



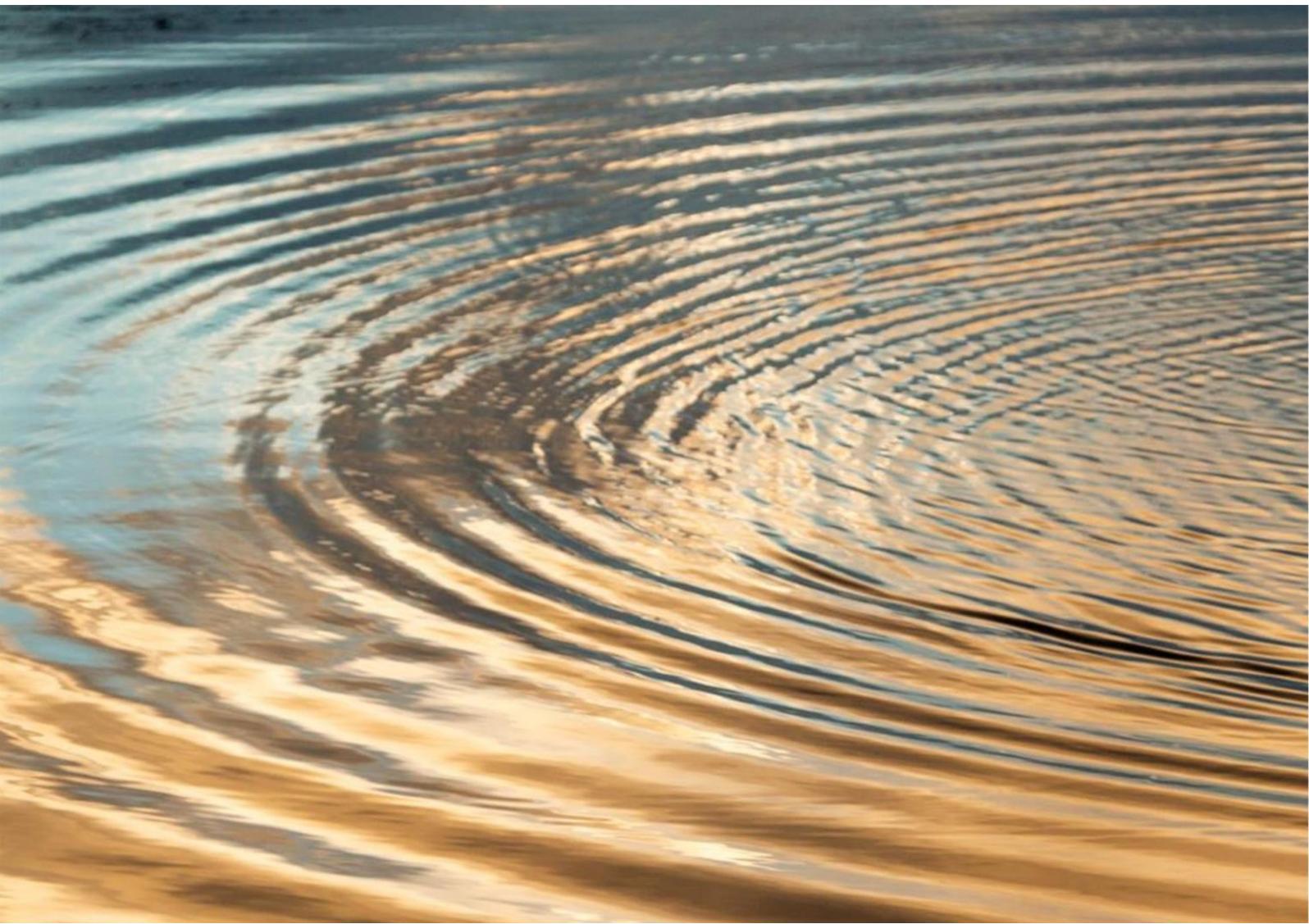
Consultation Outcomes Report

Central Coast Water Security Plan

Central Coast Council

04 November 2021

→ **The Power of Commitment**



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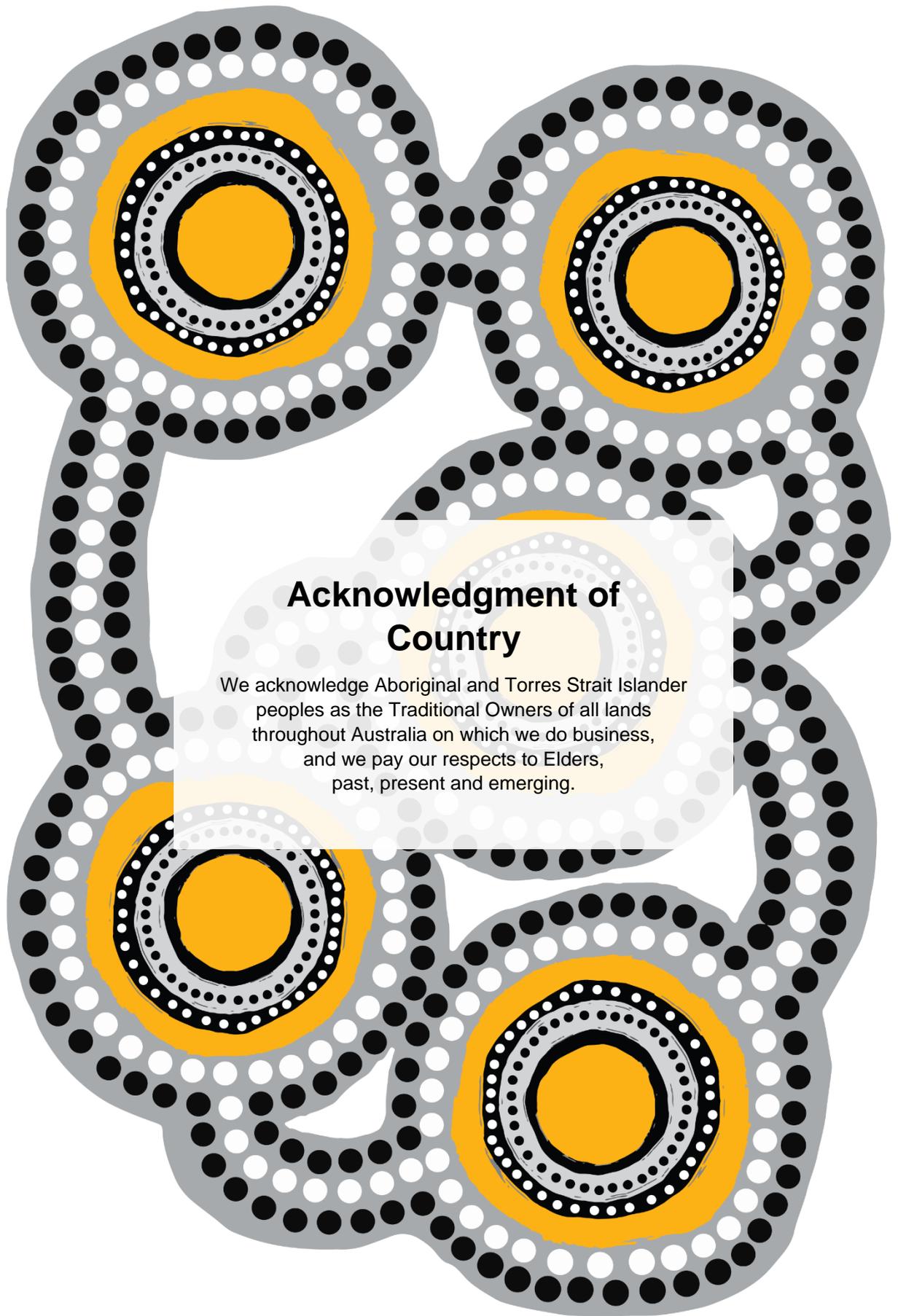
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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of all lands throughout Australia on which we do business, and we pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Executive summary

This engagement outcomes report outlines the feedback received from key Aboriginal community members and stakeholders within the Central Coast Council LGA resulting from GHD's engagement program on Central Coast Council's Water Security Plan. This engagement program was undertaken between the period of April 2021 and August 2021.

Central Coast Council and GHD wish to thank all of those who attended meetings and online workshops, and gave freely of their insights and opinions.

Stakeholders engaged

During this engagement period, GHD engaged with the following stakeholder groups within the Central Coast Council LGA:

- Darkinjung LALC.
- The Wollotuka Institute – Central Coast.
- Barang Regional Alliance.
- Service providers such as representatives from Yerin Aboriginal Health Services.
- Wider community.
- Youth.
- Traditional Custodians.

Engagement activities

During the period of engagement April 2021 and August 2021, GHD undertook the following activities:

- In person meetings with key stakeholders to introduce the project, understand communication networks within the Community, and to confirm Indigenous Cultural Values relating to water.
- Online workshops with wider community, service providers and youth to seek feedback on the WSP.
- Close the loop email issued to all engagement participants.

Our engagement program was required to transition to online due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

Engagement outcomes

Our engagement identified participant attitudes towards each of the 9 water security options. During a workshop, participants were asked to rank from strongly oppose (1) to strongly approve (10) their preferences for each option. A summary of the findings from this exercise is outlined below.

Method	Rating out of 10 (1 – strongly oppose, 10 – strongly support)
Conservation of water	8.15
Recycled water (non-drinking purposes)	7.05
Purified recycled water (for drinking)	6.16
Raising Mangrove Creek Dam	4.88
Water transfer pipeline from Mangrove Creek Weir to Mangrove Creek Dam	5.2
Desalination <i>A desalination plant constructed adjoining Toukley Sewage Treatment Plant with an ocean intake off Norah Head.</i>	5.29
Use of groundwater	6.63
Stormwater harvesting – Rainwater tank scheme	7.62
Water sharing between regions	5.77

Recommended next steps

This engagement program successfully met the objectives set out at the start of the project. The outcomes of this engagement program will be used, alongside wider community feedback, to inform the final Water Security Plan.

To ensure Council continue to maintain relationships with stakeholder built during this engagement program, GHD recommend consideration of the following activities:

- Reach out to participants of this engagement program to notify them of further engagement opportunities including:
 - Public exhibition of the Water Security Plan.
 - Consultation activities resulting from the planning of the Water Security options and portfolios that are endorsed from the WSP.
 - Continue to build relationships with Traditional Custodians to further understand Indigenous Cultural water values in the region.

GHD will organise a wrap up meeting with Council to discuss handing over relationships with the stakeholders to Council's engagement team. The outcomes of this engagement program will be used, alongside wider community feedback, to inform the final Water Security Plan.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

As the Central Coast population grows, so does the demand for water. However, current infrastructure can only supply the Central Coast LGA with a limited amount of water. To address ways to grow water supply in the region to meet future demand levels, Central Coast Council are in the process of developing a Water Security Plan (WSP).

Central Coast Council (Council) has to date been consulting with the wider Central Coast community on the development of a Water Security Plan. To capture the feedback of the Indigenous Community within the LGA, Council engaged GHD to undertake an Indigenous Community Engagement Program to capture Indigenous Cultural Water Values and feedback on the various water demand and supply options currently being considered, so it can be captured as part of the decision-making process for the WSP.

