

# **Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study**

**Public Exhibition – Submissions Report**

**Final Report**

**January 2023**



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**21-016 RICHMOND RIVER ESTUARY CMP SCOPING STUDY  
PUBLIC EXHIBITION SUBMISSIONS REPORT**

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REV	DESCRIPTION	AUTHORS	REVIEW	APPROVAL	DATE
0	Report for Client review	K. Pratt	M. Howland	M. Howland	12 Jan 2023
1	Final	K. Pratt	R. Campbell	M. Howland	23 Jan 2023

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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Hydrosphere Consulting has prepared a draft *Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study* (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2022) on behalf of Rous County Council (RCC). The draft CMP has been developed in accordance with the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and the *Coastal Management Manual* (OEH, 2018).

The draft *Scoping Study* (Hydrosphere Consulting, 2022) presents the outcomes of Stage 1 in the Coastal Management Program planning process. The Scoping Study reviewed the status of current issues and management and identifies the focus of the new CMP.

## 2. EXHIBITION PROCESS

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The draft CMP Scoping Study was placed on public exhibition between 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (25 days). Public exhibition of the Scoping Study was promoted widely through various media and social media platforms as well as direct contact with stakeholders. Public promotion included:

- Direct email notification and reminders to stakeholders who had previously registered an interest and/or been involved with project development;
- Media and advertising including media releases and newspaper notices (e.g., The Echo 21/11/2022 <https://www.echo.net.au/2022/11/community-input-sought-on-richmond-river-estuary-plan/>)
- Social media posts on Council Facebook pages.
- Information on Ballina, Lismore, Byron, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, and Rous County Council webpages.
- Information and downloads on the project webpage: [www.hydrosphere.com.au/richmondrivercmp](http://www.hydrosphere.com.au/richmondrivercmp)

Written submissions were made either through the online communication portal on the project website or direct to the Project Team via email or post. The mailbox was monitored after the official exhibition period to allow for mail transit times and in case of last-minute submissions. Written confirmation was sent to all those who provided a submission, including a link to the project website for further updates.

## 3. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

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A total of eight formal submissions were received during the public exhibition period for the draft CMP Scoping Study. An additional submission from DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) - Crown Lands was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, four business days after the end of the public exhibition period and has been incorporated into this submissions report. Submissions were provided by individual members of the community, community groups and government agencies. A summary of submission types is provided as Table 1.

**Table 1: Summary of submissions received by type**

Submission type	Total no. of submissions
Individual community member	3
Community group / organisation	2
Government agency	3
Education Sector	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>

Formal submissions received during public exhibition are summarised in Table 2 together with a response to the points raised in the submissions and proposed amendments to be made to the draft CMP Scoping Study. In some cases, comments have been paraphrased/summarised to fit the table format. The original submissions are attached in full as Appendix 1 (note that the personal details of individual community members have been removed).

The majority of submissions received were in support of the CMP Scoping Study and recognised the need for actions to improve waterway and coastal environment health. Waterway health was the key issue discussed. Other topics raised included recreational uses (e.g. sailing, fishing), cultural fishing, benefits of oyster reefs, the need for a whole-of-catchment approach, socio-economic factors, barriers to change and flooding. One submission focussed on catchment flooding issues and provided flood mitigation options for the Richmond River. Flood mitigation is not discussed in the CMP Scoping Study and this issue is currently being investigated by the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (CSIRO). Over half of the respondents expressed willingness to be included in future stages of the CMP. Three submissions provided editorial suggestions including text changes and the update of government agency names since the draft Scoping Study was prepared. Four submissions suggested additional information be considered by the Scoping Study.

The Department of Planning and Environment – Biodiversity Conservation Division (DPE – BCD) has been a key partner in the development of the CMP Scoping Study along with RCC and the estuary and catchment councils. DPE – BCD representatives have provided input into the Stage 1 CMP documentation which has already been incorporated in the draft Scoping Study. On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023, four weeks after the end of the public exhibition period, additional comments on the Scoping Study were provided to RCC by DPE – BCD. As discussed with DPE, these comments have not been incorporated into this submission report and are not proposed to be included in the final Stage 1 CMP Scoping Study but will be used to inform stages 2, 3 and 4 of the CMP development.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, six weeks after the end of the public exhibition period, an additional submission was provided by a local Fisheries/Veterinary Researcher. These comments have not been incorporated into this submission report and are not proposed to be included in the final Stage 1 CMP Scoping Study but will be used to inform stages 2, 3 and 4 of the CMP development.



