

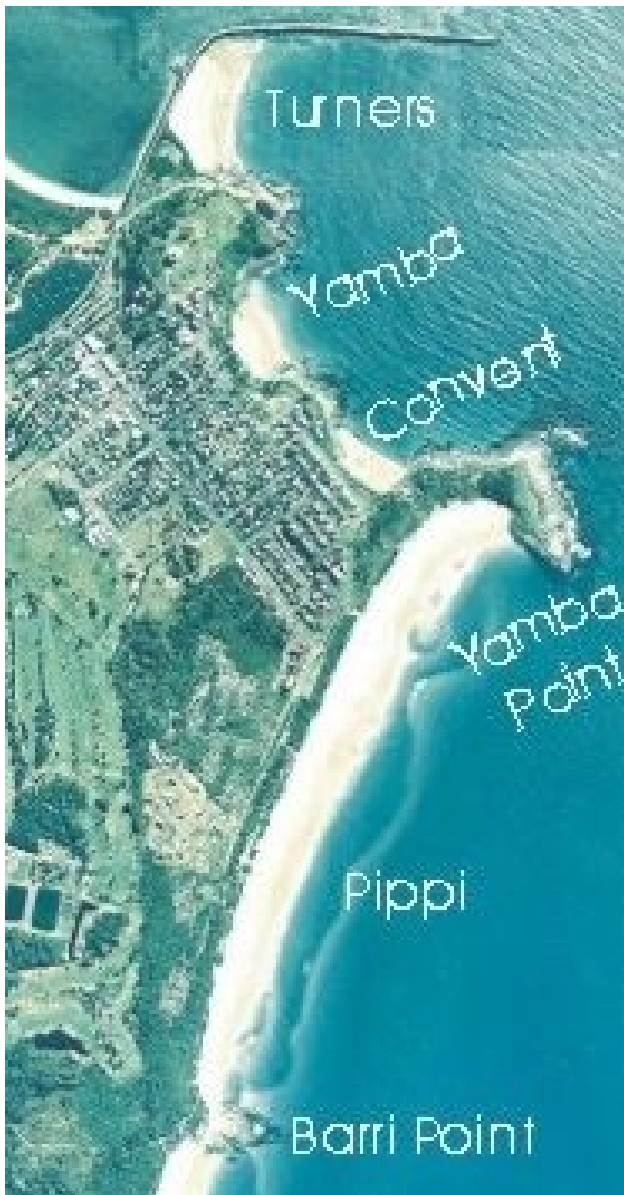


NSW DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND SERVICES
MANLY HYDRAULICS LABORATORY

Yamba Coastline Management Plan Newsletter

Introduction

As you may be aware, Maclean Shire Council has commissioned a study into the management of the Yamba coastline between Pippi Beach and Barri Point. The study, which commenced in March 2000, is being undertaken by Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) in conjunction with Jeffery and Katauskas Pty. Ltd. and Southern Cross University, and consists of a number of stages. Stage One of this work, comprising a coastal processes study and hazard definition study, is now being completed. This stage includes preliminary research by the study team and the holding of two public meetings to gain community input and issues identification.



The Issues

The study area has in the past experienced and continues to be subjected to the coastal processes of beach erosion, coastal inundation, dune and foreshore slope instability, wind and wave action. Added to this the area, like much of the NSW coastline, has been subjected to growth and development, as well as increased pressure for public access and recreational opportunities. The combination of these physical and man-made pressures has resulted in the need to proactively manage the Yamba coastline.

The management study being undertaken will look at the range of management options which exist for the study area. The advantages and disadvantages of each approach will be assessed. The final management strategy recommended will be incorporated into a management plan for community review prior to its adoption and implementation by Council. Fundamental to the recommendations is a requirement that the management options address the recreational access needs of the community, including disabled access to the beaches.

The study is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the NSW *Government Coastline Management Manual*.

Steps in the Coastline Management Process

The coastline management process has six steps:

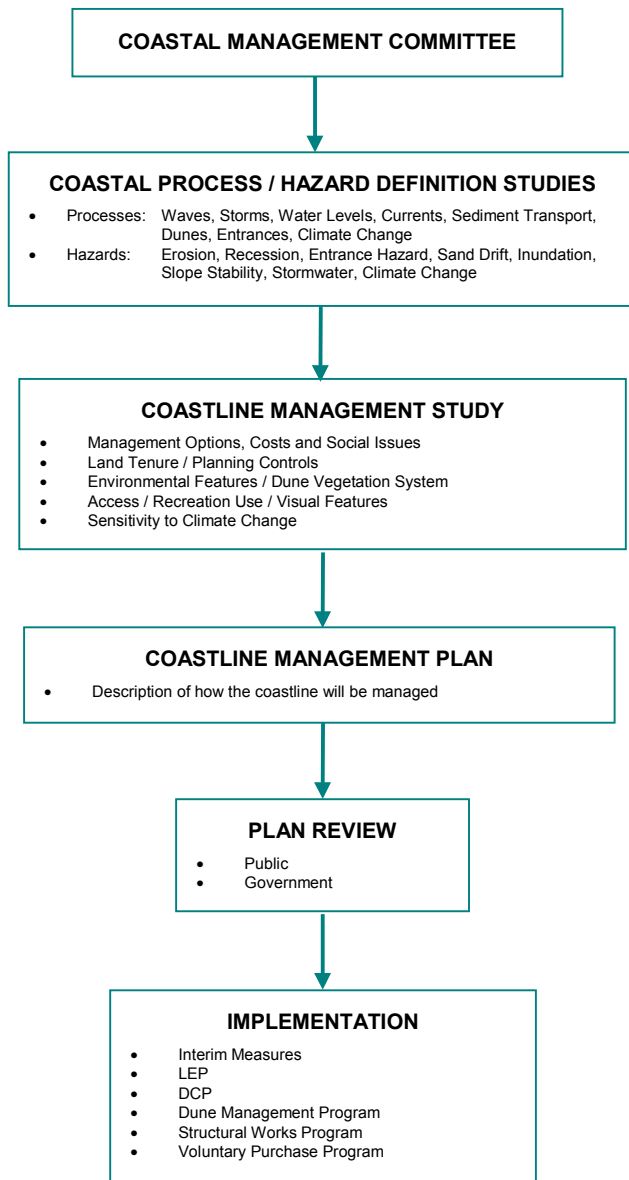
1. **Formation of a Management Committee**
2. **Coastal Process/Hazard Definition Study**
3. **Coastline Management Study**
4. **Plan of Management**
5. **Review of Plan of Management**
6. **Adoption and Implementation of Plan of Management.**

