

The New Coastal Management Program for the Saltwater Creek and Lagoon Estuary



Bulletin #2 - Aug 2020

What is the Coastal Management Program?

The Saltwater Creek and Lagoon estuary is a major asset for the Macleay Region. The estuary provides important natural habitats and ecosystems, opportunities for recreation, and areas of social and cultural significance. However, it is facing increasing pressures from urban development, population growth and climate change.

In order to tackle this, Kempsey Shire Council has commenced the development of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the estuary. The CMP sets the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the estuary. It will identify and implement management actions designed to improve estuary health and manage the current and emerging issues.

The new CMP will update and replace the existing estuary management plan from 2006.

What is the progress of the CMP?

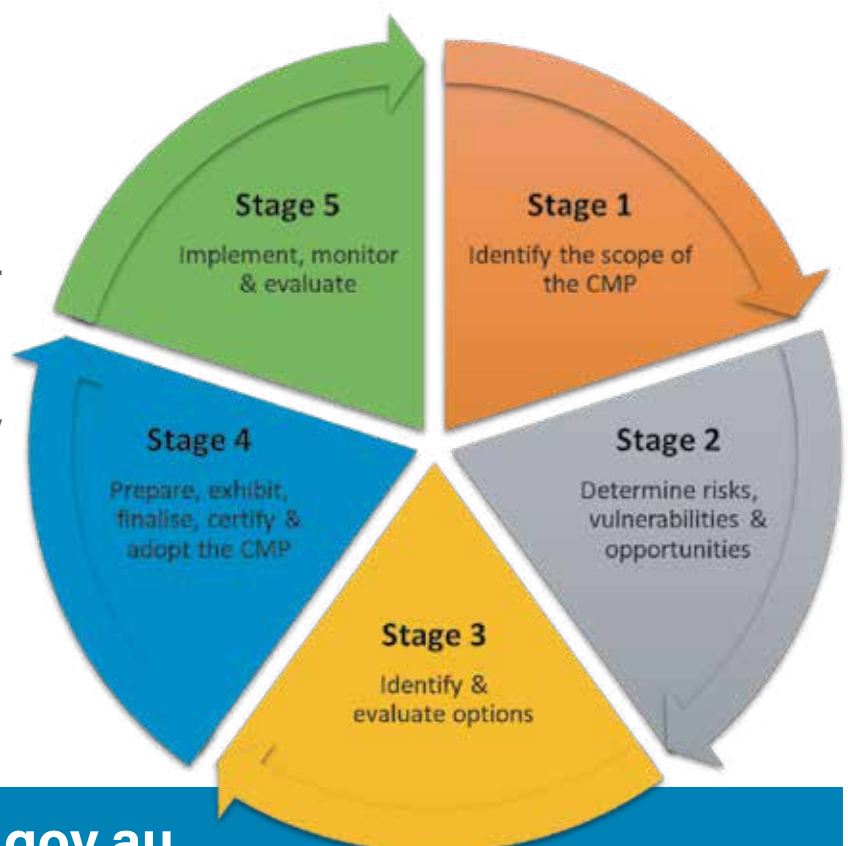
A CMP is prepared through a five staged process, that includes extensive community engagement, and we currently nearing the end of Stage 1. This first stage involved reviewing the current estuary management arrangements, undertaking community engagement to develop a shared understanding of the key issues and future emerging issues; and planning for the remaining stages.

Community Involvement in Stage 1:

During Stage 1, we captured feedback through Council's "Your Say Macleay" (YSM) page, so that we could understand:

- How the community uses the estuary and foreshore;
- What you value about it; and
- Your key concerns and issues.

The YSM page was open from 11th May to 30th June 2020, and included background information about the project and a number of avenues for you to have your say, including a community survey.



yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au

What we heard! - Community Uses

The community places a high value on the natural character of the area, and the range of recreational uses it provides. Popular uses of the estuary include:

Nature observation

Walking and other exercise

Watercraft activities

Swimming

Social gatherings

Key Issues Facing the Estuary

The local community identified issues of concern across the estuary that will need to be addressed in the CMP. The most pressing issues are shown below:



Where to from here?

The CMP will take around 12 to 24 months to progress through Stages 2 through to 4. The community will have opportunities for input throughout each of these Stages, which include:

- Stage 2 – Investigating the key issues identified by Council and the community in Stage 1
- Stage 3 – Identifying and prioritising actions to address these issues
- Stage 4 – Preparing a CMP that maps out the timing, cost and responsibilities of the actions
- Stage 5 – Ongoing implementation of the CMP



Stay up to date on the project by visiting Your Say Macleay at:
yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/admin/projects/cmp-saltwater