

# Draft Port Stephens Coastal Management Program

Summary document



This document provides strategic direction and actions to address threats to the coast and maintain the ecological, social and economic values of Port Stephens' coastal zone.



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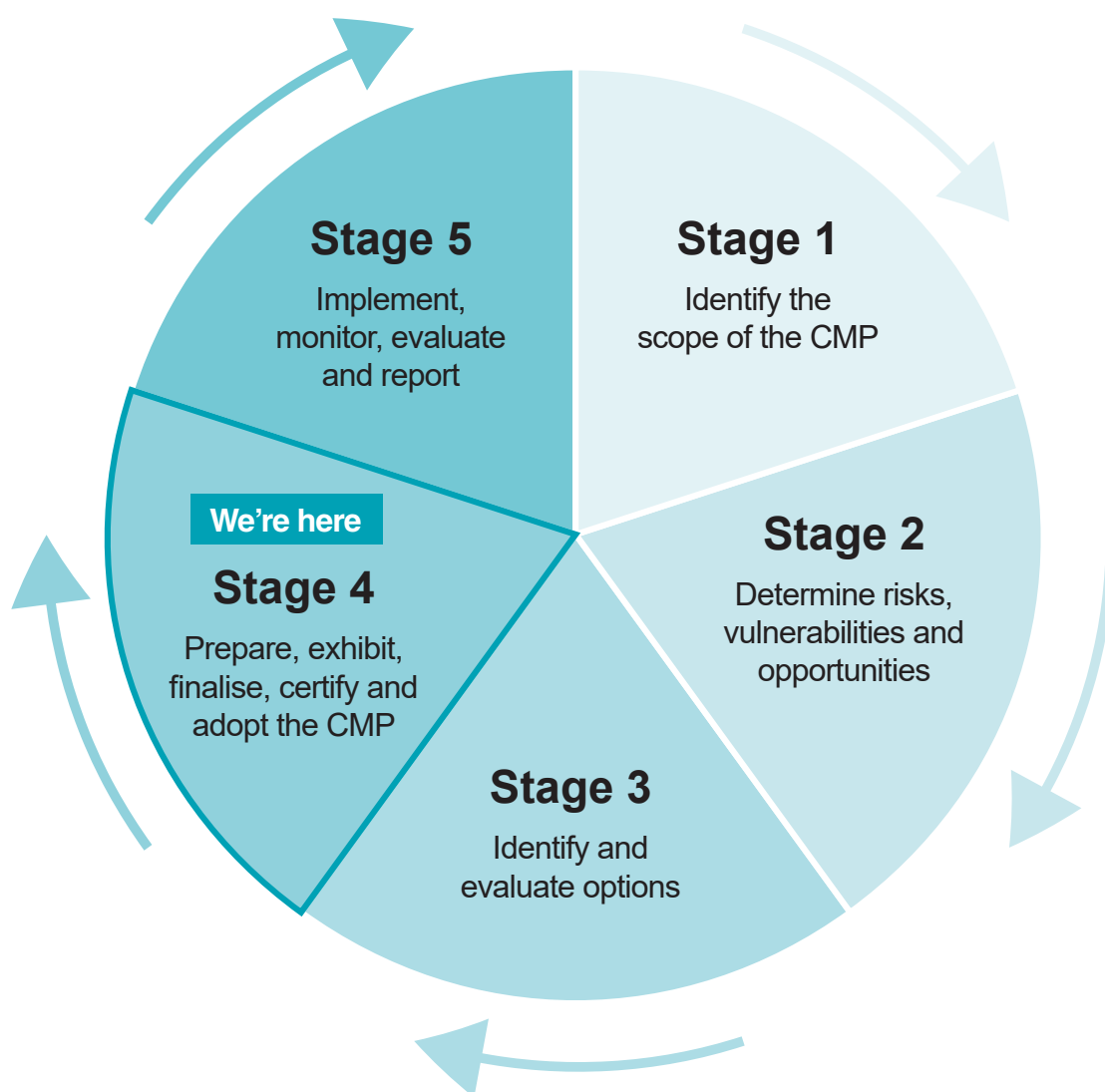
# What is the CMP?



