

### **3.2 Coastline Management Plan**

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Draft Wyong Shire Coastal Zone Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Government's Coastal Zone Management Plan Guidelines, the Coastal Protection Act (1979), the NSW Coastal Policy (1997) and the NSW Coastal Zone Manual (1990). The Plan presents a strategic approach for creating and maintaining a safe and sustainable coast. The Plan provides Council with a range of strategies and actions to be implemented over the next ten years and is based upon an analysis of hazards, such as coastal erosion and landslip and a coastal study covering an examination of the coastal assets, community values and coastal issues. The Plan and its strategies and actions now require consideration by the community, by way of a formal exhibition process.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1** *That Council endorse the Wyong Shire Coastal Zone Management Plan for public exhibition.*
- 2** *That Council endorse the public exhibition to extend from 6 June to 26 August 2011.*
- 3** *That Council decline the option to authorise an appropriate Council officer under the Coastal Protection Act (1979) as amended to certify and regulate emergency protection works at certain locations and beaches.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Draft Wyong Shire Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP or the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Government's Coastal Zone Management Plan Guidelines, the Coastal Protection Act (1979), the NSW Coastal Policy (1997) and the NSW Coastal Zone Manual (1990).

The aim of the Plan is to manage risks associated with coastal process hazards, such as coastal erosion and landslip, so that risks do not escalate. The Plan should also provide certainty about coastal change so that residents and visitors will be able to enjoy safe access to an attractive coastal landscape, now and over the 2050 and 2100 planning periods which the NSW Government requires Council to consider.

The Plan has been funded on a 50-50 basis by the State Government through its Coasts and Estuaries Program.

The Plan incorporates integrated information from four major coastal planning phases set out in the NSW Coastline Management Manual and the recently released NSW Guidelines for preparing Coastal Zone Management Plan (2010). By drawing together each of the phases identified in the manuals, the Plan provides clear guidance on Council's strategies, objectives and actions for the coast, how the actions will be implemented and the information and decision making process that underlie Council's priorities.

The Plan incorporates:

- *Coastline/Coastal Zone Management Plan*: This plan is a clear statement of Council's intended outcomes for the coastal zone and how it proposes to achieve those outcomes. The plan sets out the strategies and the priority actions and includes Council's implementation strategy, addressing responsibility for and coordination of activities, funding arrangements, monitoring, evaluation and review of progress, adaptive learning and future updating of the Plan.

The Plan is supported by:

- *Data compilation study*: This section of the Plan incorporates a review of all available information about the physical character, use and existing management framework of the coastline and provides a baseline for determining future actions and management. This includes information such as the Department of Planning's 2007 LiDAR or aerial laser mapping for the Shire's coastline. This data was used to undertake analysis of terrain characteristics and accurate mapping of the areas likely to be affected by coastal and landslip hazards.
- *Hazard definition study*: Two detailed technical studies were undertaken to identify those parts of the coast that are affected by coastal erosion, inundation and geotechnical or landslip hazards. The studies were undertaken to provide hazard lines to delineate the immediate, 2050 and 2100 hazard zones. The effects of climate variability and climate change are critical to these studies. The analyses used the NSW Government's policy statement on sea level rise and recognised the potential for significant changes to coastal processes and an increase in the hazards over the next 40-100 years.
- *Coastline Management Study*: The management study combined the best available science and technical studies with information about policy and the planning context. The community provided additional information on issues and values of coastal assets and what they wanted for the future through a series of community workshops.

### The Documents

The Plan is divided into three documents. These include:

- The Plan: incorporating all aspects of the Draft Management Plan and associated studies.
- The Appendices: incorporating 6 appendices to support the development of strategies and actions within the Plan. The two hazard studies are presented here and information has been brought forward and presented within the Plan as required.

- The Snapshot of the Draft Plan (see attachment 1): This document summarises all the information in the Plan so that it can be more easily understood during the consultation period rather than reading the full Plan.

### **Why This Plan Is Important**

The Plan is a key tool with which Council will manage risks associated with coastal hazards. Coastal erosion and recession are key hazards, but parts of the Wyong coastline are also affected by coastal inundation and by slope instability on cliffs and bluffs.

The Plan details how a coherent program of strategies and actions, implemented in a coordinated manner, can reduce coastal hazard risks, enhance the resilience of coastal ecological communities and maintain important community social, cultural and landscape values associated with the coast.