**Table 2: Summary of formal submissions, responses, and proposed amendments to draft CMP**

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
1	Respondent #1	1.1	Provided a 360° panorama drone image over the Bagotville Barrage.	Noted	No change
		1.2	Information provided on historical drainage modifications in Tuckean Swamp and ongoing impacts on water quality.	Noted. Information provided is consistent with the Scoping Study.	No change
2	Respondent #2	2.1	Provided the paper: <i>Mitigation of Future Flooding of Ballina Township and its surrounds</i> (Loughrey, 2022, unpublished). The submission noted that the paper was submitted to the project in previous consultation phase of the CMP. The paper had been revised since previous submission, updated version dated Nov 2022.	There is no record of previous contact or submissions from Respondent #2 for this project. It is possible the paper was previously provided to another project such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballina Coastline CMP Scoping Study (Water Technology, 2022), or</li> <li>Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (CSIRO) aimed at identifying options to reduce flood risk (first phase completed in Nov 2022).</li> </ul>	No change
		2.3	The paper includes recommendations for flood mitigation including: dredging of the Richmond River, opening the Tuckombil Canal, real-time rain gauges and construction of flood gates/diversionary canals from the Richmond River directly to the ocean, investigation into hydrological impact on Pacific Motorway upgrade, construct the Dunoon Dam and diversion of water inland.	The Richmond River Estuary CMP Scoping Study does not discuss flood mitigation options. In terms of flooding issues, the CMP Scoping Study focusses on discussion of impacts of flooding on estuary health. The NSW Floodplain Management Program is the primary program implemented by state and local government to manage flood risk. In addition, flood mitigation options in the Northern Rivers are currently being assessed by Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative in response to the Northern Rivers major flooding events in Feb/Mar 2022.	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		2.4	<p>The paper includes analysis of flooding factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build Dams in the Catchment Areas</li>   <li>2. Real Time Reporting of Rainfall</li> <li>3. Webpage for Flood Information</li> <li>4. Divert Surplus Water Inland</li> <li>5. Dredge the Mouth of the Richmond River</li>   <li>6. Open the Tuckombil Canal</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Richmond River Estuary CMP Scoping Study focusses on factors affecting estuary health. Scoping Study Section 4.3.4 <i>Waterway modifications and water extraction</i>, discusses the construction of dams, weirs and floodplain drainage in the catchment. The Literature Review Section 8.6 discusses water extraction in more detail. Water supply/ dams/ water regulation and planning is outside the scope of the CMP. Refer</li> <li>2. Not relevant to the CMP</li> <li>3. Not relevant to the CMP</li> <li>4. Not relevant to the CMP</li> <li>5. Any dredging options have potential implications for estuary health. The mouth of the Richmond River is outside the study area of the Richmond River estuary CMP. The river mouth is within the study area of the Ballina Coastline CMP.</li> <li>6. The Tuckombil Canal is discussed in Section 8.1.8 of the Literature Review.</li> </ol>	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		2.3	<p>The submission included a request for advice as follows:</p> <p>“Could you please advise me on the flow that could be expected to be carried in a diversion (a “Circuit Breaker”), in the form of a 6 metre wide, 3 metre deep canal, cut in sand, with flood gates at each end, constructed through the cane farms, from the Richmond River to the Ocean (a distance of approximately 2km) as shown in this concept plan.</p> <p>Note: the exact location and number of these diversions would be the subject of further studies and discussions with the owners of these cane farms.</p> <p>My interest is to gain some idea of the flow which a channel such as this would provide in time of flood.”</p>	<p>As above (2.2).</p> <p>Not within the scope of the CMP Scoping Study</p> <p>RCC to consider responding to this request or referring to other relevant organisation (e.g., Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative or Ballina Council) as appropriate.</p>	No change
3	Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club	3.1	<p>“The Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club has been sailing on the lower reaches of the Richmond River since 1937. We have a clubhouse on the banks of the river just East of the town of Ballina and we have an active membership of around 60 sailors. The health of the river is of vital concern to us as we often get immersed in it during our sailing adventures.”</p>	Noted	No change
		3.3	<p>“Debris, pollution and toxins in the river water are of major concern to us all as sailors.”</p>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		3.4	Expressed interest in becoming a stakeholder of the project and outlined details and activities of club.	Noted. Include Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club in future stages of CMP consultation.	No change
		3.5	Provided photos to illustrate connection with and use of the river.	Noted (see attached)	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
4	Respondent #4	4.1	<p>“Quick scan only – lack of strongly stated comments around the need for whole of catchment management – as the estuary is where all the issues collide”</p>	<p>A whole-of-catchment approach is recommended by the Scoping Study (see Section 1.2, Page 4, Richmond River Catchment, Section 1.2 Vision “<i>Working together with a whole-of-catchment approach to improve the health of the Richmond River estuary</i>” and repeatedly throughout document)</p> <p>Also note Section 2.1 of the Scoping Study that discusses the DPE formal guidelines/advice about the inclusion of catchment issues and actions in a CMP (DPE, 2022a). The advice states that the principal focus of any implementation actions included in a CMP (Stage 4) should be directed towards areas included in the coastal zone. The coastal zone is defined as four distinct coastal management areas mapped in the CM SEPP generally in direct vicinity of estuaries, coastal wetlands, littoral rainforest and the coastline. Councils can apply for Coast and Estuary Grant funding for actions outside the coastal zone providing that it can be demonstrated that the action will significantly benefit the coastal zone and satisfy the program criteria. The Scoping Study includes discussion of catchment-based drivers and their impacts on the coastal zone and estuary which is considered appropriate and in line with the recent DPE advice.</p>	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		4.2	"Whilst Border Ranges and Nightcap are identified Gondwana properties, Richmond Range, Toonumbar World Heritage areas not seen."	Agreed	Add Richmond Range and Toonumbar National Parks to list of World Heritage properties in Section 4.3.1.
		4.3	"Comment that stewardship only applies to govt land?"	Threat T51 of the Risk Assessment is <i>"Insufficient public land available to establish stewardship sites to offset loss of native vegetation through land development"</i> . This refers specifically to issues associated with the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. Stage 2 of the CMP will consider options for establishment of stewardship sites on all land (not restricted to government land).	No change
		4.4	"Comment that demo site locations are Council land?"	Yes – demonstration sites are proposed for Council owned land.	No change
		4.5	"Comments re socio economic status correct, inadequately connected to potential for private landholders to address on site issues (that they have largely inherited)."	Noted. The Scoping Study discussed the issues associated with a catchment under private ownership (73% of catchment land area) and barriers to change including lack of financial incentive and social barriers.	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		4.6	"Need to discuss land and river stewardship and environmental market opportunities that could be made available to private landholders."	Recommended CMP Stage 2 Study 2.4 is " <i>Establish community priorities for waterway health, willingness to pay and potential funding options</i> ". This study will assess market opportunities and funding options.	No change
		4.7	"The real issue is in our heads and paradigms – need to explore societal change options for renewed paradigms and development of motivation to change – with technical and financial support."	Noted. As above (Ref # 4.5)	No change
5	Sophie Pryor – OzFish	5.1	"Overall, this is a well-presented scoping study, and its implementation will positively impact the Richmond's health and our community. On behalf of OzFish, I believe the following considerations will strengthen the final Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study."	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		5.2	<p>“4.3.2 Geology, soils and geomorphology</p> <p>It could be worthwhile noting here that there are substantial soil inputs from top soil runoff and erosion into the Richmond, which impacts water quality.”</p>	<p>Section 4.3.2. discusses “<i>highly erodible soils in the mid and upper catchment</i>” as a key issue. More details about sediment runoff and pollution are provided in Section 4.3.5 Nutrient and sediment pollution* and Literature review (supporting doc). *Noted ‘Nutrient and sediment pollution’ heading not formatted correctly in document.</p>	<p>Section 4.3.2 – add reference to topsoil runoff and water quality decline because of erosion.</p> <p>Section 4.3.5 Format to correct heading – “Nutrient and sediment pollution “</p>
		5.3	<p>“4.3.5 Waterway health</p> <p>Diffuse source pollution - Monosulfidic Black Ooze is only mentioned in the glossary and should be incorporated into the waterway health section, given it’s a driving water quality issue in areas such as Keith Hall.”</p>	<p>MBO is discussed in detail in the Literature review (supporting doc).</p>	<p>Section 4.3.5 – add summary of MBO issue from Literature Review.</p>



No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		5.4	<p>“4.4.2 Bank erosion</p> <p>Sedimentation in the main river channel is not considered to be a significant issue as most of this sediment is thought to be transported to the ocean during major events, with very little evidence of sedimentation or infilling of the river channel detected in 2007 river surveys documented in ABER (2007) was not the case following flooding in early 2022, where large quantities of sediment were deposited.”</p>	<p>The Draft Scoping Study was finalised prior to the 2022 major flooding events. Amendments would require further work to obtain and review available data on sediment deposition following 2022 floods.</p>	<p>Section 4.4.2 – amend section if information readily available.</p>
		5.5	<p>“4.6.2 Fishing</p> <p>Here, you mention that oysters were once grown for aquaculture. It is also worth noting that oyster reefs were once spread throughout the lower estuary—these reefs were an important cultural food source and provided fish habitat and water filtration. Oyster reef loss can be attributed to poor water quality and over-harvesting.”</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Section 4.6.2 - add discussion of naturally occurring oyster reefs.</p>

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		5.6	<p>“4.7.2 Climate change</p> <p>Ocean acidification will pose a risk in the estuary. Additionally, both aquatic and terrestrial range shifts will be seen, impacting species composition. In some instances, exotic pest species (e.g., tilapia) could invade the Richmond. Increased temperatures and competition will cause stress or even localised extinctions for some species.”</p>	Agreed	Section 4.7.2 – add discussion of additional climate change risks.
		5.7	<p>“Table 10, 2.1- OzFish has undertaken substantial habitat restoration projects throughout the Richmond River Catchment and could be listed here as a support agency.”</p>	We have avoided naming specific non-government organisations. OzFish is captured as industry, and community groups.	No change
		5.8	<p>“Table 10, 2.9 - NSW DPE is looking to develop a similar tool”</p>	This action is to be developed in collaboration with DPE who were part of the Steering Committee for the Scoping Study.	No change
6	Louise Orr – General Manager North Coast Local Land Services (NC LLS)	6.1	<p>“North Coast Local Land Services (North Coast LLS) offers in principle support for the directions set by the Study, Literature Review and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and how they will inform Stages 2-5 of the CMP development.”</p>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.2	"The Study broadly aligns with the directions and priorities set by the North Coast Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and the recently completed North Coast LLS Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026."	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.3	<p>“The Study is relevant to our current and future contribution to the management of Richmond waterway health, whereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It identifies land management issues we consider significant, in particular, the need for catchment based flood and bushfire recovery and the need to build the capacity of community and landholders to better cope with natural disaster events in the future.</li> <li>• It captures the background that justifies delivery of our existing and new projects including those funded by our Australian Government River Restoration Program, NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) Program and the soon to be released Australian Government National Landcare Program Funding Program.</li> <li>• It recognises our role and the potential we have to support the future implementation of the CMP.”</li> </ul>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.4	<p>“Provide updated reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The directions and priorities set by the Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy</li> <li>• The directions and priorities set by the recently completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026</li> <li>• The outcomes of the recently completed Catchment Governance and Waterway Health (Richmond River) Project</li> <li>• The achievements of organisations (including North Coast LLS) currently delivering projects that are addressing river recovery, flood recovery, bushfire recovery, and improvements in community capacity to cope with natural disasters.”</li> </ul>	<p>Several new / updated plans have become available since completion of Draft Scoping Study.</p>	<p>Add / update details for new plans where available to Scoping Study. Do not propose to revisit / modify Literature Review.</p>
		6.5	<p>“On page 15 of the Scoping Study Document, change the names on Figure 5 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Coast Local Land Services Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026</li> <li>• Add the newly completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026”</li> </ul>	<p>These new / updated plans have become available since completion of Draft Scoping Study.</p>	<p>Figure 5 – update with new/ updated plans</p>

