

Open Coast

Protecting our beaches, dunes and headlands through long-term planning and sustainable coastal management.

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Open Coast Coastal Management Program

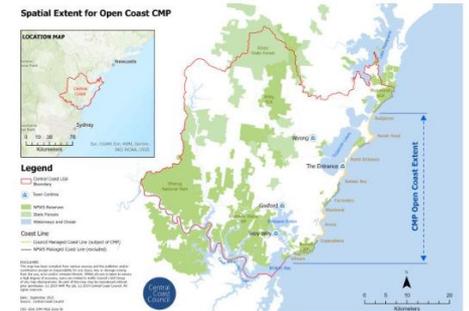
Public exhibition dates

Share your feedback on the changes

Share my feedback

Monday 2 March 2026 to Monday 30 March 2026
2026 Public exhibition

The draft [Open Coast Coastal Management Program](#) is now on exhibition, giving the community a final chance to review and provide feedback.



Community input has helped shape the Open Coast Coastal Management Program to reflect local values and priorities.

The draft OC-CMP was on public exhibition from 14 July to 25 August 2025, allowing the community and stakeholders to review the proposed strategies and provide feedback.

Open Coast Coastal Management Program Study Area

The proposed changes to the CMP are based on this feedback.

What has changed?

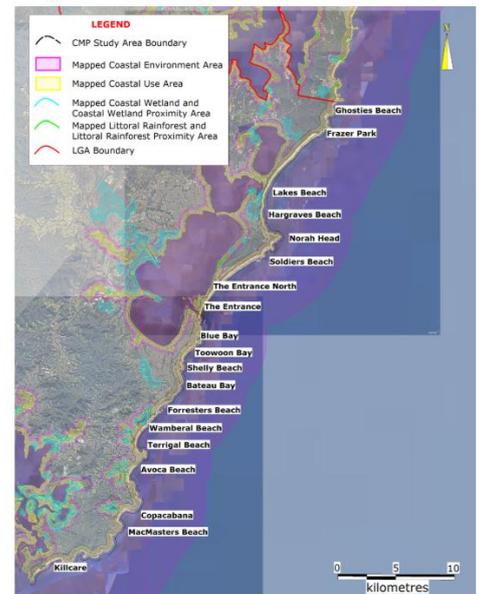
The following components of the draft Open Coast CMP have been updated based on the feedback received during our last round of community consultation in July and August 2026.

Stronger coastal protection planning and delivery

- **Actions for design, approval and construction** of coastal protection works at **The Entrance North** (Curtis Parade, Wyuna Avenue and Hutton Road), including rock and hybrid revetments.
- **Clear engineering design requirements** will be developed for The Entrance North and updated for **Wamberal Beach**, ensuring future works are practical, consistent and suitable for inclusion in Council's Development Control Plan (DCP).
- **Temporary coastal protection works** are now included for **MacMasters Beach**, to help protect the Surf Life Saving Club and surrounding assets while longer-term solutions are finalised.

Expanded sand nourishment actions

- Continued and more strategic **sand nourishment at The Entrance North**, using sand from The Entrance channel dredging and berm management program, to keep sand within the natural sediment system.
- **Sand nourishment at Wamberal and Terrigal beaches** will continue using sand sourced opportunistically from lagoons, berms and other available sources.
- Council will also **investigate offshore sand sources** and secure licences to allow offshore nourishment as a future option.



- Improved public safety and risk management

- New actions to **improve public safety at Mazlin Reserve, Norah Head**, including geotechnical investigations and cliff stabilisation.
- **Toowoona Bay foreshore improvements** to stop unauthorised vehicle access to the beach and reduce sand build-up in the carpark.
- Additional investigations and adaptation planning for **Norah Head Search and Rescue/Marine Rescue, Norah Head Headland and Lighthouse**, and **The Entrance North and Lakes Surf Life Saving Clubs**.

- Better land and asset management

- **Transfer key Crown and NSW Government land at Wamberal into Council ownership**, supporting a whole-of-beach management approach.
- Work with landowners to establish **licence agreements** where private coastal protection works extend onto Council land.
- NSW Crown Lands has added several new actions to improve coordination, safety and long-term planning for coastal assets.

- Environmental and planning updates

- A new **planning proposal** will update **coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest mapping** under the NSW Resilience and Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), using the latest scientific studies to improve environmental protection and planning certainty.

View the updated plan



Draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program 2026

[Draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program >](#)

Share your feedback

To share your feedback on the changes to the Open Coast Coastal Management Program, you can:

- Complete the online submission form (below)
- Email: engagement@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au
- Write to Council: PO Box 20, Wyong NSW 2259

Open

Open Coast CMP Exhibition survey 2026

What do you think of the changes to the Open Coast Coastal Management Program?

Survey closes Monday 30 March.