1.1.1 Engagement objectives

GHD's engagement objectives for this project were as follows:

- Inform the Aboriginal community about the Water Security Plan.
- Seek feedback from the Aboriginal community about the options in the Plan and its potential impacts on the Aboriginal community and cultural values.
- Build an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values related to water through ongoing development of relationships with Traditional Custodians and key stakeholder groups in the area.
- Provide inputs to the Water Security Plan that reflect feedback received from Aboriginal Communities during this engagement.
- Continue and build upon ongoing and meaningful relationships between the local Aboriginal Community and Central Coast Council.

1.2 Purpose of this report

This report provides a summary of the feedback received from Community and stakeholders resulting from GHD's community engagement program on the Water Security Plan. This report summarises the stakeholder groups engaged, the activities undertaken, and the feedback received. This report will also provide some recommendations to support Central Coast Council in the delivery of further Indigenous community engagement to support the WSP.

1.3 Scope and limitations

This report: has been prepared by GHD for Central Coast Council and may only be used and relied on by Central Coast Council for the purpose agreed between GHD and Central Coast Council as set out in section 1.2 of this report.

GHD otherwise disclaims responsibility to any person other than Central Coast Council arising in connection with this report. GHD also excludes implied warranties and conditions, to the extent legally permissible.

The services undertaken by GHD in connection with preparing this report were limited to those specifically detailed in the report and are subject to the scope limitations set out in the report.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on conditions encountered and information reviewed at the date of preparation of the report. GHD has no responsibility or obligation to update this report to account for events or changes occurring subsequent to the date that the report was prepared.

The opinions, conclusions and any recommendations in this report are based on assumptions made by GHD described in this report. GHD disclaims liability arising from any of the assumptions being incorrect.

2. Approach and activities

GHD developed an engagement strategy to guide the engagement program. The sections below summarise the engagement approach and activities in line with the engagement strategy.

2.1 Engagement approach

In developing the community and stakeholder engagement strategy, two key elements informed the engagement approach and subsequent activities. The first was to establish contact with key Aboriginal stakeholders operating within the LGA, building the foundation for an ongoing working relationship between these stakeholders and Council, and establishing a wide network of contacts for further engagement. The second was to share the information about the WSP already provided to the wider Central Coast LGA, informing Aboriginal stakeholders of the project to gather their feedback.

As a result, the engagement approach was tailored in stages. These included:

- Stakeholder identification (refer to Aboriginal Engagement Plan in Appendix D), project introduction and relationship building.
- Wider Community Engagement.
- Close the loop.

2.1.1 Understanding community context

GHD undertook desktop research to help inform understanding of Indigenous Cultural water values. Findings from this desktop research will help to strengthen the findings from the engagement program. As part of this desktop research, the following documents were reviewed:

- *A Literature Review on Indigenous Water Values in the Hunter Valley*, Hunter Water Board, Produced by Umulliko Research Division, Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle, written by Joshua Gilbert and Sarah Grant, 18 April 2019.
- *Indigenous Community Consultation, Water Values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Hunter Water's area of operation*, Hunter Water Corporation, Produced by the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle, 23 October 2020.
- *Hunter Water Dam Investigation Areas (Upper Chichester and Limeburners Creek) – Cultural Values (Letter)*, Ashley O'Sullivan, Senior Archaeologist, Umwelt, 29 April 2020.

The literature review is attached in Appendix C as summarises general outcomes, conclusions and recommendations from the literature that were kept in mind by the project team as we commenced the engagement activities.

2.1.2 Changes to engagement approach due to COVID-19 restrictions

COVID-19 and associated restrictions present an ongoing risk to face to face engagement. During our engagement program, COVID-19 restrictions meant that we could no longer deliver a face-to-face engagement program. To manage this, GHD shifted our approach to an online engagement program, whilst still meeting the engagement objectives highlighted in Section 1.1.1. In place of face-to-face activities, GHD offered the following online alternatives:

- Online workshops.
- Live online polling / quizzes and a YouTube video to make the content more interesting.
- Use of visual tools.
- Incentives to encourage participation.

2.2 Summary of engagement activities

The engagement activities were undertaken between 19 April 2021 and 23 August 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, GHD were required to undertake online engagement. The following tools were used throughout the program to engage with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders:

- Phone calls
- Face to face meetings
- Fact sheets and posters
- Online workshops:
 - Live polling
 - Quizzes
 - YouTube video
- Emails
- Incentives

Online platforms were prioritised during the engagement program due to COVID-19 government restrictions and physical distancing requirements. A summary of number and uptake of engagement activities is provided in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Summary of engagement activities

Activity	Audience	Attendees	Date
Face to face meetings (Meeting notes Appendix A)	Darkinjung LALC Wollotuka Institute	4	31/05/2021
Online meeting	Barang Alliance	2	24/06/2021
Online workshop: Session 1 (Presentation & Menti Polls Appendix B)	Wollotuka Institute students and staff	12	3/08/2021
Online workshop: Session 2	Barang Alliance, Darkinjung LALC Yerin Health Others	25	12/08/2021
Close the loop email	All attendees where contact is able to be made.	30 – 40	tbc

Face to face meetings

GHD coordinated and attended two, face to face meetings with two key Aboriginal stakeholders that operate in the Central Coast Council LGA. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the project, seek initial feedback on the portfolio and options, and understand further engagement opportunities with the wider community. These meetings also helped to understand cultural values to water.

Two separate meetings were held on the 31 May 2021, with the Darkinjung LALC & the Wollotuka Institute.

Online meeting

GHD hosted one online meeting with two representatives of the Barang Alliance on 24/06/2021. During this meeting, GHD introduced the project to attendees for further consideration. Whilst no feedback on the portfolio options was provided at the time of the meeting, the session was valuable in identifying additional contacts for wider community consultation. The Barang Alliance assisted with sourcing attendees for one of the online workshops in August.

Online workshops

GHD worked closely with Central Coast Council to plan and deliver two online workshops to various community members, service providers and staff associated with key Aboriginal stakeholders. The sessions were held on two separate days, and ran for approximately 1.5 hours each, as highlighted in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 Online workshop summary

Session	Date / Time	Attendees (groups)	Number of Attendees
Session 1	3/08/2021	Wollotuka Institute students and staff	12
Session 2	12/08/2021	Barang Alliance Darkinjung LALC Yerin Health Others	25

The objectives of the session were to:

- Share information about the WSP, and each of the different options with attendees.
- Seek feedback via live polling on each of the water security options.
- Understand attendee experience with drought.
- Understand Indigenous cultural water values.

The session was facilitated by GHD through Zoom, with a PowerPoint presentation used to guide discussion. A screen capture of the session is shown in Figure 2.1.

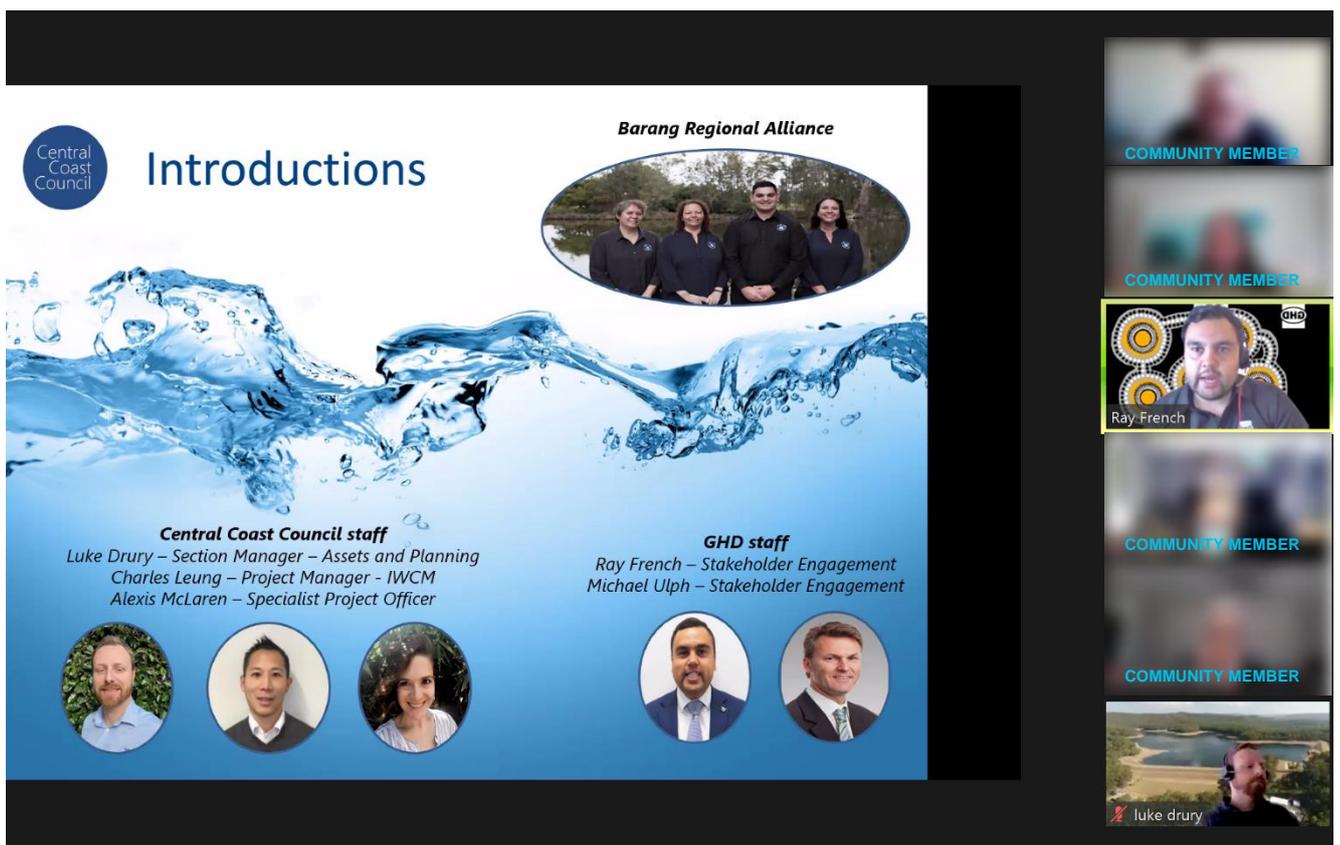


Figure 2.1 Screen capture - online workshop

Live polling

GHD used live polling, through [Menti Meter](#) to gather instant quantitative feedback from attendees about each of the water conservation options. Participants logged into the platform using a QR code and rated their level of support for each of the options from 1 (do not support) to 10 (strongly support) (Figure 2.2).

Open ended questions were also used during the session to understand; where attendees are from, and what their values are towards water.

Menti Meter was a useful tool to help facilitate this workshop as it gave all attendees the opportunity to provide their feedback without feeling like they needed to speak in front of the group if they weren't comfortable doing so. This helped maximise engagement during the sessions.



Figure 2.2 Live polling screen capture - Menti Meter

Close the loop

Closing the loop with all participants is an important component of GHD's engagement program as it allows participants to see how their feedback has been captured, and the next steps for further engagement. Closing the loop also helps to achieve the project objective of building the foundations of relationships between Central Coast Council and the Aboriginal community within the LGA.

