



Eurobodalla Open Coast Coastal Management Program

Community and Stakeholder
Engagement Plan

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1 Context

This Community & Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) aims to set out our strategy to engage with the broader community and stakeholders as required by the CM Act 2016 and the Coastal Management Manual 2018, including:

- Government Agencies
- Local and state Government working groups and committees:
 - Coastal and Environment Management Advisory Committee (CEMAC)
 - North Batemans Bay Coastal Agency Taskforce
- Local Aboriginal community:
 - Local Aboriginal Advisory Committee
 - Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC's)
 - Elders and members of the community who can speak on behalf of Country
- The broader Eurobodalla community, facilitated through community groups for each location, where available.
- A wide range of demographics, contacted through community associations including schools, surf clubs, Landcare and other users of the coast.
- Affected Landholders
- Community associations and business representatives .

The CSEP aligns with IAP2 principles and Council’s Community Engagement Framework, as well as the requirements of the CM Act (2016) and the Coastal Management Manual (2018) . These engagement principles are set out in section 3.

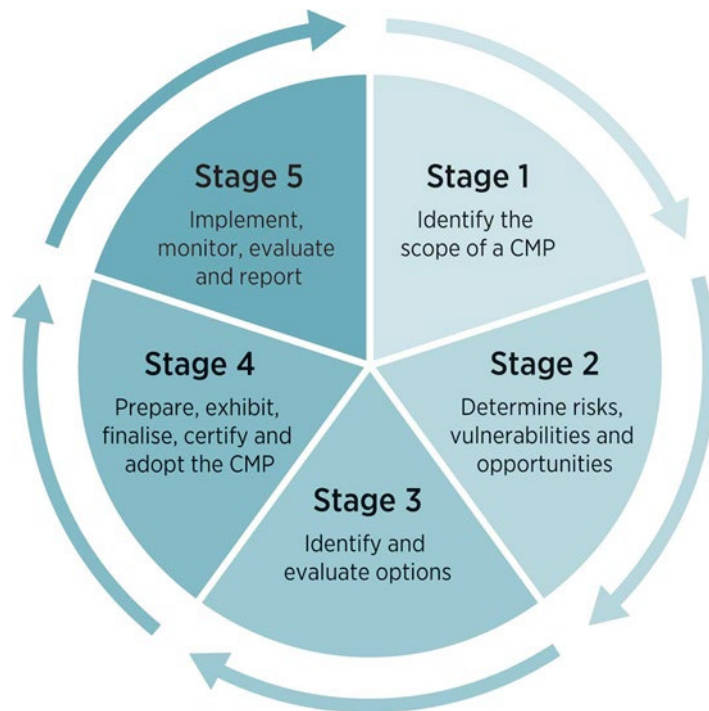


Figure 1. The 5 stages of the Coastal Management Program process

1.1 Background

Eurobodalla's Open Coast Coastal Management Program (Open Coast CMP) commenced as two separate projects; Batemans Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan and the Eurobodalla Coastal Zone Management Plan. The two projects were subsequently merged to provide a single strategic reference for managing the extensive coastline of Eurobodalla: The Open Coast CMP.

A range of stakeholder and community engagement activities were undertaken as part of these previous studies. A summary of the previous engagement activities is provided in **Attachment A**.

1.2 Supporting Studies and Investigations

A range of investigations have been undertaken to date that will support and inform the new Open Coast CMP:

- The South Coast Regional Sea Level Rise Policy and Planning Response (2014)
- Eurobodalla Coastal Hazard Assessment (2017)
- Coastal Zone Management Plan for Wharf Road (certified in 2018)
- Batemans Bay Independent Coastal Impact Assessment (Stage 1 and Stage 2).

As part of the process of developing these studies, extensive community consultation has been undertaken over the years, which can be used to inform our preliminary understanding of what the community expects when it comes to the management of the coast. The new Open Coast CMP will consider current land use, coast dependent economic activity, aboriginal cultural heritage and capture the views and expectations within the community of how the coastline is to be managed now and into the future.

2 Purpose and Objectives

The key objectives of the CSEP are to:

<p>1. Confirm</p>	<p>Confirm that Council have taken on board the community feedback in previous consultation and are now undertaking the additional geotechnical work, hazard studies and community consultation the community has requested</p>
<p>2. Educate and inform</p>	<p>Educate and inform the community about the coastal management process and the legal requirements behind undertaking a CMP.</p>
<p>3. Ensure</p>	<p>Ensure awareness of the CMP across the whole community and facilitate residents feedback, ideas and concerns about acceptable risk and around how the coast in their local area is managed in the future.</p>
<p>4. Clarify and deliver</p>	<p>Clarify roles & responsibilities for implementation. Deliver the management program over the next 10 years.</p>

Consultation about management options and the evaluation process will:

- Raise awareness of the strategic and staged approach to management of coastal issues.
- Ensure residents have had an opportunity to inform how the coast is managed in the future for their local area
- Provide council with early feedback about actions and priorities that are acceptable to local communities and the overall population of the shire and its visitors. This will facilitate pre exhibition review of the draft CMP and should streamline Stage 4.
- Clarify the agency roles and public authority position on actions that require a collaborative effort, for instance around dredging and natural defences actions
- Help identify groups that require more targeted engagement in the coming months (in the lead up to and during exhibition) to facilitate conversations and gain feedback on the coastal hazards, management options and legal implications.
- Ensure the management option evaluation process (feasibility, viability (cost benefit) and acceptability) is transparent and communicated.
- Build on previous consultation undertaken between 2017-2018 for the CMP under the previous studies. Ensure that communities feel that their previous feedback was heard and taken on board.