The draft Port Stephens Coastal Management Program (CMP) outlines 60 management actions aimed at mitigating the impacts of coastal inundation, tidal inundation, coastal erosion and dune transgression over the next 10 years. The economic feasibility of these management actions has been assessed and included in the draft Port Stephens CMP as a business plan.

The draft Port Stephens CMP is on public exhibition from 28 February 2024 until 27 March 2024.

We're now at Stage 4 of 5 of the Port Stephens CMP, which is the final opportunity for you to provide feedback and input to the document.



## Stage 1

The development of the draft Port Stephens CMP began in 2019.

In Stage 1, we identified a range of priority threats affecting the Port Stephens coastal zones. The coastal zones are identified as the open coast, inner port and outer port.

The threats include:

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <b>Coastal hazard threats (CH)</b><br>This covers beach erosion, shoreline recession, inundation with wind-blow sand, coastal inundation, tidal inundation, cliff/slope instability, accretion of marine sand. |
|    | <b>Water quality threats (WQ)</b><br>This covers urban stormwater pollution, acid sulphate soil runoff, agricultural runoff pollution, point source discharge and marine debris.                               |
|    | <b>Biodiversity threats (E)</b><br>This covers land clearing and biosecurity.                                                                                                                                  |
|  | <b>Development and industry threats (D)</b><br>This covers land contamination and mining and extractive industries.                                                                                            |
|  | <b>Recreational activity threats (RA)</b><br>This covers boating pressures and encroachment onto public land.                                                                                                  |

## Stage 2

Stage 2 was primarily a study stage that modelled coastal hazards across 4 planning horizons: 2020, 2040, 2070 and 2120.

## Stage 3

Stage 3 focused on identifying potential management options that could be used to manage the identified priority threats.

## Stage 4

We're now in Stage 4 – the preparation of the draft Port Stephens CMP for exhibition and endorsement and the preparation of a Coastal Zone Emergency Action sub-plan (CZEAS).



Learn more about Stages 1, 2 and 3, including the hazard mapping and potential management options at [portstephens.nsw.gov.au/cmp](https://portstephens.nsw.gov.au/cmp)