To close the loop, GHD will distribute a 'close the loop' email to all stakeholders where contact information is available. The email will include a copy of GHD's outcomes report (this document) and encourage recipients to distribute the email to other engagement participants for comment. GHD will also provide contact information for appropriate Council representatives, who will then be able to carry the relationship forward.

3. Engagement outcomes

Throughout this engagement program, GHD aimed to capture two key streams of feedback:

1. Understanding of Indigenous Cultural Values to water.
2. Feedback on the supply options that inform their Water Security Plan.

The following section of this report summarises this feedback, which was received through each of the engagement activities outlined in Section 2.

3.1 Water security options

The Water Security Plan is made up of a series of water security options. Each option fits into one or more portfolio option, which form part of the WSP, as demonstrated in the graphic below (Figure 3.1).

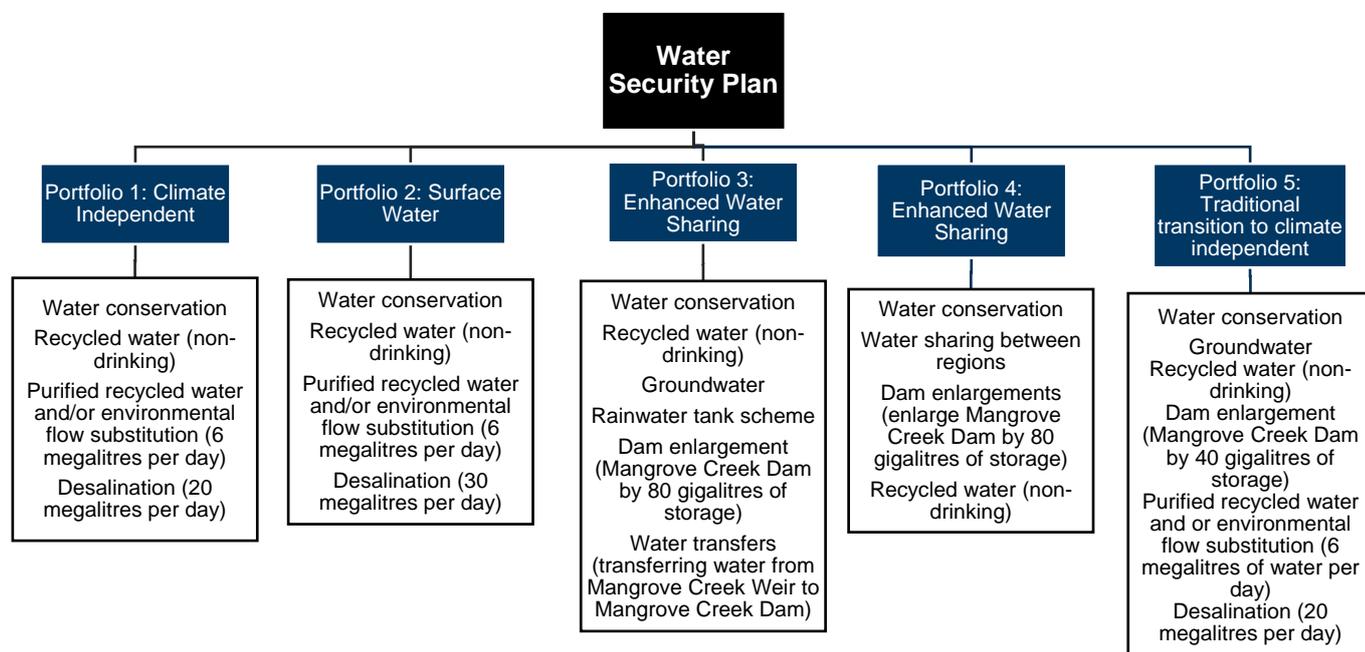


Figure 3.1 Water Security Plan structure

During each of the engagement activities highlighted in Section 2.2, the team sought feedback from attendees on each of the nine water security options that make up each of the five portfolios. The table (Table 3.1) below summarises the feedback received from participants from all engagement activities, the face-to-face meetings, and the online workshops. The table also identifies the community attitudes towards each of the water security options that arose from the desktop research.

The comments below have been de-identified to preserve stakeholder and organisational privacy.

Table 3.1 Summary of feedback received – Water Security Options

Method	Portfolio	GHD's engagement activities		GHD's desktop research
		Rating out of 10 (1 – strongly oppose, 10 – strongly support)	Feedback received (engagement activities)	Views highlighted
Conservation of water	All portfolios (1-5)	8.15	No comments	No comments
Recycled water (non-drinking purposes)	All Portfolios (1-5)	7.05	No comments	Mixed views on recycled water - acceptance for recycled water for purposes other than drinking Preferred recycled water over a dam, general preference for alternative water conservation measures to be explored. Saw opportunities for commercial and agricultural uses. Further understanding about environmental impacts of recycled water is required Testing of recycled water to be conducted in terms of natural systems, using <u>native</u> plants and fish species as test cases
Purified recycled water (for drinking)	Portfolios 1, 2 & 5	6.16	No comments	Mixed views on recycled water - acceptance for recycled water for purposes other than drinking
Water transfer pipeline from Mangrove Creek Weir to Mangrove Creek Dam	Portfolios 3, 4 & 5	5.2	Existing midden sites are already inundated in and around Mangrove Creek Dam.	No comments
Raising Mangrove Creek Dam	Portfolios 3, 4 & 5	4.88	Existing midden sites are already inundated in and around Mangrove Creek Dam.	Place by place consultation with local community regarding dam location Preference for greater emphasis to be placed on water conservation methods Understanding that dams had a negative impact on water systems and downstream natural waterflow. Consideration of the whole landscape required. Any proposed dam option should consider the impacts to the landscape from a cultural perspective and ensure consultation with the local community is thorough and ongoing. Likelihood of archaeological presence within dam inundation areas.

Method	Portfolio	GHD's engagement activities		GHD's desktop research
		Rating out of 10 (1 – strongly oppose, 10 – strongly support)	Feedback received (engagement activities)	Views highlighted
Desalination <i>A desalination plant constructed adjoining Toukley Sewage Treatment Plant with an ocean intake off Norah Head.</i>	Portfolios 1, 2 & 5	5.29	There are middens and burials around Norah Head – recommend heritage investigations in proposed desalination plant locations. Not supportive of desalination plants due to its' existing and potential future impacts on salt levels and ecosystem such as bird and fish life.	No comments
Use of groundwater	Portfolios 3 & 5	6.63	Not supported – considered to have slow but definite impacts. Concern about extracting reserved groundwater that takes time to recharge or not at all i.e., water for trees	No comments relating to groundwater however it was noted that groundwater is a fundamental aspect of Aboriginal culture and a strong part of the Dreamtime.
Stormwater harvesting – Rainwater tank scheme	Portfolio 3	7.62	Stormwater runoff and stormwater impacts is seen as a big problem in the area. If managed right, capturing water in reserved tanks (such as household water tanks) is an ideal option	No comments
Water sharing between regions	Portfolio 4	5.77	No comments	No comments
Other comments	n/a	n/a	Mentioned large scale killing of local fish population due to chemicals used for bushfire prevention	Consultation with Aboriginal community for any potential site for future water holdings or storage necessary Indigenous Community Engagement Officer within Council Suggest further collaboration with Aboriginal Community on sustainable management of water Consideration for all options to be done with the landscape in mind, rather than individual sites – impact culturally significant sites, means impacts to the wider landscape

4. Next steps

This engagement program successfully met the objectives set out at the start of the project. These objectives included:

- Inform the Aboriginal community about the Water Security Plan.
- Seek feedback from the Aboriginal community about the options in the Plan and its potential impacts on the Aboriginal community and cultural values.
- Build an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values related to water through ongoing development of relationships with Traditional Custodians and key stakeholder groups in the area.
- Provide inputs to the Water Security Plan that reflect feedback received from Aboriginal Communities during this engagement.
- Continue and build upon ongoing and meaningful relationships between the local Aboriginal Community and Central Coast Council.

GHD will organise a wrap up meeting with Council to discuss handing over relationships with the stakeholders to Council's engagement team.

The outcomes of this engagement program will be used, alongside wider community feedback, to inform the final Water Security Plan.

4.1 GHD recommendations

To ensure Council continue to meet the final objective indicated above, GHD recommend consideration of the following activities:

- Reach out to participants of this engagement program to notify them of further engagement opportunities including:
 - Public exhibition of the Water Security Plan.
 - Consultation activities resulting from the planning of the Water Security options and portfolios that are endorsed from the WSP.
 - Continue to build relationships with Traditional Custodians to further understand Indigenous Cultural water values in the region.

GHD will organise a wrap up meeting with Council to discuss handing over relationships with the stakeholders to Council's engagement team.

Appendices

Appendix A

Face to face meeting notes

Memo

To	Charles Leung		
Copy to	Nathan Malcolm, Alexis McLaren		
From	Michael Ulph	Tel	[REDACTED]
Subject	IWRP - Discussions with Indigenous Key Stakeholders 31 May 2021	Project no.	12550291

Meeting with [REDACTED], Darkinjung LALC Senior Culture and Heritage Officer:

- Yerrin Health a good contact re: water impacts. Poor access to water for Aboriginal communities mentioned as a health impact.
- Next LALC members meeting is at the end of June with the main agenda item being community land and business plan. Little room for added agenda items.
- Next LALC members meeting will be July or August.
- There are Middens and burials around Norah Head, but the heritage fieldwork process is best to use once they have zeroed in on possible sites for desalination if happening. Coastal burials also mentioned around these sites.
- Existing midden sites already inundated in and around Mangrove Creek Dam.
- Option of repatriation for artifacts within potential project sites, work done on this for previous projects.
- A simplified poster for the LALC along with the fact sheets would be good.

[REDACTED] (Traditional Custodian / Darkinjung language holder, Elder in residence / Researcher – Wollotuka Institute) & Tahleigha Compton (Student Advancement Officer – Wollotuka Institute, Aboriginal Central Coast resident)

- Water is very important as a giver of life.
- Would like to show us Tuggerah Lakes.
- Tuggerah Lakes relies on rainwater, not tidal in terms of healthy water levels.
- Foreign introduced weed in Tuggerah Lakes (from Africa?) changing makeup of local ecosystem and overriding native weeds, potential issues regarding stormwater and water runoff.
- Re: EFS – concern about mullet spawning above the weir – what would the impacts be? Bass also mentioned with spawning concerns.
- If EFS was chosen, could timing be adjusted to take spawning into consideration.
- Not supportive of desalination plants due to its' existing and potential future impacts on salt levels and ecosystem such as bird and fish life.
- Mentioned large scale killing of local fish population due to chemicals used for bushfire prevention
- Not keen on groundwater extraction as it has slow but definite impacts. Concern about extracting reserved (ground)water that takes time to recharge or not at all i.e. Water for trees
- Continual clearing of land for housing development is not given much thought in terms of the soil and trees maintained to capture rainwater within groundwater basins
- Water quality is a big issue such as sewage leakages after rain periods. Takes several days for water quality to recover to have the ability to fish, swim etc needs to be maintained, but has reduced over time.