3 Engagement Principals

This Open Coast CMP CSEP is aligned with the principles within Council's Community Engagement Framework. These include:

- Be open and inclusive – promoting opportunities for community involvement through the various mediums of online survey, workshops, interviews, public exhibition and communication activities.
- Generate mutual trust and respect, and be accountable – at all engagement activities it will be explained to the community how their input will be used and the final report will demonstrate how the community input has shaped the decision support tool. This will build trust of the process and hence trust in the validity of the final decision support tool.
- Engage early and provide information that is clear – communication activities are scheduled from the start of the project in number of formats to provide the community with all the information they need to participate meaningfully.
- Be considerate and provide feedback – communication activities are planned at various stages throughout the project to keep the community up to date and to feedback community input and how this input has shaped the outcome.
- Value and acknowledge skills and resources – opportunities have been identified to coordinate
- Engagement with other projects to avoid duplication and staff will be able to develop community engagement skills throughout the process.

3.1 International Association for Public Participation – IAP2

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) is a key international organisation advancing the practice of public participation. Their mission is to advance and extend the practice of public participation through professional development, certification, standards of practice, core values, advocacy and key initiatives with strategic partners around the world.

IAP2 Australasia are a member association incorporating individuals, governments, institutions and other entities that affect the public interest throughout the world.

IAP2 has developed tools that are widely used and acknowledged. These include the **Core Values for Public Participation** for use in the development and implementation of public participation processes; and the **IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum** which assists with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any community engagement program. Additionally, the **Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement**, is recognised as the international standard for public participation practice.

This CSEP has been prepared in consideration of the IAP2 tools and guidelines.

3.2 CM Act and CM Manual

The *Coastal Management Act* set out the following requirements for preparing a CMP.

Before adopting a coastal management program, a local council must consult on the draft program with:

- a) the community, and*
- b) if the local council's local government area contains:*
 - (i) land within the coastal vulnerability area, any local council whose local government area contains land within the same coastal sediment compartment (as specified in Schedule 1), and*

- (ii) *an estuary that is within 2 or more local government areas (as specified in Schedule 1), the other local councils, and*
- c) *other public authorities if the coastal management program:*
 - (iii) *proposes actions or activities to be carried out by that public authority, or*
 - (iv) *proposes specific emergency actions or activities to be carried out by a public authority under the coastal zone emergency action subplan, or*
 - (v) *relates to, affects or impacts on any land or assets owned or managed by that public authority.*

The Coastal Management Manual provides guidance on how to undertake engagement with stakeholders and the community to achieve the requirements of the CM Act. This guidance has been considered in the preparation of this CSEP.

4 Stakeholder Analysis

It is important to ensure that all those who need to be involved in coastal management (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the coast, community members who use and enjoy the amenity of the coast, and those with a vested interest in its management, such as property owners) are kept informed and invited to contribute to the process to establish a common understanding of coastal management and how decisions are made.

Stakeholders may tend to make judgements about coastal management based solely on their own perceptions. These perceptions can vary due to differences in values, needs, assumptions, concepts, concerns and degrees of knowledge. Stakeholders' views can have a significant impact on how they interpret the decisions made through the coastal management process, so it is important that differences in their perceptions of risk be identified, recorded and addressed.

A stakeholder matrix has been developed to identify relevant stakeholders, and their relative level of interest, influence and impact on the Coastal Management Program. The outcomes of this analysis identify the suitable level of consultation based on the IAP2 consultation spectrum (**Table 4-1**).

The stakeholder matrix is provided in **Table 4-2**. The matrix also indicates the suggested engagement method selected for each stakeholder based on the outcomes of the stakeholder analysis. Further details on the engagement methods are provided in **Section 5**.

Stakeholder contacts for each of the stakeholder types identified in **Table 4-2** is provided in **Attachment B (Confidential)**. This contact register will be updated throughout the project.

Table 4-1 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Participation Goal	To provide the stakeholders and community with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain stakeholder and community feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the community and stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the community and stakeholders in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public or stakeholders.
Promise	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how stakeholder and community input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how stakeholder and community input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Table 4-2 Stakeholder Matrix