The Plan indicates that the changes to coastal processes that are occurring now mean that a 'business as usual' strategy is not appropriate. The Plan sets out how Council will manage change and uncertainty about future coastal hazards and risks. Council will work with its growing community to develop flexible and adaptable solutions as new information emerges, whilst maintaining an overall risk reduction objective.

The Plan sets out strategic actions to be implemented over the next ten years. Once these actions are in place, they will continue to guide coastal use to enhance community benefits and reduce risks, for planning periods of 40 years and longer. Council will continue to monitor and evaluate progress in implementing the Plan, including performance review and outcome review, so that actions can be adjusted as necessary to get the best results for the community and the coastal environment. This ongoing review process means that changes to State government policies and regulations such as might occur with a change of government, can be taken into account.

### **Coastal Zone Planning Context**

Wherever possible Council will align its policies and plans with the strategic coastal zone management frameworks established by the NSW and Australian Governments.

Maintaining and improving the condition of coastal and marine ecological communities is a target of the NSW State Plan. Improving the capacity of coastal residents and management authorities to understand and accommodate the interactions of natural systems in the coastal landscape with development and other coastal uses is also a target of the NSW State Plan.

In 2009 and 2010, the NSW Government released a suite of policies, directions and guidelines to provide direction for effective management of coastal process hazards and risks. These include:

- NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (DECCW 2009), which sets sea level rise benchmarks for planning purposes of 40cm above 1990 level by 2050 and 90cm above 1990 levels by 2100.
- Coastal Planning Guideline – Adapting to Sea Level Rise (Department of Planning 2009)
- Amendments to the NSW Coastal Protection Act 2010

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- Coastal Risk Management Guide – Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in coastal risk assessments (DECCW 2010)
- Minister’s Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979 (DECCW 2010)
- Guidelines for Preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans (DECCW 2010)

All of this updated legislation, policy and guidance focuses on managing risks associated with coastal process hazards both now and into the future. It provides clear direction to Councils that they must properly consider coastal process hazards in their local land use planning, natural resource management planning and community development planning.

As a local government area with three coastal erosion ‘hotspots’ and two ‘Authorised Locations’ for coastal protection emergency works, Wyong Shire Council has been directed by the NSW Government to prepare a coastal zone management plan and emergency action sub-plans that show how it will manage coastal hazards and risks for the immediate, 2050 and 2100 planning horizons. These planning horizons are set in the NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (2009). The *Local Government Act* 1994 also requires that councils address climate change and have regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

When the Plan is complete and following consultation with the community, Council must submit it to the Minister for the Environment for certification. The Minister may take advice from the NSW Coastal Panel (a panel of coastal experts appointed under the *Coastal Protection Act* 1979, as amended 2010) before certifying the document. Council will regularly review and update the Plan to ensure it takes into account the best available knowledge about coastal processes, climate change science and community values.

In addition to the new statutory and policy requirements, Council must give effect to the NSW Coastal Policy (1997) and align with the targets of the NSW State Plan and Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Catchment Action Plan in its planning and on ground works.

### **Coastal Protection Act (1979) Amendments – Authorised Officer**

One of the provisions of the recent amendments to the Coastal Protection Act (1979) relates to the potential for Council to have an authorised officer under the Act to certify and regulate emergency coastal protection works (e.g. sand bags) in certain locations on beaches (for Wyong Shire this equates to Hargreaves Beach, Entrance North and Cabbage Tree Harbour). Under the provisions of the Act Councils can choose not to have any authorised officer and in this case any applications for emergency works from the community will be considered by the Office of Environment and Heritage (formally DECCW).

Other Central Coast Councils have chosen not to have an authorised officer at this stage due to the costs, resourcing requirements and liability concerns associated with authorising such works. The relevant business units within WSC have a strong collaborative relationship with the Office of Environment and Heritage and would therefore anticipate being consulted regarding the decisions of the Office’s authorised officers in relation to emergency works within Wyong Shire. On this basis it is recommended that Council not have an authorised officer at this point in time.

