



Open Coast Coastal Management Program Stage 3

CONSULTATION REPORT

May 2024

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1 Introduction

Coastal Management Programs (CMP) set the long-term strategy for the management of our coastal environments including our lakes, lagoons, estuaries and beaches. CMPs are prepared by local councils in accordance with the NSW Government Coastal Management Framework.

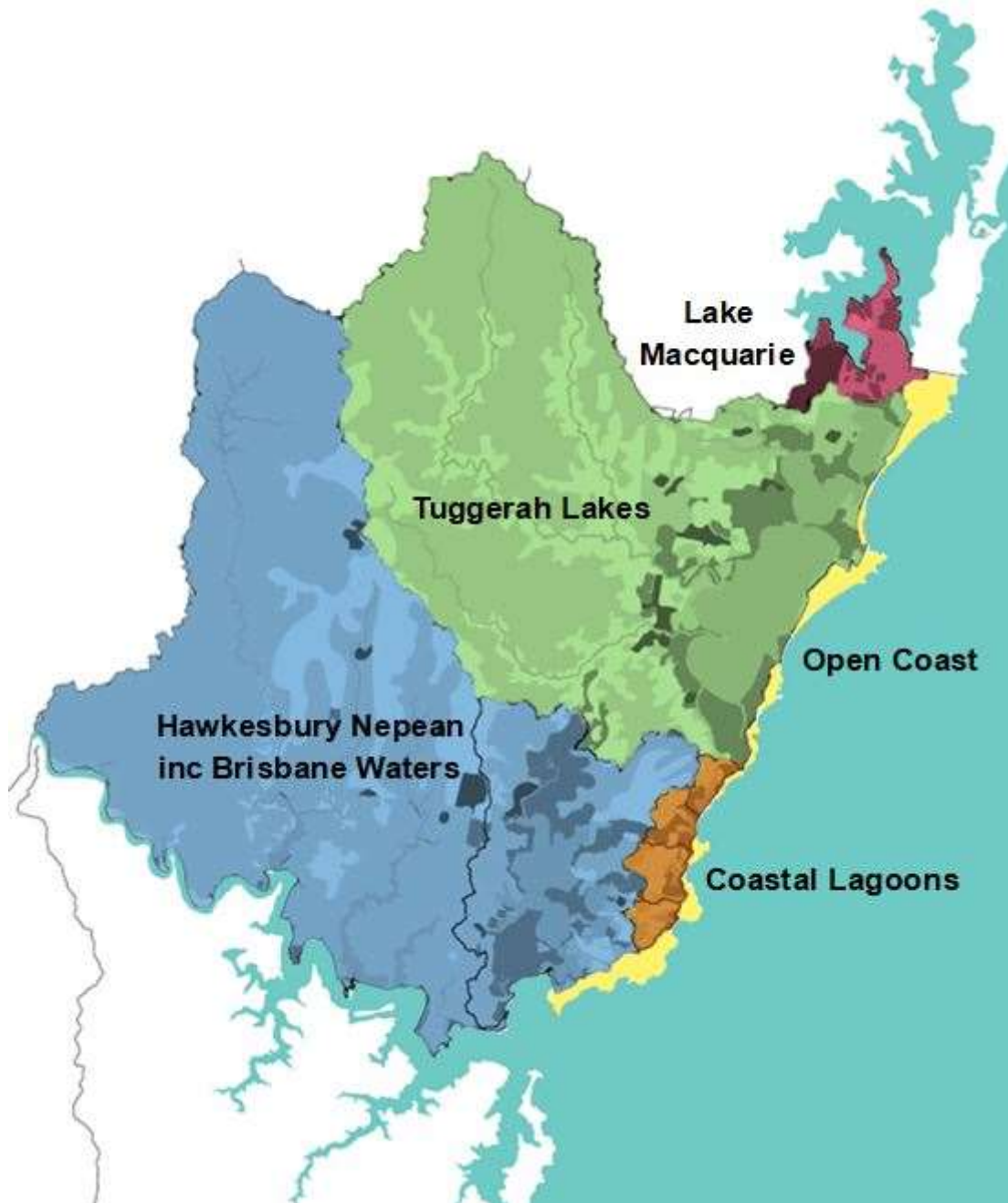


Figure 1 Central Coast Council Coastal Management Programs

The Open Coast Coastal Management Program is one of five coastal management programs being developed by Central Coast Council (Figure 1). The study area includes beaches from Killcare in the south to Budgewoi in the north (Figures 2).

