

CLARENCE VALLEY COAST AND ESTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday 24th June 2024 at the Maclean Chambers, 50 River Street Maclean

ITEM 1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Meeting opened at 9:00am with Cr Clancy in the chair. Cr Clancy acknowledged the traditional owners:

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these lands on which this event is taking place and pay tribute and respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl nations which lie within the Council boundary.

Attendance:

Voting: Cr Greg Clancy (Chair) (GC), Cr Jeff Smith – on-line (JS), Leann Ball – on-line (Polaris Marine) (LB), Peter Rose (Clarence Cane Growers) (PR), Imelda Jennings (Community) (IJ)

Observers: Cr Karen Toms (KT), Cr Steve Pickering (SP)

Agencies: Zoe Immisch (DCCEEW) (ZI), David Greenhalgh (SIMP) (DG), Carly Roder – on-line (NPWS) (CR), Mark Fletcher (NPWS) (MF), Sophie Prior – on-line (LLS) (SP), Danny Bucher – on-line (Crown Lands) (DB)

CVC Officers: Greg Mashiah (GM), Andrew Potter – on-line (AP), Bryan Green – on-line (BG), Uriah Makings (UM),

Presenters: Robyn Campbell (Hydrosphere) (RC), Zoe White – on-line (Ozfish) (ZW)

Apologies received from:

Name	Organisation / Role
James McLeod	SIMP
Jonathan Yantsch	DPI – Fisheries
Danielle Adams	CRFC
Roslyn Woodward	Valley Watch
Rod Mcdonagh	TfNSW - Maritime
Dianne Chapman	Yaegl TOAC

Quorum: 5

Total Members at todays CV C&EMC: 5 Quorum reached – **Yes / No**

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: That the minutes of the Clarence Valley Coast and Estuary Management Committee meeting of 25 March 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Imelda Jennings Seconded: Peter Rose (Consensus)

ITEM 4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Northern Rivers Drainage Report (Culleton Report), Coastal Floodplain Drainage Management Project and Drainage Reset Program:

- Council resolved to make a submission to the Coastal Floodplain Drainage Management Project (attached).

- No Clarence Valley projects received funding under Tranche 1 of the Drainage Reset Program (attached).

ITEM 5

CLARENCE VALLEY OPEN COAST CMP

See attached PowerPoint presentation from Robyn Campbell (Hydrosphere).

Questions:

- GC - Can the Final CMP be recommended for certification in the Caretaker period? *GM – our understanding is that under the LG Act the CMP can be recommended for certification; the caretaker period restricts awarding of contracts and approval of DAs.*
- GC – Ecological impacts of TfNSW dredging? *RC – TfNSW dredging strategy is still being developed; when developed TfNSW will need to prepare REFs for any dredging which consider ecological impacts. The CMP indicates where the sand resource can be placed if dredging occurs as an alternative to disposal at sea.*
- DG – European Cultural Heritage Management (e.g. wrecks) is not identified in the CMP? *RC – state agencies have not raised this issue for consideration in the CMP. DG to provide contact details for Heritage Council and Hydrosphere to follow up during CMP exhibition period.*
- GC – Will foreshore management include pippie harvesting? *RC – not addressed in CMP as managed by NSW Fisheries and not raised by them as issue to be included in CMP.*
- IJ – sand bag material and what happens when it degrades? *ZI – Kyowa rock bags have design life of 25 years and are designed for removal by crane; geofabric bags have design life of 5 years.*
- GC – Availability of Estuary Health Monitoring data for public? *RC – data is available through SEED website and report cards are produced as a dashboard on an annual or bi-annual basis.*
- GC – what breakwall habitat works are proposed? *RC – Breakwall habitat – TfNSW–Maritime action based on recommendations from the DPI Fisheries breakwater review undertaken through MEMS. DG – the recent upgrade works on the Coffs Northern Breakwall are an example.*
- GC – how is issue of tree poisoning for views considering in CMP? *RC – this is a PoM rather than a CMP action. The vegetation strategy recommended in the CMP addresses slope stability issues.*
- IJ – For Angourie, dog management is an issue at Spooky Beach rather than the Point. *RC – noted for final CMP.*
- GC – dog management at Brooms Head? *RC – CMP recommends review of dog management on beaches considering community concerns and habitat impacts. For the CMP this is a Council wide issue and not just Brooms Head.*
- GC – beach vehicle access? *RC – CMP recommends on-going review of “Beach Access and Vehicles on Beaches” policy considering community concerns and habitat issues.*
- IJ – Angourie is not identified as having feral pig or cane toad issue – these feral species are listed as a threat in other areas. *RC – noted for final CMP.*
- IJ – Issue of derelict vessels washing up on foreshores – no single agency. *ZI – will investigate MoU between agencies – if no MoU could be picked up in CZEAS. DG – TfNSW is nominally responsible agency.*
- IJ – Littoral rainforest at Angourie not identified in SEPP. *MF – the littoral rainforest is mapped in SEED mapping. ZI will follow up with Alex McVean from DPHI re inclusion in SEPP.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 and resumed at 10:53