- Stormwater runoff and stormwater impacts is seen as a big problem in the area. If managed right, capturing water in reserved tanks (such as household water tanks) is an ideal option if project goes down this path.
- Water tanks could help with both problems, and other stormwater harvesting may help also.
-
- Refers to Vicky Parry – CEO of Barang Alliance (sister of Barry Duncan, LALC Board member) and also Chair of Yerrin Health Services.
- A poster summarising the options / portfolios could be placed at the Uni with the fact sheets nearby. Mention of a workshop with students to discuss further.

Appendix B

Online workshop presentation

Central
Coast
Council



“Water for the Future”

Thanks to





Acknowledgement of Country



~

Central Coast Council would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Introductions

Barang Regional Alliance



Central Coast Council staff

*Luke Drury – Section Manager – Assets and Planning
Charles Leung – Project Manager - IWCM
Alexis McLaren – Specialist Project Officer*



GHD staff

*Ray French – Stakeholder Engagement
Michael Ulph – Stakeholder Engagement*





Agenda

- Where are you from?
- Background to the IWP project
- Water demand and supply – the options
 - Video
 - Step by step
- Your responses
- Drought experience
- Indigenous water values
- Q & A

We will be recording the session today – just for reporting purposes.



Success looks like



- There are no right or wrong answers
-



- Please let everyone express their views
-



- Ask for clarification if needed through 'chat'
-



- Please mute yourself during the presentations
- Keep your smart phone handy

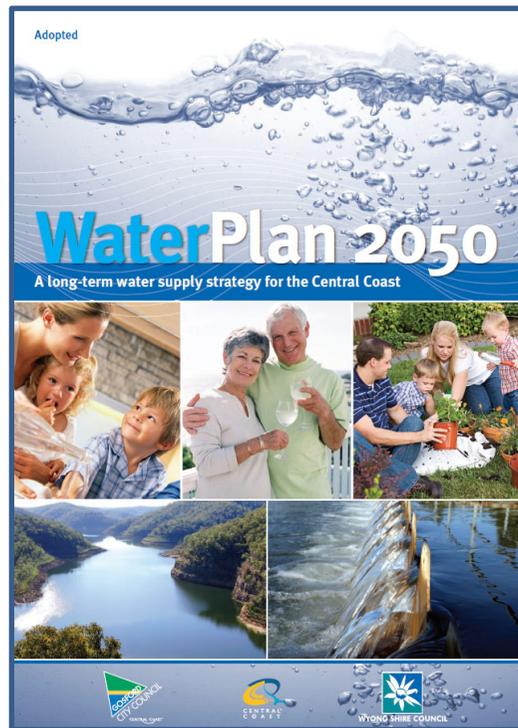
Where are you from?



Where is your Country, Spiritual home, or place you associate with?

<https://www.menti.com/divuj1ms7a>

Background



WaterPlan 2050

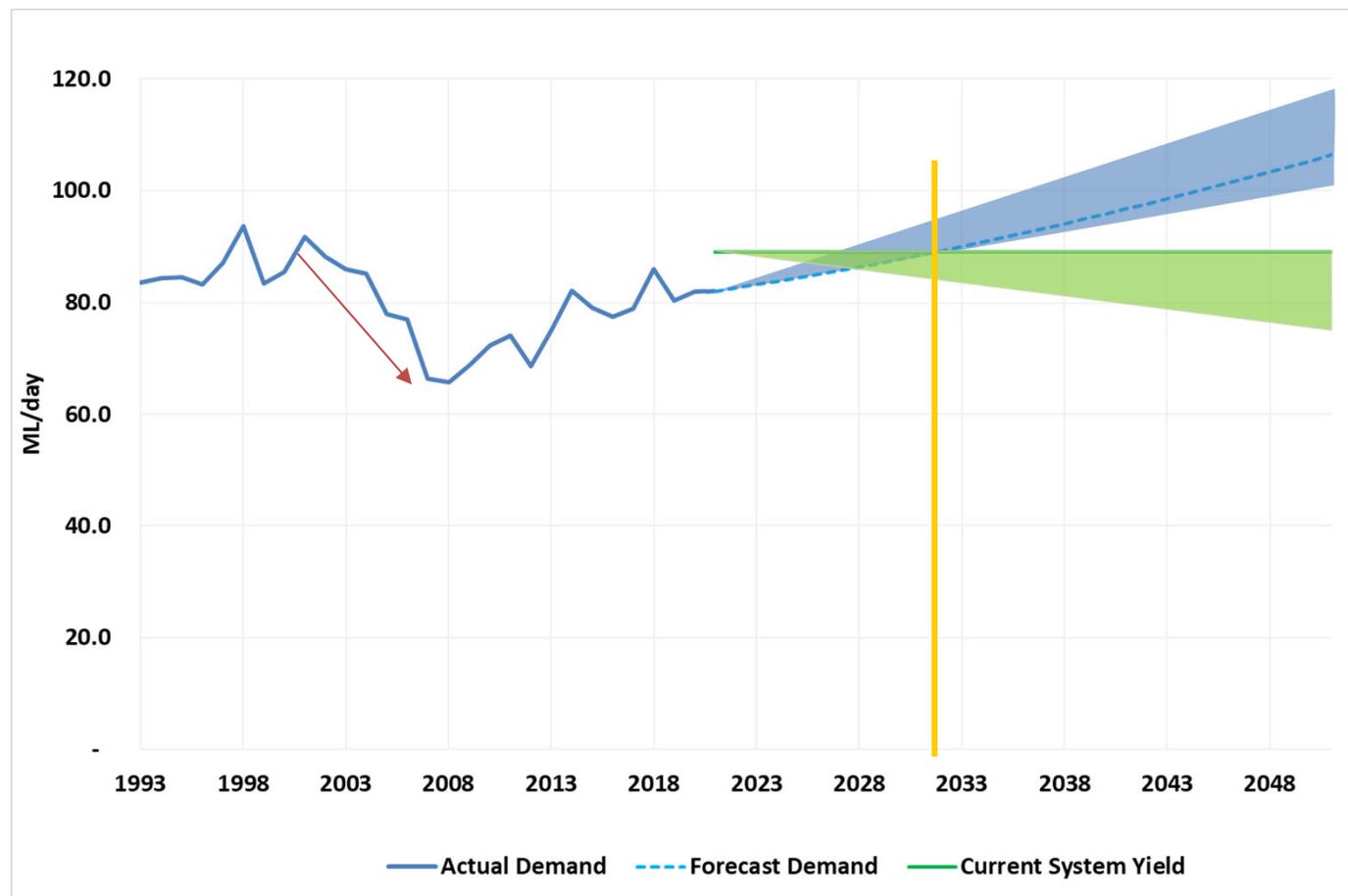
- Adopted in 2007
- Focus on drought security
- Outlines a range of measures to respond to drought and manage long term supply/demand balance



centralcoast.nsw.gov.au



Projected supply/demand balance

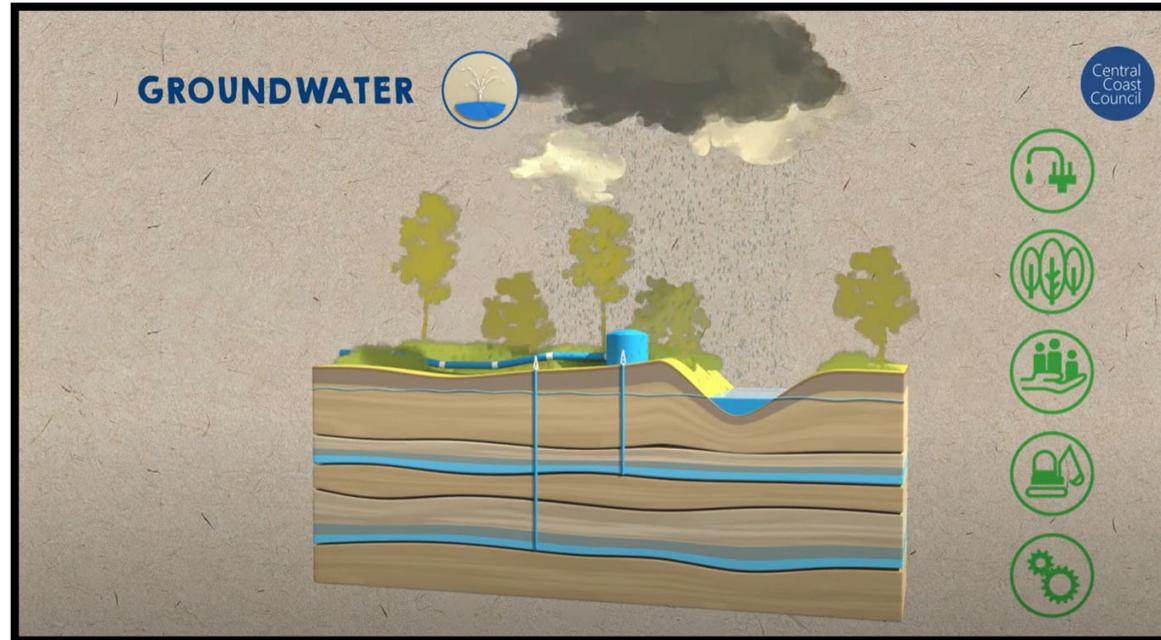


~ 82ML/d ~ 106ML/d (2051) ~89ML/d



Addressing the water challenge





Video

– a quick intro to the options being considered

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eicFjwiwLgI>

Reducing demand for water

Water Conservation



 Low water yield

 Low build cost

 Low operational cost

 Low social impact

 Low environmental impact

 Low reliability

Reducing demand for water

Rain Water Tanks – Rebate Program



Yield: 3.4 ML/d

Build: \$224 M

Operate: \$2.2 M/yr



Low social impact



Low environmental impact



Low reliability

Reducing demand for water

Recycled Water (non-drinking)



Yield: 1.1 ML/d

Build: \$6.6 M

Operate \$0.2 M/yr



Low social impact



Low environmental impact



Highly reliable alternative

Questions?



Poll



Tell us what you think.

Go back to the Mentimeter site and take the 1-slide survey.

