

Manning River Estuary Coastal Management Program Community Reference Group

Date	7 October 2020	Time	10am -12.30pm
Venue	MidCoast Council – Boardroom, Taree Office	Note-taker	Prue Tucker
Present	<p>Councillors Len Roberts and Katheryn Smith (Co-Chairs)</p> <p>Sam Nicholson – MidCoast Dairy Advancement Group</p> <p>Peter Longworth – Manning Delta Landholders Group (beef industry)</p> <p>Kirsty Hughes – community representative</p> <p>Tony Wales - community representative</p> <p>Neil Kelleher- NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment</p> <p>Geoff LeMessurier – Hunter Local Land Services</p> <p>Kirby Byrne - Hunter Local Land Services (observer)</p> <p>Joedie Lawler - CEO Taree Purfleet Local Aboriginal Lands Council</p> <p>Josh Chivers – National Parks and Wildlife Service</p> <p>Peter Neal – Manning Delta Landholders Group (dairy industry)</p> <p>Paul De Szell, Gerard Tuckerman, Louise Duff, Prue Tucker – MidCoast Council</p>		
Apologies	<p>Councillor Dr David Keegan</p> <p>Peter Bignell – representing beef and dairy industry</p> <p>John Harris – Recreational fishing</p> <p>Ian Crisp – Manning River Oyster Farmers’ Association</p> <p>Chris Scott – Manning Landcare</p> <p>Noel Piercy – community representative</p> <p>Andre Uljee – Transport NSW</p>		

Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Councillor Smith opened the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners and welcomed all for attending the third Manning River Estuary Coastal Management Program Reference Group meeting.

2

Introduction (Louise Duff)

An overview of consultation to date was presented along with the plan for future engagement (**see figures below**).

The Reference Group members reviewed the draft CMP management options developed to address key issues under each objective.

The draft objectives are as follows:

1. Manage the Manning River Catchment and its Estuary holistically to maintain and improve water quality and ecosystem services.
2. Protect and enhance natural character and biological diversity.
3. Understand, mitigate, adapt and build resilience to current and future hazards including the impacts of climate change.
4. Engage with our community, build capacity and support partnerships to promote understanding, connection and stewardship.
5. Manage the Manning River Catchment and its Estuary to maintain and improve social, cultural, and economic opportunities and benefits.
6. Acknowledge and support Aboriginal peoples' spiritual, social, customary and economic connection to the Manning River Catchment and its Estuary.
7. Facilitate ecologically sustainable development and promote sustainable land use planning decision-making.
8. Build stakeholder partnerships for good governance and integrated management.

The top five issues are:

- Promoting community stewardship
- Restoring coastal wetlands
- Riparian vegetation management
- Supporting uptake of agricultural best practice
- Managing floodplain drainage and Acid Sulfate Soils

Other issues addressed included:

- Modified Flow
- Sewerage and Septic Pathogens
- Urban Stormwater, litter and marine debris
- Wildlife Conservation
- Entrance Modifications and Modified Hydrology
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Flooding, Coastal Inundation Tidal Inundation

The Reference Group members expressed their general support, noting that the draft management options are holistic and address the key problems impacting water quality and ecosystem health in the catchment.

Comments were received relating to:

- Supporting purchase and remediation of Acid Sulfate Soil hotspots.
- Incorporating Aboriginal cultural knowledge into the CMP.
- Supporting innovation within the farming community, building on past trials and promoting both financial and environmental benefits of agricultural best practice.
- Expanding use of recycled water for stock and farm use.
- Working collaboratively with landholders on the floodplain to develop an adaptation plan to mitigate climate change impacts.
- Building community awareness of climate change risks.
- Working with landholders to improve erosion and sediment control.

Consultation and revision of the management options continues. Council will be briefed on the draft Manning River Estuary CMP prior to exhibition.

The next steps were presented:

October-November

- Aboriginal consultation led by Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Community group consultation

November-December

- Evaluate technical feasibility, financial viability
- Finalise and prioritise the actions
- Develop the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan
- Develop the Business Plan

December-January

- Draft the CMP

January-February

- Stakeholder review

March

- Public exhibition and review

April

- CMP presented to Council for adoption

3	Councillor Smith thanked all for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting.
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Manning River Estuary CMP Reference Group Meeting Actions

Meeting	Action	Status
11 Dec 2019	Declare pecuniary or conflict of interest at next meeting using the form provided.	Ongoing
12 Feb 2020	Members are invited to read the Stage 2 reports on the Community Values Survey and the farmers consultation on best practice catchment management available at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/ourmanningriver	Complete
12 Feb 2020	Louise Duff up-load Rapid Site Assessment report to Our Manning River web page and circulate link with minutes.	Complete
12 Feb 2020	John Harris review the report on behalf of the reference group and report back to next meeting.	Complete, report distributed
12 Feb 2020	Louise Duff will complete a summary document for distribution to the Reference Group.	Complete
7 Oct 2020	Present draft Manning catchment spatial management prioritisation (decision support) tool to Reference group for comment	
7 Oct 2020	Present draft Local Environment Plan land-use zonings to Reference Group	
7 Oct 2020	Check the strategic planning actions against the Exempt and Complying SEPP to make sure that we are not encouraging inappropriate development.	

Next meeting

Date	February 2020	Time	TBC
Venue	MidCoast Council – Chambers, Taree office		
Note taker	TBC		

OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION

ASSESS RISKS

NOVEMBER 2018
● Technical Working Group workshop

IDENTIFY ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

OCTOBER 2019
● MCC staff workshop
FEBRUARY 2020
● CMP Reference Group workshop
MAY 2020
● CMP Reference Group interviews
SEPTEMBER 2020
● ● ● ● Multi-stakeholder discussion groups
NOVEMBER 2020
● Biripai Voice Aboriginal Consultation

EXHIBIT AND REVIEW CMP

JANUARY 2021
● ● ● ● ● All stakeholders review
FEBRUARY 2021
● Councillors workshop
MARCH 2021
● Public Exhibition

RISKS

VALUES

ISSUES

ACTIONS

EXHIBIT

ADOPT CMP

VISION AND VALUES

AUGUST 2018
● Councillor workshop
OCTOBER 2019
● Community workshops; on-line survey
DECEMBER 2019
● CMP Reference Group workshop

EVALUATE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

OCTOBER 2020
● CMP Reference Group workshop – acceptability
● Consult Community Groups - acceptability
NOVEMBER 2020
● Technical Working Group
● MCC staff workshop – feasibility, viability

ADOPT CMP

APRIL 2021
● Councillors

WHO ARE WE CONSULTING?

MANNING RIVER ESTUARY CMP REFERENCE GROUP	TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP	MIDCOAST COUNCIL (MCC)	OTHER STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	MIDCOAST COMMUNITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community representatives • Beef, dairy and oyster farmers • MidCoast-to-Tops Landcare • Recreational Fishing • Local Land Services • National Parks and Wildlife • DPIE • Local Aboriginal Land Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC teams • Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) • Department of Primary Industries (DPI) • Local Land Services (LLS) • National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) • Water Research Laboratory – University of NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors • Natural Systems • Strategic Planning • Water Management • Floodplain Management • Emergency Response • Economic development and Tourism • Health and Regulation • Community Spaces and recreation • Business Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for NSW • Coastal Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups • Township residents • Rural landholders • Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council • Aboriginal stakeholders