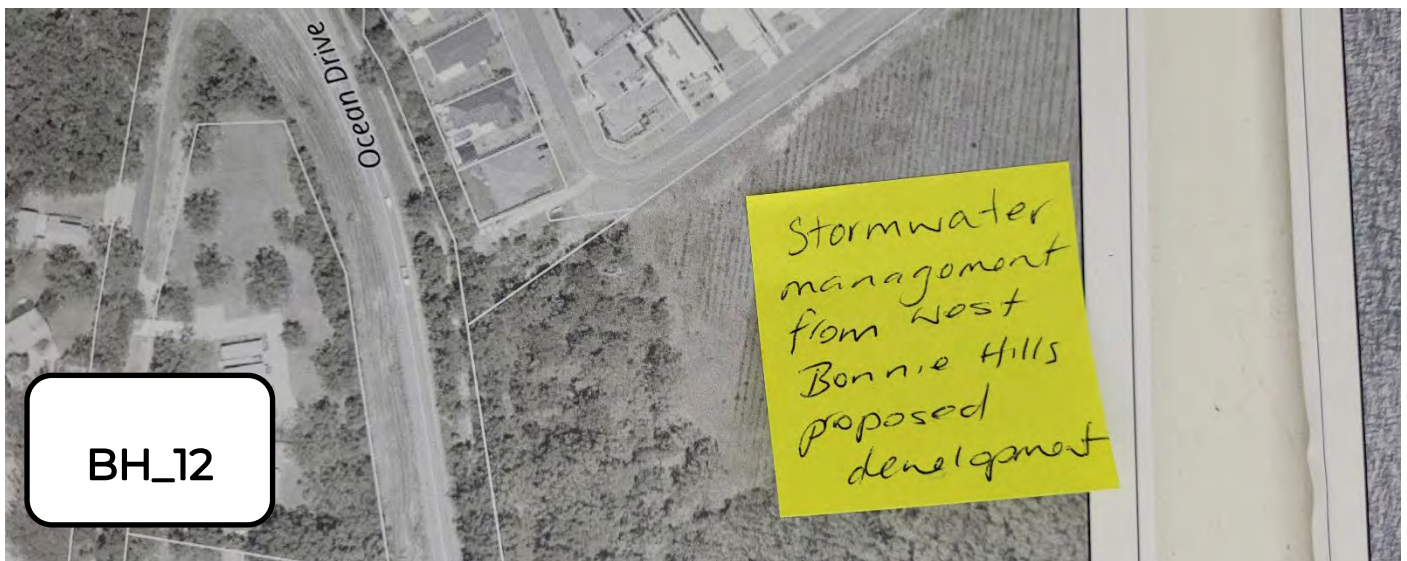
Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH11_01	Trees being undermined will these be protected?
BH11_02	Community sandbagged them last Xmas
BH11_03	Maintaining & adding to dune vegetation
BH11_04	Capacity of WWTP with future development including increase of run off etc, all impacting Duchess/Saltwater.
BH11_05	Source of outfalls & further undermining ongoing.



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH12_01	Stormwater management from West Bonnie Hills proposed development
BH13_01	View that the Bonnie Hills STP does not have the capacity to support future development (given it can overflow)
BH13_02	Water trickling through dunes coming from the STP pools
BH13_03	Sustainability of pond locations & ability to sustain future development + beach erosion around area
BH13_04	Tree die-off along Duchess Gully & behind STP



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH14_01	Water quality in Lake worse than coming out of sewer Treatment Plant



Bonny Hills Drop-in Session Post-it Note Transcript

Reference	Transcribed Comment
BH15_01	Erosion when open.
BH15_02	Nourish both shorelines w/ dredged sand
BH16_01	Rejuvenation of vegetation (incl. trees) – prioritise dune stability



have
your say

Coastal Management Program



PORT MACQUARIE
HASTINGS COUNCIL



Help shape how we manage our coast and estuaries.

Council is preparing a Coastal Management Program (CMP) to guide how we manage our coastline, estuaries and coastal hazards into the future.