<https://www.menti.com/divuj1ms7a>



centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

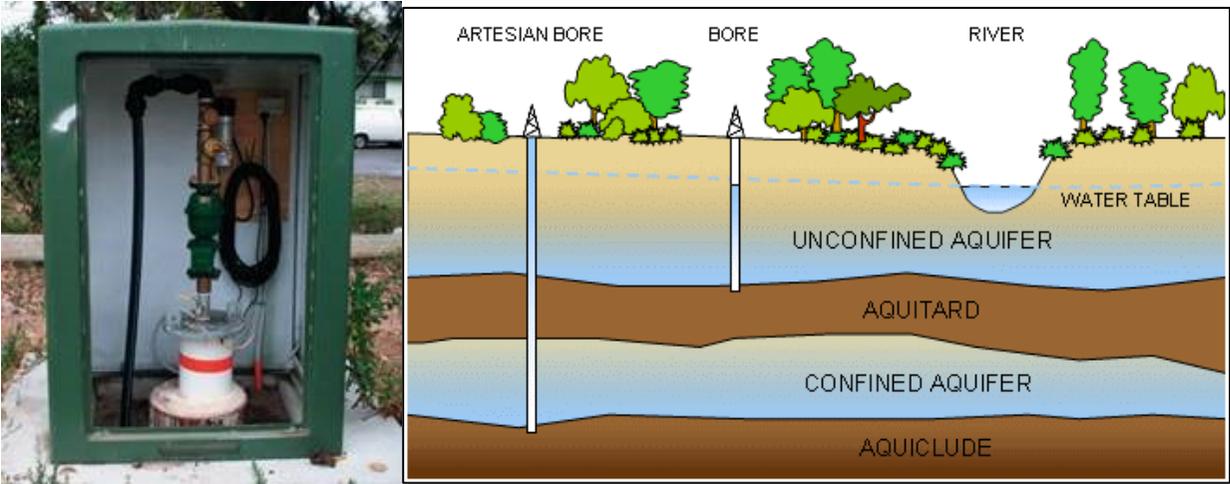
Increasing supply of water

Groundwater

Yield: 5 ML/d

Build: \$0.5 M

Operate \$0.4 M/yr



Low social impact



Low environmental impact



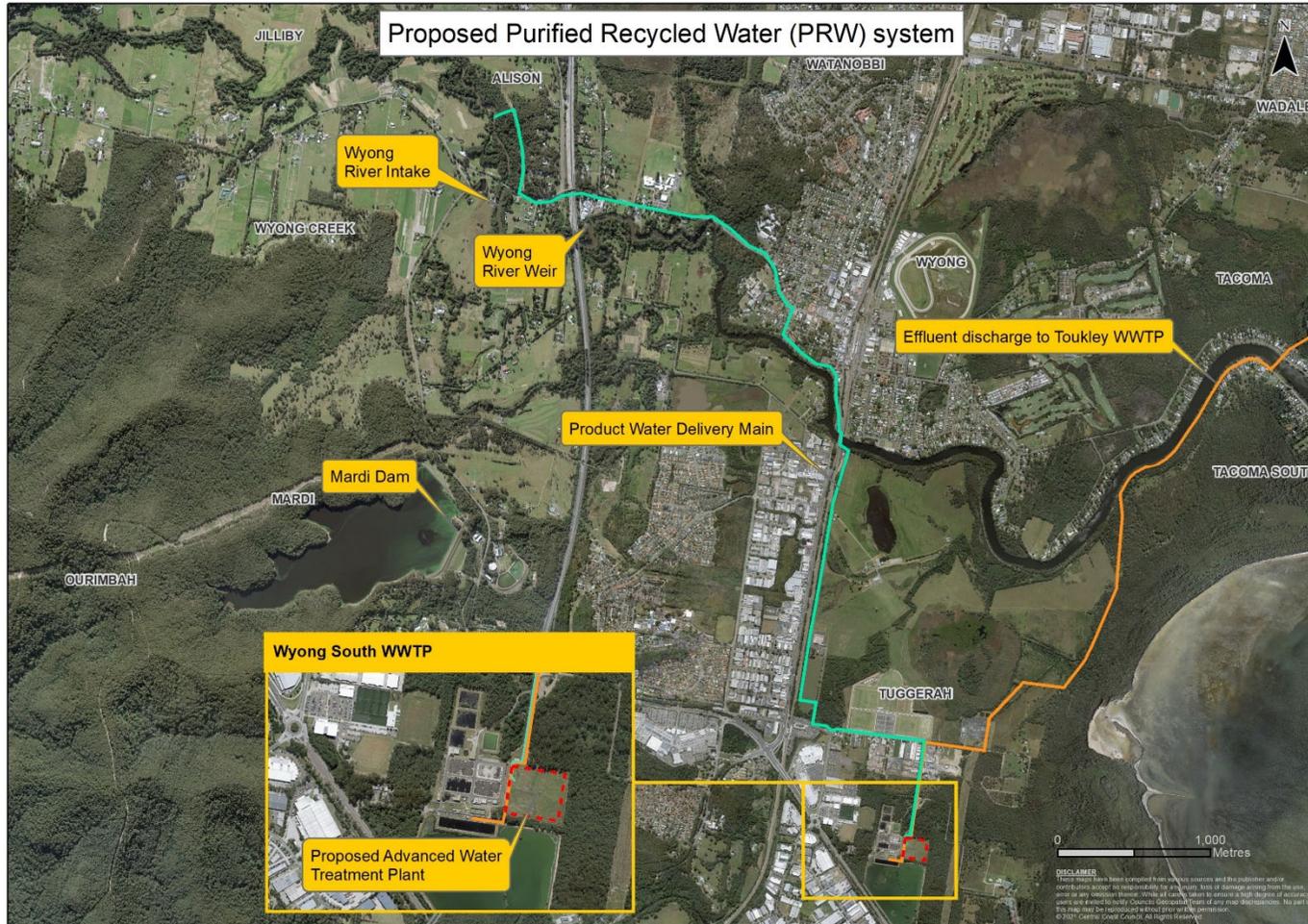
Highly reliable supply

Image from UNSW (2017)



Increasing supply of water

Purified Recycled Water – for drinking



Yield: 6 ML/d

Build: \$48 M

Operate: \$1.5 M/yr



Low social impact



Low environmental impact



Highly reliable supply



Increasing supply of water

Desalination



Yield: 20 - 30 ML/d

Build: \$206 - 230 M

Operate: \$11 - 16 M/yr



Low social impact



Medium environmental impact



Highly reliable supply



Questions?



Poll



Tell us what you think.

Go back to the Mentimeter site and take the 1-slide survey.

<https://www.menti.com/divuj1ms7a>



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Increasing supply of water

Dams

(40 or 80 GL enlargement)



Mangrove Creek Dam

Yield: 5.8 – 10 ML/d

Build: \$134 – 259 M

**Operate:
\$0.7 – 1.3 M/yr**



Medium social impact



High environmental impact



Reliable supply

Increasing supply of water

Water Sharing + 80 GL Dam enlargement



Yield: 60 ML/d

Build: \$357 M

Operate: \$2.2 M/yr



Low social impact



Low environmental impact



Reliable supply



Mardi to Warnervale Pipeline

Central Coast Water System

centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Questions?



Poll



Tell us what you think.

Go back to the Mentimeter site and take the 1-slide survey.

<https://www.menti.com/divuj1ms7a>



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Water – Culture – Your Experiences

- 💧 Drought - 2019
- 💧 Impacts to rural areas
- 💧 Impacts on you?
- 💧 Impacts on your Mob?





Indigenous water values

We want to know what comes to mind when we mention Indigenous water values.

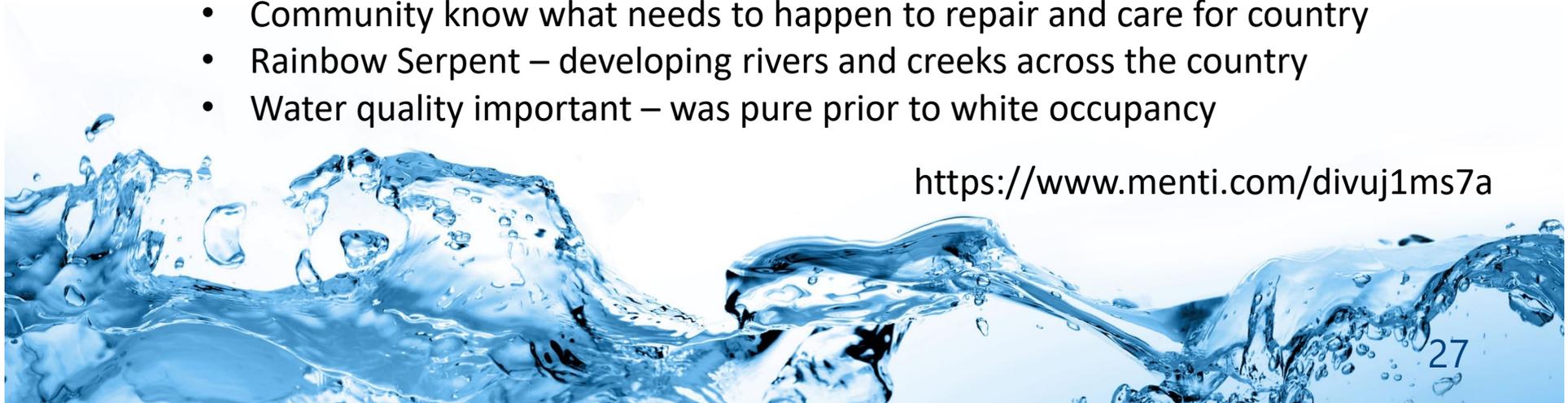
Go back to the Mentimeter site and add your word or words to the collection.



Wollotuka Institute research for Hunter Water – Indigenous water values

- Water is life
- Cultural values and perspectives are living and changing
- Engagement with knowledge holders is important
- Community know what needs to happen to repair and care for country
- Rainbow Serpent – developing rivers and creeks across the country
- Water quality important – was pure prior to white occupancy

<https://www.menti.com/divuj1ms7a>



Next Steps

Central
Coast
Council



Next Steps

Central
Coast
Council



- Currently - finalising draft CCWSP
- Mid to late August - Draft CCWSP under Council review
- 24/8 – Council to endorse CCWSP
- 31/8 – CCWSP on Public Exhibition for 4 weeks
- Oct – Review of feedback
- Dec – submission to DPIE

<https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterplan>



Appendix C

Literature Review

30 April 2021

Central Coast Council (NSW)

Our ref: 24DJSZNHUEPC-
1850682920-7
Your ref:

Indigenous engagement - Central Coast Council Water Security Plan Literature Review based on information from LHWSP

1 Background

This letter presents a summary of the information found in the Hunter Water literature prepared for the Lower Hunter Water Security Plan (LHWSP), related to the options being explored by Central Coast Council as part of their Water Security Plan (CCWSP). The literature reviewed is listed below:

- *A Literature Review on Indigenous Water Values in the Hunter Valley*, Hunter Water Board, Produced by Unulliko Research Division, Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle, written by Joshua Gilbert and Sarah Grant, 18 April 2019
- *Indigenous Community Consultation, Water Values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Hunter Water's area of operation*, Hunter Water Corporation, Produced by the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle, 23 October 2020
- *Hunter Water Dam Investigation Areas (Upper Chichester and Limeburners Creek) – Cultural Values* (Letter), Ashley O'Sullivan, Senior Archaeologist, Umwelt, 29 April 2020

2 Options explored by Central Coast Council and relevant information in the literature

A list of the options being explored and options not progressing into Portfolios as part of the CCWSP are presented in the following table.

Options being explored	Options not progressing
Water conservation measures	Mine water
Expand existing sewerage treatment plan based on recycling scheme	Toobys Creek Dam
Environmental flow substitution / purified recycled water	Mardi to Mangrove Transfer Resilience Works
Desalination	Shared investment in desalination
Increase groundwater utilisation	New dual reticulation recycled water schemes
Rainwater tank retrofit	New catchment scale stormwater harvesting

Dam enlargement (Mangrove Creek Dam)	Scarcity pricing
Increase catchment and storage connectivity, i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove Creek Weir to Mangrove Creek Dam pipeline and weir raising • Increase Central Coast and Lower Hunter Inter-regional transfer capacity 	

This literature review does not provide further detail on options not progressing. Where information was found for options being explored, this is discussed in the subsequent sections, namely; future dams, recycled water and groundwater. General outcomes, conclusions and recommendations from the literature are also presented.