### **Tuggerah Lakes Estuary, Coastal and Floodplain Management Committee**

Over the last 10 years as the Plan has been developed through various stages, the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary, Coastal and Floodplain Management Committee has had an integral role. As a requirement of the State Government, the committee, as a committee of Council, is composed of State agency, community and Council representatives including up to four Councillors. The Committee has reviewed the various stages of the Plan and has provided a discussion forum for many coastal issues and as such both agency and community expertise and knowledge has been utilised in developing of the Plan.

At its meeting of the 5 May 2011, the Committee resolved the following motion.

*“That the Committee support the submission of the Coastal Zone Management Plan to Council to be placed on exhibition for three months.”*

The three month period for exhibition is required so that staff can visit the various community groups and enable an appropriate level of community engagement on this complex matter and to provide sufficient time for the community to comment on the Plan. This is reflected in the recommendation above.

## **THE PROPOSAL**

### **The Plan’s Strategic Approach**

The plan incorporates a coastal strategy which has three main components. These include dealing with the known serious risks, engaging the community and improving our understanding and knowledge of the coast. These strategies are embedded within an adaptive management framework that guide implementation and further development of the Plan over time.

### **Managing Coastal Risks**

In the longer term, WSC’s strategy will be that of a planned retreat where affected assets, infrastructure and development are moved out of the coastal hazard zones whilst allowing some interim protection of public and private assets to give residents and business time to develop more adaptive long term measures. This will also reduce the risk of sterilizing coastal land unnecessarily before hazards are realized. A strategy of increased protection is not considered financially or environmentally sustainable for Wyong Shire at this time.

### **Improve Our Knowledge**

Increasing our knowledge and understanding of coastal hazards and how to adapt to a changing environment are essential for a more sustainable future. WSC will gather and utilise new information as it becomes available whilst keeping the community informed.

### **Engaging with the Community**

WSC will inform and engage with residents and business about the coastal zone management issues affecting their property and enjoyment of the coast, so that they can make more informed decisions about their property and assets and can actively participate in coastal management, for example, by way of volunteering.

### **Adaptive Management**

WSC will apply an adaptive management framework in implementing the Coastal Zone Management Plan. As new information becomes available from research, government guidelines or policies, Council will use this information to guide future actions.

### **Draft Proposed Actions**

#### **Very high or urgent priority actions – 2 year timeframe**

These actions either address urgent, high risk issues or are essential starting steps for future adaptive management.

<b>Adaptive management framework and knowledge management</b>
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<b>Strategy: Establish systems for adaptive management</b>
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- WSC will maintain a coastal zone management coordinator position, to facilitate streamlined implementation of key strategies.
- WSC will establish an asset register for community assets in the coastal zone, which will eventually include maintenance schedules, monitoring and relocation/redevelopment planning etc.
- WSC will continue the operation of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary, Coastal and Floodplain Management Committee as an ongoing community forum for coastal zone issues.
- WSC will implement a community awareness and education program about coastal hazards, climate change risks and their management, including actions for coastal emergencies.
- WSC will set up a schedule of annual progress reviews and a full program review after no more than 5 years.
- WSC will ensure that relevant officers are appropriately trained in coastal hazard management – from strategic to emergency response activities and timeframes.
- WSC will continue to attend and make presentations at coastal management forums and to liaise with DECCW and L&PMA to ensure up to date and consistent management approaches.

**Land Use Planning – preparing for planned retreat and accommodation of coastal change****Strategy: Use precautionary planning tools to reduce coastal hazard risks**