- MOTION** **The Coast & Estuary Management Committee recommends to Council that it:**
- 1. Notes the draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program Stage 4 Report.**
 - 2. Publicly exhibits the draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program Stage 4 Report for 28 days.**
- Moved: Imelda Jennings Seconded: Peter Rose (Consensus)**

ITEM 6 **OZFISH PROJECT PRESENTATION – RESTORING CLARENCE RIVER SALT MARSH AND MANGROVES IN YAEGLE COUNTRY**
See attached PowerPoint presentation from Zoe White (Ozfish)

Questions:

- DG – How is data collected being used? *ZW – data currently being used only to measure outcomes of Ozfish projects but could be shared.*
- ZI – will works be undertaken for remainder of year? *ZW – works are proposed to continue for the rest of the year and into the future.*

ITEM 7 **AGENCY UPDATES**

Clarence Valley Council (Uriah Makings)

- Focus since last meeting has been on finalising CMP Stage 4
- Woolli Beach scraping – works to restrict access to restoration area has been completed - great feedback on community on how well these have worked. Revegetation has been excellent.
- Brooms Head revetment wall extension modelling – numerical modelling shows there will be minor impacts to north but expected to be offset by end structure. Wave reflection off end control structure is not expected to occur.
- Bank and Riparian assessment – NSW Fisheries has obtained NSW Estuary Asset Protection Program (NEAPP) funding to undertake bank and riparian condition assessments on 10 estuaries including the Clarence and Woolli Rivers.
- Estuary CMP – Brief is being developed and liaison is being undertaken with other agencies.

NPWS (Carly Roder and Mark Fletcher)

- Woody Head and Sandon coastal hazard response plans have been signed off by Directors and are planned to be exhibited at the same time as the Stage 4 CMP. Recommending adaptive management at both sites – Sandon River is proposing nature based solutions with longer term retreat. Woody Head is proposing extending the existing sea wall to protect the access road with a long term retreat strategy. Two public meetings will be held during the public exhibition on 3 and 4 July
- Woody Head – sand nourishment program underway with aim to protect access road. Aimed for 4000 tonnes (2500m³) but had approval for more – final figures not received from contractor.
- Everlasting Swamp – restoration planning process tender has been released. Blue Carbon project is being considered as part of refocusing of project. Plan of Management will be put out for public consultation in the near future. PoM will not be undertaken as part of Estuary CMP to avoid confusion.
- Lake Arragan precinct – was included in Coast CMP Stage 4 to give clear planning approval process with significant geotechnical issues as well as cultural heritage issues.

DCCEEW – Biodiversity Conservation Division (Zoe Immisch)

- Items covered in earlier points

SIMP - Presented by DG

- Marine Vegetation Mapping is largely completed for Sandon estuary

Local Land Services

- MEMS team has been working on erosion reduction. They have been working with blueberry farms and runoff
- Feral pig program – control around Bundjalung National Park and Pillar Valley

Danny (Crown Lands)

- ICOLL management – opening for water quality only generally not supported. Any opening would need to be based around water levels impacting on-site systems rather than water quality.