2.1 Dams

2.1.1 Participant views

Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) were consulted to find their views on the construction of future dams. Participants had mixed views, noting that consideration would have to be provided by the local Aboriginal community in the location of the proposed dam works, and this should be done on a place by place basis.

Some held views that previous dams had damaged the water system, noting that trees growing in and around the water systems indicating that current methods don't work. It was also noted that damming impacts natural waterflow downstream, with strong consideration advised to be given to this as part of the whole landscape (i.e. waterways should continue to flow where possible).

To further cater to the growing population, participants preferred that additional effort is put into exploring how to better capture and utilise the existing catchment areas, and minimise the impact on existing undisturbed areas.

From informal discussions with a number of Aboriginal organisations, it was also noted:

- Any proposed dam option should consider the impacts to the landscape from a cultural perspective and ensure consultation with the local community is thorough and ongoing.
- Areas such as those located within the dam investigation areas are largely representative of what the original landscape would have looked like prior to European occupation. Environments such as this are continuing to decrease in number due to the ongoing urban expansion and infrastructure development. As a result, these remnant landscapes are becoming rare and their inherent cultural value increases with ongoing development practices.

2.1.2 Archaeological presence within dam inundation areas

The following points summarise areas with dam impact/inundation areas where there is a higher likelihood of aboriginal occupation, artifacts and cultural significance:

- Low inclination slopes or creek flats with access to reliable water sources but that are not subject to regular inundation. Outside of these landforms, artifact density is likely lower or more sparsely distributed.
- Grinding grooves may occur within the project area if outcrops of suitable sandstone occur along watercourses within the project area.
- The likelihood of rock engraving or rock shelter sites within the project area can be estimated at a desktop level based on landform mapping. Sections of escarpment formation and ridgelines/crests at substantial elevation are locations where rock engraving/stone arrangement sites are typically found.
- The distribution of scarred trees is less predictable on a landform basis and more reliant on the presence of old-growth trees.

2.2 Recycled water

Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) were consulted to explore their views on the opportunity and use of recycled water. While there were mixed views on recycled water, there was generally acceptance if it was to be used for purposes other than drinking water.

Recycled water was generally preferred over damming, however, the participants preferred exploring opportunities to reduce overall water usage above dams and water recycling. Participants saw agricultural and commercial activities as suitable uses for recycled water. Water pricing was discussed as an option to reduce water usage.

Some participants considered the idea of recycled water a good way forward, but would like to understand the potential impacts as this process is not currently commonplace. Others thought that pumping 'sludge' back into the ocean also created an environment for bottom feeder organisms such as shrimp to help restore some of the ecosystem as well.

Participants suggested that where recycled water (or even water run-off) was being monitored and tested, testing should also be conducted in terms of natural systems, using native plants and fish species as test cases. Some referred to hardy European species being relied upon to demonstrate that activities had no impacts on water systems, however this was not considered a true representation of the receiving environment.

2.3 Groundwater

The literature reviewed does not contain any consultation notes in regards to the potential use of groundwater. However, the literature does note that groundwater is a fundamental aspect of Aboriginal culture and a strong part of the Dreamtime. There are many Dreamtime stories that relate to water. These stories were used as a way of understanding hydrological processes. Additionally, Aboriginal art typically represented groundwater sites. In desert regions this was particularly common, as the dots would represent groundwater sources.

2.4 General outcomes, conclusions and recommendations from the literature

The following points are general outcomes, conclusions and recommendations from the literature applicable to the options being explored as part of the CCWSP.

- When approaching sites for future water holdings or storage, consult with local Aboriginal groups to obtain Free, Prior Informed Consent before any development.
- Consider a full-time position with the remit of conducting Indigenous Community engagement. This position would help build trust within the community and provide a regular and constant touchpoint for Indigenous people to engage.
- There are many existing examples of programs involving Indigenous Australians running throughout Australia. These programs are living examples of government and organisations working with Indigenous Australians to ensure healthy collaborations that result in sustainable use of water.
- The Victoria State Government, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning created an Aboriginal water program which aim to include traditional owners in water management. Currently, the project has worked on 10 projects, which include Aboriginal communities in waterway assessments, capacity building, and cultural values mapping.
- Participant discussions noted the importance of everything having a place, and that there is an inherent need to protect water systems within the context of protecting the whole cultural landscape. Some felt that there was an over-emphasis on protecting individual sites, rather than landscapes, which failed to consider the cultural significance of sites and how these change as the whole landscape changes
- When comparing options, it appeared that dams were viewed as least favourable, recycling for non-drinking purposes as most favourable and with groundwater potentially viewed as neutral.

Sincerely
GHD

Angus McLeod

Civil Engineer
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Appendix D

Aboriginal Engagement Plan



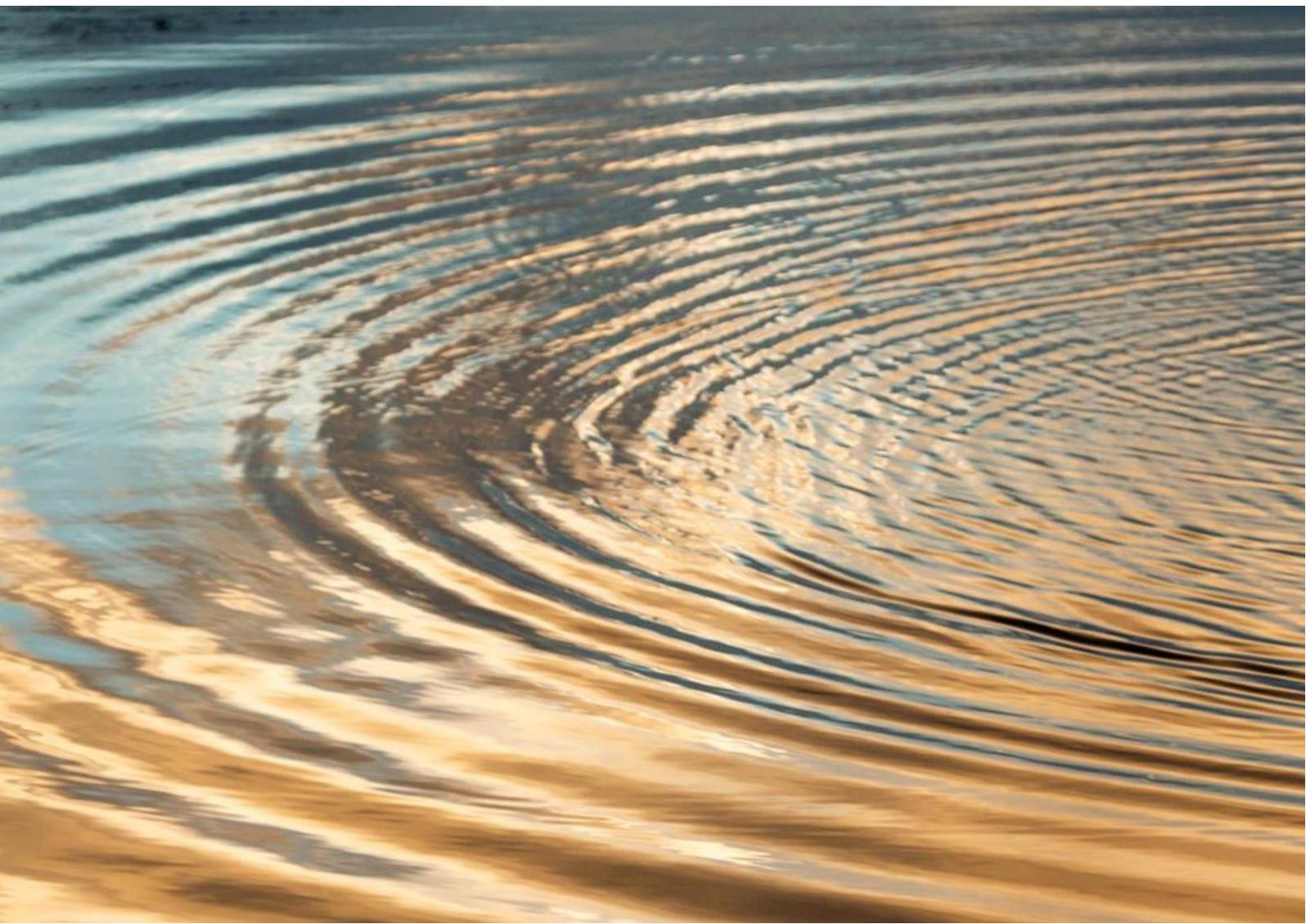
Aboriginal Engagement Plan

Draft

Central Coast Council

4 November 2021

→ **The Power of Commitment**



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Executive summary

This engagement plan details the steps we will take in consulting with key local Aboriginal stakeholders within the Central Coast Council LGA, key messaging to be shared with community, and how the resulting information will be recorded and used for the Water Security Plan project (the project).

Our engagement approach is detailed, showing the two pieces of consultation where targeted Aboriginal stakeholders will provide input on Aboriginal water values relating to the different water plan options and sites to influence the updated version of the Water Security Plan (WSP) for public exhibition and feedback, and where we will engage the wider Aboriginal community groups and services to present on updates to the project and seek their feedback and concerns on these pieces of information.

We will close the loop by feeding back to the community what we have heard, and how it will be used in the decision-making process. A handover process will leave Central Coast Council and engaged local Aboriginal members in a position of a trusting and healthy relationship moving forward for future engagement work.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Program background

Central Coast Council (Council) has to date been consulting with the wider Central Coast community on the development of a Water Security Plan (WSP). This process is to ensure the long-term water security for the growing population on the Central Coast. Council has appointed GHD to engage with various Aboriginal stakeholders and identify Indigenous water values in the LGA that may be impacted by the WSP, for those values to be considered during the decision-making process.

1.1.1 Central Coast Community

The Central Coast LGA is recognised as the sixth largest urban area in Australia and is home to Traditional Custodians the Darkinjung people. The LGA is a New South Wales coastal community located 60-90 kilometres north of Sydney, and roughly 80 kilometres south of Newcastle. The Central Coast population totals more than 300,000 people with the Indigenous community making up 3% of the local population.

1.2 Project background

1.2.1 Project objectives

We will deliver our engagement program guided by the following objectives:

- Inform the Aboriginal community about the Water Security Plan.
- Seek feedback from the Aboriginal community about the options in the Plan and its potential impacts on the Aboriginal community and cultural values.
- Build an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values related to water through ongoing development of relationships with Traditional Custodians and key stakeholder groups in the area.
- Facilitate the start of ongoing and meaningful relationships between the local Aboriginal Community and Central Coast Council.
- Provide inputs to the Water Security Plan that reflect feedback received from Aboriginal Communities during this engagement.