- Council will use the planning system to reduce the exposure of coastal development to coastal processes over time and to control the increase of risk associated with coastal processes.
- No new development will be approved seaward of the immediate coastal erosion hazard line or seaward of the immediate geotechnical hazard line.
- WSC will place notation on the s149 certificate, for all properties within immediate, 2050 and 2100 coastal risk areas (coastal erosion) and also all properties seaward of the 2100 low risk line for geotechnical hazards. Council will also inform all affected ratepayers via information supplied with rate notices.
- WSC will introduce planning clauses in LEP and DCP (concurrently and consistently) with requirements for appropriate geotechnical assessments of proposed development within the zone bounded by the immediate hazard line and 2100 low geotechnical hazard line.
- WSC will introduce planning clauses in the LEP and DCP to introduce timed consents for new development in the 2050 coastal risk area. Before the expiry date of the timed consent, the landholder must apply and obtain an extension of time, or relocate the structure landward on the block (where this is possible) or remove the development.
- WSC may require proponents of new development in the 2050 coastal erosion hazard area and the 2100 coastal erosion hazard area to appropriately design residential buildings to address the hazard, including for example development which can be relocated landward as the coastal erosion scarp recedes.
- WSC will not approve new major infrastructure (such as main roads and sewerage systems) in the 2050 or 2100 coastal risk areas, except where it can be protected in a cost effective manner that does not increase risks to other coastal values.
- WSC will not approve new subdivisions, vulnerable development (including nursing homes and hospitals) or other development that intensifies land use in the 2050 or 2100 coastal risk areas
- Floor levels for new development in immediate inundation hazard areas must consider the 1 per cent AEP storm wave runup for each beach.
- WSC will plan for the relocation of surf clubs out of coastal erosion hazard areas when major upgrades of facilities are due, plus identify surf club services/facilities that must be in the immediate hazard zone.
- Development landward of the 2100 coastal risk area and 2100 geotechnical low hazard line is not constrained by coastal process issues and there are no specific coastal hazard management requirements.

### Structural protection of coastal assets

**Strategy: Allow interim protection of assets (in accordance with legislation and guidelines) that are affected by hazards now, so that landholders can prepare for longer term change**

- WSC will construct a toe drainage structure at Cabbage Tree Harbour that both improves groundwater drainage and protects the toe of the slope against erosion. This structure will be partly funded by DECCW.
- WSC will review the structural integrity of The Entrance sea wall and schedule structural upgrades as necessary to balance risk and cost.
- WSC will approve emergency beach protection works at North Entrance and Hargraves Beach in accordance with the 2010 amendments to the *Coastal Protection Act 1979* and related Guidelines, and in accordance with the Emergency Management Plan for those beaches.
- For properties where existing structures are inside the immediate coastal erosion risk area, land holders may apply to construct interim protection (for up to 10 years), pending further evidence about sea level rise driven recession on the Wyong coastline. Such works must be designed to withstand at least a 1 in 20 recurrence interval storm. Structures must be removed after 10 years, unless an extension of the consent is granted. Landholders who build these structures may be liable for a levy to be paid to WSC for ongoing maintenance of beach amenity.
- WSC will consider applications for the construction of permanent rock sea walls to protect existing houses which are located in the **immediate hazard zone** only if:
  - all affected properties along a section of beach are involved/included;
  - the wall is built entirely on private property;
  - the wall will have minimal impact/risk in terms of erosion at the ends;
  - the landholders agree to contribute to the ongoing cost of beach nourishment to maintain beach amenity for the agreed life of the rock wall;
  - landholders are responsible for ongoing maintenance of the structure, as per standards specified by DECCW and Council;
  - public safety and access are not compromised.

WSC has identified some locations in the immediate hazard zone where it will not approve the construction of a permanent sea wall, because of unacceptable risks to community access to the beach and to the stability of adjoining areas.

- At this time Council will not consider the construction of rock sea walls to protect residential property in the 2050 or 2100 coastal risk areas. Council will manage new development in these hazard zones using planning controls.
- WSC will prepare detailed designs and environmental documentation for providing interim (up to 10 years) protection for existing surf clubs and major access infrastructure at surf clubs which are at immediate risk.



**Beach nourishment, dune enhancement and vegetation management**

**Strategy: Strengthen the ecological resilience of the coast**

- WSC will conduct a benchmark biodiversity condition assessment for coastal ecological communities, in partnership with HCRCMA and local Dunecare groups.
- WSC will continue to dredge sand from the active tidal delta at The Entrance and place the sand on North Entrance Beach. Some sand may also be placed at South Entrance to maintain beach amenity.
- WSC will commission further studies of sediment dynamics in The Entrance channel, with sea level rise. These studies will help determine whether additional sand could be dredged from The Entrance for beach nourishment purposes. Sand used for emergency beach nourishment or to fill geotextile bags must comply with relevant Ministerial Guidelines.
- WSC will continue to support Landcare groups to maintain and enhance the condition of vegetation communities on coastal dunes, including weed removal and replanting.
- WSC will continue to work with the Office of Environment and Heritage and the HCR CMA to protect nesting and roosting habitat for protected shore birds such as little tern (e.g. from disturbance by pedestrians, dogs and vehicles, possibly from short term wave overtopping).