The CMP looks at:

- Coastal access, use and values
- Waterway Health
- Management Actions

It also addresses coastal hazards and long-term planning for:

- Beach erosion
- Shoreline recession
- Coastal and tidal inundation
- Coastal Cliff Instability
- Coastal Entrance Instability



To find out more, register for a session and provide feedback,
scan the QR code or visit:
pmhc.nsw.gov.au/cmp

Have Your say

We want to hear from you about local issues, opportunities and ideas for how to manage these.



Drop in sessions

View maps and data, speak to our experts and share your feedback. Two sessions on each day from midday - 2:30pm and 5 - 7:30pm.

- **Monday 29 June** - Port Macquarie
- **Tuesday 30 June** - Wauchope
- **Wednesday 1 July** - Laurieton
- **Thursday 2 July** - Bonny Hills



Submissions close 5pm
Wednesday 15 July 2026

Attachment 5: Communications Report

Coastal Management Program

July 2026 Communications Report



Social media insights

Total of 20 posts across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, including Facebook events & social media stories

Impressions	42,348	Number of times post/story was shown in a person's screen
Reactions	225	Likes, loves etc to a post. Facebook reactions to shares are not included.
Engagements	357	Reactions, shares, comments and saves
Comments	92	Comments on a post/story/pin. Facebook comments on shares are not included.
Youtube video	107 views	Watch time 1.2 (hours)

Metrics do not measure reshares in FB groups.

2

Social media posts

Static social media posts, video (reel) and social media stories.



[View Facebook post](#)
[View LinkedIn post](#)



[View Facebook post](#)
[View Instagram post](#)
[View LinkedIn post](#)

3

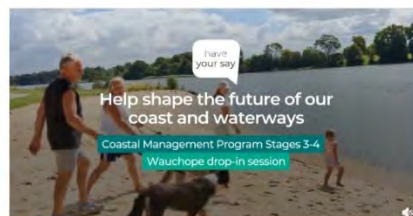


Facebook events

Four Facebook events promoting the community engagement sessions, these events were also shared into local community Facebook groups.



[View Facebook event](#)



[View Facebook event](#)



[View Facebook event](#)



[View Facebook event](#)

4

Highest performing post

Highest performing social media post - 16 June 2026, Video with Ben Foster

Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Published by Ben Foster

16 June

What do you value most about our coastline, estuaries and waterways?

We're planning for the future of our coastline and want to hear from you. From our beaches and headlands to the Hastings River, Camden Haven and local estuaries, your feedback will help shape the priorities and actions that guide coastal management over the next 10 years and beyond.

At this stage, we're seeking community input on:

✓ The coastal places you value most

✓ How you use and enjoy local waterways and beaches

✓ Issues or opportunities you think we should consider for the future

You can also explore fact sheets, technical information, explainer videos and upcoming drop-in sessions to learn more about the Coastal Management Program and the challenges facing our coastline.

Community consultation is open until 15 July.

Have your say: <https://hmvw.ch/21x3n15> See less

682 / 1037

30 comments

15 shares

15 June

15 June

15 June

Overview

Impressions 14,59K Reach 11,58K Engagements 218 Clicks 678 Engagement rate 1,49%

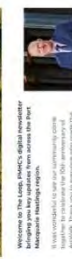
Comment analysis

TOP TOPICS	NO. OF COMMENTS	SENTIMENT	★ TONE OF VOICE	STYLE
Opposition to Ocean Pool at Oxley Beach	35	negative	passionate	advocacy
General Coastal Management and...	7	neutral	informative	informative
Support for Ocean Pool	2	positive	enthusiastic	supportive
Roads and Footpaths Improvement	2	negative	frustrated	complaint
Environmental Concerns	2	negative	concerned	advocacy

PMHC email newsletters

The project was promoted through PMHC's The Loop EDM and the Have Your Say EDM to reach subscribed community members and encourage participation.

PMHC's community newsletters
are sent out monthly to all subscribers



The Loop - June 2026

Have your say



Coastal Management Program

We are seeking community feedback on the Coastal Management Program, which will help guide the future management of our coastline, beaches, waterways and estuaries. Explore the findings and share what matters most to you. Feedback closes Wednesday 15 July 2026.