1.2.2 The Central Coast Water Security Plan

As the Central Coast population grows, so does the demand for water. However, current infrastructure can only supply the Central Coast LGA with a limited amount of water. To address ways to grow water supply in the region to meet future demand levels, Central Coast Council are in the process of developing a Water Security Plan, which currently consists of nine options:

1. Conservation of water.
2. Raising Mangrove Creek Dam and/or a transfer pipeline from Mangrove Creek Weir to Mangrove Creek Dam.
3. A desalination plant constructed adjoining Toukley Sewage Treatment Plant with an ocean intake off Norah Head.
4. Use of groundwater.
5. Recycled water (for non-drinking purposes).
6. Stormwater harvesting.
7. Water sharing between regions.
8. Purified recycled water for drinking.
9. Environmental flow substitution that places highly treated recycled water downstream of Wyong River weir to allow the taking of more water upstream of the weir for the drinking water supply.

Each water plan option is influenced by addressing areas of added supply of drinking water, and a drought management plan to identify water preferences in times of extended drought. The water plans are grouped into five portfolios under the following:

1. Climate independent (staged desalination capacity).
2. Climate independent (upfront capacity).
3. Surface water (traditional sources).
4. Enhanced storage and water sharing with Hunter Water Corporation.
5. Traditional transitioning to climate independent.

These portfolios are further described in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Portfolio Options summary

Portfolio	Title	Options	Purpose / Description
1	Climate independent (staged desalination capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water conservation – Recycled water (non-drinking) – Environmental flow substitution (EFS) – Purified recycled water (PRW) – Desalination 	<p>Environmental Impacts: portfolio has low/medium impact on biodiversity and higher energy use (offsets included to manage this). Option involves less treated wastewater into the environment.</p> <p>Social impacts: Purified recycled water for drinking is a new technology for the Central Coast – some interest from the community. Low cultural / heritage impacts. There will be some temporary disruption to residents during construction phase for new infrastructure.</p> <p>Reliability / Resilience: Portfolio is not rainfall independent and involves a diversity of water sources, meaning increased reliability. The portfolio infrastructure can be adapted over time to respond to changing demand.</p>
2	Climate independent (upfront capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water conservation – Recycled water (non-drinking) – EFS/PRW – Desalination 	<p>Refer to portfolio 1. Both portfolios are very similar. The one difference is that this option will provide more desalinated water than the portfolio above, this has the following implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water supply scheme would be capable of meeting majority of demand if a severe and prolonged drought were to occur – High capital cost when the desalination plant is first constructed.
3	Surface water (traditional sources)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water conservation – Recycled water (non-drinking) – Groundwater – Rainwater tank scheme – Dam enlargement (increase Mangrove Creek Dam storage by 80 GL) – Water transfers (transferring water from Mangrove Creek Weir to Mangrove Creek Dam) 	<p>Environmental Impacts: portfolio has high environmental impact due to the impacts of infrastructure on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and energy use. There will be reduced stormwater runoff. Further investigations are required to understand environmental impacts.</p> <p>Social impacts: social impact for this portfolio is considered medium due to the temporary disruption to residents during construction, Indigenous & European heritage, easement and property acquisition requirements. The operation and maintenance cost of rainwater tanks will also be transferred to customers.</p> <p>Reliability / Resilience: the portfolio is considered to offer a reliable supply due to enlarged dam increasing time to deplete supply. However, the portfolio is rainfall dependent and cannot guarantee ongoing supply of water in a severe drought.</p>

Portfolio	Title	Options	Purpose / Description
4	Enhanced water sharing with Hunter Water Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water conservation – Sharing water – Dam enlargement – Recycled water (non-drinking) 	<p>Environmental Impacts: portfolio has high environmental impact due to the impacts of infrastructure on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and energy use.</p> <p>Social impacts: social impact for this portfolio is considered medium due to the temporary disruption to residents during construction and potential for Indigenous & European heritage impacts near the dam area.</p> <p>Reliability / Resilience: the portfolio is considered to offer a reliable supply of non-drinking water as recycled water is not dependent on consistent rainfall. Water sharing with Hunter Water Corporation and recycled water improve the diversity of water sources and the resilience of the system.</p>
5	Traditional transitioning to climate independent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water conservation – Groundwater – Recycled water (non-drinking) – Dam enlargement – EFS/PRW – Desalination 	<p>Environmental Impacts: portfolio has high environmental impact due to the impacts of infrastructure on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and energy use. Further studies are required to confirm the impact on ground dependent eco systems and aquifer health, however this portfolio does involve less treated wastewater to be released into ocean outfalls.</p> <p>Social impacts: social impact for this portfolio is considered medium due to the temporary disruption to residents during construction and potential for Indigenous & European heritage impacts near the dam area.</p> <p>Reliability / Resilience: Desalination, environmental flow substitution, purified recycled water, and recycled water for non-drinking purposes do not rely on rainfall - which increases the reliability and resilience. Desalination is also able to be updated over time, allowing flexibility to respond to demand.</p>

1.3 Purpose of this document

This engagement plan details the steps we will take in consulting with key local Aboriginal stakeholders within the Central Coast Council LGA, key messaging to be shared with community, and how the resulting information will be recorded and used for the project.

Our engagement approach will be broken into two pieces of consultation:

1. Where targeted Aboriginal stakeholders such as identified Traditional Custodians and members of the Darkinjung LALC will provide input on Aboriginal water values relating to the different water plan options and sites to influence the updated version of the WSP for public exhibition and feedback.
2. Engagement with wider Aboriginal community groups and services to present on the different water plan options and sites and seek their feedback and concerns on these options, and to seek to help understand Indigenous water values in the region, to influence the WSP.

The plan will also show how we will close the loop by feeding back to the community what we have heard, and how it will be used in the decision-making process. This plan will also highlight a handover process which aims to leave Council and engaged local Aboriginal members in a trusting and healthy relationship moving forward for future engagement work.

2. Approach

2.1 Principles of engagement

Our engagement approach for this project will be guided by GHD's core principles for Indigenous community, tailored to meet the needs of the community for effective Aboriginal stakeholder engagement. These principles include:

- *Respect and Cultural Competence* Our team understands the importance of cultural competence and how to build respect with communities. Our engagement team has a high level of cultural competency and includes both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal team members. We also ensure we have both male and female engagement team members, to allow for cultural sensitivities around gender-specific information sharing.
- *Genuine Dialogue* Well before project outcomes are confirmed, we will work with Council to identify opportunities for feedback to be included in the final project outcomes. We believe that taking steps to genuinely incorporate feedback from Aboriginal communities into projects prevents “tick the box” engagement. From project commencement, we will work with Council to understand project context and scope, non-negotiables and key messages.
- *Visual engagement* Art and visual storytelling is an integral aspect of Aboriginal cultural and communication styles. Our engagement approach builds off this principle by using visual tools to facilitate understanding of technical project information. Using visual tools allows for the engagement to be accessible across demographics. We have experience developing attractive, easy to understand visual tools for engagement with Aboriginal communities for several recent projects.
- *Flexible approach* Typical consultation methodologies have been reviewed with a cultural lens to ensure that the project receives the best input and feedback possible. Our team will develop an agile engagement program to respond to stakeholder and community availability. This is likely to include the use of online engagement where necessary, particularly under the current COVID restrictions.

2.2 Key messages

The aim of key messages is to support consistent communication across all materials about Project Plans for the WSP and understand Indigenous water values to communities.

The following key messages have been developed to summarise the objective and scope of the project and outlining engagement activities. These messages will be used to develop collateral to guide discussions with identified Aboriginal community members enquiring about the project.

- We are engaging Aboriginal communities in the Central Coast Council LGA about the WSP and its future implementation strategy addressing options to increase water supply for a growing population working towards 2050.
- All Aboriginal people, groups and organisations currently living or operating in the Central Coast LGA are welcome to provide their feedback as part of this project.
- We will be conducting engagement over several months starting in May.
- We would like to understand what Aboriginal communities see as the key opportunities to drive the implementation for the WSP over the next 30 years. These opportunities could include input into the design and delivery of the WSP aligned to Aboriginal cultural water values and protection of Country, employment and partnership opportunities with key organisations working on the project.
- Feedback that is collected during the engagement program will be incorporated into the Aboriginal Outcomes Engagement Report which will form part of the feedback being collated after the public exhibition of the WSP.

2.2.1 Project process and consultation

We will deliver engagement in line with the detailed action plan below (Table 5.1) which identifies the timing, tasks, and outcomes our team is aiming to achieve throughout engagement. The process of Aboriginal engagement work will be covered in three key phases of consultation.

Phase 1: Stakeholder identification, project introduction & relationship building

During this phase we will:

- Initiate contact with key Aboriginal stakeholders in the region, including Traditional Custodians, community representatives, and the Darkinjung LALC to introduce the project and the work completed to date.
- Coordinate through phone, email and in person visits with these targeted Aboriginal stakeholders to provide input on Aboriginal water values in relation to Council's existing water plan options and sites.
- Understand how Council and GHD can engage with these stakeholders moving forward.
- Undertake a literature review of existing documents relating to Cultural Values to water (Hunter Water WSP) to provide early indication of feedback for inclusion in the WSP.
- Collate feedback for incorporation into the WSP when appropriate.

Phase 2: Wider Community Engagement

Our second phased engagement approach will aim to:

- Engage more widely with Aboriginal community groups and services through shared conversations using a culturally appropriate approach (engaging materials, separate sessions etc).
- These forums will allow for a comfortable space to hear about project updates and be able to respond to through sharing of cultural information and any feedback from community which can better inform the final version of WSP that represents different members of the Central Coast Aboriginal community.

Phase 3: Close the loop

This plan also shows how we will close the loop by feeding back to the community what we have heard, and how it will be used in the decision-making process. This process will highlight a handover process to ensure we are leaving Council and engaged local Aboriginal members in a good relationship moving forward for future engagement work.

2.2.1.1 Changes to engagement approach due to COVID-19 restrictions

COVID-19 and associated restrictions present an ongoing risk to face to face engagement. The approach highlighted above outlines key objectives that are required to deliver an Aboriginal engagement program that is:

- Culturally appropriate
- Sufficiently promotes the project
- Presents appropriate opportunity for feedback

Should restrictions impact the face-to-face component of this engagement program, we will pivot our delivery to a digital approach, whilst still aiming to meet the objectives indicated above. To do this we will offer alternative engagement opportunities such as:

- Webinars
- Live digital polling / quizzes to make the content more interesting
- Use of visual tools
- Incentives to encourage participation

3. Stakeholder identification

3.1 Methodology

GHD will be conducting engagement with several Aboriginal community groups who are connected to, live, or operate a business within Central Coast LGA.

GHD will build on existing contacts we have and utilise contacts provided by Council from previous engagement to share the WSP options for feedback to inform the WSP.

3.2 Project stakeholders

In order to capture feedback that is representative of various Central Coast Aboriginal community members, we have identified the following stakeholders to support with achieving this outcome:

- Elders
- Traditional Custodians
- Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Barang Alliance
- Community leaders
- Wider Aboriginal community, including youth

4. Engagement tools

The following table outlines the tools we will use to deliver our engagement program. Please note we have also specified which tools are considered face to face and digital. This is to ensure appropriate tools to meet project objectives are used in response to any COVID-19 restrictions in place during the delivery of our engagement.

Our approach aims to be culturally appropriate. This means we are guided by the engagement preferences of our stakeholders. The tools below have been identified by our team based on experience delivering previous engagement programs, however we are continuously guided by the recommendations of community.