**Recreational enhancement**

**Strategy: Facilitate visitor-attracting recreational access infrastructure**

- WSC will continue to develop plans for a coastal walking track, which can be promoted as a recreational attraction for the coastline.
- WSC will begin to prepare and/or review detailed Plans of Management for foreshore reserve areas, including those at surf clubs, to maximise recreational opportunities and safety.
- WSC will review the design and integrity of structures such as stairways and lookouts, which are within immediate geotechnical hazard zones and relocate or modify as necessary.

**Consolidating Change: High priority actions for the 5 year timeframe**

These actions consolidate and enhance the outcomes proposed in the first two years of implementing the WSCZMP.

**Funding and resources****Strategy: Diversity funding sources for coastal zone management**

- WSC will continue to maintain a coastal zone coordinator position
- WSC will consider introducing a Shire wide levy to provide funds for managing climate change impacts on community assets along the coast, such as sewerage systems, roads and public beach access ways.

**Adaptive management and knowledge enhancement****Strategy: Collect quality data to evaluate progress**

- WSC will work with Hunter Councils and the NSW government to acquire new high resolution LiDAR data at regular intervals. LiDAR data, combined with aerial photogrammetry and satellite imagery provides a rapid process for evaluating changes to coastal terrain and terrestrial coastal ecology as sea level rises
- WSC will continue to work with the Office of Environment and Heritage to provide the most up to date methodology for assessing coastal erosion and recession hazards, including the interaction between coastal recession and processes operating in the entrance of the Tuggerah Lakes system.
- WSC will review progress in implementing the CZMP at intervals of approximately 5 years. This performance review will be linked wherever possible to assessments of coastal condition (natural, cultural, social and economic values/assets), so that the effectiveness of investment can be evaluated. These condition reviews may be undertaken by management partners such as the Office of Environment and Heritage or HCR CMA.
- WSC will report the outcomes of its management decisions and investment in coastal management to its community on a regular basis.

**Land use planning and land management****Strategy: Implement and monitor LEP and DCP requirements in the coastal zone**

- WSC will continue to make planning decisions in accordance with the principles set out in the NSW coastal planning guidelines (DoP), so that new development is located and/or designed in a manner which minimises risk from coastal recession.

**Beach nourishment and managing coastal ecological communities****Strategy: Strengthen the ecological resilience of the coastal zone**

- WSC will continue to protect the value of important coastal ecological communities (and protected species), in consultation with HCR CMA, the Office of Environment and Heritage and DPI (formally L&PMA).

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- WSC will continue to support dune care, dune height management and dune volume protection works, particularly for relatively natural sections of the coastline, but also as part of the risk reduction strategy for existing residential areas.

### **Cultural landscapes**

#### **Strategy: Enhance collaboration with local Aboriginal knowledge holders**

- WSC will work with Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and other Aboriginal community groups to document stories of Aboriginal attachment to the Wyong coastline and identify information that could be used in interpretative signage/booklets etc for the broader community, to raise awareness of the significance of the coastal landscape for Aboriginal people.
- WSC will work with the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council to monitor the condition of known Aboriginal sites in land under its care and to take proper action to protect the cultural values of those sites.

### **Coordinated emergency management**

#### **Strategy: Integrate management of coastal process and flood hazards in the coastal zone**

- WSC will work with the Office of Environment and Heritage and SES to enhance communication about coastal emergencies, particularly where coastal emergencies are concurrent with flooding emergencies and decision need to be made quickly about egress from affected locations.

### **Recreation enhancement**

#### **Strategy: Facilitate visitor-attracting recreational access infrastructure**

- WSC will work with NSW Maritime and commercial and recreational boating users to determine the best strategy for ocean boating access in Wyong Shire, including upgrades of existing facilities as necessary.
- WSC will conduct regular surveys (at approximately 3 year intervals) of beach users to ascertain satisfaction with beach facilities and amenity.

### **Checking and reviewing progress: Medium priority actions for the 10 year timeframe**

These actions continue long term projects and evaluate and review the implementation of the plan, to identify opportunities for improved management.

