

Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program Reference Group

Date	7/5/24	Time	11:00am – 2:30pm
Venue	Civic centre	Note-taker	Erin Masters, Prue Tucker
Present	Councillor Katheryn Stinson (Chair), Councillor Dheera Smith, Councillor Paul Sandilands, Helen Kemp (Landcare Representative), Helmut Panhuber, Brett Newbold, Matthew Barry, Jade Baggins, Ross Fiddon, Peter Davies, Deborah Brassey, Jessica Harris, Josh Chivers, Grant Nelson, Paul De Szell, Cherie Colyer-Morris, Andrew Hampstead, Prue Tucker, Erin Masters, Donna Hudson		
Apologies	Local Land Services, DECCW, Kathleen Cheers, George McKay, Alana Simon, Ainslie Downes		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	<p>Governance Induction: Governance requirements for the committee were outlined by the Governance team including code of conduct and declaring conflicts of interest. Full induction kit will be sent to members following the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Estuary Management in the Southern Estuaries: Presentation outlining the history of strategic planning and scientific research that has been completed for the Southern Estuaries over the past 30 years. Examples of the kinds of actions that have been completed were presented as case studies from the Wallamba River, urban stormwater management and rural land management. Waterway Health Report cards were discussed as a key tool for monitoring the success of management actions and reporting to the community on ground actions achieved.</p> <p>It was recommended that the committee review the historical report cards to develop an understanding of the achievements in estuary management. Each year the middle page is used to highlight a key achievement. The technical report is a key document that provides details on the achievements each year.</p> <p><u>MidCoast Annual Waterway and Catchment Report Card</u></p>

Action: Committee members review report card background to develop an understanding of the history of estuary management.

Questions

Seagrass – Wallis and Myall Lakes formed after the last ice age, about 20 000 years ago. Wallis Lake is home to the Northern most colony of *Posidonia australis*. More information on the species can be found [here](#).

There are other species of *Posidonia* (*Posidonia oceanica*) in the Mediterranean Sea that are estimated to be 100 000 years old, however there is no information on the age of the species in Wallis Lake.

3

Background to the CMP process Stages 1 & 2: Presentation outlining the Coastal Management Programs and the requirements under the Coastal Management Act. The objectives of the Act and therefore the areas to be addressed in a Coastal Management Program were outlined. Details of what has been achieved to date with the development of the Southern Estuaries CMP (Stages 1 and 2) and the results of community feedback in Stage 1 were summarised.

Action: Committee to review the Scoping study to develop background understanding of the estuaries and the key risks to be addressed in through development of the program.

Southern Estuaries CMP Scoping Study

Noted: Coastal Management Program – confusing title when compared to CMP (Catchment Management Plan). Coastal Management Program refers to a program of actions for the coastal zone. The coastal zone is identified in the hazard and resilience State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) mapping.

Noted that this program will cover both the coastal zone and the wider catchment with actions for the coastal zone being identified in a separate section of the plan so that they are able to be certified and then part funded through state government funding. Acknowledged that a catchment approach is necessary to protect our estuaries particularly the sensitive intermittently closed and opened lake or lagoon (ICOLL) like Smiths Lake.

4	<p>Stages 3 & 4, Role of the committee: A presentation outlining the methodology for Stages 3 & 4 including the role of the committee at each stage of the program development. Consultants have been engaged to assist with developing issues papers and identifying options for management. Council staff will lead on community engagement providing feedback on the actions and the viability, feasibility and acceptability of the actions.</p> <p>It was discussed with the committee that meetings will be held at the civic centre. The dates for the meetings will be set following a timeline review with the consultants. The meetings will not be held at regular intervals but will be held when input on the program is required. It is anticipated the plan will be completed mid-2025.</p>

Next meeting

Date	16 July 2024	Time	10.00am
Venue	Forster Civic Centre	Note-taker	Erin Masters