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.6	<p>“On page 63 of the Scoping Study Document, change North Coast Local Land Services text to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Coast LLS plays a key role in supporting adoption of best practice land management by landholders and partnering with key stakeholders to deliver waterway and coastal environment health outcomes.</li> <li>- North Coast LLS provides a certification and advisory role in relation to vegetation management/ clearing in non-urban areas with NSW DPIE - EES providing a compliance role.</li> <li>- LLS is also responsible for approval and extension services for private native forestry with the EPA responsible for compliance and enforcement.</li> <li>- North Coast LLS also is a current Regional Service Provider on behalf of the Federal Government to meet their legislative and programmatic requirements and aspirations in the North Coast region</li> <li>- The North Coast LLS region extends from Tweed Shire Council in the north to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council in the south.”</li> </ul>	Agreed	Table 4 - Replace with text provided

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		6.7	“North Coast LLS looks forward to participating in the remaining stages of the CMP’s development. We anticipate providing actions during Stage 2-3 consultation that will ultimately contribute to improvements in waterway and coastal environment health.	Noted Add contact details provided to stakeholder register for future stages of the CMP.	No change
7	Brendan Cox – Southern Cross University	7.1	Provided PhD thesis and copy of a published paper titled ‘ <i>Comparative analysis of macroinvertebrate based-indices for assessment and monitoring of river health in the sub-tropical Richmond River Catchment, northeast NSW.</i> ’  Suggested data from the river health assessment included in the study from 2016/2017 across 40 sites in the Richmond River catchment may be useful to include.	Will include research paper for consideration in Stage 2 Studies.	No change  Do not propose to revisit / modify Literature Review.
		7.2	The paper concluded the river health within the Richmond River catchment was poor, with elevated nutrients, high suspended soils and lower dissolved oxygen. The condition decreased from upper to lower catchment sites.	This is consistent with the Scoping Study.	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
8	Malcom Robertson – DPE Crown Lands	8.1	<p>“Richmond River CMP Scoping Study – Literature Review</p> <p>The literature review references Crown Lands in DPIE. References to Crown Lands should be. as follows: Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands, thereafter DPE – Crown Lands.”</p>	<p>Naming conventions were correct at the time of writing the Literature Review mid-2021.</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Do not propose to revisit / modify Literature Review.</p>
		8.2	<p>“Section 5.4, Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Under Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) or DPE – Crown Lands consider including the following:</p> <p>There are areas of Crown land within the study area, subject to outstanding claims lodged under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.”</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Section 5.4, Table 4 - Include suggested text</p>
		8.3	<p>“Section 5.4, Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities</p> <p>Scoping study didn't seem to address non-Council Crown Land Managers. Perhaps the scoping study could acknowledge that non-council CLMs may exist within the study area. Update Table 4 under the DPE - Crown Lands section to include that there are non-Council Crown Land Managers within the study area.”</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Section 5.4, Table 4 - Include suggested text</p>



No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		8.4	<p>“The Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO), has now transferred to Transport for NSW. MIDO are responsible for state owned coastal infrastructure such as river entrance break walls, regional harbours, the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy, ‘NSW Boating Now’ and the ‘NSW Boating Access Dredging program’. This is not a joint program with DPE - Crown Lands. Please amend text accordingly.”</p>	Agreed	Section 5.4, Table 4 – amend text
		8.5	<p>“Section 7.2 Funding Page 83. Other funding opportunities include the NSW Environment Trust, DPE - Crown Lands funding. Please remove Crown Lands funding and replace with Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF). This funding program supports Crown land managers (CLMs) by providing funding for repairs, maintenance and improvements on Crown reserves.”</p>	Agreed	Section 7.2, amend text

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		8.6	<p>“Section 7.5 CMP Development, Table 10. Forward Plan</p> <p>Could stage 2 of the CMP investigate and identify existing foreshore coastal assets within the study area. This process could identify 'orphaned' coastal assets and assess risk / condition of these assets. This could lead to better management and the consideration of ownership and governance of 'orphaned' coastal assets within the study area.”</p>	<p>Unclear what coastal assets are being referred to. Requires further consultation with DPE Crown Lands.</p> <p>Consider a possible additional Stage 2 study subject to further discussion with Crown Lands.</p>	TBA

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
9	Jonathan Yantsch – DPI - Fisheries	9.1	<p>DPI Fisheries administers the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (FM Act) and is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of key fish habitats upon which they depend.</p> <p>Consistent with those objectives, DPI Fisheries is also responsible for promoting viable commercial fishing and aquaculture industries, quality recreational fishing opportunities and the continuation of Aboriginal cultural fishing. DPI Fisheries also administers the Marine Estate Management Act (MEMA) 2014. This act provides for the strategic and integrated management of the whole marine estate which includes marine waters, coasts and estuaries. It does this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the marine estate consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development;</li> <li>• Facilitating the maintenance of ecological integrity, and economic, social, cultural and scientific opportunities; and</li> <li>• Providing for a comprehensive system of marine parks and aquatic reserves.</li> </ul>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		9.2	<p>Finally, DPI Fisheries partners with other agencies in working toward achieving the NSW State Government’s vision for the NSW marine estate, that being “A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.” To achieve this, the NSW Government released the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028 (MEMS) (<a href="https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-estate-management-strategy">https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-estate-management-strategy</a>). DPI Fisheries and other government agencies are currently working on a range of projects, under the nine initiatives of MEMS, to address priority threats and risks to the environmental assets and the social, cultural and economic benefits that are derived from the marine estate.</p>	Noted	No change
		9.3	<p>DPI Fisheries is satisfied that the draft Richmond River CMP Scoping study captures the key values of the study area and the main threats and risks to these values.</p>	Noted	No change

No.	Stakeholder identifier	Ref #	Summarised Content/Points Raised	Response to Submission	Proposed Amendment to draft CMP
		9.4	DPI Fisheries highlights that floodplain issues including acid and black water generation and discharge into the river in addition to other diffuse source water quality issues continue to be the most severe threats to the values of the study area and therefore should be prioritised as focus areas of the CMP. These issues are well addressed in the draft CMP scoping study and should continue to be focal points of the CMP development.	Noted	No change
		9.5	DPI Fisheries looks forward to working with Hydrosphere, Rous County Council and other integral Councils on the development of the CMP.	Noted	No change



## APPENDIX 1 SUBMISSIONS

**From:** Respondent #1  
**To:** [Richmond River CMP](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on RRCMP Scoping Study  
**Date:** Monday, 21 November 2022 1:02:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Hello

Recently took this 360degree panorama over the Bagotville Barrage and thought this may be of interest - <https://kuula.co/share/N2FpS?logo=1&card=1&info=0&logosize=120&fs=1&vr=1&zoom=1&sd=1&thumbs=1>

I am a certified CASA Drone Pilot and can provide other 360degree images if required.