Face to face tools will be given priority, pending these restrictions, in which case a digital approach will be adopted. Digital tools will also be delivered in line with our engagement principles for an Aboriginal audience, to ensure project objectives are still met.

Table 4.1 Engagement tools

Engagement Tool	Purpose / Description	Responsibility	Target Group	Outcome
Aboriginal Engagement Plan (<i>this document</i>)	Aboriginal Engagement Plan (this doc) summarising Aboriginal engagement approaches for stakeholder identification and engagement activities to support with feedback on project development.	GHD Engagement Team to develop and manage	Internal	Share information on Aboriginal engagement approach informing and seeking feedback from Central Coast Council LGA Aboriginal stakeholders
Aboriginal Stakeholder matrix	Aboriginal stakeholder matrix to identify different community groups to be engaged in sharing project information and gathering feedback on WSP's impact on Aboriginal water values.	GHD Engagement Team to develop and manage with support from Council	Internal	Identify key Aboriginal stakeholders to support with feedback on WSP.
Email	Email will be used throughout the project to communicate with stakeholders. GHD Engagement Team will use email to share project updates and coordinate catch-up dates.	GHD Engagement Team to develop and manage	All	Confirm catch-up dates and to inform project updates and timelines. Aboriginal stakeholders and service providers introducing project and requesting to display project posters and factsheets for the community to add their input and seek further information.
Phone	Introductory and follow up calls with different Aboriginal stakeholders to inform them of project and coordinate dates for various in-person sessions to seek feedback.	GHD Engagement Team	All	Identify how Aboriginal stakeholders would like to be engaged and relevance to supporting project.
PowerPoint presentation	Provide a visual way of describing the WSP project and the various options, and to facilitate seeking feedback.	GHD Engagement Team. Some materials from CCC	All	To inform Aboriginal community groups on project details, timelines and options for community to make contact and give feedback to.
Factsheets	Culturally appropriate factsheet explaining project information on portfolio options and contact details to reach.	GHD engagement to work with Council	All	To inform wider Aboriginal community on project details, timelines and options for community to make contact and give feedback to.

Engagement Tool	Purpose / Description	Responsibility	Target Group	Outcome
Literature Review	Understand feedback provided previously on indigenous cultural values to water (Hunter Water WSP)	GHD Technical Team	Internal	Inform cultural values assessment.
Face to face engagement activities				
Workshop / Yarning Circles	Allow yarning as a culturally appropriate way of understanding cultural values in a more comfortable and neutral setting.	GHD Engagement Team	All	To inform Aboriginal community members about project details, timelines and options for community to make contact and give feedback.
Face to face interviews / meetings	More specific discussions to seek greater understanding and share project information for feedback.	GHD Engagement Team	All	Inform Aboriginal community members about WSP and share updates with previously engaged targeted stakeholders
Walk on Country	Culturally appropriate on-Country visits to understand cultural values relating to water and WSP	GHD Engagement Team with support and approval from Council	TC's LALC	Identify and report back sites of cultural significance that may be impacted by WSP options.
Community Session	Show what we have heard so far and seek confirmation / agreement.	GHD Engagement Team with support and approval from Council	All	Feedback and approval from Aboriginal community approval of WSP
Public exhibition	Public exhibition of the draft WSP for feedback	Council	All	Inform community on updated WSP for feedback and finalisation.
Digital engagement activities				
Digital workshops	Digital workshops will be delivered to wider community and key service providers to seek feedback on each of the options proposed for the WSP. The workshop will be facilitated by GHD staff and will use a range of tools to inform the audience and generate discussion.	GHD Engagement Team to facilitate with Council staff attendance and assistance.	All	Inform the community about WSP and provide opportunity for feedback and discussion.
Video	GHD will leverage Council's existing collateral, such as the video explaining with WSP options to assist in the facilitation of the digital workshop.	Council owned video.	All	Provide easy to understand project information to stakeholders to enable informed feedback.
Live polling	Live polling will be used in the online workshops to enable quantitative feedback on discussion items from attendees. Polling also allows attendees who feel less confident to speak during a workshop setting, to provide feedback in a more anonymous way.	GHD Engagement Team to manage	Workshop attendees	Facilitates a variety of feedback opportunities for workshop attendees.
Incentives	To encourage participation and attendance to digital workshops, GHD recommends incentivising invitees. Incentives also provides acknowledgement of participant time and knowledge.	GHD to manage.	Workshop attendees	Encourages feedback and provides compensation for attendee time.

5. Engagement action plan

Table 5.1 Detailed engagement action plan

Date W/C	Task	Target Stakeholder	Description	Consideration/supporting activities	Responsibility	Complete
Phase 1: Develop engagement approach						
19/4/2021	Draft Aboriginal Engagement Plan (<i>this document</i>)	Internal	Develop an Aboriginal Engagement Action Plan that sets out engagement activities and timelines.	Ensure timeframes align with broader project milestones	GHD engagement preparation and finalisation Council to review and approve	Complete - Draft issued 07/5/2021
19/4/2021	Develop Stakeholder Matrix	Internal	Prepare stakeholder matrix to identify targeted Central Coast Aboriginal stakeholders.	Ensure an inclusive and wide-ranging Aboriginal stakeholder representation of the Central Coast community to better inform project feedback. GHD to use existing relationships for Aboriginal stakeholder identification as well as dedicating building new relationships.	GHD to develop Council to advise existing contacts	Complete 07/5/2021
19/4/2021	Literature review and summary of risks/issues	Internal	Review of current project work material and giving feedback for potential risks and issues to Aboriginal communities.	Council to advise documents required for literature review. Initial review to be undertaken by technical project teams with comms team providing support to identify risks and issues. Briefing on the findings of literature review required as part of Council's initial MCA workshop	GHD technical team GHD engagement	Complete 19/7/2021
26/4/2021	Finalise Aboriginal Engagement Plan	Internal	Update final version of Aboriginal Engagement Plan from Council feedback.	Council to advise on dates and processes for engagement and sharing project information	GHD engagement	Final issued 19/8/2021
Phase 2: Introduce the project and start to build relationships with key Aboriginal stakeholders						
26/4/2021	Introductory phone calls to identified Aboriginal stakeholders	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC NSWALC Aboriginal community organisations and service providers	Call targeted Aboriginal stakeholders to inform about project plans and identify level of interest and how they would like to be engaged.	GHD engagement team to update stakeholder matrix with the results of these phone calls.	GHD engagement	Complete April 2021

Date W/C	Task	Target Stakeholder	Description	Consideration/supporting activities	Responsibility	Complete
3/5/2021	Coordinate material for face to face in person meetings with key Aboriginal stakeholders	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC NSWALC	Develop engagement material in preparation for on-Country consultation.	GHD engagement to ensure a culturally respectful approach is undertaken through considered development of engagement collateral in planning.	GHD engagement	Complete May 2021
Phase 3A: Conduct targeted stakeholder engagement to build understanding of Indigenous cultural values						
4/5/2021	Internal MCA workshop on WSP	Internal	Brief technical team on findings of the literature review and initial conversations to inform the workshop discussion	Meeting with GHD's Mike Healey, workshop facilitator	GHD Internal	n/a
3/5/2021	Arrange in person meetings	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC	Follow up call with targeted Aboriginal stakeholders to lock in dates.	Liaise with Council arrange collateral – facts sheets etc.	GHD engagement Council to confirm cultural sites accessibility	Complete May 2021
17/5/2021	Conduct in person meetings	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC	Meetings with key Traditional Custodians and LALC	Associated Travel management plans and JSEA's in place Meeting notes Required attendance of two GHD engagement staff	GHD engagement	Complete 31/5/2021
24/5/2021	Collate draft outcomes from each meeting to be emailed to each participant (separately)	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC	Combining engagement responses into a draft report to share externally with engaged community via email.	Bring together engagement outcomes material and drafting for review by Council before sharing with engaged participants. Ensure report is representative of community as best as possible.	GHD engagement Council to review and approve	Complete June 2021
June	Provide input to the draft Water Security Plan.	Internal	Using feedback from Traditional Custodians and LALC, provide inputs Draft WSP	It is important that the early Cultural Values information is considered during the development of the draft WSP	GHD and CCC	

Date W/C	Task	Target Stakeholder	Description	Consideration/supporting activities	Responsibility	Complete
July	Program Milestone: Endorsement of Draft Water Security Plan					
Phase 3B: Community engagement on draft Water Security Plan						
July	Prepare engagement material for digital workshops including: – Presentation Live polling	Aboriginal community organisations and service providers Broader Aboriginal community	GHD comms team to prepare project material to present at online workshop and an opportunity to ask questions or share their feedback.	Engagement material to be presented in a clear and concise format relevant to Aboriginal cultural values and community interest. Council to confirm design and style requirements and approval timeframes.	GHD Comms Council to review and approve	Complete July 2021
August	Contact key Aboriginal community stakeholders to invite them to the digital focus groups	Aboriginal community organisations and service providers Broader Aboriginal community	Contact various identified Central Coast Aboriginal organisations and community groups to inform about project and involvement in a meeting and/or digital workshops	Updating stakeholder matrix reflecting level of interest from callouts to Aboriginal stakeholder community groups. Two digital workshops to take place. Increased interest from community may require additional time to be allowed – liaison with Council on this.	GHD engagement	Complete – August 2021
August	Facilitate digital focus group discussions	Aboriginal community organisations and service providers Broader Aboriginal community	GHD engagement team to facilitate digital focus group sessions sharing project info and gathering feedback.	Making sure all portfolio options are presented and having Q&A sessions to assist. Taking notes as accurately as possible.	GHD Engagement Team assisted by CCC	Complete Session 1: 3/8/2021 Session 2: 12/8/2021
Phase 4: Engagement outcomes report and close the loop						
August	Collate and present feedback in a draft Engagement Outcomes Report	Internal	GHD engagement team to collate all engagement outcomes responses into a report for review by Council.	Understanding timelines on internal review processes before sharing externally for public review.	GHD engagement preparation and finalisation Council to review and approve	In progress
August	Finalise Aboriginal Engagement Outcomes Report from feedback	Internal	Making final updates to Aboriginal Outcomes Report.	Accurately capturing Council feedback.	GHD Engagement	In progress

Date W/C	Task	Target Stakeholder	Description	Consideration/supporting activities	Responsibility	Complete
August	Prepare and circulate close the loop email with final version of outcomes report to engagement participants	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC Aboriginal community organisations and service providers Broader Aboriginal community	GHD engagement team to develop close the loop email sharing the attached final version of outcomes report and relationship hand over to Council contact.	Ensuring a clear and smooth handover process between Council and engaged Aboriginal participants to support with building a long-term relationship moving forward.	GHD Engagement	TBC
August/ September	Offer further engagement on the draft WSP	Traditional Custodians Darkinjung LALC Aboriginal community organisations and service providers Broader Aboriginal community	GHD Engagement Team to offer to host an online 'Yarning Circle' to discuss the outcomes report and gain more feedback.	Must connect with each group previously engaged. Suggest online engagement due to COVID restrictions or concerns. This empowers community to decide if they wish to take part, and provide input to the forum design.	GHD Engagement	TBC



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