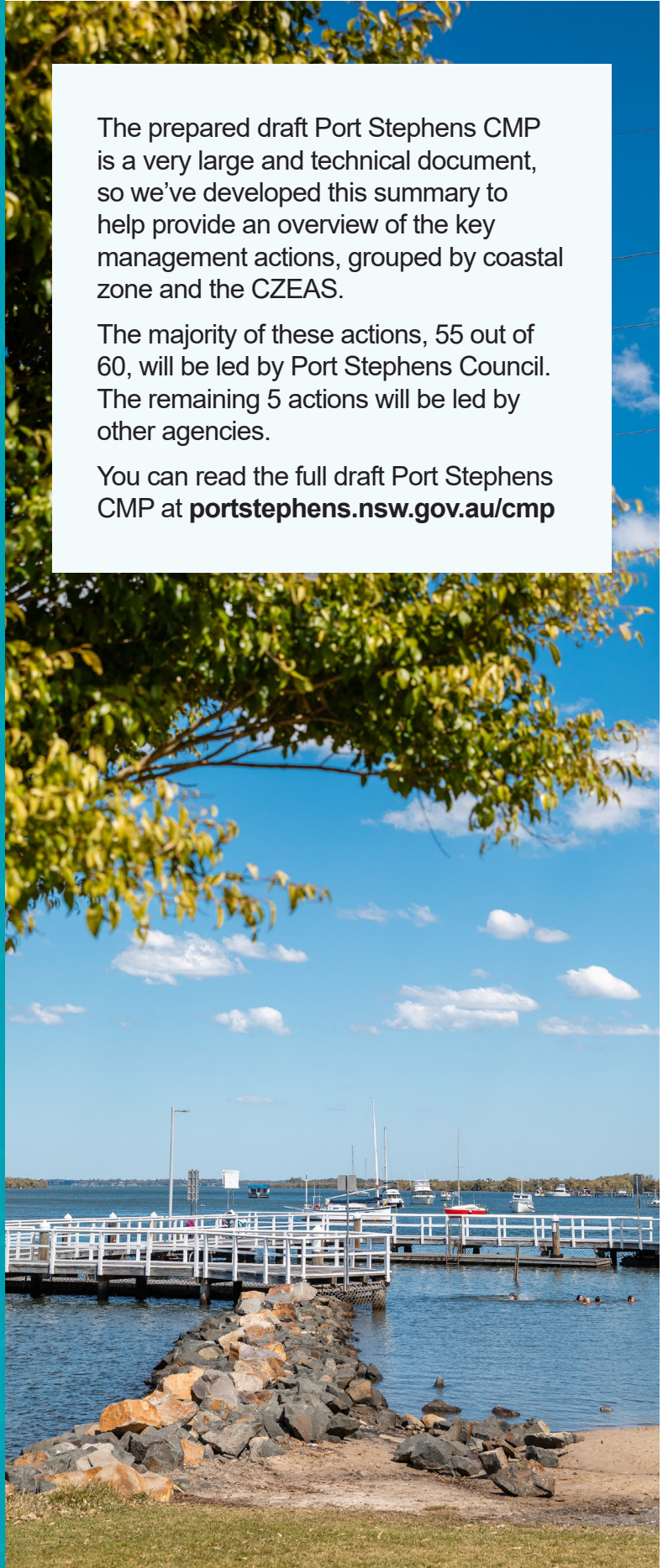


# Actions

The prepared draft Port Stephens CMP is a very large and technical document, so we've developed this summary to help provide an overview of the key management actions, grouped by coastal zone and the CZEAS.

The majority of these actions, 55 out of 60, will be led by Port Stephens Council. The remaining 5 actions will be led by other agencies.

You can read the full draft Port Stephens CMP at [portstephens.nsw.gov.au/cmp](http://portstephens.nsw.gov.au/cmp)



## Actions key

**Location:** Identifies the zone / suburb that will be addressed by the action

 **CH** = Coastal Hazard threats

 **D** = Development and Industry threats

 **WQ** = Water quality threats

 **RA** = Recreational activity threats

 **E** = Biodiversity threats

**Action number:** This identifies which threat the management action best targets.

**Action description:** Provides a short description about the action. A more detailed description can be found in the draft Port Stephens CMP.

**Complex actions:** \*Actions have been identified as complex

| Location  | Threat                                                                              | Action number | Action description                                                                                                    |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All areas |    | CH001         | Develop and implement a coastal hazard monitoring strategy*                                                           |
| All areas |  | CH002         | Develop and implement a program for monitoring the condition of coastal structures owned and/or maintained by Council |
| All areas |  | CH003         | Work with Traditional Owners to evaluate the level of risk etc                                                        |
| All areas |  | CH011         | Prepare a planning proposal to incorporate provisions to manage the risks                                             |
| All areas |  | CH012         | Document a long-term strategy for local and regional roads under the care and control of Council*                     |
| All areas |  | CH074         | Develop a policy to articulate Council's position regarding the protection of private land                            |
| All areas |  | CH075         | Investigate risk of tidal ingress of stormwater outlets and identify outlets requiring tide gates.                    |
| All areas |  | CH077         | Prepare for implementation of the CZEAS by obtaining the necessary planning approvals, permits and licences           |
| All areas |  | CH081         | Install tide gates/flaps on priority stormwater outlets                                                               |
| All areas |  | CH082         | Incorporate consideration of risk arising from coastal hazards into National Parks Plan of Management                 |
| All areas |  | CH083         | Prepare/update the emergency action plans for Council buildings within the present day costal inundation extent       |