In the past I have worked with DPI Marine Estate in reference to the impact from Macadamia and Blueberry farming in the northern rivers region.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Kind regards



### Real Property Photography Northern Rivers

**M | T**

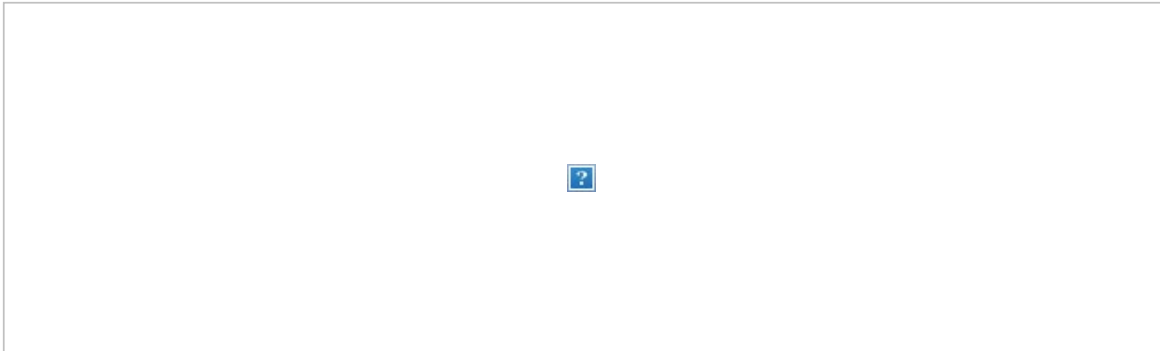
[Northern Rivers Page](#)

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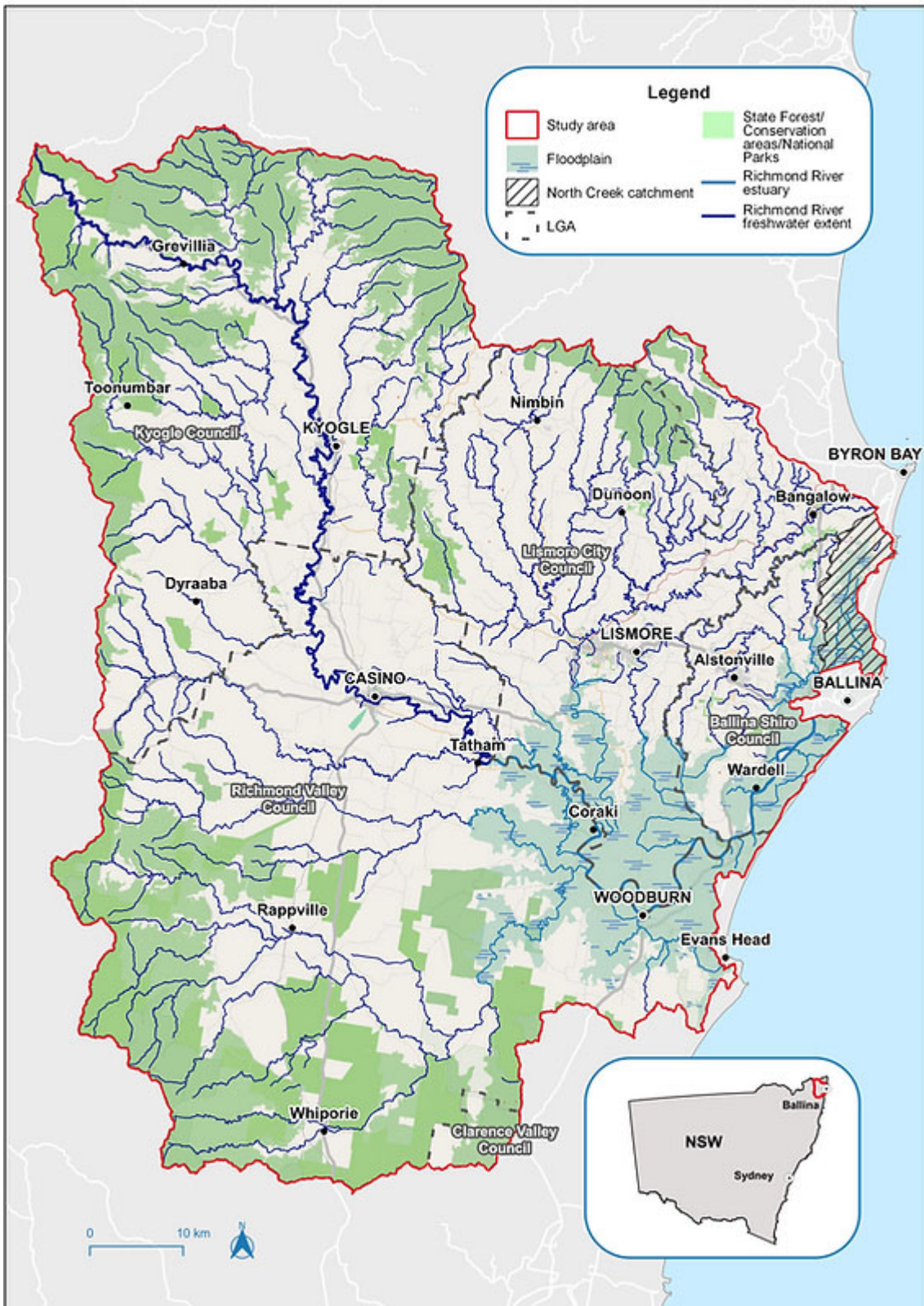


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**From:** Respondent #2  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 November 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Richmond River CMP  
**Subject:** Submission on Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study  
**Attachments:** FloodMitigation-BallinaCoastalArea.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam

The attached paper on Flood Mitigation in the Ballina Coastal Area has already been submitted to you but has been recently revised as a consequence of input from various sources.



Could you please advise me of the flow that could be expected to be carried in a diversion (a "Circuit Breaker"), in the form of a 6 metre wide, 3 metre deep canal, cut in sand, with flood gates at each end, constructed through the cane farms, from the Richmond River to the Ocean (a distance of approximately 2km) as shown in this concept plan. Note: the exact location and number of these diversions would be the subject of further studies and discussions with the owners of these cane farms.

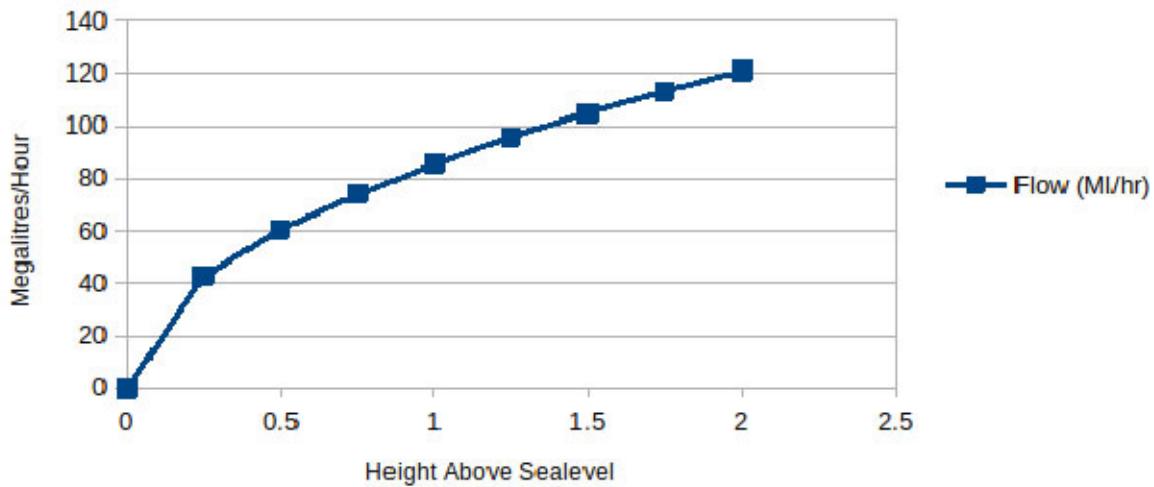
My interest is to gain some idea of the flow which a channel such as this would provide in time of flood.