Type	Organisations	Engagement level by Stage							
		Stage 1	Methods	Stage 2	Methods	Stage 3	Methods	Stage 4	Methods
Government (State and Federal)	Federal and state members of Parliament	Inform	Council / DPE to notify, as required	Inform	Council / DPE to notify, as required	Inform	Council / DPE to notify, as required	Inform	Council / DPE to notify, as required
Councils	Eurobodalla Shire Council (Project Manager)	Empower	Regular project meetings	Empower	Regular project meetings	Empower	Regular project meetings	Empower	Regular project meetings
	Eurobodalla Shire Council (Councillors)	Empower	Council / DPE to notify, as required	Empower	Council / DPE to notify, as required	Empower	Council / DPE to notify, as required	Empower	Council / DPE to notify, as required
	Eurobodalla Shire Council (other Council Staff)	Involve	Briefing 1	Involve	Briefing 2	Involve	Briefing 3	Involve	Briefing 4
	Shoalhaven Council	Inform	Virtual meeting	Inform	Project update email	Inform	Project update email	Inform	Project update email
	Bega Valley Shire Council	Inform	Virtual meeting	Inform	Project update email	Inform	Project update email	Inform	Project update email
State Government Agencies	DPE - BCD (project team)	Collaborate	Regular project meetings, deliverable review	Collaborate	Regular project meetings, deliverable review	Collaborate	Regular project meetings, deliverable review	Collaborate	Regular project meetings, deliverable review
	DPE - BCD (other stakeholders)	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
	DPE- Planning	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
	DPE - NPWS	Consult	CEMAC Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2 & CEMAC Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3 & CEMAC Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
	DPE - Fisheries	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
	DPE - Marine Parks	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 1 & CEMAC Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2 & CEMAC Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3 & CEMAC Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
	DPE - LLS	Consult	CEMAC Briefing 1	Inform	CEMAC Briefing 2	Involve	CEMAC Briefing 3	Involve	Invitation to review Draft CMP
	Transport for NSW	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
	MIDO	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 1	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 2	Consult	Taskforce Briefing 3	Involve	Virtual meeting to discuss Draft CMP
Advisory Bodies	Coast and Environment Management Advisory Committee (CEMAC)	Involve	Briefing 1	Involve	Briefing 2	Involve	Briefing 3	Involve	Briefing 4
	Northern Batemans Bay Coastal Taskforce	Involve	Briefing 1	Involve	Briefing 2	Involve	Briefing 3	Involve	Briefing 4
Traditional Land Owners	Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee	Involve	Letter / email Virtual meeting	Inform	Project update email	Inform	Project update email	Consult	Invitation to review Draft CMP
	Native title / NTSCORP	Inform	Email	Inform	Project update email	Involve	Co-Design Workshop Meetings on Country	Involve	Meetings on Country
	LALCs and Aboriginal Community Representatives	Involve	Phone calls Meeting / walkover on Country	Inform	Phone calls and virtual meetings	Involve	Co-Design Workshop Meetings on Country	Involve	Meetings on Country
	Wider Aboriginal Community Members	Inform	Project webpage	Inform	Project webpage	Consult	Meetings on Country	Consult	Meetings on Country

Type	Organisations	Engagement level by Stage							
		Stage 1	Methods	Stage 2	Methods	Stage 3	Methods	Stage 4	Methods
Community Organisations	Batemans Bay Boating Association Broulee Surf School Broulee Surf Life Savers Club Broulee Womens Board riding Club Eurobodalla Fishing Association Malua Bay Surf Life Saving Club Narooma Surf Life Saving Club Bingie Residents Association Broulee & Mossy Point Residents Association Durras Residents Association Congo Community Association Long Beach Community Association Inc Love Long Beach Potato Point Community Association Rosedale Community Association The Rosedale Association Inc Tomakin Community Association Maloneys Beach Residents Association Tuross Head Progress Association (THPA)	Inform	Updates on Council's Website	Inform	Invitation to join CWGs Project Newsletter	Consult	CWG (virtual) (registered members) Project Newsletter	Consult	Submission on Draft CMP Drop In Sessions CWG (virtual) (registered members)
	Surfside Engineers	Inform	Meeting at Surfside	Inform	Invitation to join CWGs Project Newsletter	Consult	CWG (virtual) Project Newsletter	Consult	CWG (face to face)
Individuals	Residents and landowners	Inform	Updates on Council's Website	Inform	Media invitation to join CWG Project Newsletter (to those who registered)	Consult	CWG (virtual) (registered members) Project Newsletter (registered members)	Consult	Online submissions Targetted Sessions Drop-in Sessions CWG (face to face) (registered members)
	Visitors	Inform	Updates on Council's Website	Inform	Updates on Council's Website	Inform	Updates on Council's Website	Consult	Invite submissions and attendance at drop-in sessions

5 Engagement Methods

A range of engagement methods have been developed based on the requirements of the CM Act and CM Manual, the objectives of the consultation (**Section 2**) and the level of consultation identified for each of the stakeholders (**Table 4-2**).

A description of the engagement methods, including a summary of the outcome of each method is provided in **Table 5-1**.

5.1 Social Media Strategy:

Council will reach out to the community throughout the CMP process at key stages using the following social media channels:

- Updates on Councils Open Coast Coastal Management Program website landing page
- Council's Facebook page
- Media Release
- Relevant council operated newsletters – e.g. Landcare Newsletter
- Open Coast CMP Newsletter at critical milestones to stakeholders that have registered an interest.

Through these channels, we can disseminate updates (such as brochures on Coastal hazard), access to the values survey and interactive map, and seek feedback on key aspects of the CMP.