| Location               | Threat                                                                              | Action number | Action description                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inner Port, Outer Port |    | CH072         | Undertake a coastal erosion hazard investigation for the Inner and Outer Port                                                             |
| All areas              |    | DI001         | Work collaboratively and share information about major projects proposed for the open coastal waters                                      |
| All areas              |    | E001          | Continue to support pest and weed control management activities on Council owned or managed land                                          |
| All areas              |    | E012          | Undertake an ongoing program of sand management and dune rehabilitation                                                                   |
| All areas              |    | E016          | Encourage local volunteer groups to support dune rehabilitation activities                                                                |
| All areas              |    | E017          | Undertake ongoing compliance monitoring and enforcement of regulations                                                                    |
| All areas              |    | E019          | Undertake management activities to contribute to threatened shorebird protection on NPWS Estate                                           |
| All areas              |  | HE001         | Develop an engagement protocol and strategy for Council engagement with Traditional Owners and Knowledge Holders                          |
| All areas              |  | RA001         | Develop a guideline and education program for private landholders detailing their responsibilities                                        |
| All areas              |  | RA002         | Progress the implementation of Council's Boating and Fishing Infrastructure Plan                                                          |
| All areas              |  | RA003         | Develop a governance framework for coastal protection structures of unknown management status                                             |
| All areas              |  | WQ002         | Enter into a data sharing agreement to enable sharing of historical and ongoing water quality monitoring data undertaken in Port Stephens |
| All areas              |  | WQ004         | Maintain vegetated riparian corridors through the development process, planning proposals                                                 |
| All areas              |  | WQ005         | Develop and implement a campaign targeted at improving the awareness of the general community on catchment management practices           |
| All areas              |  | WQ008         | Provide for ongoing enforcement of regulations in dog on-leash areas                                                                      |
| All areas              |  | WQ010         | Support the community to dispose of recreational fishing waste appropriately                                                              |



| Location                                              | Threat                                                                              | Action number | Action description                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Open coast</b>                                     |                                                                                     |               |                                                                                                                              |
| Box Beach, Fingal Beach, One Mile Beach, Zenith Beach |  | WQ009         | Beachwatch monitoring program for recreational water quality at ocean beaches                                                |
| Birubi Point                                          |  | CH079         | Undertake foredune stabilisation works at Birubi Point                                                                       |
| Fingal Bay                                            |  | CH009         | Install an additional Coast Snap monitoring point at Fingal Beach.                                                           |
| Fingal Bay                                            |  | E011          | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dunes                                                                  |
| Stockton Beach                                        |  | E013          | Undertake ongoing compliance monitoring and enforcement of regulations along Stockton Beach and the Worimi Conservation Land |
| One Mile Beach                                        |  | E002          | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dune                                                                   |

| Location                                               | Threat                                                                              | Action number | Action description                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Outer Port</b>                                      |                                                                                     |               |                                                                                                                                                   |
| Shoal Bay Beach Little Beach Nelson Bay Beach Corlette |    | WQ003         | Implement a Water Quality Monitoring Program focussed on risk to aquatic recreation                                                               |
| Little Beach Nelson Bay Soldiers Point Taylors Beach   |    | RA045         | Undertake minor dredging for ongoing access to Little Beach boat ramp, Nelson Bay Marina, Soldiers Point boat ramp, and Taylors Beach boat ramp.* |
| Sandy Point, Corlette                                  |    | CH022         | Progress investigations, detailed design and costings for priority options*                                                                       |
| Sandy Point, Corlette                                  |    | CH023         | Undertake maintenance works / repairs to the existing rock revetment*                                                                             |
| Sandy Point / Conroy Park, Corlette                    |    | RA016         | Undertake sand carting / beach nourishment to provide improved beach access and amenity*                                                          |
| Dutchmans Beach, Nelson Bay                            |    | RA030         | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dunes                                                                                       |
| Corlette                                               |  | RA017         | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dunes                                                                                       |
| Dutchmans Beach, Nelson Bay                            |  | RA031         | Replace and relocate stairs and fix fencing to reinstate public access from the car park                                                          |
| Nelson Bay Beach                                       |  | CH080         | Investigate and undertake detailed design coastal protection works to mitigate coastal erosion risk                                               |
| Nelson Bay Beach                                       |  | RA034         | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dunes.                                                                                      |
| Salamander Bay                                         |  | CH029         | Prepare a climate change adaptation strategy for the Foreshore Drive*                                                                             |
| Salamander Bay                                         |  | RA027         | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dunes                                                                                       |
| Mambo Wetlands, Salamander Bay                         |  | E004          | Support implementation of the Mambo Wetlands Plan of Management                                                                                   |
| Mambo Wetlands                                         |  | E008          | Conduct an ecological survey of Mambo Wetlands to include habitat mapping and identify any trends in the habitats to compare to previous surveys  |
| Mambo Wetlands                                         |  | E018          | Prepare a new, updated Plan of Management for Mambo Wetlands.                                                                                     |