Have your say

Open 38.5%
Click 9.1%
Recipients 5,013

Have your say



Coastal Management Program

We are seeking community feedback on the Coastal Management Program, which will help guide the future management of our coastline, beaches, waterways and estuaries. Feedback closes Wednesday 15 July 2026.

Have your say

Open 39.8%
Click 9.4%
Recipients 5,044

The Loop - July 2026

PMHC's community newsletters
are sent out monthly to all subscribers



PMHC webpage

The PMHC Program webpage was updated to reflect the various stages of the Coastal Management Program, providing the community with current information.

Home / Your Council / Policies, plans and strategies / Coastal Management Program

Coastal Management Program



Have your say on the Coastal Management Program stages 3 & 4
Help shape the future of our coast and waterways, join the conversation about the next stages of our Coastal Management Program. Consultation closes on 15 July 2026.

In 2016, the NSW Government introduced a new framework to manage the coastal environment in an ecologically sustainable way for the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the residents and visitors of NSW.

Each Coastal Management Program (CMP) follows a five-stage program that is outlined in the NSW Coastal Management Manual:

- **Stage 1:** Identify the scope of a CMP
- **Stage 2:** Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities
- **Stage 3:** Identify and evaluate options
- **Stage 4:** Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the CMP
- **Stage 5:** Implement, monitor, evaluate and report

The Coastal Management Program webpage was updated ahead of the consultation opening to provide project information and prepare the community for the upcoming engagement. Once consultation commenced, a prominent banner was added to the webpage, directing visitors to the Have Your Say project page to encourage participation and make it easy for the community to provide feedback.

PMHC webpage insights (28 Apr - 26 Jul 2026)

↓ Views	Active users	Views per active user	Average engagement time per active user	Event count
728 0.21% of total	376 0.39% of total	1.94 Avg -45.98%	1m 03s Avg -1.58%	2,224 0.23% of total
655 (89.97%)	330 (87.77%)	1.98	1m 06s	2,023 (90.96%)

7

Media Release

A media release was distributed to a targeted media distribution list of 60 contacts to support awareness and coverage of the project.

Home / Your Council / News & Notices / News articles / Council progresses next phase of Coastal Management Program

Council progresses next phase of Coastal Management Program

Published on 11 June 2026

Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) has commenced community engagement and consultation activities as part of the next stage of its Coastal Management Program (CMP), following completion of detailed technical studies examining local coastal processes, hazards and values to understand how the coast functions and exposure to future risk.

The Coastal Management Program - Coastal Hazard Assessment Results and Proposed Community Engagement Plan was noted by Council at the May Ordinary Meeting, allowing the next phase of community engagement and consultation of the CMP to proceed.

The CMP is a NSW Government-guided process that helps councils and other public authorities better understand coastal risks and plan for the long-term management of coastlines and estuaries. Having management actions formally identified within a CMP positions Council to access State funding opportunities, supporting the delivery of priority projects while reducing long-term costs for the community.



Campaign Monitor insights

Score	Open	Click	Recipients
8.6/10	35%	10%	60

PMHC Media Release webpage insights

↓ Views	Active users	Views per active user	Average engagement time per active user	Event count
74 -0.01% of total	57 0.03% of total	1.30 Avg -65.79%	33s Avg -54.9%	203 -0.01% of total
74 (100%)	57 (100%)	1.30	33s	203 (100%)

[Link to Media Release on the PMHC website](#)

Media mentions

The media release resulted in coverage across both print and radio media outlets, extending awareness of the project to a broader audience.