Table 5-1 Engagement Methods

Engagement Method	Details	When	Outcomes
Updates to Council's website	Inform the broad community about the project and develop a list of stakeholders that would like more tailored/detailed project updates	Project entirety starting February 2021	Public downloads of Stage 1 and Stage 2 reports. This resulted in Council being contacted by several residents with queries showing a decent level of engagement. Provided the public with access to project newsletters, project updates, and public exhibition information.
Taskforce Briefing 1	Virtual meeting to provide an update on the project and identify any issues raised by attendees before proceeding to Stage 2	February 2021	Provide Stage Agency Stakeholders with an introduction to the CMP. Stakeholders identified issues and existing management plans to be considered in the CMP preparation.
CEMAC Briefing 1	In person meeting to provide an update on the project and identify any issues raised by attendees before proceeding to Stage 2	March 2021	Provide Agency Stakeholders (some not members of the Taskforce), Community representatives, and adjoining Council (BVSC & Shoalhaven) with an introduction to the CMP. Stakeholders identified issues to be considered in the CMP preparation.
Targeted Community Organisation and Traditional Land Owner Meetings	Council & Rhelm spoke to Aboriginal Community knowledge holders and Local Aboriginal Land Council representatives first. In this engagement, 3 sessions were held on Country and a 4th was held at Tomakin Sports & Recreation Club.	April / May 2021	Approximately 20 people attended in total. Community highlighted the importance of targeted engagement with them every step of the way, of building trust and expanding the engagement beyond the LALC's and beyond standard engagement practice. The project team felt that the current scope, at that time, would not allow them to meet these targets. Council applied for a grant from the NSW Department of Planning & Environment to facilitate a more in-depth consultation approach and allow Council to undertake a series of targeted consultation sessions informed by a Co-design workshop chaired by community leaders from across the Eurobodalla.
Media Releases	Council have sent out 3 Media Releases related to this Open Coast CMP; these are also accompanied by releases on the Council's Facebook Page and Instagram; including a call for EOI's to working groups through a short video.	Ongoing	16 th July 2021: Workshops to discuss future coastal management Eurobodalla Council website (nsw.gov.au) 6 th September 2021: Community reps pinpoint coastal concerns Eurobodalla Council website (nsw.gov.au) 6 th April 2022: Coastal hazard planning going swell Eurobodalla Council website (nsw.gov.au)
Community Project Updates	Council staff set up a CMP Newsletter to inform community and stakeholders about the progress of the CMP. Community groups and resident associations were sent an email with information about how to sign up, and this has been advertised through media release and the CEMAC.	Ongoing	Currently there are over 100 stakeholders on this mailing list. Sent on December 3: https://newsletters.esc.nsw.gov.au/t/r-2DCA2B70DD28FFE82540EF23F30FEDED Sent on September 10: https://newsletters.esc.nsw.gov.au/t/r-94E9BE91C27E92A32540EF23F30FEDED
CEMAC Briefing 2	Provide an update Stages 1 and 2 of the CMP and identify any issues raised by attendees before proceeding with Stage 3.	July 2021	Provided an opportunity for members to review the outcomes of the scoping study (including the risk assessment) and the Stage 2 assessments and identify any relevant issues for consideration in the identification of management options.
Community Working Groups	Five workshops with the Eurobodalla community and business representatives, to discuss the coastal hazard review and explore management options, were held online on the 24 and 25 August 2021. Word was spread through Media Release, Facebook and emails sent to community associations.	August 2021	33 community representatives attended these workshops, with attendees allocated a workshop based on their geographical location. Through these workshops community gained a better understanding of the coastal hazards that apply to Eurobodalla now and into the future. Community also provided a number of actions for Council and Rhelm to consider implementing through the CMP.
Taskforce Briefing 2	Provide an update of Stage 1 and 2 of the CMP, and a summary of the outcomes of the CWGs	September 2021	Provided an opportunity for Stage Agencies to review the outcomes of the scoping study (including the risk assessment) and the Stage 2 assessments and identify any relevant issues for consideration in the identification of management options.

Engagement Method	Details	When	Outcomes
CEMAC Workshop	As above – for CEMAC members	September 2021	Through these workshops CEMAC members gained a better understanding of the coastal hazards that apply to Eurobodalla now and into the future. The outcomes of the CWGs were presented, and feedback provided by CEMAC members. CEMAC members also provided a number of actions for Council and Rhelm to consider implementing through the CMP.
Traditional Owners Stage 2 (Coastal Hazards) Presentation	Council and Rhelm presented the draft coastal hazards risk in February 2022 to community to inform actions. This was initially scheduled for November 2021 but the sessions were placed on hold due to increased Covid-19 restrictions; they were then moved to an online format.	February 2022	Through these workshops community gained a better understanding of the coastal hazards that apply to Eurobodalla now and into the future. Community also provided a number of actions for Council and Rhelm to consider implementing through the CMP.
Traditional Owners: Co-design workshop and meetings on Country	A co-design workshop led by Evolve Studios, an Aboriginal Co-managed consulting agency specialised in engaging with First Nations people was held in March 2022. Knowledge holders and community leaders from across Eurobodalla were invited to attend and co-design the engagement approach for Council to undertake for the next stages of the CMP.	March 2022	Key outcomes of the Co-design approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage outside the box and on Country – Try to make engagement interesting, and safe. Link in to other projects or activities to avoid consultation fatigue. Most importantly, let community guide the meeting – ask them where to meet and how. Engage outside the LALC's: the community leaders agreed to assist Council in identifying community members who don't typically get to have a say; including the youth. Engage often; First Nations people feel that they are often consulted at the end of a project, not before or during. Effort needs to be made to ensure they have a strong understanding of the work the whole way through, not simply asked to give it their approval.
Traditional Owners: Meetings on Country & Eat, Meet, Yarn sessions	Following the co-design workshop, Council staff worked with the co-design group leaders to organise a series of meetings on country to discuss opportunities for actions in the CMP and talk through the actions already identified. These took the form of a combination of site visits and "Eat Meet Yarn" barbecues; an informal meeting for broader community to have their say in a safe, comfortable format.	April 2022 – June 2022	A range of management issues were identified for consideration in the CMP. Including site specific protection of Aboriginal Heritage and opportunities to better involve Traditional Owners in coastal management. These outcomes formed the basis for several of the actions in the CMP.
Taskforce Briefing 3	Present the draft CMP for agency review	June 2022	State Agency representative were provided with an overview of the CMP, including details of the major structural items recommended. Agencies asked questions to inform their review of the CMP and understand their obligations to the process.
Agency Review of Draft CMP	Draft CMP supplied for review Virtual meetings undertaken to discuss specific details requiring agency support	June – July 2022	Feedback on actions relevant to agency lead or support was provided. Several amendments were made to the CMP to reflect the additional information and knowledge supplied by the agencies.
Community Working Groups	Discuss coastal management options to obtain feedback to inform recommended actions in the draft CMP	July 2022	Four community working groups were undertaken over 2 days (25-26 July 2022) and were attended by 20 community members. Overall, the attendees responded favourably to the options presented for inclusion in the CMP and provided useful feedback to provide updates to option details.
Taskforce Briefing 4	Discuss outcomes of Agency Review	July 2022	The outcomes of the community working groups were presented to the Taskforce, along with the modifications to the draft CMP as an outcome of the Agency Review. The \$5 Million Election Commitment allocation was agreed (as per the allocation shown in the Business Plan).
Public Exhibition: Public Submissions	Obtain feedback on Draft CMP	September – October 2022	Not yet undertaken