ITEM 7

GENERAL BUSINESS

- PR – Canegrowers letter to Council in December 2022 re riverbank erosion. *GM: As the correspondence was received just after the Culleton report was submitted (and the drainage reset program was also announced six weeks after the receipt of the letter), Council has been waiting for further information on these before responding. As reported in “business arising” there is still uncertainty regarding approval requirements.*
- PR– issue of trees on river side of Yamba Road and streambank erosion. *GM – Council has received previous correspondence from a concerned property owner about this issue via the Clarence Canegrowers Association and a copy of the letter and Council’s response is in the attachments. TfNSW had project at Seelands - <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/documents/rww/projects/01documents/clarence-river-erosion/clarence-river-riverbank-remediation-update.pdf>. ZI – are canegrowers interested in nature based solutions for riverbank restoration? PB – there are interested landowners – ZI to liaise with PR. MF – a similar nature based solution project was undertaken in the Sportsmans Creek Swamp as part of the Everlasting Swamp NP management works and has worked well. Downstream landowners were concerned about debris from the works during floods but the logs were buried and secured with steel chains and did not come loose during flood events.*
- PR – Cane season commencing tomorrow
- PR – Centenary of Harwood Mill on 25 August.

ITEM 8

NEXT MEETING

As all Council committees cease at the end of the Council term, this will be the final meeting of this Committee. After the September Local Government election Council will call for nominations for Coast & Estuary Committee membership.

ITEM 9

CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 12:05

FAQ



WOODY HEAD CAMPGROUND - Bundjalung NP Sand Nourishment

What exactly is NPWS doing?

These works include:

- the creation of a new public access route to the bay
- the repair of the seaward end of the existing rock wall
- sand nourishment - sand extraction for placement of sand onto the bay
- creation of pedestrian access to join existing pedestrian access track to the bay
- site rehabilitation including revegetation works

It is expected that sand nourishment will be repeated as necessary to protect the campground and its cultural, environmental and recreational values.

How much sand is being moved?

Approximately 4000 tonnes (2,500m³) of sand will be placed on the beach during these works.

Why do you need to build new access routes?

The new access routes are needed to allow safer access for machinery to undertake sand nourishment in the bay and will provide an alternative public route to the beach once works are completed. The access route could be used in any additional coastal management works to protect Woody Head campground.

How long will this take?

It is anticipated that the sand nourishment will take four weeks and should be completed by 28 June 2024. Site rehabilitation works will be ongoing once sand nourishment is complete.

What environmental assessments have been undertaken by NPWS?

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been completed for these works. This document assesses the environmental impact of proposed activities on lands managed by NPWS. This was completed by an external consultant and then extensively reviewed by NPWS. Consultation was undertaken with Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC as part of this process.

What are the impacts to marine wildlife?

NPWS anticipate no significant impacts to threatened species that may be present within the project area.

What is the long term plan?

An external consultant has been assisting NPWS with the development of a DRAFT 'Coastal Hazard Response Plan' for Woody Head Campground. Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and other key stakeholders have been consulted during the development of the coastal management plan. The draft plan considers various options to manage the campground in response to the coastal hazards of beach erosion, coastline recession and inundation. The draft plan is expected to be updated for public exhibition in late June 2024.

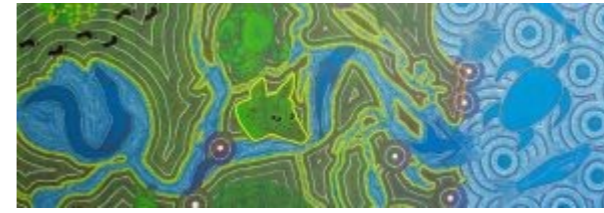
It is expected that sand nourishment will be repeated as necessary to protect the campground and its cultural, environmental and recreational values until a viable long term solution is determined.