Port Macquarie News (Print version) • Ben Foster Editorial AU Jul 20 - 03:08 AM Key coast locations set to be under water done for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. Councillors Rachel Sheppard and Hamish Tubman spoke about the Coastal Management Program (CMP) coastal erosion PMHC, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Coastal Management Program, coastal management 15.8k Reach	ABC Mid North Coast NSW Radio • Unknown Radio AU Jul 15 - 09:26 PM Breakfast with Camron Marshall - Thu, 16 Jul 2026 07:26:05 +1000 local government, state agencies and the community to develop our coastal management program and that looks at how we manage these systems Port Macquarie Hastings Council coastal management program 247 Reach
News Of The Area • Unknown Editorial AU Jul 09 - 06:09 AM Biripi artwork features on environmental monitoring boat along waterways across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region. Currently PMHC's Coastal Management Plan (CMP) is out for community feedback. PMHC, pmhc, PORT Macquarie Hastings Council, Coastal Management Plan 10.8k Reach	Port Macquarie News • Lucas Holmes Editorial AU Jul 08 - 08:00 PM Key coast locations set to be underwater: what does this mean for our future? The Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Life Saving Club will be the only thing left standing at Rainbow Beach Reserve in 100 years. This is ... PMHC coastal management Port Macquarie-Hastings Council coastal erosion Coastal Management Program 12.3k Reach

Paid media

Print media coverage in Port Macquarie News, News Of The Area - Port Macquarie and Camden Haven, helping to increase community awareness of the consultation.

PORT MACQUARIE NEWS OF THE AREA

Shaping the future of coastline and estuaries

COMMUNITY members are invited to share their views on the future of the coastline and estuaries of Port Macquarie. The Port Macquarie Council is currently reviewing the Coastal Management Program (CMP) to ensure it remains relevant and effective. The review is part of a larger project to update the CMP, which will be completed by 2026. The review will consider the impact of climate change, sea level rise, and other factors on the coastline and estuaries. The review will also consider the needs of the community and the environment. The review will be completed by 2026. The review will be completed by 2026. The review will be completed by 2026.

Coastal Management Program

have your say

Help shape how we manage our coastal and estuarine areas. The CMP is a key tool for managing our coastal and estuarine areas. It sets out the rules for what can and cannot be done in these areas. The CMP is a key tool for managing our coastal and estuarine areas. It sets out the rules for what can and cannot be done in these areas. The CMP is a key tool for managing our coastal and estuarine areas. It sets out the rules for what can and cannot be done in these areas.

Port Macquarie News of The Area

19 June 2026 - Click to view

Port Macquarie News of The Area
19 June 2026 - Click to view

NEWS

New name, same service: business adapts to retail closure

Businesses in Port Macquarie are adapting to the closure of the retail centre. The Port Macquarie Council is currently reviewing the Coastal Management Program (CMP) to ensure it remains relevant and effective. The review is part of a larger project to update the CMP, which will be completed by 2026. The review will consider the impact of climate change, sea level rise, and other factors on the coastline and estuaries. The review will also consider the needs of the community and the environment. The review will be completed by 2026. The review will be completed by 2026. The review will be completed by 2026.

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Port Macquarie News

June 20 2026

Port Macquarie News advert
June 20 2026

PORT MACQUARIE NEWS OF THE AREA

Longer-term solutions in the works for coastal protection

COMMUNITY members are invited to share their views on the future of the coastline and estuaries of Port Macquarie. The Port Macquarie Council is currently reviewing the Coastal Management Program (CMP) to ensure it remains relevant and effective. The review is part of a larger project to update the CMP, which will be completed by 2026. The review will consider the impact of climate change, sea level rise, and other factors on the coastline and estuaries. The review will also consider the needs of the community and the environment. The review will be completed by 2026. The review will be completed by 2026. The review will be completed by 2026.

Shaping the future of coastline and estuaries

have your say

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Camden Haven News of The Area

19 June 2026 - Click to view

Also featured in Camden Haven News of The Area
19 June 2026 - Click to view

Digital Customer Service screens

Customer Service Digital Screens launched in July 2026 across Council's customer service centres in Laurieton, Wauchope and Port Macquarie.



As part of Council's owned communications channels, the screens help us reach community members at key service touchpoints, including those who may not regularly engage with our digital platforms.