The flow in such a channel is dependent on the gradient from the river to the ocean, that is, the height of the floodwaters in the river above sea-level, so the flow estimation should be presented in this form:

### Estimated Flow in a Channel

6 metre wide 3 metres deep natural sand bottom profile

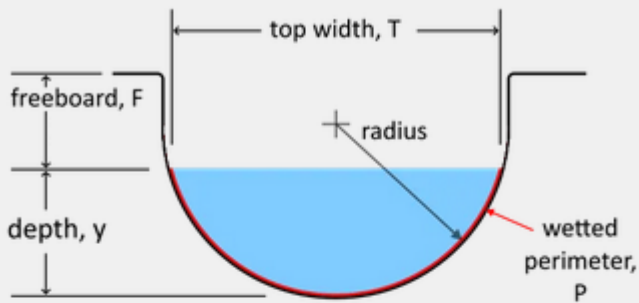


This may be calculated using something like this (where unfinished concrete approximates to a sandy surface):

## Channel specifications

Cross section

[Semi-circular](#) ▼



Design

[Custom design](#) ▼

Channel slope (s)

0.0119 %

Manning's coeff. (n)

[Unfinished concrete \(0.017\)](#) ▼

Radius

3 [m](#) ▼

Water flow depth (y)

3 [m](#) ▼

Top width (T)

6 [m](#) ▼

## Channel water flow output values

Cross-sectional area (A)

14.137 [m<sup>2</sup>](#) ▼

Wettered perimeter (P)

9.425 [m](#) ▼

Hydraulic radius (R)

1.5 [m](#) ▼

Freeboard (F)

0.3 [m](#) ▼

Mass flow rate (V)

0.8409 [m/s](#) ▼

Volumetric flow rate (Q)

11.887 [m<sup>3</sup>/s](#) ▼

This field is calculated automatically, you cannot change its value manually.

I look forward to your advice on this matter.

With best wishes

# MITIGATION OF FUTURE FLOODING OF BALLINA TOWNSHIP AND ITS SURROUNDS

By: Kevin Loughrey BE Mech (hons)

Date: 1 April 2022 (first commenced)



Figure 1: Recent Flooding of the Ballina Coastal Area

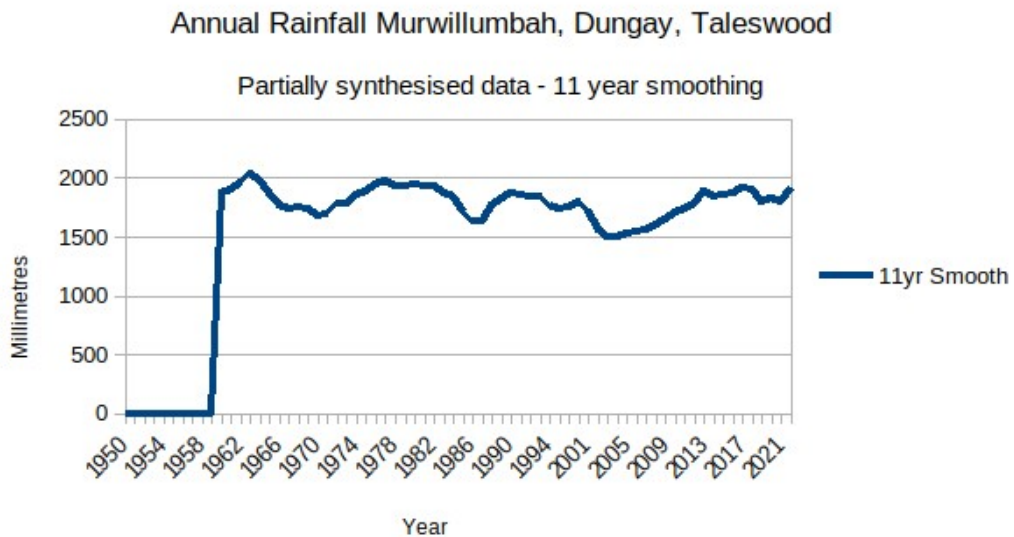


Figure 2: Annual Rainfall pattern 11 year smoothed - Murwillumbah, Dungay, Taleswood



primary produce to the population of Australia. The produce from this area is also exported, sometimes as a finished product as is the case with wine. It was envisaged there would be similar schemes up the Eastern coast of Australia but because of incompetence, dim-wittedness and environmentalists, these schemes have never been executed. In Northern New South Wales, there is frequent heavy rainfall. The recent flooding could have been avoided if the floodwaters were diverted inland to the other side of the Great Dividing Range. Given advances in tunnelling technology, this scheme would not be prohibitively expensive but would, over, say, 100 years, easily pay for itself in terms of increased agricultural output plus provide primary producers some level of protection against the effects of extended drought.

5. **Dredge the Mouth of the Richmond River.** The mouth of the Richmond River hasn't been dredged since 1998. As a consequence, floodwaters coming down the Richmond cannot easily escape out to sea. Some people, not understanding basic hydrology, have wrongly asserted that the water could not flow out because of king tides. That is incorrect. Regardless of tides, any obstruction in the River will slow down flow and result in a banking up of water upstream. The tailings from this dredging operation could be used to build up river bank on the Southern side of the river and the area inland from that. This would then facilitate the construction of a track to allow people to travel to South Ballina Beach for recreation. At the moment that road/track is closed because of subsidence.
6. **Open the Tuckombil Canal.** The Tuckombil canal was constructed to redirect floodwater coming down the Wilson River into the Evans River where it would then go directly to Evans Head and out to sea. This canal was closed off by environmentalists. The consequence of this has been largescale flooding of Ballina and the surrounding areas. It is should be of concern to all who have an interest in this matter that the NSW Government commissioned a report on the Tuckombil Canal and *that report with its associated data is not freely available to the public. Why would this be the case?!* (See Figures 4 & 5) Those persons who were responsible for the obstruction of the Tuckombil Canal should be the subject of a class action initiated by those who have sustained largescale property losses because of this thoughtless decision. It's time people were made to be responsible for their actions and policies.

The screenshot shows the 'Tuckombil Canal - Report' page on the Richmond Valley Council website. On the left, the 'Organisation' section features the council's logo and text: 'Richmond Valley Council is a local government area in the Northern Rivers region of north-eastern New South Wales. Richmond Valley Council was formed in February 2000 as a...'. The main content area has a title 'Tuckombil Canal - Report' and a 'Complete report' link. Below this is a 'Data and Resources' section with two PDF links: 'Tuckombil Canal - Report (670.4 kB)' and 'Tuckombil Canal - Appendix (13.1 MB)'. Each link has 'More info' and 'Download' buttons. At the bottom, there are buttons for various locations: Bungawalbin Creek, Evans River, Moonem, New Italy, Oaky Flat, Rocky Mouth Creek, Sandy Creek, Swan Bay, and Woodburn.

Figure 4: SES Page showing there are actually two large sets of information on Tuckombil Canal



### Need an Account?

Access to all unrestricted information is available without needing a user account. Approval processes are undertaken to ensure only appropriate individuals have access to the restricted information in the portal.

Create an Account

## Login

Username:

Password:

Remember me

Login

### Forgotten your password?

No problem, use our password recovery form to reset it.

Forgot your password?