| Location                       | Threat                                                                              | Action number | Action description                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Outer Port</b>              |                                                                                     |               |                                                                                                                                  |
| Shoal Bay                      |    | RA012         | Undertake works to manage access and rehabilitate the dunes*                                                                     |
| Shoal Bay                      |    | WQ007         | Undertake an investigation to identify wastewater pump stations in the Port Stephens catchment.                                  |
| Shoal Bay                      |    | CH073         | Develop a climate change adaptation plan for the Shoal Bay precinct*                                                             |
| Shoal Bay                      |    | CH017         | Undertake investigations to assess the risk to Shoal Bay Road from coastal erosion*                                              |
| Shoal Bay                      |    | RA011         | Undertake sand carting/beach nourishment to provide improved beach access and amenity                                            |
| Soldiers Point                 |    | HE002         | Progress the implementation of the Soldiers Point Aboriginal Place Plan of Management in partnership with the Traditional Owners |
| Soldiers Point                 |   | E005          | Support implementation of the Soldiers Point Littoral Rainforest Management Plan                                                 |
| Kangaroo Point, Soldiers Point |  | RA036         | Minor shoreline re-profiling and landscaping works*                                                                              |
| <b>Inner Port</b>              |                                                                                     |               |                                                                                                                                  |
| Tanilba                        |  | RA020         | Landscaping works for bank stabilization including re-vegetation works and annual maintenance.                                   |
| Tilligerry                     |  | CH005         | Prepare a climate change adaptation strategy for the Tilligerry Peninsula*                                                       |
| Swan Bay                       |  | CH078         | Undertake maintenance works / repairs to the existing seawall and clean out stormwater outlet                                    |

## How to read the complex actions

The draft Port Stephens CMP identifies 13 management actions as complex. These have been identified with an asterisk in the tables above.

Each of these actions has a more detailed description in the draft Port Stephens CMP (see pages 39 to 77).

We've highlighted three of these complex actions as an example.



# Climate change adaptation strategy for the Tilligerry Peninsula



**Coastal threats to be addressed:** Primarily coastal inundation and tidal inundation

## Action description

This management action proposes developing an adaptation strategy to balance protection of public, private, natural, and cultural assets. The adaptation strategy will consider land use viability and community values for long term sustainability.

To protect private development, a combination of adaptation and mitigation options are needed, including asset relocation, land use changes, asset and road elevation, and property development controls. Detailed assessments are necessary to ensure effective adaptation.



### Cost

Preparation of adaptation plan  
estimated at \$200,000



### Timing

Proposed to be prepared in year 6 or  
7 of the draft Port Stephens CMP

## Action type

Planning for change

## Benefits

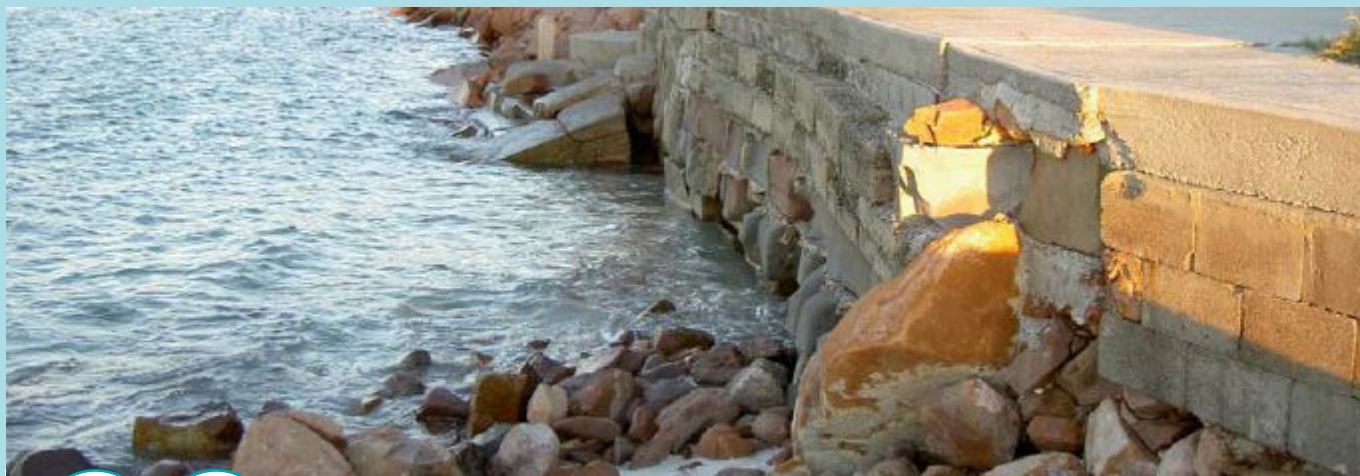
- Enables improved understanding of the impacts of climate change on the peninsula, particularly with respect to joint occurrence events (e.g., combined catchment flooding and coastal inundation due to an east coast low).
- Facilitates improved community understanding of the hazards and risk, and discussion on acceptable and unacceptable levels of risk to built, natural and cultural assets.
- Facilitates planning for and coordination of a response by the various relevant stakeholders.