Pictured: Port Macquarie Customer Service Branch

11

Corflute signage

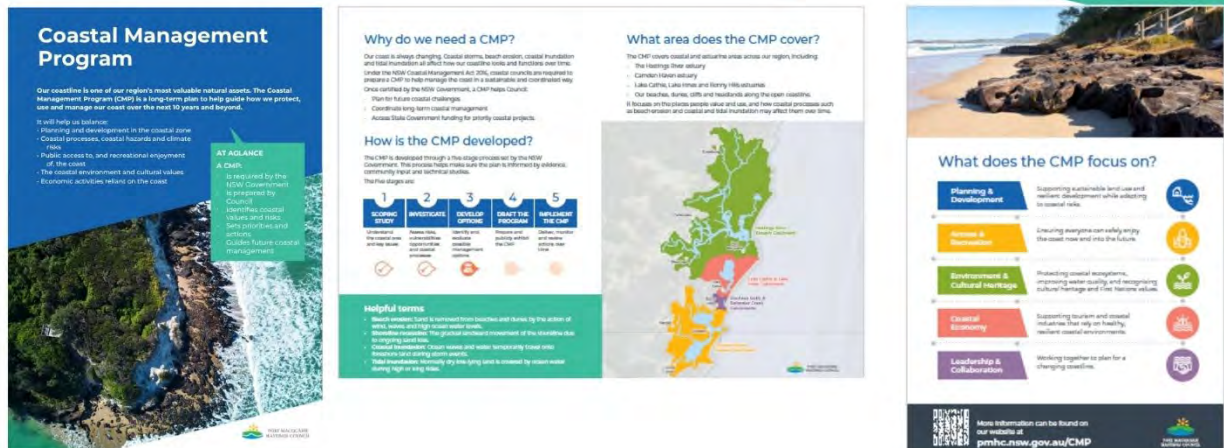
Signage with location specific imagery was installed in 40 key locations across the LGA to promote the project and encourage participation.



12

Brochure

Supporting collateral at drop-in sessions



13

Easy Read

Published on the Have Your Say project page and supporting collateral at drop-in sessions



14

Fact Sheet

Supporting collateral used across drop-in sessions

Understanding Coastal Hazards

Port Macquarie-Hastings Coastal Management Program

What is a coastal hazard?

A coastal hazard is any natural or human-induced event or process that poses a threat to the coastal environment, infrastructure, or community. Coastal hazards can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and erosion, or by human activities such as land use change, coastal development, and climate change.

Beach erosion

Beach erosion is the loss of beach sand and sediment. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.



Shoreline Recession

Shoreline recession is the landward movement of the shoreline. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Understanding Beach Erosion and Accretion

Port Macquarie-Hastings Coastal Management Program

Beach erosion is the loss of beach sand and sediment. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Beach accretion is the gain of beach sand and sediment. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Beach erosion and accretion are natural processes that shape the coastline. They can be influenced by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.



Understanding Coastal Inundation

Port Macquarie-Hastings Coastal Management Program

What is coastal inundation?

Coastal inundation is the flooding of coastal land by water. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Coastal inundation can be caused by a variety of factors, including storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport. It can be influenced by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.



How does coastal inundation differ from tidal inundation?

Coastal inundation is the flooding of coastal land by water. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Tidal inundation is the flooding of coastal land by water. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Understanding Tidal Inundation

Port Macquarie-Hastings Coastal Management Program

What is tidal inundation?

Tidal inundation is the flooding of coastal land by water. It can be caused by natural forces such as storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport, or by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

Tidal inundation can be caused by a variety of factors, including storms, sea level rise, and longshore sediment transport. It can be influenced by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.



What kind of impacts occur as a result of tidal inundation?

Tidal inundation can have a variety of impacts, including property damage, loss of life, and environmental damage. It can be influenced by human activities such as beach nourishment, beach nourishment, and beach nourishment.

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HYS project page

Provide project updates, technical information and opportunities for the community to contribute.

Help Shape the Future of our Coast and Waterways

Coastal Management Program Stages 3-4

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Home / Coastal Management Program Stages 3-4

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This stage of consultation is now closed. Please see timeline for future stages. You can click the 'follow' button to receive email updates about this project.

We're planning for the future of the Port Macquarie-Hastings coastline, estuaries and waterways. Your feedback will help shape the priorities and actions that guide coastal management over the next 10 years and beyond.