**Adaptive management and knowledge enhancement****Strategy: Review assumptions, progress and strategic approaches**

- WSC will continue the review, evaluation and reporting activities described for shorter time frames, so that all stakeholders continue to have access to good information with which to assess and manage risks.
- WSC will review its assessment of coastal erosion and recession hazards, as new information from IPCC and the Australian and State governments becomes available. Hazard lines and planning lines will be reviewed in the light of new information.
- WSC will review its LEP and DCP requirements for coastal hazard areas, based on best available evidence of actual coastal recession and the costs and benefits of planning controls.
- WSC will consider options for government acquisition of private land affected by coastal hazards. Council will work with NSW and Australian Governments to develop an appropriate strategy for high risk locations where planned retreat is adopted. Government acquisition of private land in coastal risk areas is not currently supported by any of these levels of government.

**Beach nourishment, dune management and coastal ecological communities****Strategy: Evaluate the cost/benefit of alternative sand sources to buffer dune communities against climate change**

- WSC will review beach nourishment procedures and the availability of suitable sand for beach nourishment at key locations.
- WSC will work with NSW government to study the feasibility of off shore sand being used for beach nourishment purposes for maintaining beach area, volume and amenity at key locations – not for use in the immediate term, but in the context of likely increasing need after 2020. For instance a large volume of sand would be needed to enhance the dune buffer to prevent overtopping/breakthrough at Budgewoi. Offshore sand supplies are a high cost sand source and Council's decisions will be affected by decisions made for very high profile beaches in the Sydney metropolitan area and the evolution of NSW government policy over the next 5 to 10 years.

**Recreation enhancement****Strategy: Facilitate visitor-attracting recreational access infrastructure**

- WSC will complete a coastal walking and cycling pathway, connecting coastal settlements and linking with the lake shore pathway.
- WSC will continue to invest in relocation of surf club facilities, in accordance with a schedule based on erosion hazard and significance of the facility to safe beach use in the Shire.

**OPTIONS**

WSC has an obligation to manage coastal risks and to plan appropriately for the coastal zone. These risks to development and our coastal environment are accentuated by the potential impacts of climate change, notably sea level rise.

In accordance with Section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993 – *Exemption from Liability- flood liable land and land in the coastal zone*, Council must ensure that information provided to the public and relied on by staff is consistent with the Guidelines for Developing Coastal Zone Management Plans and other relevant State Government Policies and Legislation. The information presented in the Plan is the best information available to Council on the current and future risks of coastal hazards and the management actions to address them.

The alternative by not developing the Plan is the “do nothing” approach. This would require a “business as usual” approach which has been determined as inappropriate under the current and future coastal environmental conditions. The assessment of development and continued management of the coastal zone would be based on outdated information and would potentially increase the risks to current and future development. As such Council would be in contravention of Section 733 of the Local Government Act.

**STRATEGIC LINKS**

**Annual Plan**

<i>Principal Activity</i>	<i>Strategy or Program</i>	<i>Financial Line Item No and Description</i>
A More Sustainable Community	Nil Impact	Nil Impact
A More Sustainable Economy	Nil Impact	Nil Impact
A More Sustainable Environment	Completion of the Coastline (Coastal Zone) Management Plan	D316
Infrastructure	Nil Impact	Nil Impact
Organisation	Nil Impact	Nil Impact

**Contribution of Proposal to the Principal Activity  
Link to Shire Strategic Vision**

<b>Priority Objective</b>	<b>How the proposal contributes or links to the Priority Objectives in Shire Strategic Vision and Annual Plan</b>
<p><b>Communities</b> - Communities will be vibrant, caring and connected with a sense of belonging and pride in their local neighbourhood.</p>	<p>1.5 Develop and implement the Wyong Shire Settlement Strategy</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>The adopted coastal hazard information will be used to inform the development of the Wyong Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the Development Control Plan 2011.</p>
<p><b>Travel</b> - There will be ease of travel within the Shire, and to other regional centres and cities. Travel will be available at all hours and will be safe, clean and affordable.</p>	<p>Nil impact</p>
<p><b>Facilities and Services</b> - Communities will have access to a diverse range of affordable and coordinated facilities, programs and services.</p>	<p>The Plan should provide a more sustainable approach to the development and continuation of facilities and services along the coast.</p>
<p><b>Education</b> - The community will be well educated, innovative and creative. People will attain full knowledge potential at all stages of life.</p>	<p>4.4- Establish and maintain a committed network of education, community, business and government representatives.</p> <p>Comment:</p> <p>Awareness of coastal hazards and fostering the perception that our coastline is changing over time is very important. The Plan will provide clear and concise information to the community regarding the risks, the hazards and the changing nature of our coast.</p>
<p><b>Employment</b> - There will be a strong and sustainable business sector and increased local employment built on the Central Coast's business strengths.</p>	<p>Nil impact</p>

