



# How healthy is ... ...Smiths Lake ?



Have you noticed changes in Smiths Lake over the past 10 years? *Has it become cleaner and healthier? Or has it degraded?*

In 2001 Great Lakes Council adopted the Smiths Lake Estuary Management Plan. The Plan sought to improve the health and long-term sustainability of the lake. This Plan is now being reviewed by Great lakes Council and the Wallis and Smiths Lake Coast and Estuaries Committee. Lots has happened since 2001, both within the community and in our understanding of the 'science' of the lake. An up-to-date Plan is required so that Council, with support from various government agencies, can ensure that the lake stays healthy for future generations.

*We need your help.....*

The best people to comment on Smiths Lake are those that use it and see it every day. The Smiths Lake community is therefore encouraged to help with the Estuary Management Plan review. Just fill out some details on the questionnaire attached to this brochure and send it back to us before **30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.**



## *What is an Estuary Management Plan?*

An Estuary Management Plan is a 'guideline' document used by Councils and other agencies to help with long-term planning and environmental sustainability of an estuary (tidal waterway or lake). It contains a list of prioritised works and actions aimed at protecting the estuary values (ie its good aspects) and rectifying the issues (ie its bad aspects).

The Smiths Lake Estuary Management Plan focuses on five main topics:

1. Lake Entrance opening procedure,
2. Erosion and sedimentation,
3. Water quality,
4. Habitat conservation, and
5. Waterway access and user conflicts

See overleaf for more details or download the full Estuary Management Plan at :

<http://www.greatlakes.local-e.nsw.gov.au/environment/71604/71607.html>

## *Project Contacts*

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# Background Information

The key management issues previously identified at Smiths Lake are discussed below, along with the current status of some key works and actions outlined in the Estuary Management Plan.

## 1. Opening Procedure

The entrance of Smiths Lake is artificially opened from time to time to alleviate flooding of low-lying foreshore lands. Actions in the plan that have been undertaken include:

- Formalise an 'opening strategy' for Smiths Lake ✓ **completed**
- Recording and monitoring of opening events ✓ **ongoing**



Lake Opening May 2003

## 2. Erosion and Sedimentation

The erosion of surrounding lands can lead to a build up of sediments within the Lake. This can reduce water depths and affect water quality. Some examples of Council actions on reducing erosion and sedimentation include:

- Engineering works to rehabilitate gully erosion on Patsy's Flat Road ✓ **completed**
- Construction of Nicolas ski jumps ✓ **completed**



Nicolas ski jump

## 3. Water Quality

Water quality in Smiths Lake is generally good, and supports a diverse range of species, as well as a range of water-based activities. Ways in which Council is trying to maintain good

## 4. Habitat Conservation

The land surrounding Smiths Lake includes a number of protected coastal wetlands and two National Parks. To improve habitat conservation, Council has been focusing on protecting and enhancing the lake foreshores, managing vehicle access and community education. Some examples of works and actions from the plan include:

- Implementation of Waterway Zoning to provide enhanced protection to valuable habitat areas ✓ **completed**
- Weed control (e.g. bitou bush) in degraded entrance areas ✓ **completed**



Creek entering Symes Bay

## 5. Waterway Access and User Conflict

Many different people utilise Smiths Lake, each placing a variety of demands on the waterway, access and facilities. Council has been trying to manage competing user interests by:

- Improving parking and picnic facilities at Tarbuck Bay ✓ **completed**
- Monitoring of recreational fish catch and compliance to regulations ✓ **ongoing**



Boats on Smiths Lake

water quality include:

- Control of runoff and water quality for all developments, specifically at Symes Bay ✓ **ongoing**
- Repair, upgrade and maintenance of the sewage systems surrounding the Lake ✓ **completed**



Dead fish in Wamwarra Ck January 2010

# How you can help...

Please return  
via reply paid  
envelope by








30<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Please fill out the questionnaire below.

How do you rank the most important issue at Smiths Lake?

(1 = most important, 5 = least important)



	Opening Procedure 	Erosion and Sedimentation 	Water Quality 	Habitat Conservation 	Waterway Access and User Conflict 
Rank					

Have you noticed any changes in and around Smiths Lake?

(Place a tick in the appropriate column below)



Question		Change over the last ten years (2000 to 2010)				
		Big decrease	Little decrease	No change	Little increase	Big increase
1	Areas that flood around the Lake?					
2	Erosion along gullies draining into the Lake?					
3	Quality of the water in the Lake, presence of algae blooms and sediment build-up?					
4	Number of people that use the constructed boat ramps?					
5	Amount and condition of native vegetation along the foreshores?					
6	Amount of seagrass in the Lake ?					
7	Amount of fish in the Lake?					
8	Amount of weeds around the Lake ?					