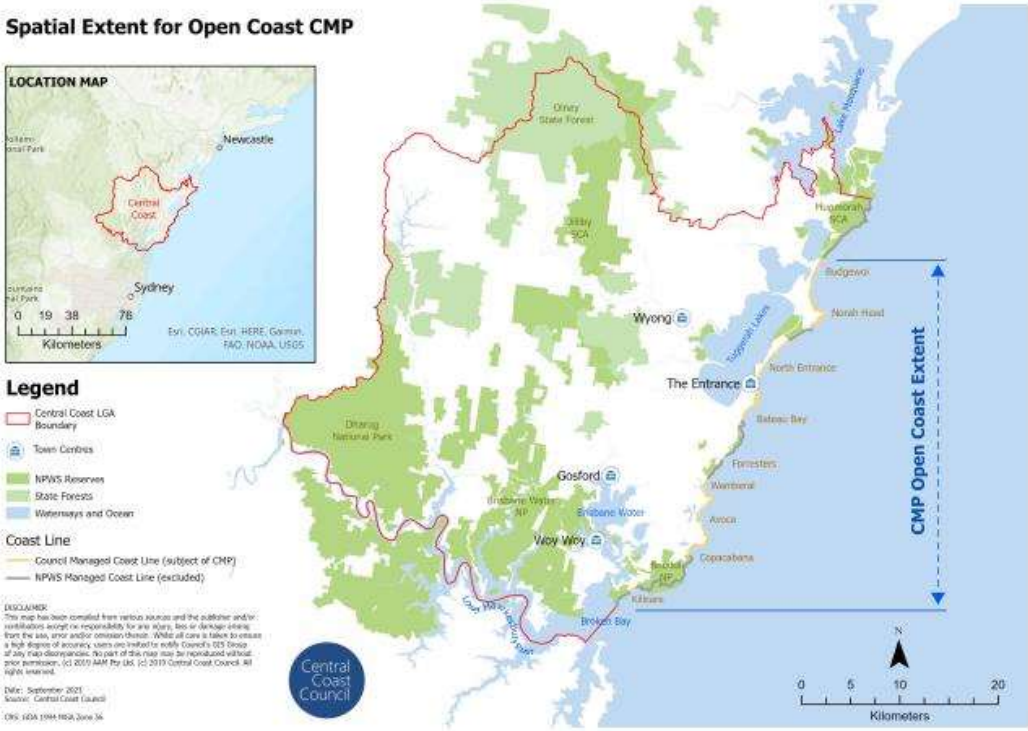


Figure 2 Spatial extent for the Open Coast CMP

The NSW Coastal Management Manual sets out the process for the development and implementation of CMPs. The manual has two parts:

- Part A: Introduction and mandatory requirements for a coastal management program
- Part B: Guidance for preparing and implementing a coastal management program
 - Stage 1: Identify the scope of the 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

This consultation was part of Stage 3 of the program.

2 Engagement Approach

2.1 Purpose of Engagement

The purpose of the Stage two consultation for the Open Coast CMP was to:

- inform the community of the status of CMP development
- hear from stakeholders and the community to identify issues in the coastal zone and how they would like to see issues managed
- provide the community an opportunity to speak directly with project staff
- report back to the community on the outcomes of community consultation and the next steps.

2.2 Our engagement framework

Consultation has been designed in accordance with Central Coast Council’s Engagement Framework. This framework is available to view at <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/Central-Coast-CouncilEngagement-Framework>

2.3 How we consulted

Consultation methods

Pop ups	<p>Six pop-up sessions were held in coast suburbs, attended by over 250 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrigal Boardwalk Friday, 12 January 2024 3pm-6pm • Avoca SLSC Saturday, 13 January 2024 9am-12pm • Toowoan Bay SLSC Friday, 19 January 2024 9am-12pm • Memorial Park The Entrance Saturday, 27 January 2024 3-6pm • Soldiers Beach SLSC Saturday, 3 February 2024 9am-12pm • Killcare SLSC Saturday, 10 February 2024 9am-12pm
Interactive map	<p>An interactive map was developed for the community where participants could drop comments, and others could and ‘upvote’ and downvote these.</p> <p>349 individuals dropped 1054 pins from dropped on the interactive map.</p>
Targeted stakeholder workshops	<p>Two targeted community stakeholder sessions attended by a total of 47 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Copacabana SLSC 13th of February 2024 ○ Toowoan Bay SLSC 15th of February 2024

	<p>Attendees included representatives of local community groups, surf life saving clubs and local business owners. Participants learnt about the CMP process and progress and contributed their ideas, concerns, questions and suggestions specific to our beaches with a focus on both the community and the environment.</p>
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Promotion of activities

We carried out promotion of the consultation to ensure the community and stakeholders were aware of the opportunity to participate.