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<b>Priority Objective</b>	<b>How the proposal contributes or links to the Priority Objectives in Shire Strategic Vision and Annual Plan</b>
<b>Telecommunications</b> - Information communication technology will be consistent with world's best practice and adaptive to technological advances across all sectors.	Nil impact
<b>Natural Areas</b> - Areas of natural value in public and private ownership will be enhanced and retained to a high level in the context of ongoing development.	7.4 Development and implement strategies to reduce the Shire's footprint.  Comment  Implementation of the management actions will ensure a more sustainable approach to ensuring our coastlines for community use.
<b>Environmental Programs</b> - There will be a sense of community ownership of the natural environment through direct public involvement with environmental programs.	Local coastal communities will be engaged to support actions to improve both community and ecological resilience to the current and future impacts of coastal erosion and recession.

#### Financial Implications

Implementation of the Plan will require significant and recurrent funds over the initial 10 year period. The following table provides cost estimates on a yearly basis for the first five years and for the 6-10 year period.

#### Estimates for Implementing the Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 6-10
Total	\$325 000	\$475 000	\$475 000	\$555 000	\$565 000	\$2 205 000
Estimates requiring additional funding	\$215 000	\$375 000	\$375 000	\$455 000	\$465 000	\$1 705 000

The total is an estimate to cover all work necessary to implement the actions in the Plan with the exception of staff costs. However, many actions can be implemented using existing staff and resources that are already involved in coastal programs subject to a change in priorities or will only be implemented should grant funds become available. Similarly, some of the actions rely on the involvement of the community or other levels of government. Therefore, the estimates in the table indicate only the additional funding required over and above that which can be found in existing programs.

Funds have been allocated in the 2011-12 Annual Plan and the Financial Model for the Four Year Delivery Plan now on exhibition to cover the estimated additional costs for the first four years of the Plan's implementation. Consideration by Council for allocation of funds beyond the Four Year Delivery Plan will be addressed when the Plan is submitted for adoption.

### Principles of Sustainability

A properly considered Coastal Zone Management Plan will enable the ongoing use and management of the coastline in a more sustainable manner and will be one of the first of such plans within the State (Sustainability Principle 6).

The options developed and ranked within the Plan have been considered within a sustainability context thereby considering the economic, social, environmental and governance aspects within a decision making framework (Sustainability Principles 1 and 3).

By examining the potential impacts of climate change the document supports planning for the future but also considers the current risks to development and our coastal environment (Sustainability Principle 2).

The Plan also recognises the need to build partnerships, communicate information and engage the community which it considers to be integral in implementing the various actions (Sustainability Principle 5).

The Plan has been developed consistent with the governance requirements of the State Government and that of Council. The implementation strategy has also been developed within the constraints of Council's ability to finance and resource (Sustainability Principle 4).

### CONSULTATION

The Plan has been developed in accordance with the NSW Government's Coastal Zone Management Plan Guidelines, and the Office of Environment and Heritage Coasts and Estuaries Program. As such, there has been on-going consultation with the community via the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary, Coastal and Floodplain Management Committee. This committee has representatives from elected Councillors, relevant technical staff, community representatives and officers from relevant Government agencies such as the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, NSW Maritime and the State Emergency Services as well as representatives of relevant industry bodies.

In addition, during the preparation of the Plan, a number of coastal specific community workshops were held to inform the plan. Two community workshops were held over the past year to determine issues and values of the coastal zone and to assess options for management. Results of these workshops and other consultation measures appear in the Plan.

Council staff have also visited relevant Precinct Committee and Ratepayer Associations along the coast to discuss the development of the Plan.

As part of the public exhibition of the Plan, Council staff will revisit all of the relevant Precinct Committees and Progress Associations to present the Plan to the community and discuss the implications for coastal residents and visitors from within the Shire.