Further enquiries

Please email Clarence NPWS Office npws.clarence@environment.nsw.gov.au

WOODY HEAD CAMPGROUND

Bundjalung National Park



SAND NOURISHMENT

Protecting Woody Head

Woody Head is a significant cultural site for the Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. In addition to the Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage, Woody Head is a place of special connection to people of many backgrounds who have been holidaying over numerous generations. The campground is renowned for its scenic beauty, recreational opportunities and natural landscape.

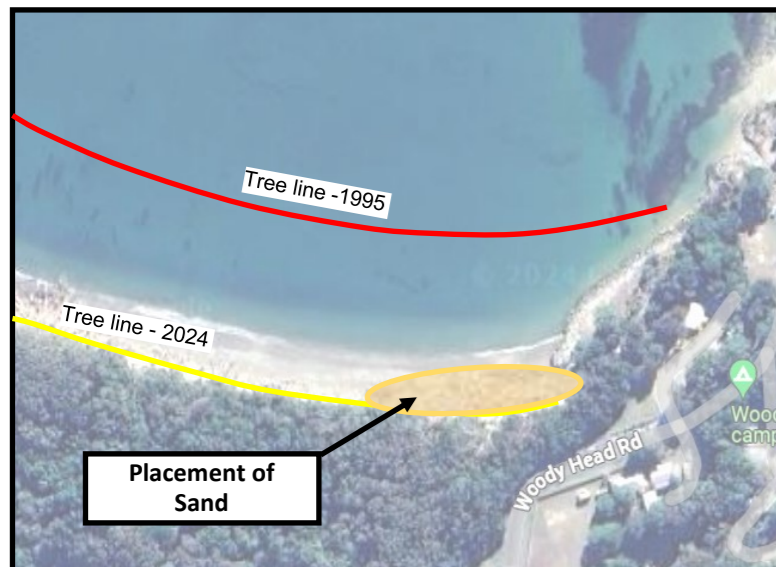
Proposed Works

NPWS are working with the Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC to help protect Woody Head campground from erosion.

This project involves sand nourishment to start of the eastern end of Woody Bay and the construction of associated infrastructure. Works are expected to be completed by 28 June 2024.

What is Sand Nourishment?

Sand Nourishment is the artificial placement of sand on eroded shore to maintain the amount of sand present in the foundation of the coast. This is a way to compensate for natural erosion and to assist in the protection of the area. Sand Nourishment is being undertaken and it is expected to improve the beach's usability while providing an interim solution to the increasing erosion problem.



Aerial image 2024



Erosion at Woody Head Campground

Erosion at Woody Head campground is an ongoing issue for NPWS and campground users and the beach nourishment would contribute to improved usability and public enjoyment of the beach.

It is estimated in the last year that over 870m³ of sand has been eroded from the first 100m of Woody Bay.

Further enquiries

Please email Clarence NPWS Office
npws.clarence@environment.nsw.gov.au

COASTAL RECESSION - 1995 TO 2024



Aerial image 1995



Aerial image 2024



Restoring Clarence River saltmarsh and other TECs on Yaegl Country

- 4 year project
- Funded by environmental trust
- Jan 2024 – July 2028
- In partnership with:
 - Yaegl TOAC
 - Clarence Valley Council
 - Clarence Valley Landcare
 - NPWS



Why saltmarsh?

- Forgotten 'swamp land'
- Lost over a quarter of Saltmarsh
- Saltmarsh in Clarence worth \$25 741 per hectare to commercial fisheries per annum (Taylor et al. 2018)
- Shelter
- Feeding ground: 70% rec fish species rely on these habitats
- Carbon sequesters
- Filter Nutrients
- Provide coastal protection
- Culturally important



Sites

- Melaleuca Dr
- Shores Dr
- Oyster Channel
- Carrs Drive
- 141 hectares total



Issues

- Illegal Dumping (household + green waste)
- Invasive weeds
- Urban Development
- Stormwater runoff
- Vehicles/ Humans



Bush Regeneration

- Yaegl Wadyarr Gargle Land and Sea Contractors
- 700 + hours
- Across 4 sites
- Focus on Carrs Dr
- Groundsel, Prickly pear, Senna, Lantana, Morning Glory, Brazilian Nightshade, Asparagus Fern
- Native seed dispersal



