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Action 9: Investigate options to remove sediments from the lagoon.

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5 days ago

CLOSED: This discussion has concluded.

Our study is considering options for managing the build-up of sediment in the Pearl Beach Lagoon. Alongside installing stormwater treatment measures to slow the rate at which sediment accumulates in the lagoon, we are also considering physically removing sediment from the bed of the lagoon. The removal of sediment is complicated by some low-level contamination from stormwater, the widespread presence of naturally occurring acid sulfate soils and restricted access for construction equipment to excavate the sediments. We'd like to further understand the community's desires and preferences relating to managing sediments that have built up in the lagoon.



For discussion

1. What do you see as the priority areas for managing sediment build up?
2. Do you have any preferences for the way in which sediment should be managed?



8 comments

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Bruce (Diamond), 6 days ago

The removal of sediments from the lagoon on the surface of it (yes pun intended) would be a good idea. However, how would it be achieved without damage to adjoining land and the benthic community? We are particularly thinking of the organisms that live in the sediment and which form the basis for most current fornal life in and on the lagoon, including of course most birds. If a technique can be determined that would not be too damaging to the general lagoon the removal of sediment could perhaps proceed with a limited section done each year with the aim of modifying the lagoon's depth over a period of say ten years. At least some of the sediment could perhaps be used to create refuge islands to provide safe habitat for nesting birds and an environment for native sedges and the like. As mentioned in the Management Plan the potential risk from acid sulphate soils would need to be carefully assessed and monitored.

VnM, 12 days ago

Its is essential for the health of the lagoon that depth is restored to the lagoon. Three large mud flats have built up where the three drains enter the lagoon. Dredging of the lagoon should be high on the list of priorities for bringing the lagoon back to health. The lagoon was dredged about 30 years ago and the soil was deposited on the banks. The properties on the eastern side of the lagoon have lost their banks over the years and could be restored. In the past there was a reed island in the northern end of the lagoon. This has disappeared with the silting of the lagoon. It should be restored as a safe nesting area for the lagoon water birds. Once silt traps are installed the sediment should not build up again. The Pearl Beach Lagoon is a haven for our water birds and is is vitally important that it is restored to good health.

Taras - Coral Crescent, 17 days ago

The sediment should be removed. Use an appropriate ASS management plan to ensure the work is done in an environmental responsible and legal manner. By lowering the lagoon floor level in relation to the beach, flooding and draining will be minimised as the lagoon will hold a much larger volume of water and be able to withstand natural drying/flooding cycles.

GRM, 18 days ago

Also see my comments on sedimentation under Item 4.

BW, 24 days ago

Sediment traps should be installed and cleared/maintained regularly. Fallen trees and other foreign matter around the lagoon should be removed. I think as much sediment as can be removed should be removed as it is not part of the natural ecology of the area.

TimW, 24 days ago

I would like to see sediment removed if at all possible, deepening the lagoon to delay drying up in drought. Sediment traps added to prevent re-sedimentation.

Joan, 30 days ago

This sediment was caused by roadworks on Pearl Beach Drive a few years ago. I took the photo. Silt traps may prevent this in the future. Since the weir was built the level of sediment in the lagoon is about 30cms as can be shown by measuring the depth of the bottom of the lagoon at either side of the weir. If the sediment was to be removed care needs to be taken to ensure the area surrounding the lagoon is not damaged as it's an 'Endangered Ecological Community' more specifically E37i known as Coastal Swamp Forest. I have emailed this document.

Athol, 30 days ago

I have answered re incoming sediment control under another heading. I think making an island planted with reeds etc could be the most cost effective way of dealing with the current sediment load. Need to bear in mind that the catchment area for rainwater is actually quite small. Reeds planted on sediment islands will need to be salt tolerant.

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