[Complete the survey](#)

[+ Privacy notice](#)

Timeline

The Coastal Management Program Process



Stage 1 - Scoping Study

Completed September 2021

The Stage One Scoping Study for the Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons CMP was completed in August 2021 and reviewed by Central Coast Council and NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) staff.



Stage 2 - Technical Studies

Completed April 2024. Further work completed March 2025.

Stage Two of the Open Coast CMP focused on addressing key knowledge gaps identified in the Scoping Study. Central Coast Council was awarded a \$327,000 Coast and Estuary Grant from the NSW Government to support the delivery of these studies.



Stage 3 - Options Assessment

Completed March 2025.

Stage Three focuses on identifying and evaluating management options based on the findings from Stage Two and community input.



Stage 4 - Finalisation and Certification

- Exhibition of Draft of CMP: 14th July - 25th August 2025 (42 days)
- Re-Exhibition of Draft CMP: 2 March - 30 March 2026 (28 days)
- Post Exhibition Report to Council - April 2026
- Issue for Certification by Minister - May 2026 (pending Council endorsement)



Stage 5 - Implementation

[See less](#)

Hard copy submissions

Many hard copy submissions expressed strong opposition to the three Development Applications (DAs) for coastal protection works at Wamberal, with a significant portion focusing on the DAs themselves rather than the actions proposed within the CMP. Noting that the private DAs are considered separately and independently under the NSW planning pathway.

Phone interviews

- 80% of residents committed 'Very important' for 'Ensuring responsible and efficient spending of community funds by Council'.
- 69% of residents committed 'very important' for 'Protecting the natural environment'
- 68% committed 'important' for 'Allowing residents the opportunity to legally protect their homes and properties from weather-related events'
- 58% selected 'We should focus on protecting communities and infrastructure from the impacts of natural coastal events...', whereas 37% selected 'We should allow the natural coastal environment to take its own course...'
- Survey, respondents were asked about their level of support for four beach-related factors. Residents were generally supportive of all four attributes. However, based on commitment to the top code, 72% were 'very supportive' of 'Protection of the coastal environment', whereas only 43% were 'very supportive' of 'Protecting infrastructure'
- 65% of residents committed 'very important' for 'Maintaining access to public spaces for recreation'.
- 'Supporting local businesses and encouraging tourism' generated a relatively low 56% of 'very important' selections
- When asked about support for constructing a coordinated seawall at Wamberal Beach, 49% of residents committed to the top two boxes (supportive or very supportive) – and a total of 70% were at least somewhat supportive.
- Approximately one in four (27%) residents are not very/not at all supportive, while 4% are unsure.

How did we get here?

Click through the tabs below to learn more about the CMP and engagement process, including what we heard last year.

Public Exhibition 2025	The Coastal Management Program Process	Community Engagement Stages
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What we heard

- Feedback sought via online survey, attending a Council led drop-in session and through emailing or written submission to Council.
- Draft OC-CMP exhibition period from 14 July to 25 August 2025.
- Total of **240** community submissions received including **78** online survey responses, **21** email submissions, and **141** hard copy responses.
- Submissions received from State Government stakeholders NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and Crown Lands.
- Total of **401** resident phone survey interviews conducted by research company Micromax from 19 November to 1 December 2025.

Online Survey results

Online survey results indicated a high level of support for most of the thirty-eight CMP management actions. Particularly those focused on environmental protection, hazard mitigation, and public amenity. The two items which received 'low support' and 'unsupported' rating were actions proposed for Wamberal Beach, WB01 and WB02 respectively.

Follow this page to register for updates on this project

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Stage 1 Scoping Study



Stage One Scoping Study
PDF (9.49 MB)

Stage 2 Technical Reports



Social and Recreational Use Study
PDF (15.82 MB)

Stage 3 Options Assessment



Stage Three Options Assessment Report
PDF (6.95 MB)

Stage 4 2025 Exhibition - Draft Coastal Management Program



Draft Open Coast CMP
PDF (18.43 MB)



Draft Management Action Items
PDF (250.24 KB)



CMP Fact Sheet
PDF (5.91 MB)



Management Action Mapping
PDF (4.73 MB)



Coastal Management Areas Mapping
PDF (2.45 MB)



Coastal Hazard Mapping
PDF (5.83 MB)

Community Engagement



**Community and Stakeholder Engagement
Strategy - Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons**
PDF (721.19 KB)



Stage 1 Community Engagement Results
PDF (241.92 KB)



Stage 2/3 Community Engagement Results
PDF (447.76 KB)



**Phase 4 Community Engagement Report
December 2025**
PDF (4.79 MB)
GHD Open Coast Engagement Report



**Phase 4 Micromex Research Community
Phone Survey Report December 2025**
PDF (3.85 MB)



Stage 4 Community Engagement Outcomes Report

[Read the 2025 Phase 4 Community Engagement Summary >](#)