Cultural Awareness

- Cultural heritage assessments
- Walk & Talks
- Knowledge sharing: working bees & monitoring
- Large event end of project



Working Bees

- First Saturday every month
- 9-11:30am + free lunch
- Clean-up
- Basic weed removal
- Rotate between sites
- Partner w Clarence/ Yamba Landcare



Reducing Impacts & Long Term Change

- Drain replacement restoring hydrological flow
- Access Restrictions
- Brochures
- Educational Video
- Signage



Monitoring

- Wetland Assessment Technique
- Vegetation: weeds vs natives □ vegetation index score
- Saltmarsh: % cover, condition snails, crab burrows, mangrove encroachment
- 6 months
- 1-2 transects each site
- Citizen Science
- Photo points for bush regen work





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More info?

- Project [website](#)
- Clarence River Chapter Facebook Page
- Join our Clarence Chapter
- Upcoming local events [here](#)
- Email Zoe – zoewhite@ozfish.org.au

THANK YOU



Zoe White
NSW North Coast – Senior Project Officer
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Clarence Valley Coastline and Estuaries CMP Stage 4

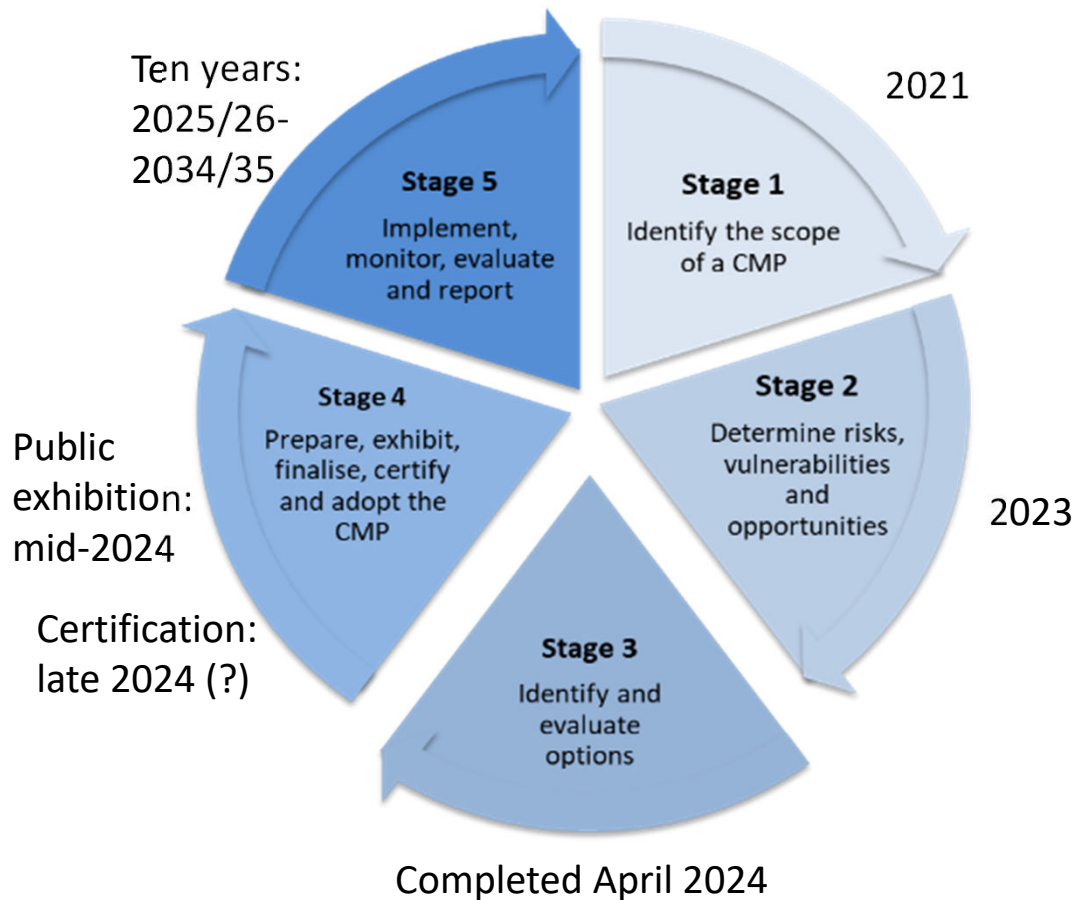


An aerial photograph of a coastal area. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. A sandy beach runs along the coast, with a road visible on the left side. The land is covered in green vegetation. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Presentation Outline