Please provide your contact details below, so we can clarify any information provided if needed:

Name:

Address:

Preferred Contact Number & time of day:



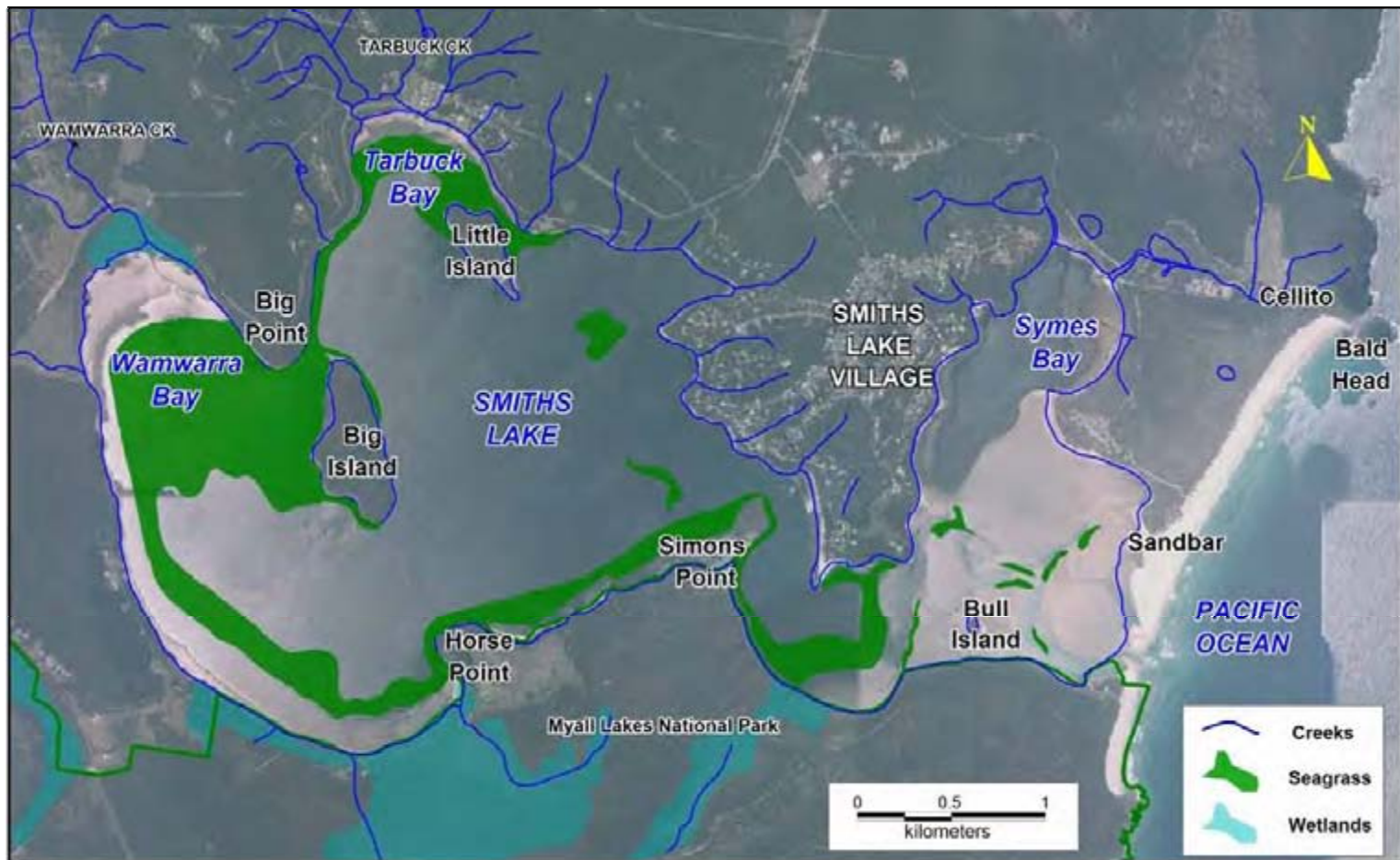
Do you have any *photos* (historical or current) featuring any of the issues mentioned in the brochure?



For example:

- lake openings (including dates),
- areas of erosion (lake edge or along gullies or creeks),
- flooding of properties (including dates),
- algal blooms (including dates and locations), etc.

We would appreciate copies if available...



If you have identified *issues* or *problems* around the lake that you believe have not been covered in the Estuary Management Plan, then please annotate the map and return in the reply paid envelope.



THANK YOU