Figure 5: Requirement to obtain authorisation to obtain report on Tuckombil Canal.

- Construct “Circuit Breakers” – Diverting Flood Waters Directly to Ocean.** Figure 6 provides an estimate of the flow that could be expected in an open channel cut through the sand in a canefield. Figure 7 shows a map of the Ballina area. At the top right hand corner is the Ballina township. In the middle bottom is the town of Broadwater with the Richmond River flowing almost parallel to the coast line from Broadwater to Ballina. From the River at opportune points, where culverts exist under River Drive, it would be possible to bulldoze & dredge sizeable canals running directly to the sea. On the coastline, these canals could terminate in concrete pipes which would lead out into the ocean. At the termination points could be position flood gates and sumps with trash-grates for maintenance. These flood gates would allow, as the present gates in that area already do, a means for draining the land for the benefit of agriculture (and hence the farmers that own that land). Circuit Breaker # 1 (CB#1) builds on an existing creek, “Boundary Gully Creek”. Likewise CB#2 is in the area of “Swampy Creek” and so it goes. If these flooding circuit breakers were installed, not only would it be to the benefit of landowners, it would also allow flood waters to escape to the ocean before reaching Ballina township.

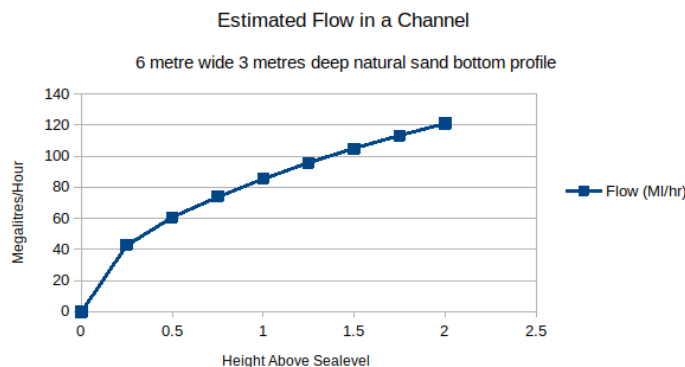


Figure 6: Estimated Flow in Open Channel in Megalitres/Hour



Figure 7: The Concept of "Circuit Breakers", Diversion of Floodwaters

### Additional Influences

There is one other possible factor that may have influenced the degree of flooding in the area from Broadwater to Ballina and that is the construction of the new highway. Some people are of the opinion that there is the possibility that water flowing off the Eastern slopes may have been held up by the new highway acting as a levee. The highway does have a number of culverts to allow water to escape but some people are of the opinion that these culverts were either insufficient or clogged with vegetable matter that impeded the flow of the water. The result of this obstruction was that water from the Eastern slopes, which would have otherwise been dissipated, arrived in the Ballina area, between Wardell and Ballina CBD, at same time as the flood waters from Lismore; in which case there was an amplification of the flooding. This needs to be investigated by civil engineers responsible for main roads design and construction.

## Automated, real time Rain Gauges

In general there was insufficient, timely and accurate information available to local residents such that they were not given sufficient warning to move valuable items, such as cars, tractors and caravans, to high ground; nor to evacuate their house of personal items such as photo albums. There is a need for a network of rain-gauges and water level gauges to be installed throughout the flood prone and catchment areas with the data coming from those collated into a useful form on a webpage that everyone can access. This would go a long way to reducing the losses and distress caused by flooding.



**BROADWATER: Our own automated river gauge would ease flood anxiety**

April 1, 2022

## Conclusion

It is concluded that the recent flooding resulted from years of inaction and dithering by State and Local Governments. Development in the Northern Rivers is inevitable. Up to now conservationists and those that wish to maintain Ballina and surrounding environs as a rural out of the way place have contributed to the losses that these same people and their fellow citizens have now incurred. I believe these persons should be the subject of a class action so that people come to realise their stupidity and selfishness has consequences. It is time for some positive action. There have been countless reviews and studies of the situation in this area but instead of action the public have been subjected to secrecy and the political manoeuvring of self-serving interest groups.

It is time for a change. The above suggestions are self-evident and obvious. Each of these suggestions would reduce flooding and reduce the losses people are likely to suffer in the future. There have been enough reviews and studies. It is time for action.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. **Dredging of the Richmond River.** Various parts of the Richmond River should be continuously dredged to ensure that floodwaters are not obstructed when travelling to the Ocean. This is particularly the case with the mouth of the river.
2. **Tuckombil Canal.** The report on the Tuckombil Canal should be freely available to the public. There is no excuse for this secrecy. The canal should either be permanently open or have in place a means where it can be opened so as to allow unimpeded flow of water in the event of heavy rain and flooding of the Wilson River.
3. **Real Time Rain Gauges and Flood Website.** A network of rain-gauges and water-level gauges should be installed in the catchment areas such that it is possible to accurately quantify and predict the flooding that will occur as a consequence of this rainfall. A website should be constructed and notified to all residents so that early warning can be given and people may make timely preparations. This necessary infrastructure would also provide very accurate data for future flood mitigation planning.
4. **Construction of “Circuit Breaker”/Diversionary Canals.** There should be constructed a series of diversion canals leading from the Richmond River directly to the Ocean. Given the flat, sandy nature of the terrain, this would be an ideal task for a bulldozer/excavator and large floating dredge.

5. **Investigate Effect of Highway and make Changes as deemed Necessary.** Civil engineers, expert in design and construction of main roads, should perform an investigation to ascertain if the road delayed the exit of flood waters from the Eastern slopes thereby adding to the floodwaters arriving from Lismore. If this is the case, then engineering works should be undertaken to improve the flow of water from the Eastern slopes to the ocean.
6. **Construction of the Dunoon Dam,** The construction of this dam should start immediately and other dams in the catchment area should be planned now; not put off for another day.
7. **Diversion of Water Inland.** This is a much more ambitious project but it is now, because of advances in tunnelling technology, far easier and more affordable than ever before. It should be given urgent consideration when building the dams. Such a project may also be able to provide hydroelectricity to satisfy peak power demands; thereby reducing the cost of electricity to residents in the Northern Rivers.

- End of Paper -

**From:** [Respondent #3](#)  
**To:** [Richmond River CMP](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on RRCMP Scoping Study  
**Date:** Saturday, 3 December 2022 5:36:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [4.jpg](#)  
[20180512\\_135217\[22369\].jpg](#)  
[273858755\\_4736361459734878\\_6874743666757767561\\_n.jpg](#)  
[Top mark.jpg](#)

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Hello Hydrosphere,

The Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club has been sailing on the lower reaches of the Richmond River since 1937. We have a clubhouse on the banks of the river just East of the town of Ballina and we have an active membership of around 60 sailors. The health of the river is of vital concern to us as we often get immersed in it during our sailing adventures. Competitive sailing each Sunday is a major form of exercise for many of our members, and they have close contact with the water of the Richmond river during that time.

We are currently training young kids to sail on the river and they love to capsized their small boats and play in the water. We encourage this as part of their learning.

Debris, pollution and toxins in the river water are of major concern to us all as sailors.

We consider ourselves an important stakeholder in the health of the Richmond River. We appear to have missed out on Stage 1 Consultations and would like to be now included as a stakeholder in the river and your Richmond River CMP.

I have included some photos to illustrate our connection with and use of the river.

Yours sincerely

Commodore RRSRC



Images provided by Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club



Images provided by Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club

## RR CMP SS Contact Form

First Name:

Respondent #4

---

Last Name:

---

Email:

---

Write a message:

Quick scan only - lack of strongly stated comments around the need for whole of catchment management - as the estuary is where all the issues collide. Whilst Border Ranges and Nightcap are identified Gondwana properties, Richmond Range, Toonumbar World Heritage areas not seen. Comment that stewardship only applies to govt land? Comment that demo site locations are Council land? Comments re socio economic status correct, inadequately connected to potential for private landholders to address on site issues (that they have largely inherited). Need to discuss land and river stewardship and environmental market opportunities that could be made available to private landholders. The real issue is in our heads and paradigms - need to explore societal change options for renewed paradigms and development of motivation to change - with technical and financial support.

