

Bellingen Coastal Management Program

Stage 2 - consultation summary

Project update

Stage 2 of the development of the Bellingen Coastal Management Program (CMP) commenced in late 2021 and finished in early 2022.

In consultation with the community and other stakeholders, we have identified risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities within the estuaries and catchment of the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers and the open coastline.

Community consultation included the use of an interactive map, where stakeholders could share comments and photos to identify issues, concerns and ideas for improvement.

There were more than 140 comments and more than 250 reactions left on the map.

Key issues of concern included riverbank erosion, the management and loss of streamside vegetation, the speed, noise and use of boats and jet-skis, 4WD access to beaches, the impact of camping visitors, litter and pollution as well as noxious weeds, old signage that needs replacement and the identification of passive recreation areas.



1712 website visits



441 unique visitors



10 suburbs represented



242 likes on comments



143 comments on interactive map



11 dislikes on comments



Key issues



Key ideas



Riverbank erosion



Speed limits not enforced



Increased leadership



Replace and maintain signs



Impact of visitors



Rubbish and pollution



Permits for 4WD beach access



Control noxious weeds



Vegetation loss and management



Off-leash dogs and litter



Revegetate and restore habitat



Engage with traditional owners



Noise and amenity



Dune destabilisation



Eco-friendly, linked pathways and bike trails



More active regulation and monitoring

In the field

We completed two days of boat field work in December 2021 to inspect the entire navigable reach of the Bellinger and Kalang rivers and record the condition of the riverbank and riparian vegetation quality.

A geo-referenced photographic record was taken of sites of concern and contributing factors such as cattle access and vegetation removal were also noted.

Sites where rehabilitation has occurred were also documented and the outcomes recorded.

Land-based fieldwork involved on foot inspection of the entrances of estuaries and lagoons along the coastline.

Assets likely to be subject to coastal hazards were recorded, as well as contributing threats to coastal condition (weeds, 4WDs etc).

Salients also met with a range of staff from Council across both operational works and strategic planning to discuss funding and resources for the draft CMP actions which will be developed in Stage 3.

For more about development of the CMP and to view the interactive map, use your phone to scan the QR code below or head to Council's website.



Two days of boat and land-based fieldwork was undertaken along the Bellinger and Kalang rivers in December 2021.



The project team inspected the entrances to estuaries and lagoons along the coastline on foot.



Aerial and drone photography allowed the project team to inspect the extent of issues such as riverbank erosion.