

# HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN RIVER COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

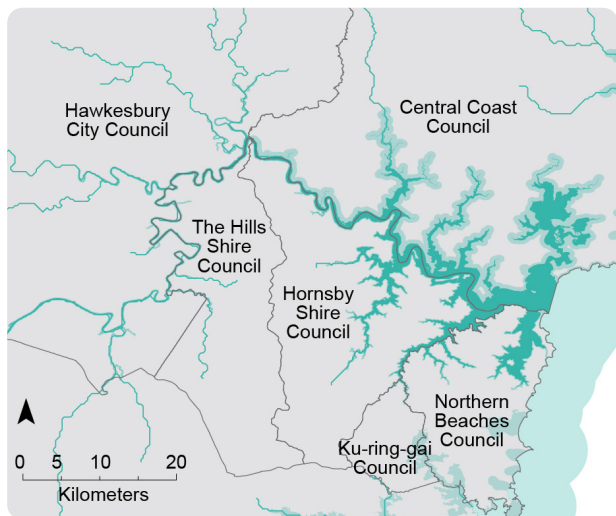
## Factsheet 6: PLANNING & GOVERNANCE

Prepared October 2022

Together, our community, councils and guiding agencies can create a plan for the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System that carefully balances what the environment needs and the community wants and values about our waterways.

### Our river system is already considered in local, state and national plans and policies

The NSW Coastal Management Framework was developed by the state government in collaboration with coastal councils to guide the sustainable and holistic management of the NSW coastal zone. This includes the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System, and as such we are following the framework to develop a Coastal Management Program to identify threats to values and uses of the system and develop management actions to address these threats.



The CMP will help us plan for areas including the coastal environment, coastal wetlands, littoral rainforests and vulnerable coastal areas.

The CMP is being developed by a steering committee with representatives from the 6 local government areas (LGAs) covered by the river system, and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. During development, the steering committee will also seek input from other agencies that have responsibilities in the management of the system, including Crown Lands, Transport for NSW, Local Land Services, Sydney Water and others.



The project steering committee meets regularly to progress the development of the CMP.

### PEOPLE RESPONSIBILITIES EXAMPLE MEMBERS

<b>Project steering committee</b>	Oversee delivering the CMP and making decisions Choosing reference groups	Councils (Central Coast, Hawkesbury City, The Hills, Hornsby Shire, Ku-ring-gai, Northern Beaches) Department of Planning and Environment
<b>Project coordinator</b>	Managing the delivery of the CMP	Selected by the steering committee
<b>Project technical committee</b>	Giving technical advice and supporting decision-making	Project steering committee various arms of Department of Planning and Environment Water NSW Sydney Water Transport for NSW State Emergency Service Marine Estate Management Authority
<b>Community groups</b>	Giving and representing community perspectives Giving technical advice Supporting decision-making	Selected by the steering committee
<b>Traditional Owner groups</b>	Giving and representing Traditional Owner perspectives Giving technical advice Supporting decision-making	Local Aboriginal Land Councils Local Aboriginal groups
<b>Consultants</b>	Doing technical studies to give information for the CMP process	Selected by the steering committee
<b>Upper catchment committee</b>	Giving technical advice Supporting decision-making Helping link the CMP and other catchment plans	Upper catchment councils Water NSW Infrastructure NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW
<b>Sub-committees</b>	Delivering site- or topic-specific projects within the CMP	Selected by the steering committee



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All of these agencies and groups need to collaborate, contribute and agree on the proposed actions of the CMP before we move forward and it gets certified.

This collaborative CMP process has already improved partnerships and engagement across governments in Stages 1 and 2.



## COORDINATED MANAGEMENT WILL BETTER PROTECT OUR COASTS AND RIVERS, AND SAVE MONEY

In the Scoping Study ([Stage 1 of the CMP](#)), we found that people were concerned about:

- 1** lack of funding that hindered councils creating and delivering best practice coastal management actions, including funding to commission new technical studies, capital works and compliance monitoring
- 2** lack of coordination between councils in the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment, and state government agencies, resulting in inconsistent approaches and ineffective system-wide responses
- 3** lack of understanding of who does what through the catchment and their different aims, affecting coordination, timing and adequacy of management responses to issues
- 4** knowledge gaps in understanding the processes impacting the entire river system (including ecological, socio-economic, regulatory and cultural) that prevent strategic forward thinking and equitable representation in decision-making when it comes to managing risks to our Coasts and estuaries.

These planning and governance issues strain time and money resources, and pull away focus from system-wide issues and cumulative impacts.

It makes sense, then, that in the Scoping Study we found it would be best if the CMP is created and administered over the whole catchment through a 'systems approach'. This means that we will aim to consider all physical, biological and chemical processes across the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System, including its catchment, coastline, estuaries and foreshores.

Compared to smaller scale approaches (e.g. council-based CMPs) that have also been considered in Stage 1, this systems approach has the following benefits:

- better economy of scale for councils to **save money** on shared problems
- more **consistent** water-management **decisions** for neighbouring councils
- **faster** and easier **coordination** between the many different agencies involved
- easier to address **system-wide issues** (e.g. foreshore erosion)
- better **funding opportunities** for larger scale issues
- more effective to address issues that begin **in the catchment** (e.g. a source of pollution)
- **smoother to integrate** with other regional planning initiatives (e.g. the Central Coast or Greater Sydney Region Plans) and individual council's planning and reporting ([Central Coast example](#)).

### Get Involved

Creating the CMP helps us to consider and balance the opportunities and risks for our coastal communities and councils.

*Don't just go with the flow, be part of the conversation.* Visit [hawkesburynepeancmp.org](http://hawkesburynepeancmp.org) to:

- [tell us what priority threats we should address](#) in the CMP (survey or mapping tool)
- [subscribe to news and updates](#)
- [learn more about the CMP and current technical studies](#).