<p>Media Releases</p>	<p>22 January 2024 - 'Council calls on community input for coastal management'</p> <p>A copy of the media release can be found in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Your Voice – Our Coast website yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterways</p>	<p>The online project page was updated to invite consultation on 4 December 2023 attracting 1,071 unique users until the consultation closed on 14 March 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the Your Voice Our Coast Project page can be found in Appendix B.</p>
<p>Social media</p>	<p>One Facebook post on January 2024, A copy of the post can be found in Appendix C.</p>
<p>Coast Connect articles (news)</p>	<p>25 January 2024 - 'Many ways to make your voice count', sent to 17,872 recipients</p> <p>This article promoted a number of projects open for consultation, including the Open Coast CMP.</p> <p>A copy of article can be found in Appendix D.</p>

3 What we heard

3.1 Key findings from consultation

Key themes from community engagement are listed below.

Coastal hazards:

- Sand nourishment and vegetation preferred over hard protection
- Guidance for homeowners to implement seawalls
- Council to plant natives along the dunes, grow in nursery and make available for the public to access
- Install training walls at North Entrance
- Sand scraping after storm events
- Improve stormwater outlets to reduce erosion
- More communication pre/post hazards
- Plant low lying vegetation species to maintain line of sight for patrolling members
- Secure rock escarpments
- Lifeguards to patrol all year round

Pathways and access:

- Carparks to be remarked/reconfigured to ensure safety and maximum parking
- More parking at all beaches, create overflow parking (multistorey parking)
- Parking designated for patrol members
- Install clear signage in parking lots and boat ramps and regulate non-conformances
- Reduce speed limits near beaches
- Develop inclusive coastal walks along beaches
- Develop inclusive viewing platforms
- Provide adequate signage around boat ramps and regulate it
- Secure bike and scooter parking
- Safe beach access for families
- Increase sand volume for accessibility
- Provide disabled beach access

Ecological environment:

- Need for educational signage to encourage the community to protect/value the environment and recognise cultural significance
- Improve accessibility of ecological data

- Council to grow/supply native/endemic coastal vegetation. More dune care groups and better resourcing to support them.
- Increase vegetation to improve water quality and retain sand
- Stronger stance and regulation on environmental vandalism
- Increase wildlife habitat, build environmental corridors for animals
- Control shark fishing/remove shark nets/restore fish habitats
- Sand nourishment to replenish beaches
- GPT's on all beaches to reduce rubbish
- Create/implement Bitu and Lantana eradication plan
- Educate Nippers about dune vegetation and to stay off the dunes
- Compliance and targeting removal of unauthorised accessways
- Support and host citizen science events – education programs

Building and Encroachment:

- Softer engineering techniques
- Don't allow development along the coastline. Buildings to be removable
- Cost a buy back scheme
- Reduce development in high-risk locations
- Develop engineering guidelines to guide coastal protection on all beaches
- No rezoning for C2 to R2
- No high rises
- No subdivisions on any sand dune
- Active compliance program to enforce DCP rules
- Active compliance on illegal works, encroachment and environmental vandalism
- Sustainable development for new housing population ie, green spaces/community infrastructure/educational facilities
- Council to challenge seaward boundaries

Amenities:

- Ensure all amenity blocks and beach showers are fit for purpose, meet user demand, are inclusive and use water saving devices
- Better signage to locate amenities
- Install after hours defib and CPR signage
- Bins for recycling, soft plastics and dog poo
- Bin and collection required all year round
- Moveable bins to be placed on the beaches
- Consultation prior to changing amenities
- More kids parks and shading
- More public tables and seating

4 Next steps

We will use the feedback to help develop an options assessment (Stage 3). The aim is to identify and evaluate possible management options to develop the best management program, guided by scientific evidence and community values.

You can register to stay updated as we progress through the development of our Coastal Management programs:

Register here: https://centralcoastcouncil.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9pmMcGPEjBQFZBA

You can register to participate in our focus groups if you are interested in being involved in the process as we progress through our assessment of management options.