Public exhibition dates



14 July to 25 August 2025

Public exhibition



Tuesday 29 July 2025

Drop-in session) North Avoca SLSC - 10am-4pm



Saturday 2 August 2025

Drop-in session) The Entrance Community Centre - 9am-3pm



Thursday 7 August 2025

Drop-in session) Soldiers Beach SLSC - 10am-4pm



Saturday 9 August 2025

Drop-in session) MacMasters Beach SLSC - 9am-3pm

Draft Action List

Open Coast Coastal Management Program

– Access & Safety

- Monitoring and improvement of coastal stormwater outlets (CW-S01, LGA-wide)
- Develop and implement an integrated coastal processes and hazards education and awareness program (CW-S02, LGA-wide)
- Develop and implement coastal compliance procedures (CW-S03, LGA-wide)
- Review and implement updated Beach Maintenance Program (CW-S04, LGA-wide)
- Develop and implement a Coastal Monitoring Program (CW-S05, LGA-wide)
- Investigate and develop a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy for affected coastal communities (CW-S06, LGA-wide)
- Investigate feasibility and responsibilities of long-term sand nourishment licences (CW-S07, LGA-wide)
- Prioritise and upgrade beach life guard patrol towers and ancillary structures (CW-S08, LGA-wide)
- Investigate options to improve public safety at Soldiers Point headland (SB02, Pebbly Beach)

– Amenities

- Coastal recreation assets and infrastructure renewal program (CW-A01, LGA-wide)
- Develop and implement Coastal Engineering Design Requirements (CW-A02, LGA-wide)
- Review waste collection assets and servicing in coastal public spaces (CW-A03, LGA-wide)

– Coastal Hazards

- Review and update coastal development planning controls and undertake Planning Proposal to adopt Coastal Vulnerability Area (CW-H01, LGA-wide)
- Identify the extent, nature and condition of existing coastal emergency works (including potential removal or remediation) (CW-H02, LGA-wide)
- Design and construct Stage 2 of the existing Cabbage Tree Harbour toe drainage structure (CT01, Cabbage Tree)
- Complete coastal risk and options assessment for Marine Parade at MacMasters Beach (MM01, MacMasters)
- Monitor and manage risk of contamination from closed landfill sites (EN01, LGA-wide)
- Continue to nourish The Entrance North Beach with sand from The Entrance channel berm management or dredging activities when available to increase beach amenity and resilience. (EN02, The Entrance North)
- Review the structural integrity and extent of the foreshore revetment and embankment protecting Marine Parade, The Entrance and undertake remedial works as required (EB01, The Entrance)
- Undertake an engineering review of the Wamberal Beach engineering design requirements (EDR) so that they may be referred to in future revisions of Council's Coastal Development Control Plan (DCP) (WB01, Wamberal Beach)
- Implement whole of embayment terminal protection solution for Wamberal Beach Council owned lands in accordance with the principles of the Engineering Design Requirements (WB02, Wamberal Beach)
- Undertake a detailed wave overtopping and inundation assessment for high risk locations (A01, Avoca, other low-lying areas as identified in the coastal hazard assessment)
- Investigation and management of adverse groyne impacts (EB02, The Entrance)
- Options study for replacement of aging seawall at The Haven (T02, Terrigal (The Haven))

- Community & Social

- Continue the role of a coastal, estuary and floodplain management Advisory Committee (CW-C01, LGA-wide)
- Work with First Nation groups and stakeholders to evaluate arrangements for undertaking beach maintenance operations (CW-C02, LGA-wide)
- Management of unapproved memorials in public coastal spaces (CW-C03, LGA-wide)
- Update and maintain Council's website to improve awareness and make information on coastal processes, hazards and issues more accessible (CW-C04, LGA-wide)
- Knowledge sharing and protection of cultural heritage (CW-C05, LGA-wide)

- Development

- Develop and maintain a coastal geotechnical database (CW-D01, LGA-wide)
- Conduct geotechnical investigations to improve understanding of underlying geology along the coast (CW-D02, LGA-wide)
- Develop a coastal assets at risk register and update asset management program (CW-D03, LGA-wide)
- Continue to improve accessibility and inclusiveness of coastal and foreshore areas (CW-D04, LGA-wide)
- Review coastal hazard notations and planning certificates (CW-D05, LGA-wide)

- Ecological Environment

- Review and implement Council's coastal water quality monitoring program (CW-E01, LGA-wide)
- Develop and implement a Coastal Vegetation Strategy (CW-E02, LGA-wide)
- Undertake and support research projects and citizen science initiatives aimed at enhancing and conserving marine biodiversity, science, recreation and education (T01, Terrigal, Toowoan, Copacabana)
- Undertake dune management works at the southern carpark of Soldiers Beach (SB01, Soldiers Beach)

[View the Draft Action List table](#)

[View the Management Action mapping](#)

Closed

Provide your feedback: Open Coast Coastal Management Program

Survey now closed