Engagement Method	Details	When	Outcomes
Public Drop In Sessions - draft CMP exhibition	Inform the community on the recommendations of the CMP. Obtain feedback on the draft CMP.	September – October 2022	Not yet undertaken



Attachment A

Previous Stakeholder and
Community Engagement

A1 Eurobodalla 2030 Community Survey (undertaken 2010)

The Eurobodalla community survey was undertaken prior to the CZMP project establishment in 2010. The key message from residents in 2010 was the preservation, protection and maintenance of the natural environment, especially the coastal and marine environments. Although it was recognised that growth and development of the region was important, it was communicated that this should not be done at the expense of the natural environment. Participants also expressed their desire to retain rural lands.

The question was asked “what do you value the most?” and of the 1400 respondents, over 40% said the beaches, coast and marine environments. The second most valued aspect was the natural environment, with 27% of the total. When asked what their vision of the future entailed, the most frequent response was that growth and development of area is carefully controlled. This clearly highlights the community’s awareness of the delicate balance between managing resources and the environment and allowing for community development.

A2 Stage 3 CMP Engagement – 2017 & 2018

Council has previously conducted consultation activities over the course of the Coastal Management Program to understand the ways in which people use and value the coast, and to provide information about the results of detailed coastal process, hazard and risk studies undertaken to date. The majority of this consultation was around coastal hazard identification and management and took place in 2017-2018. Council staff noted the following lessons were learned through this process:

- Care must be taken to use engaging and open language that is “easily digestible”
- In particular, residents are not familiar with the way risk and uncertainty are managed in a planning process
- A need to ensure that management responses are clearly linked to a vision for the coast and specific objectives that are widely shared by the broader community
- A need to ensure several different types of engagement options are available – including online, individual and group/community face to face

The summary of the consultation undertaken in 2017-2018 as part of the CMP process is provided in **Table A1**.

Table A1 Previous CMP Engagement 2017-2018

Date	Activity	Stakeholder Group
14 June 2018	Mail out	Owners of property in an area identified as at risk from coastal hazards
23 July 9:00am-10:00am	Small working groups	Owners of property in an area identified as at risk from coastal hazards
23 July 10:30-12:30	Small working groups	Local NGO’s
23 July 1:00pm- late	Small working groups	Owners of property in an area identified as at risk from coastal hazards
24 July 7:00-8:00 am	Open forum	Batemans Bay Business chamber
24 July 10:00am-3:00pm	Community drop-in session Batemans Bay	All residents
24 July 5:00 – 8:00pm	Private discussions	Owners of property in an area identified as at risk from coastal hazards

Date	Activity	Stakeholder Group
25 July 10:00am-2:00pm	Private discussions	Owners of property in an area identified as at risk from coastal hazards
25 July 6:00am-8:00pm	Community drop-in session - Broulee	All residents
26 July	Private discussions	Owners of property in an area identified as at risk from coastal hazards
26 July 3:00pm-7:00pm	Community drop-in session - Batemans Bay	All residents
27 July 10:00am-2:00pm	Community drop-in session - Narooma	All residents

A2-2 Summary by location and meeting type

The individual meetings involved some 21 people through direct discussions with residents from suburbs identified in the 2017 Coastal Hazard Assessment; Surfside, Long Beach, Tomakin and Broulee. Some important findings from these discussions with individuals include:

- Aspirations and expectations vary considerably between localities
- Diversity of views within each locality – not a universally accepted response
- Coastal processes are not generally well understood, although many people have observed changes on local beaches for the many years they have lived there.
- Waterfront private property owners are generally more motivated to participate in public discussion
- Limited understanding of how risk is defined and calculated. Some unwillingness to accept advice about risk.
- Waterfront property owners feeling entitled to a higher level of service (including coastal protection works) than rest of community due to belief they make a higher contribution to rates
- Views expressed that the community should pay in full to protect private properties
- A high level of anxiety about the impact of publicly available coastal hazard information on private property values, including properties in short term high risk area for beach erosion and properties in longer term risk areas for recession and tidal inundation

A2-1 General drop-in sessions

General consultation with the broader community included targeted workshops, open drop-in sessions and opportunity for on-line comment. These sessions were held at Batemans Bay (2), Broulee (1) and Narooma (1). Some important findings from these discussions include:

- Public access to beaches was the most consistent issue raised
- Condition of existing tracks and access paths
- Preserve natural coast
- Protect dunes
- Private property should not be subsidised
- Impact on wetlands through implementation of Rural lands strategy and proposed amendment to the LEP
- Excellent oral history of past flooding and ocean inundation was conveyed at the Batemans Bay session.
- A wide range of other comments were also noted by respondents – but in smaller numbers. Some important comments included:

- Storm water function at Hanging Rock
- Picnic facilities at beaches and coastal reserves
- Condition and maintenance of existing rock wall near marine rescue in Batemans Bay
- Management of coastal lake entrances to prevent die back of old growth trees

A2-3 Summary of feedback and concerns recorded through affected landowners engagement

Diverse views and aspirations were expressed over a five day period of engagement with residents noted as “affected” by coastal hazards. A summary of the outcomes of this engagement is below:

- Access to beaches, community facilities and condition of dunes is key concern for wider community
- Protection of property and maintaining property value are important to waterfront property owners
- People value their coastal lifestyle at the community scale. This can include their attitude to beach access, views and dune vegetation
- Most people accept there is a risk from coastal hazards at some locations and that these risks will change over time
- Not all residents accept the risks exist. This is in part associated with understanding of coastal processes and hazards, and acceptance (or not) of the need to consider the impact of climate change in long term planning
- Misconception about the scale and application of the interim council policy relating to development consents, especially triggers for planned retreat.

A2-4 Limitations of consultation

The consultation was targeted towards property owners with dwellings on land identified as being at risk or potentially at risk in the future from coastal hazards. These property owners were contacted directly by mail and advised about the forthcoming engagement activities. The only individual stakeholders offered private consultation were owners of waterfront properties, many of whom are non-residents. These views therefore are not considered wholly representative of the broader Eurobodalla community.

A2-4-1 *Long Beach*

- Residents along Bay Road do not want any works to occur and prefer a “wait and see” approach.
- Strong objection to planting trees on public foreshore areas by some
- Limited acceptance of risk identified by the 2017 Coastal Hazard Assessment.
- Differences between aspirations of residents at eastern and western ends of beach. Residents along Bay Street felt existing protection (a buried rock wall) is sufficient.

A2-4-2 *Tomakin*

- Residents identified a storm water drain as an issue, from both coastal hazard and coastal amenity perspectives. The consensus was that the beach is generally a safe and protected beach enjoyed by young families and older people.
- A desire for alternatives to manage erosion from storm water outlet during high discharge events. Some suggestions included moving the drain (redesigning the stormwater system for the area), or as a minimum an investigation of the feasibility of alternatives as an action of the CMP.

- Location of council water and sewer assets on the council reserve on the ocean side of houses means a joint response and contribution from council to protect these assets will be required.
- Disappointment that council support for a community funded walkway to improve access to the beach was withdrawn on grounds of being susceptible to coastal erosion.
- Options such as beach scraping should be considered. Support from residents to maintain and improve density of dune vegetation over time.
- Varying levels of acceptance of impacts from coastal hazards – some residents were not as concerned as they had owned property for a very long time and had enjoyed them realising things could change in the future

A2-4-3 Broulee

- Identified a desire to preserve the dunes – possibly use beach scraping and sand bags (during and immediately after beach erosion events).
- Maintaining dune vegetation was identified as a good short to medium term option – it was noted that care needs to be taken when managing weeds on dunes to ensure native vegetation is not damaged/killed.
- Requested an improved headland pathway between north Broulee and mossy point – Locals reiterated that it is important to consider actions that will benefit whole community.

A2-4-4 Surfside

- Some Surfside residents wanted engineered coastal protection works paid in full by the ratepayers (Council and State Government). Specifically, these works are to protect private property, and are to be constructed on public land.
- Residents also want to see ongoing beach nourishment to maintain a sandy beach
- Impact on private property values are the primary concern, for properties affected by short and long term erosion or inundation
- Notable rejection of the risk identified in the 2017 Coastal Hazard Assessments. The residents do not accept the hazard analysis or the input information used.

A2-5 Summary of the comments received from NGO groups (meetings and online)

A2-5-1 Batemans Bay Business Chamber

- Acknowledgement and acceptance of risks from coastal hazards, affecting the CBD area. Businesses are aware of the disruption caused by wave overtopping and tidal inundation
- Suggested major engineered works such as building additional walls in the centre of the Bay to create a better channel and prevent wave energy entering inner Bay area
- Businesses raised concerns about the impact of the new bridge construction and changes to lease/licensing arrangements affecting specific on-water businesses
- Commented that dredging of navigation channels has been of little benefit – channel quickly refills with sand

A2-5-2 Eurobodalla Coastal Alliance

- The consensus was a rejection of the 2017 WRL report and findings.
- A desire to see planned retreat removed as an option, as well as a review of conditions of consent that relate to coastal hazards and risks removed
- There is a belief by some that Surfside is owed a rockwall funded by the local and state government due to the perception that erosion of the northern shoreline is exclusively driven by foreshore works on the southern side of the bay, as well as the original Batemans Bay bridge.

A2-5-3 Coastwatchers

- Identified a desire to see environmental health and access improved through CMP, and don't wish to see amenity or access lost through hard solutions (e.g rock walls)
- Preference for strengthening dunes systems; have been involved in a number of landcare projects to contribute to this. Soft solutions preferred to hard.



