

HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN RIVER COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Factsheet 4: WATERWAY USE & RESOURCE CONFLICT

Prepared October 2022

BALANCING USE OF OUR WATERWAYS AND PROTECTING ECOSYSTEMS

Surveys by the NSW Government show that people in the community value healthy ecosystems, sharing the public benefits of our water and keeping our waters safe to use.

Our river and catchments are no different – they support diverse ecosystems, community environmental values, and a range of direct and indirect uses.

We depend on our water being high quality and flowing naturally, so that we and our ecosystems can use the water as usual.

PEOPLE DEEPLY VALUE WHAT OUR WATERWAYS PROVIDE



Ecosystems of many types that make up our coasts, wetlands and estuaries



Safe water supplies for

- communities to drink
- farm animals and stock to drink
- irrigation of crops, orchards and forests



Cultural values – both past and present



Food supplies through fishing, catching or harvesting seafood



Places that people enjoy by

- viewing, walking, relaxing and camping in natural areas
- swimming and immersing themselves in water
- canoeing, paddling, surfing and sailing



Industrial and economic uses (including tourism)

Sharing our water requires us to consider community and environmental needs

We need to maintain and, where possible, improve our water quality to ensure that human uses and values are upheld, and the environment is protected and enhanced.

As our catchment's population increases – likely around one million more people in the next 15 years – many more people will need and want to use waterways.

Part of sharing our waterways is to consider how we access them.

We **go to** rivers, streams, estuaries, lakes, beaches, wetlands and foreshores. We also **extract** water from rivers and underground stores (aquifers). And we want to know that our **environments** are healthy, wildlife is sustained and creeks and rivers flow naturally.

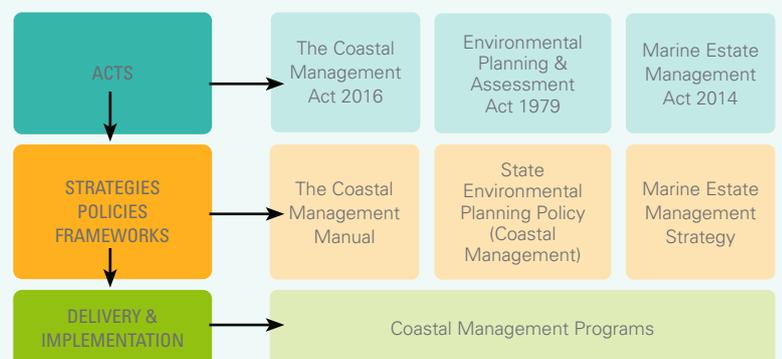


CURRENT WATERWAY POLICIES ALREADY AIM FOR SUSTAINABLE, RESPONSIBLE AND FAIR USE

The NSW Coastal Management Framework guides sustainable, integrated and holistic management of our coastal zone – this and other water plans have goals that emphasise using our water and resources sustainably, responsibly and fairly.

We will develop – in collaboration with you and in line with regional/state plans – the Hawkesbury-Nepean River Coastal Management Program (CMP).

The CMP sets out actions for how we can use water fairly in the catchment while still caring for our coasts and rivers.



HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN RIVER COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



High quality water underpins all of the important values and uses of the Hawkesbury Nepean River System: from First Nations cultural uses on country, to commercial fishing and aquaculture, to farmers who utilise the river for irrigation, to tourism operators and for those pursuing social and recreational activities.

Balancing water users and uses can be difficult. Unbalanced access to water and foreshore can lead to:

- overcrowding/congestion of waterways and infrastructure (e.g. boat ramps, beaches)
- conflict of recreational uses (e.g. kayaks, boats, jetskis) and unsafe behaviour by water users (e.g. speeding, boat wake)
- disturbed marine/shoreline plants and animals by waterway users (e.g. anchor damage, accidental bycatch of native species, excessive noise) or uncoordinated development of new marine and foreshore infrastructure (e.g. boat ramps, jetties, oyster leases)
- damage to or lack of supporting infrastructure (e.g. if boats tie up to oyster marker posts)
- less usable or attractive secluded spots to relax and enjoy the river foreshores and beaches
- eroded shorelines from boating wake in no-wash zones
- shoreline erosion caused by livestock with unrestricted access to streams
- overfishing and conflict between recreational and commercial fishers



- water vessels adding to pollution through spills, inappropriate waste disposal, sediment re-suspension and boat wash
- reduced access to fishing spots
- limited access for our community members with disabilities
- over-extraction of water for industrial or agricultural use.

We know that by managing our water resources well, we can:

- work towards effectively and safely supplying our increasing population and industry needs
- keep our environments healthy and maintain the ecology of creeks, lakes and wetlands
- design our developments well so our water, its quality and flow patterns are not badly disturbed
- maintain access and facilities like boat ramps, parking and boat storage for all water users
- balance recreational and commercial (e.g. oyster or cattle farmers') needs.

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 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.](#)