## Related management actions:



CH001 – Coastal hazard monitoring strategy

## Undertake maintenance works / repairs to the existing rock revetment



**Coastal threats to be addressed:** Coastal erosion, shoreline recession

### Action description

This management action proposes temporary toe rock protection constructed along the 420 m long coastline section east of Sandy Point, including the eastern and western groynes.



#### Cost

\$1,156,500 capital cost  
+ \$16,500 ongoing annual costs



#### Timing

Proposed to begin in year 2 of the draft Port Stephens CMP with ongoing annual recurrent costs applied every year after.

### Action type

Active Intervention

### Benefits

- Provide improved structural integrity for the existing revetment to improve its ability to withstand coastal processes.

### Related management actions



CH022 – Progress investigations, detailed design and costings for priority options from the Whitehead and Assoc. (2015) Management Plan for Sandy Point/Conroy Park.



CH072 – Coastal erosion hazard investigation.



RA016 – Sand carting/beach nourishment

# Progress investigations to assess coastal erosion risk to Shoal Bay Road and (if required) evaluate feasible coastal protection options



**Coastal threats to be addressed:** Beach erosion and shoreline recession

## Action description

Given that Shoal Bay Road provides the only access to parts of Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay there is a level of concern that the level of risk from beach erosion and shoreline recession to Shoal Bay Road is unacceptably high.



### Cost

\$200,000 to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake detailed study/investigations



### Timing

The option has been programmed to begin in Year 3 of the CMP, with the aim of inputting the preferred option into the next Port Stephens CMP

## Action type

Avoid Future Impact

## Benefits

- The study would provide Council with an understanding of the level of risk to this key access road.
- Enables development of a 'shovel-ready' project ready for implementation in the next Port Stephens CMP (2035-2045).

## Related management actions



CH073 – Adaptation plan for the Shoal Bay precinct



CH072 – Coastal erosion hazard investigation



RA011 – Sand carting at Shoal Bay



RA012 – Access management and dune rehabilitation.

# Learn more about the CMP





## Book a personal meeting

You can attend either in person at the Council Administration Building, Raymond Terrace or via Zoom; call Council on 4988 0255 to book your spot between 10 am to 4 pm on either **Wednesday 13 March 2024** or **Thursday 14 March 2024**.



## Attend a local drop-in information session

You can attend a local drop-in session at the following locations:

- **Wednesday 13 March 2024** between 5 to 7pm at Birubi SLSC Meeting Room, Anna Bay
- **Thursday 14 March 2024** between 5 to 7pm at Bruce Scott Pavilion, Tomaree Sports Centre, Nelson Bay



## Have your say

The draft Port Stephens CMP is on public exhibition from 28 February 2024 until 27 March 2024.

Visit **[haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au](https://haveyoursay.portstephens.nsw.gov.au)** to have your say.

## Next steps

Following the public exhibition period, feedback will be collated, with each submission addressed and responded to in a Council report.

The draft Port Stephens CMP is scheduled for endorsement by Council in May 2024. It will then be sent to the Minister for Local Government for certification, with the aim to be ready to start being implemented in late 2024.



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