Attachment B

Stakeholder Contact Register
(Confidential)



Attachment C

Targeted Aboriginal Community
Engagement

C1 Aboriginal Engagement Overview

Culturally appropriate engagement with Aboriginal communities including traditional owners, Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) and other relevant knowledge holders is an integral part of preparing a CMP. It is essential to understand the cultural significance of the coastal landscape and the influence that coastal processes and environmental change may have on the values of physical and non-physical (i.e. tangible and intangible) elements of cultural heritage.

Appropriate consultation will promote effective engagement participation and facilitate the sharing and exchange of cultural and scientific knowledge, to support the strategic integration of Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation and adaptation management approaches into the Open Coast CMP.

To support and guide our engagement approach, Council and Rhelm have paired with Aboriginal engagement specialists Evolve Communities to undertake authentic engagement training through the Songlines Pathway© that will not only build trust between stakeholders and project team, but impart a strong understanding of culturally appropriate, safe engagement to allow meaningful development and implementation of the CMP.

Engagement with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in the following stages:

C2. Stage 1 Consultation on Country:

Early on in the development of the CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study, Council and Rhelm met on country with Aboriginal Community Stakeholders including LALC representatives, elders and knowledge holders. Meetings were held at the Land Council building in Narooma, on the banks of the Wagonga Inlet and at the Tomakin Sport and Recreation Club in March 2021. Through these meetings, a need for broader consultation in a respectful, safe way was identified.

Stakeholders met at this time included:

- Wagonga LALC -
- Mogo LALC
- Cobowra LALC
- Batemans Bay LALC
- South Coast Peoples Native Title Claimants
- NSW Fishing Rights Group
- Yuin / Biripi Woman and Traditional Knowledge holder
- Various members of the Walbunja community in a large meeting at Tomakin, with support from Marine Parks and NSW Heritage.

Meetings were scheduled with Merriman's LALC but were unfortunately cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

C2 -1: Key messages:

- Better consultation needed from the start of government process and a more coordinated approach. A huge amount of consultation is expected of Aboriginal people at times with no reimbursement and often no clear benefit to community.

- There are identified cultural sites that need protection now; these include Mummaga Headland, Fullers Beach.
- The native title claim is across all of South Coast, and needs to be recognised in the CMP
- Self-determination is a value that community want to work towards
- Better mapping and therefore protection for cultural items – AHIMS is inaccurate and relying on AHIMS alone is not enough. Predictive mapping would be valuable.
- Cultural tourism should be managed and owned by local knowledge holders.
- Desire to see support for Aboriginal tourism and story telling – views that this could be significant contribution for employment and improve ownership of information to the Aboriginal community.

C3. Stage 2 & 3 Engagement

C3-1 Online meetings

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, follow-up meetings with Community were not achievable through face-to-face meetings, which was the preferred method identified by Aboriginal Community. In order to present the stage 2 findings and enable early input from Aboriginal Community stakeholders into the actions list of the CMP, a series of online meetings were organised by Rhelm and Council staff. All 6 of the Eurobodalla Local Aboriginal Land Council's were invited to these meetings.

C3-2 Stage 2 and 3 Co-design approach & workshop.

Following the Stage 1 consultation, an Aboriginal Engagement Strategy was established by Council and Rhelm. Aboriginal Community engagement specialists Evolve Studios were engaged to undertake a 7-step training program with Council staff to improve their understanding of safe, respectful engagement with Traditional Owners. Over the course of 3 sessions, Aunty Munya and Carla Rogers stepped Council project staff through a series of learning exercises on safe and meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners. As a response to some of the values identified in Stage 1 by Aboriginal Community Stakeholders, a co-design approach between Aboriginal Community and Council was adopted to guide how the next stages of engagement will occur. Following the Evolve training sessions, financial assistance from Department of Planning and Environment was sought and received, allowing Council to begin planning a co-design workshop with Aboriginal Community. This was achieved using Evolves Songlines Pathways© and through the workshop, an engagement pathway was established for stages 2-4 of the CMP.

C3-3 . Co-design workshop key values:

The co-design workshop was attended by representatives from the Local Aboriginal Land Council's of Batemans Bay, Wagonga and Mogo, as well as a representative from the Yuin Native Title Claimants and Walbunja Elders. Council staff and Rhelm staff were also in attendance and the workshop was led by Evolve Studios.

Key values identified through the workshop are captured in the table below. These were used to shape engagement across the remaining stages of the CMP.

Core values of Co-design

- There is genuine opportunity for the Community to contribute to decision-making and shape outcomes – that outcomes are not pre-determined
- Let Traditional Owners have a say in determining the meeting place and time
- Offer food, transport, reimbursement – make sure the experience is worthwhile and enjoyable for community.
- The agency still has important decisions to make and is not committed to a specified outcome.
- The agency has clearly defined what's negotiable (on the table for discussion) and what isn't (off the table for discussion). The below table outlines these:

<p>What are the negotiables and non-negotiables for this project?</p>	<p>Negotiables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to improve access to Country • Input into coastal management options being considered for inclusion in the CMP: e.g. what might the cultural impacts be, are there opportunities for Aboriginal people that could be incorporated into the options • Identification and development of additional options to be considered for inclusion in the CMP • How Aboriginal people want to be involved and / or engaged with when coastal management actions are being implemented (e.g. how to identify and involve the appropriate knowledge holder) 	<p>Non-Negotiables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CMP will be prepared and certified • Coastal protection works will need to go ahead in some places • Other coastal management actions will go ahead (e.g. coastal use and coastal environment actions) • Decisions that arise from Aboriginal engagement not necessarily negotiable (e.g. Knowledge holders may inform the Council team of issues and risks, but ultimately Council or another Agency will be the decision maker) • Project timing and budget will sometimes not be negotiable and this will impact the engagement and collaboration possible
<p>How will the list of negotiable items for this project be of interest to the Community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the Community understand how they engage with the CMP preparation • Help the Community understand how they will be engaged with in the future • Understand where the limit of their decision-making power will be 	
<p>Potential benefits of effective engagement (Why bother?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise government investment by ensuring programs are targeted to the needs identified by the community • Building community and government capacity to identify and realise shared objectives • Empowering community ownership and buy-in to solutions and reforms 	
<p>2.3 How much influence can the community have (who is the decision maker, the level of engagement?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on options recommended in the CMP – i.e. provide feedback • Involve in the development of options directly related to Aboriginal community, i.e. suggestions for options to include and details of these options • Consult when implementing coastal management actions – cultural considerations and managing impacts • Involve when implementing Aboriginal Community coastal management actions e.g. Access to Council planning and actions. 	

C3-4 Meetings on Country and Connection to Country Films

Council staff then hosted a series of meetings undertaken in a manner guided and designed by our Aboriginal representatives and knowledge holders through the Songlines Pathways© workshop. These meetings were in small groups, on Country and allowed Council staff to discuss the impacts of known coastal hazards, vulnerabilities and opportunities to investigate through the CMP. Discussions around actions and coastal management priorities were held at the following locations chosen by Aboriginal Community:

- Broulee Island
- Fullers Headland

Council staff also coordinated with Department of Planning and Environment to capture footage of interviews held at some of these sessions. These videos will be available online through the Open Coast CMP webpage and capture the views of Traditional Owners around connection to Country, being engaged and involved in coastal management and their perspectives on working alongside local and state government.

C3-5 Eat, Meet Yarn sessions

Council staff followed up on these meetings on country with a series of informal BBQ's where community were invited to "Eat, Meet and Yarn" with Council staff.

BBQ's were held on the banks of Wagonga Inlet (Narooma), Bhundoo (Clyde River) and at Mogo, and provided an informal, relaxed format for conversation around opportunities and values to be included in the CMP, as well as a review of the draft CMP actions identified for different areas of the Eurobodalla Coastline that had been raised by Aboriginal Community throughout the process.



Rockpools by Bronwen Smith of Gaiyala Art

Meet, eat and yarn

Invite

When: Friday 20 May
Time: Drop-in anytime between 1pm and 3pm
Where: Narooma's Rotary Park, 1 Bar Rock Road, Narooma

You're invited to meet, eat and yarn with staff from Eurobodalla Council about how we use and manage the coast. A barbecue lunch will be provided.

Council planners are keen to learn:

- What areas are important to you and need better protection
- How Council can reflect and conserve your family's Country and culture in its coastal planning
- How your sacred places on the coast should be managed in the face of climate change and development.

This is a Eurobodalla Council initiative with support from NSW Planning and Environment

NSW Planning & Environment

eurobodalla shire council

C3-6 Key outcomes of Stage 2 and 3 Consultation:

Actions to investigate through the CMP:

1. Council to look for ways to support to Aboriginal individuals or groups seeking to implement business opportunities to increase local and tourist awareness of Aboriginal culture in the Eurobodalla coastal area. This could be through accessing assistance in grant funding opportunities, or simply collaborating with community in getting their own initiatives off the ground through the approvals process.
2. Support local Aboriginal Communities manage cultural heritage from coastal hazards and sea level rise and other coastal threats. Quick and well-strategised protection is important to community.
3. Improve access to Country: establish an access to Country plan and implement (ESC / NPWS)
4. Identify and use Aboriginal place names in coastal education, place-naming materials and signage (ESC) and identify cultural art opportunities for concurrent projects, such as wooden carvings for the Wagonga Living Shoreline and signage for the Coastal Headlands Walk.
5. Traditional Cultural Burnings; investigate opportunities for a cultural burning program with the LALC's and Firesticks Australia
6. Aboriginal Seasonal Calendar; work alongside the LALC's and broader community to design and exhibit a food & medicine seasonal calendar for the Eurobodalla as a way of showcasing Aboriginal connection to the land, flora & fauna and weather patterns.

2. Location specific actions:

1. Mummaga Headland: Midden sites located at Mummaga Headland are embedded in the cliffs and are currently accessible to foot traffic. Due to informalised access on the southern side of the headland, these middens are continuously eroded by the foot traffic accessing the shoreline. Revegetation of the midden sites and a formalised access to the foreshore needs to be examined.
2. Tilba & Nangudga Beach: There are sites of significance to the Narooma & Wallaga Lake community along Tilba beach which they would like to see protected from foot traffic.
3. Broulee headland and Island: Access to Shark Bay and Broulee island is important to both the Mogo Local Land Council and several local Aboriginal fisherman. The current accessway is unsafe due to conflicts between foot traffic and fishermen in vehicles. The Mogo LALC and fishermen currently maintain the accessway, but would like to see it widened to accommodate foot traffic better to resolve the conflict.
4. MOU with Mogo LALC and ESC over the future of the Barlings Beach Aboriginal Place.
 - The Mogo LALC want to see a new MOU formed with Council over the Barlings Beach Aboriginal Place. Currently Council manage this land but Mogo LALC would prefer to see it handed over.

C4: Stage 4 Consultation



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