1. Recap – CMP stages, Stage 3 consultation, Stage 4 CMP development: Robyn Campbell, Hydrosphere Consulting
2. Proposed CMP actions: Robyn Campbell
3. Discussion – CMP actions: All
4. Committee recommendations: All

CMP Stages



Stage 4:

- Consideration of Stage 3 agency and community feedback
- Develop draft CMP Strategies, Actions and Tasks
- Agency consultation
- CMP documentation
- Aiming for public exhibition June/July 2024
- Then consider submissions and update CMP for certification (to be adopted by Council August 2024)
- Certification by Minister

Stage 3 Consultation

- Public exhibition – stage 3 report
- Clarence Conversations – downloads and Discussion Forum
- Yaegl traditional owners
- Emails to community groups
- Public meetings – Yamba, Brooms Head, Wooli
- Report – public consultation outcomes
- Agency consultation:
 - DCCEEW – CMP content, estuary health monitoring action
 - NPWS – NPWS estate actions, Woody Head, Sandon and Lake Arragan/Redcliff campground actions
 - DPI-Fisheries – fish habitat management actions
 - TfNSW – maritime infrastructure and safety actions
 - DPHI-Crown Lands – actions on or affect Crown Land

CMP Actions

- Agencies with responsibility for actions or if actions affect land managed by them need to sign off on those actions before it can be certified, otherwise actions need to be removed.
- All expenditure is subject to availability of internal funding and external grants.

CMP action category	Responsibility				
	CVC	DCCEEW	NPWS	DPI	TfNSW
Cultural heritage	✓	-	✓	-	-
Coastal habitat restoration	✓	-	✓	✓	-
Coastal hazard adaptation	✓	-	✓	-	-
Emergency response	✓	-	✓	-	-
Beach nourishment	✓	-	-	-	✓
Coastal protection works	✓	-	✓	-	-
Recreational improvements	✓	-	-	-	✓
Water quality and ecosystem health	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Riverbank management	✓	-	-	✓	-
Strategic planning	✓	-	-	-	-

General Strategies (CVC)

- Strategy CH1 - Cultural Heritage Management
- Strategy PD1 - Planning and Development Controls
- Strategy FM1 - Foreshore Management
- Strategy AM1 - Asset Management
- Strategy LA1 - Licensing and Approvals
- Strategy FS1 - Funding
- Strategy EM1 - Emergency Management

General Strategies (NPWS)