Government Policy

The NSW Government *Coastline Hazard Policy* was introduced in 1988 with the aim of reducing the impact of coastal hazards on individual owners and occupiers, thus reducing private and public losses and ensuring that future development is compatible with coastal hazards.

The coastline is also governed by the NSW Government *Coastline Management Manual* and the *NSW Coastal Policy 1997*.

The *Coastline Management Manual* introduced in 1990 establishes a consistent format and process for the development of management plans for the NSW coastline. The manual identifies the following key processes:



The manual reinforces and provides the planning framework for the *Coastline Hazard Policy 1988*. This policy introduced a range of planning and structural measures which provide for:

- the establishment of a State-wide management system which requires balanced management of the coastline
- the control of the potential for losses in new development through the application of effective planning controls designed to ensure that the development is compatible with the hazards
- a reduction in the impact of hazards on existing developed areas through the construction of protective works and/or the voluntary purchase of property at equitable prices, and
- the construction of beach improvement works to protect or enhance the recreational amenity of the State's most heavily used beaches and their associated sand dune systems.

(Source: *Coastline Management Manual*, NSW Government 1990, foreword)



Coastline Management Plan

The primary objectives of a management plan are to ensure compatibility with hazards, to reduce the impact of hazards on individual owners and occupiers, to reduce private and public losses from hazard damage, to protect and enhance the recreational amenity of beaches, and to ensure an appropriate long term balance in the utilisation and conservation of the coastline.

The development of a coastline management plan requires that a number of diverse considerations be taken into account, including:

- implications of coastal planning policy and guidelines and local, regional and State planning instruments
- the type and nature of coastline hazards, including risk and potential damage to coastal developments and amenity
- aesthetic, recreational and ecological values of the particular section of the coastline under consideration
- social factors, including the needs and desires of the community, the social disruption and other intangible costs of potential damage, and the physical and psychological effects of damage
- the long term considerations of climate change,
- an economic analysis of proposed or existing development, including expected costs and benefits to both the public and private sectors, based on options to develop, redevelop or leave undeveloped an area of the coast.'

(extract from NSW Government *Coastline Management Manual*, page 13)



The *NSW Coastal Policy 1997* was introduced to assist in the management of the coastal zone in an ecologically sustainable way. It provides a strategic policy framework for the coast in order to guide decision making. It sets direction to be taken by local and State government in the planning and management of the coast and in works and activities impacting on the coast (NSW Coastal Policy 1997, page 17). The policy applies to all lands identified as being within the coastal zone.



Coastal Processes and Hazards Affecting the Yamba Coastline

So that informed decisions can be made on the management of the study area, the physical processes have been quantified using available data. This includes a variety of good historical records, photogrammetric data, plans and photos, wind and wave data, dating back as far as the early 1900s. This work is currently under way.

The following processes, amongst others, are being investigated and quantified:

Coastal Instability

Sections of the study area have been subjected to landslide or 'mass movement' events, related to significant rainfall events. These occurrences, in addition to affecting the shoreline and accessibility, can result in structural damage to buildings.

Storm Erosion and Inundation

Areas subjected to considerable storm erosion have been identified and management options to address impacts are being developed.

Ongoing Recession

Based on our analysis, some beaches within the study area have experienced recession over the period of record (mid and southern Pippi Beach). However, other beaches (North Pippi, Convent, Yamba Main and Turners) have experienced significant fluctuations but are either stable or accreting.

Management Options

To manage beach erosion, possible options include: do nothing (let nature take its course), terminal revetment upgrade at Main Beach, terminal revetment with beach nourishment (sand replacement) at Main Beach and beach nourishment of pocket beaches.

For dune and foreshore slope instability possible options include improvements to drainage, changes to geometry, and engineering works to reinforce slopes and existing structures.

Additional general management options under investigation include:

- Buffer zones could be determined to exclude development from identified hazard zones.
- Development controls could be incorporated to specify requirements such as building setbacks, scale and foundation requirements.
- Continued dune management through vegetation works and controlled access points.

Other options as suggested by community groups and individuals will be assessed.



Community Consultation

Fundamental to the study is the input by the community at various stages. Two public meetings have already been held to provide interested groups and individuals with the opportunity to consult with the study team and to offer advice on issues and possible management options.

A facilitated community workshop is to be held once the draft management options have been prepared. The purpose of the workshop is to gain feedback on the acceptability of presented options as well as to provide a further opportunity for people to offer their views.

In addition to the public meetings the following community links are provided:

- One-on-one consultation with community groups
- Dissemination of information via newsletters
- Dedicated home page -

<http://marlin.mhl.nsw.gov.au/www/yamba.html>



Making a Written Submission

Written submissions are welcomed and should be directed to:

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NSW 2480

Alternatively you can contact Mr Fletcher on:

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