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**From:** Sophie Pryor <sophiepryor@ozfish.org.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 December 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Richmond River CMP  
**Subject:** Draft Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study submission

Dear Hydrosphere Consulting,

Thank you for the opportunity for OzFish to make a written submission regarding the Draft Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study. Overall, this is a well-presented scoping study, and its implementation will positively impact the Richmond's health and our community. On behalf of OzFish, I believe the following considerations will strengthen the final Richmond River Estuary CMP Stage 1 Scoping Study.

#### **4.3.2 Geology, soils and geomorphology**

It could be worthwhile noting here that there are substantial soil inputs from top soil runoff and erosion into the Richmond, which impacts water quality.

#### **4.3.5 Waterway health**

Diffuse source pollution

Monosulfidic Black Ooze is only mentioned in the glossary and should be incorporated into the waterway health section, given it's a driving water quality issue in areas such as Keith Hall.

#### **4.4.2 Bank erosion**

'Sedimentation in the main river channel is not considered to be a significant issue as most of this sediment is thought to be transported to the ocean during major events, with very little evidence of sedimentation or infilling of the river channel detected in 2007 river surveys documented in ABER (2007)' was not the case following flooding in early 2022, where large quantities of sediment were deposited.

#### **4.6.2 Fishing**

Here, you mention that oysters were once grown for aquaculture. It is also worth noting that oyster reefs were once spread throughout the lower estuary—these reefs were an important cultural food source and provided fish habitat and water filtration. Oyster reef loss can be attributed to poor water quality and over-harvesting.

#### **4.7.2 Climate change**

Ocean acidification will pose a risk in the estuary. Additionally, both aquatic and terrestrial range shifts will be seen, impacting species composition. In some instances, exotic pest species (e.g. tilapia) could invade the Richmond. Increased temperatures and competition will cause stress or even localised extinctions for some species.

### **Table 10**

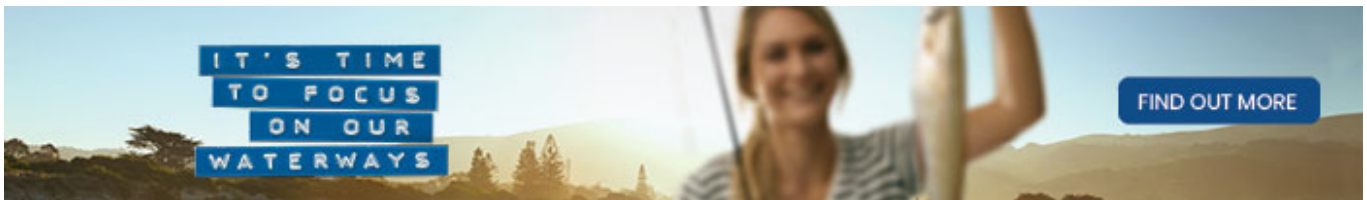
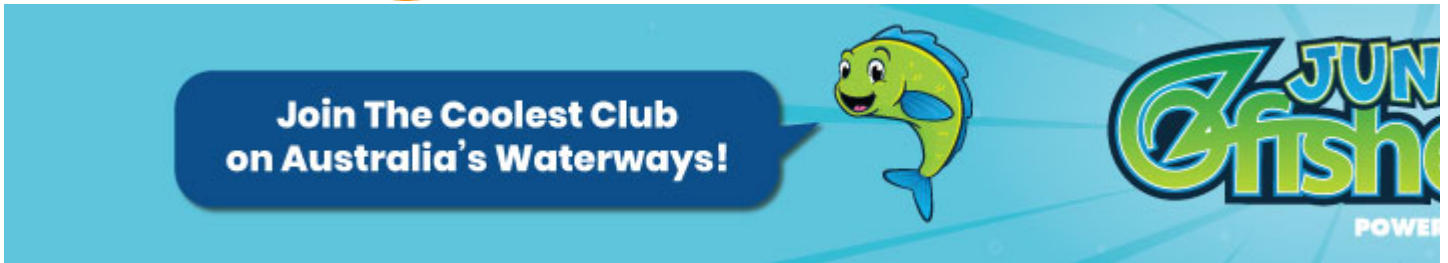
#### **2.1**

OzFish has undertaken substantial habitat restoration projects throughout the Richmond River Catchment and could be listed here as a support agency.

#### **2.9**

NSW DPE is looking to develop a similar tool.

Kind regards,



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and their continuing connection to land, sea and sky. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

---

**From:** LLS Admin NorthCoast Mailbox <admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 December 2022 10:41 AM  
**To:** Richmond River CMP  
**Subject:** Support for Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Stage 1 Scoping Study  
**Attachments:** Richmond CMP Scoping Study consultation NCLLS feedback.pdf

Good Morning Richmond River CMP Project Team  
Please find attached correspondence regarding the above matter.

Kind Regards  
Leonie

**Leonie Williamson**  
Executive Support Officer  
DRNSW Local Land Services Agency | North Coast  
**Local Land Services**

P 02 6623 3900 E [admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au)  
[lls.nsw.gov.au](http://lls.nsw.gov.au)  
24-26 Mulgi Drive  
South Grafton NSW 2460



**Local Land Services**

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We stand on Country that always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

**How would you rate my service today?**



Your opinion is valuable and will help us improve our service

The Richmond River CMP Project Team  
Hydrosphere Consulting  
PO Box 7059  
East Ballina NSW 2478  
[\[email letter to richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au\]](mailto:richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au)

---

## Support for Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Stage 1 Scoping Study

Dear Project Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Richmond River Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study (the Study).

North Coast Local Land Services (North Coast LLS) offers in principle support for the directions set by the Study, Literature Review and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and how they will inform Stages 2-5 of the CMP development.

The Study broadly aligns with the directions and priorities set by the North Coast Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and the recently completed North Coast LLS Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026.

The Study is relevant to our current and future contribution to the management of Richmond waterway health, whereby:

- It identifies land management issues we consider significant, in particular, the need for catchment based flood and bushfire recovery and the need to build the capacity of community and landholders to better cope with natural disaster events in the future.
- It captures the background that justifies delivery of our existing and new projects including those funded by our Australian Government River Restoration Program, NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) Program and the soon to be released Australian Government National Landcare Program Funding Program.
- It recognises our role and the potential we have to support the future implementation of the CMP.

We suggest the following be considered as options for improving the Study:

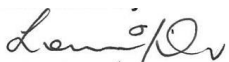
- Provide updated reference to:
  - The directions and priorities set by the Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy

- The directions and priorities set by the recently completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026
- The outcomes of the recently completed Catchment Governance and Waterway Health (Richmond River) Project
- The achievements of organisations (including North Coast LLS) currently delivering projects that are addressing river recovery, flood recovery, bushfire recovery, and improvements in community capacity to cope with natural disasters.
- On page 15 of the Scoping Study Document, change the names on Figure 5 to:
  - North Coast Local Land Services Local Strategic Plan 2021-2026
  - Add the newly completed North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2026
- On page 63 of the Scoping Study Document, change North Coast Local Land Services text to the following:
  - *North Coast LLS plays a key role in supporting adoption of best practice land management by landholders and partnering with key stakeholders to deliver waterway and coastal environment health outcomes.*
  - *North Coast LLS provides a certification and advisory role in relation to vegetation management/ clearing in non-urban areas with NSW DPIE - EES providing a compliance role.*
  - *LLS is also responsible for approval and extension services for private native forestry with the EPA responsible for compliance and enforcement.*
  - *North Coast LLS also is a current Regional Service Provider on behalf of the Federal Government to meet their legislative and programmatic requirements and aspirations in the North Coast region*
  - *The North Coast LLS region extends from Tweed Shire Council in the north to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council in the south.*

North Coast LLS looks forward to participating in the remaining stages of the CMP's development. We anticipate providing actions during Stage 2-3 consultation that will ultimately contribute to improvements in waterway and coastal environment health.