Register here: https://centralcoastcouncil.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3b1auGeDnuoRMRo

You will also have an opportunity to have your say during the public exhibition of the draft Coastal Management Plan.

5 Appendices

Appendix A - Media release

Council calls on community input for coastal management

22 January 2024

Central Coast Council is currently developing a new Coastal Management Program and is seeking community input on practical management for Central Coast beaches.

The Open Coast Coastal Management Program is one of five new Coastal Management Programs (CMP) for the region that will be certified by the NSW Government and used to guide coastal management decisions and funding priorities for the next 10 years.

Council's Unit Manager of Environmental Management, Luke Sulkowski said the objective of the Open Coast CMP is to manage the coastal environment consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development for the social, cultural and economic well-being of the people of the Central Coast.

"We're at stage three of this five stage process in completing the document and would love as much input from the community as possible," Mr Sulkowski said.

"Once we have collated everything, we will develop an options assessment and come back to the community with a final draft before sending the final document to the State Government for their certification.

"Input from our local residents will help optimise coastal management for the well-being of both our community and the environment – so tell us your concerns, ideas, wants and needs related to our beautiful beaches.

"We would like to thank those who came along to our earlier pop-up sessions at Terrigal, Avoca and Toowoona Bay and encourage more suggestions throughout the consultation period whether it's online or in person."

Council offers multiple ways the community can have an input into the future management of The Open Coast CMP. An interactive map is online for the community to pin point practical management suggestions for The Open Coast CMP or give their feedback in person at one of the remaining pop-up sessions being held at:

- Memorial Park, The Entrance - Saturday 27 January, 3-6pm
- Soldiers Beach Surf Life Saving Club - Saturday 3 February, 9am-12pm
- Killcare Surf Life Saving Club – Saturday 10 February, 9am-12pm.

Council's Administrator, Rik Hart said Council is keen to see what the community has to say.

"We received your input earlier on how you like to use our waterways, but now we want to hear your ideas on how we can best manage the future of our beaches," Mr Hart said.

“This round of information gathering will be used to ensure our draft management options are guided by scientific evidence and what our community values.”

Community consultation closes on Thursday 25 February. To find out more on The Open Coast CMP, visit yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterways and click the ‘Open Coast’ tab!

ENDS

Appendix B – Your Voice, Our Coast page

Our Coast, Our Waterways

Community consultation now open

Waterways are a huge part of the Central Coast community's lifestyle. They underpin our identity, support our local economy, provide recreational and social opportunities for locals and visitors and support our mental and physical wellbeing. They provide the water we drink and the air we breathe, and our health is as dependant on them as theirs is on us. In addition to the values and benefits Central Coast Waterways offer us, they are important in their own right and have significant ecological and intrinsic value which should be managed both now, and into the future.



Map image display of catchment areas for each of the Coastal Management Programs. We recognise that for most of our residents, it is difficult to go more than 2km without coming into very close proximity of a waterway, meaning that the majority of our population play a role in the ongoing maintenance and health of our waterways. This is why we believe the most effective way to engage our community is to take a regionwide approach.

Our round one consultation survey focused on:

- the management of waterways
- use of waterways
- views on waterways
- obtaining a demographic profile of survey participants.

The information collected will not only be used to inform the development of the three CMP actions, but also the education and implementation for the Coastal Management Programs.



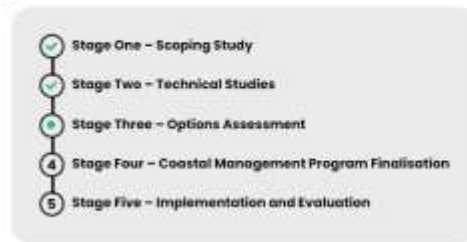
Links

- Submit a photo of the coastline
- Register to participate in focus groups
- Stay Updated!
- State Govt: Act on Adoption: Coastal Wise Communities Survey

Doc View

Consultation results

Timeline View



The lesson that we have learnt to date, is that the positive and pro-active works are often overshadowed by misinformation and missed opportunities to celebrate the wins and share knowledge with our community.

We know that not many of our community recognise that we have implemented over 75% of the actions identified in our existing Coastal Zone Management Plans, Estuary Management Plans and the like. We are committed to using this opportunity as a fresh start with the community, as one Council, and will use this survey as a benchmarking exercise to ensure continuous improvement and action implementation. It will also allow us to be agile in our approach to managing our waterways **with** our community over time.