A significant degree of consultation also occurred between Council staff and included the General Manager, the Directors and relevant Unit Managers, to examine the implications for resources, budgets and priorities and to set the Plan's implementation within the Annual Plan and the Four Year Delivery Plan.



## GOVERNANCE

The Plan when adopted will ensure the replacement and updating of DCP 2005 Chapter 77 Coastal Hazards. This current document is outdated and does not contain appropriate information for the planning and management associated with coastal hazards. The Plan contains the strategies, actions and information necessary to develop a replacement to Chapter 77 that will cover the whole coastline now and into the future.

The information contained within the Plan will also inform the LEP review to ensure that land is appropriately zoned to minimise risks in coastal hazard areas and contain provisions to ensure that development in these areas is compatible with the risks. The LEP will be both concurrent and consistent with the DCP.

The following legislation and guidelines have been referred to in preparing the Plan:

The NSW Local Government Act (1993);

Coastal Protection Act (1979);

Amendments to the NSW Coastal Protection Act 2010;

Ministers Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979 (DECCW 2010);

The NSW Coastal Policy (1997);

Guidelines for Preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans (DECCW 1010);

The NSW Coastal Zone Manual (1990);

NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement (DECCW 2009);

Coastal Planning Guideline – Adapting to Sea Level Rise (Department of Planning 2010);

Coastal Risk Management Guide – Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in coastal risk assessments (DECCW 2010);

## CORPORATE RISKS

The current and potential impacts of climate change have been identified as a high risk for WSC. The risk is centred around not so much that climate change will occur but that the adaptation measures to address the impacts of climate change are not effectively addressed at a corporate level leading to an uncoordinated and ineffective response. There would be significant costs and disruptions to services and to the community. The Plan provides a coordinated and effective response to ensure that the corporate risks are addressed.

A further corporate risk has arisen recently with the new State Government indicating that there may be changes to the recent coastal reforms or amendments to the relevant coastal legislation. At this stage, however, there is currently no direction to alter policy so all the recent coastal reforms, the amendments to the Coastal Protection Act and regulations, coastal policy and guidelines form the status quo.

The State Government's intentions may become clearer in the future but any directions for government staff to prepare and promulgate new or altered policy or guidelines or changes to legislation will take considerable time, extending to years in some instances.

The Plan has been developed to be consistent with the current legislative and policy requirements of the State Government and specific directions from the Minister that the Plan should be completed by the end of 2011 and the Emergency Sub-plans by July 2011. Any delay in the exhibition and adoption of the Plan, whilst awaiting further coastal reforms, would increase the risk of Council not meeting the current legislative and policy requirements and the Ministerial directions. Additionally, given that some changes may take years it would not be in the best interests of the community to delay adoption and roll out of the plan for too long. The Plan's actions are proposed to roll out over the next ten years with priority actions being undertaken within the next two years. Two important actions include informing the LEP and DCP which are on a tight schedule.

The Plan also has an adaptive management strategy built in to cater for changes in Govt policy and legislation over time. Any changes in Govt policy, legislation, guidelines or regulations will need to be acted upon in a timely fashion when they are announced but such changes also have commencement dates and usually time for Council to make the appropriate changes. The adaptive management strategy incorporated within the Plan will accommodate this issue.

### **CONCLUSION**

Wyong Shire Council is responsible for developing a Coastal Zone Management Plan. In accordance with Council's planning responsibilities under the EP&A Act, Council must plan for development and manage the coastal zone in accordance with the hazards both now and into the future.

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Coastal Zone Manual (1990) as well as the most recent version of the NSW Guidelines for Preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans (2010) and the Office of Environment and Heritage's Coasts and Estuaries Program, and other relevant State Government legislation and policies. The State Government have contributed financially to the development of the Plan on 50-50 basis.

The Plan incorporates a set of strategies and eight action plans designed to manage the risks associated with coastal hazards in a sustainable manner. The estimated costs to Council for implementation of the proposed actions have been incorporated with the Strategic Plan for 2011-12 and the Four Year Delivery Plan.

Effective community consultation is required as part of the process of adopting the Plan and gaining certification by the Minister. The intention of the public exhibition of the Plan is to consider the opinions of the local community on the proposed strategies and actions of the Draft Plan.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Snapshot of the Wyong Shire Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan - Enclosure  
D02615153 - to be distributed under separate cover)