For further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Graeme Moss on ph: 0401 028 565 or [graeme.moss@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:graeme.moss@lls.nsw.gov.au)

Sincerely,



Louise Orr  
General Manager  
North Coast Local Land Services

---

**From:** Brendan Cox <b.cox.25@student.scu.edu.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 December 2022 11:16 AM  
**To:** Richmond River CMP  
**Subject:** Submission on RRCMP Scoping Study  
**Attachments:** Cox\_Brendan\_Honours\_Thesis.pdf; Cox-2019-A-comparison-of-macroinvertebrate-b.pdf

Dear Hydrosphere,

I have attached two documents that may be useful for the scoping study that includes a significant river health assessment conducted in 2016/17 across 40 sites in the Richmond River catchment.

Regards

Brendan

**Brendan Cox**

**PhD Candidate – Freshwater Science and Macroinvertebrate Taxonomy**

**Faculty of Science and Engineering**

**Office location G1.02**

**T** 0405409670

**E** [Brendan.cox@scu.edu.au](mailto:Brendan.cox@scu.edu.au) / [b.cox.25@student.scu.edu.au](mailto:b.cox.25@student.scu.edu.au)



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[www.scu.edu.au](http://www.scu.edu.au)

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SCU respects our environment. Please be green and read from the screen.

---

**From:** Malcolm Robertson <malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 December 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Richmond River CMP  
**Cc:** Alexis Flipo  
**Subject:** Richmond River estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study  
**Attachments:** Letter Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Draft Stage 1 Scoping Study.pdf

Dear Katie,

Please find attached letter from Crown Lands relating to Richmond River estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study.

**Malcolm Robertson**  
**A / Manager – Coastal Unit**  
**Land & Asset Management**

Crown Lands | Department of Planning and Environment  
**M** 0409 310 449 | **E** [malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au)  
30 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour 2450  
[www.dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au)

*The Department of Planning and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.*

Our ref: DOC22/283833

Attn: Katie Pratt

Senior Environmental Scientist

Hydrosphere Consulting

22 December 2022

By email: [richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au](mailto:richmondrivercmp@hydrosphere.com.au)

---

**Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Draft - Stage 1: Scoping Study**

Dear Ms Pratt

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands (DPE - Crown Lands) has reviewed the Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program – Stage 1 Scoping Study, dated September 2022, where relevant to the administration of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

Feedback on the draft CMP is documented in the attached Table. This includes a number of suggested amendments, which are intended to clarify the role of DPE - Crown Lands in terms of the management of the coastal zone within the study area.

Should you wish to discuss this feedback or our suggested amendments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Malcolm Robertson, Senior Project Officer, by email at [malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:malcolm.robertson@crowland.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm Robertson

A / Manager, Coastal Unit  
Crown Lands



Table Richmond River Estuary Coastal Management Program Draft - Stage 1: Scoping Study (September 2022)

No.	Section / Text from CMP	Comment	Suggested action
1.	<b>Richmond River CMP Scoping Study – Literature Review</b>	The literature review references Crown Lands in DPIE. References to Crown Lands should be. as follows: Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands, thereafter DPE – Crown Lands.	Amend text accordingly.
2.	<b>Section 5.4 Management Roles and Responsibilities</b>  Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities	Under Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) or DPE – Crown Lands consider including the following:  There are areas of Crown land within the study area, subject to outstanding claims lodged under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> .	For Councils consideration.
3.	<b>Section 5.4 Management Roles and Responsibilities</b>  Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities	Scoping study didn't seem to address non-Council Crown Land Managers. Perhaps the scoping study could acknowledge that non-council CLMs may exist within the study area. Update Table 4 under the DPE - Crown Lands section to include that there are non-Council Crown Land Managers within the study area.	Amend table.
4.	<b>Section 5.4 Management Roles and Responsibilities</b>  Table 4 Management roles and responsibilities	The Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO), has now transferred to Transport for NSW. MIDO are responsible for state owned coastal infrastructure such as river entrance break walls, regional harbours, the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy, 'NSW Boating Now' and the 'NSW Boating Access Dredging program'.	This is not a joint program with DPE - Crown Lands. Please amend text accordingly.

5.	<b>Section 7.2 Funding</b> Page 83.	Other funding opportunities include the NSW Environment Trust, DPE - Crown Lands funding.  Please remove Crown Lands funding and replace with Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF). This funding program supports Crown land managers (CLMs) by providing funding for repairs, maintenance and improvements on Crown reserves.	Amend text accordingly.
6.	<b>Section 7.5 CMP Development</b>  Table 10. Forward Plan for the CMP for Rich River estuary – stage 2	Could stage 2 of the CMP investigate and identify existing foreshore coastal assets within the study area. This process could identify 'orphaned' coastal assets and assess risk / condition of these assets. This could lead to better management and the consideration of ownership and governance of 'orphaned' coastal assets within the study area.	For consideration.

**From:** Jonathan Yantsch <[jonathan.yantsch@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jonathan.yantsch@dpi.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 December 2022 9:03 AM  
**To:** Robyn Campbell <[robyn@hydrosphere.com.au](mailto:robyn@hydrosphere.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Kylie Russell <[kylie.russell@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kylie.russell@dpi.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Richmond River estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study - DPI Fisheries comments

Hi Robyn

I refer to your email of 9 November 2022 (below) seeking comment from DPI Fisheries on the draft Richmond River Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study.

DPI Fisheries administers the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) and is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is “no net loss” of key fish habitats upon which they depend. Consistent with those objectives, DPI Fisheries is also responsible for promoting viable of commercial fishing and aquaculture industries, quality recreational fishing opportunities and the continuation of Aboriginal cultural fishing.

DPI Fisheries also administers the *Marine Estate Management Act (MEMA) 2014*. The act provides for the strategic and integrated management of the whole marine estate which includes marine waters, coasts and estuaries. It does this by:

- Management of the marine estate consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- Facilitating the maintenance of ecological integrity, and economic, social, cultural and scientific opportunities; and
- Providing for a comprehensive system of marine parks and aquatic reserves.

Finally, DPI Fisheries partners with other agencies in working toward achieving the NSW State Government’s vision for the NSW marine estate, that being “*A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.*” To achieve this, the NSW Government released the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028 (MEMS) (<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-estate-management-strategy>). DPI Fisheries and other government agencies are currently working on a range of projects, under the nine initiatives of MEMS, to address priority threats and risks to the environmental assets and the social, cultural and economic benefits that are derived from the marine estate.

DPI Fisheries is satisfied that the draft Richmond River CMP Scoping study captures the key values of the study area and the main threats and risks to these values. DPI Fisheries highlights that floodplain issues including acid and black water generation and discharge into the river in addition to other diffuse source water quality issues continue to be the most severe threats to the values of the study area and therefore should be prioritised as focus areas of the CMP. These issues are well addressed in the draft CMP scoping study and should continue to be focal points of the CMP development.

DPI Fisheries looks forward to working with Hydrosphere, Rous County Council and other integral Councils on the development of the CMP.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

Jonathan

**Jonathan Yantsch**

Senior Fisheries Manager, Coastal Systems (North Coast)  
Aboriginal Fishing & Marine & Coastal Environment  
**Department of Regional NSW**

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Wollongbar Agricultural Institute



**Department of Regional NSW**

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We stand on Country that always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.