Who's listening

Name: Catchments to Coast team
Email: waterways@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 4308 7800



In accordance with the NSW Coastal Management Framework, Central Coast Council is required to develop Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) for our part of the NSW Coast (excluding National Parks estate). Acknowledging the size and diversity of the coastal zone of the Central Coast, Council has decided to prepare 3 CMPs focusing on Tuggerah Lakes, the open coast and coastal lagoons and the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system including Brisbane Water. We will be working with Lake Macquarie City Council to develop a CMP for Lake Macquarie.

Have your say

We're currently seeking your feedback to inform the development of the Open Coast Coastal Management Program.

You can:

- jump online and [join the discussion on the online interactive map](#)
- visit us at either of the following pop-up events (weather permitting):
 - Terrigal Boardwalk Friday, 12 January 2024 3pm-6pm
 - Avoca SISC Saturday, 13 January 2024 9am-12pm
 - Taowoon Bay SISC Friday, 19 January 2024 9am-12pm
 - Memorial Park The Entrance Saturday, 27 January 2024 3-6pm
 - Soldiers Beach SISC Saturday, 3 February 2024 9am-12pm
 - Killcare SISC Saturday, 10 February 2024 9am-12pm

You can [view the round one Our Coast-Our Waterways survey report here](#)

Our waterways need us, and we must develop these plans - we don't want to exclude your important views so let us know what matters to you

Appendix C – Social media post

Facebook Ads

As you can see below I've shared the chart from the Facebook Ads. Currently I'm running local audiences with a small budget optimised to attend the Coast Management Project Pop Up. Each event is scheduled to end on the day of the pop up.

Coastal Projects Pop Up Memorial Park End Jan 27	\$100.00	Jan 11, 2024 – Jan 27, 2024
Coastal Projects Pop Up Newmark End on Jan 19th	\$100.00	Jan 11, 2024 – Jan 19, 2024
Coastal Projects Pop Up Aeneas End Jan 13th	\$50.00	Jan 11, 2024 – Jan 13, 2024
Coastal Projects Pop Up Terrigal End Jan 12	\$50.00	Jan 11, 2024 – Jan 12, 2024
Coastal Projects Pop Up Killbuck Feb 10	\$100.00	Jan 11, 2024 – Feb 10, 2024
Coastal Projects Pop Up Salders End Feb 3rd	\$100.00	Jan 11, 2024 – Feb 3, 2024

I am also running an ad optimised for traffic to the get the audience to head to our Landing page using the organic post from earlier in the week.



Ad set	Budget	Schedule
TOF Post Promotion End Feb 10th	\$350.00 Lifetime	Jan 11, 2024 – Feb 10, 2024 30 days

Appendix D – Coast Connect E-news



Coast Connect

25 January 2024



Many ways to make your voice count

It is important that our community's voice is reflected in our projects and plans, so let us know what matters to you by having your say.

Now open for consultation:

- [Open Coast Coastal Management Program](#) – Provide your opinion on the practical management for Central Coast Beaches, via an online interactive map or give feedback in person at one of the remaining pop-up sessions (27 Jan, 3 Feb, 10 Feb).
- [Draft Central Coast Local Approvals Policy](#) – Outlines activities that require approval from Council under Section 68 of the Local Government Act (e.g. mobile food vehicles, street vending and busking, connections of sewerage, installation of moveable dwellings, etc). It also sets out the criteria that Council must consider in determining an application approval, and specifies where approval is not required before activity is carried out. Closes 22 February.
- [Draft Central Coast Outdoor Trading Specification](#) - Sets out requirements for businesses that are seeking approvals from Council for outdoor dining and vending, and for the installation of associated temporary and fixed structures. Attend an information session, or have your say online by 22 February.
- [Draft Central Coast Night-Time Economy Discussion Paper](#) (closes 12 Feb), [Water and Sewer Unserviced Properties](#) (closes 14 Feb), [Draft Central Coast Airport Masterplan](#) (closes 13 Feb), [Draft Central Coast Data Breach Policy](#) (closes 13 Feb), [Draft Central Coast Privacy Management Plan Policy](#) (closes 13 Feb), [Draft Central Coast Thematic History](#) (closes 11 Feb), and [Draft Central Coast Regulatory Policy](#) (closes 7 Feb).

Have your say today