At this stage, we want to hear about what you value, what you know about your local coastal area, and the issues/opportunities you think Council should consider as we develop the Coastal Management Program (CMP).

Your input is important to us. This Coastal Management Program is a collaborative process that requires the input of the community.

Have Your Say on the CMP



Stay connected!

How you can get involved



Find out about the CMP

Explore our supporting information at a high level or take a deep dive.

- Read the fact sheets and the information brochure
- Explore detailed studies and reports
- Watch the explainer videos
- Attend a drop in session



Attend a Drop In Session

- Flexible timing
- Experts on hand
- 2 x sessions in each location (12 noon-2:30pm and 5-7:30pm)

Monday 29 June - Port Macquarie

Tuesday 30 June - Wauchope

Wednesday 1 July - Laurieton

Thursday 2 July - Bonny Hills

Register below for location details.



Give feedback your way

Provide your feedback in a variety of ways using our interactive map, online survey, written submission and quick polls tools on this page.

Drop a pin and leave a comment on our interactive map to show us places where you have noticed coastal issues, local opportunities or areas that may need future action.

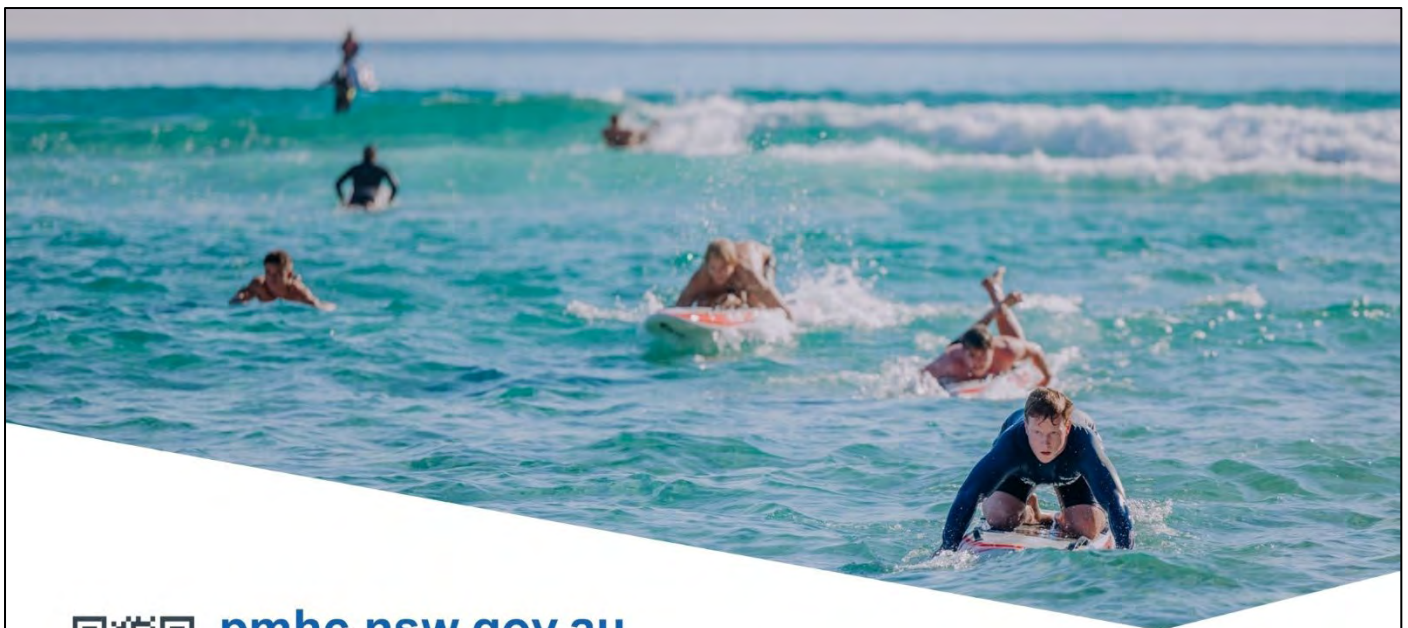
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Webinars

Two-part Coastal Management explainer



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