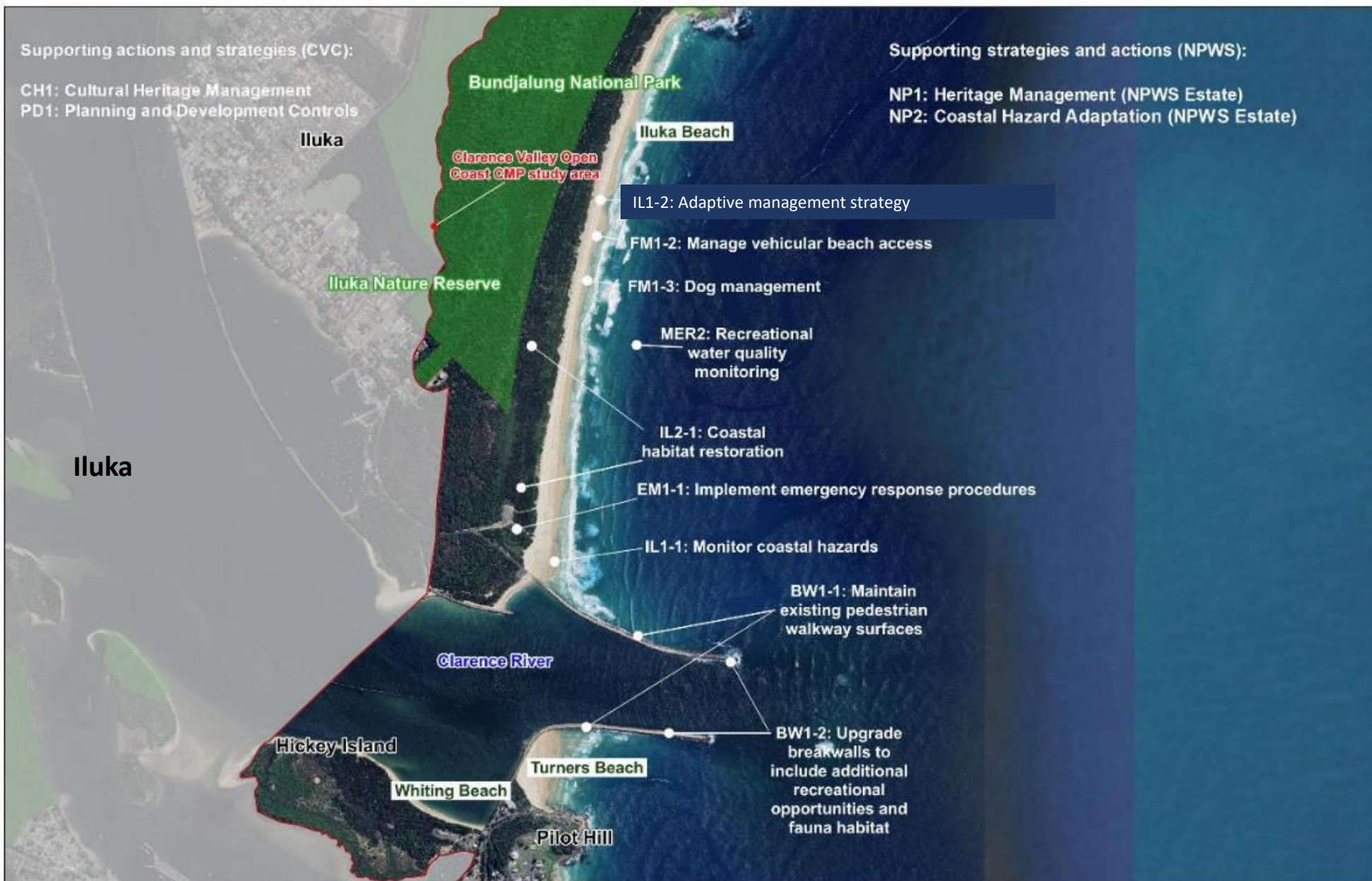
- Strategy NP1 - Heritage Management (NPWS Estate)
- Strategy NP2 - Coastal Hazard Adaptation (NPWS Estate)
- Strategy NP3 - Coastal Habitat Restoration (NPWS Estate)
- Strategy NP4 - Emergency Management

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER)

- Action MER1: Estuary health monitoring program
- Action MER2: Recreational water quality monitoring
- Action MER3: Review of CMP progress and monitoring of performance targets
- Action MER4: Re-assessment of coastal hazards
- Action MER5: Ten-year review of CMP

Shark Bay to Iluka









Supporting strategies and actions (CVC):
CH1: Cultural Heritage Management
PD1: Planning and Development Controls

Yamba Main Beach

Convent Beach



Angourie



Lake Arragan/ Red Cliff



Brooms Head and Lake Cakora



Sandon





Minnie Water



Diggers Camp

Wooli



Discussion – Stage 4 outcomes



Officer Recommendation

The Coast & Estuary Management Committee recommends to Council that it:

- 1. Notes the draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program Stage 4 Report.*
- 2. Publicly exhibits the draft Open Coast Coastal Management Program Stage 4 Report 28 days.*