Coastal management and responsibilities

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Introduction

Coastal erosion is a natural process caused by storm wave action that moves sands from dunes into the surf zone. Management of the New South Wales coastal zone is guided by the New South Wales Coastal Management Framework which aims to better equip coastal communities to respond to existing and future coastal management challenges and opportunities. The framework comprises the:

- Coastal Management Act 2016
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018
- New South Wales Coastal Management Manual
- Coastal Management Program
- New South Wales Coastal Council
- Coastal and Estuary Grants Program

The Central Coast coastline stretches from Frazer Beach in the north to Patonga in the south. There are various plans and policies in place that are relevant to parts of the Central Coast coastline as well as to estuarine environments such as the Tuggerah Lakes and Brisbane Waters.

- Wyong Coastal Zone Management Plan (2011)
- Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan (2017)
- Brisbane Water Coastal Zone Management Plan (2012)
- Gosford Lagoons Coastal Zone Management Plan (2015)
- Pearl Beach Lagoon Coastal Zone Management Plan (2014)

Only the Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan was certified by the State government under the former Coastal Protection Act 1979. Additionally, Central Coast Council supports the implementation of the Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Plan (2015) and the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan (2009).

Council’s Coastal Zone Management Plans will be updated to Coastal Management Plans as per updated legislation over the next 18 months.

Responsibilities

There is no single government body or organisation responsible for managing the NSW coastal zone. There are varying roles and responsibilities at each level of government, Federal, State and Local.

Federal Government

The Federal Government has an important...
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influence on coastal environmental policy and planning through the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It also plays a role in national policy making that influences management of the coastal zone.

State Government

Coastal zone planning and management is largely a State/Territory responsibility. This level of government establishes the legislation and management frameworks that guide how coastal zones are used and managed (see Coastal Management Framework above). There are several State Government agencies that have a central role in coastal management in NSW, including the Department Planning, Industries and Environment; NSW Crown Land; Department of Primary Industry – Fisheries; NSW Marine Estate Management Authority; and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority. Roles, responsibilities and the legislation frameworks of the State Government’s different departments and agencies are complex but work together to manage our coastal waters.

Local Government / Councils

Local Government, like Central Coast Council, are may prepare Coastal Management Programs that set out long term strategies for coordinated management of the coastal zone. The State government can direct a council to prepare such a program. In preparing Coastal Management Programs, councils work with property owners and the broader community, in addition to the Federal Government and the various State Government departments. Councils will either fund Coastal Management Programs, or will submit applications for funding in connection with Coastal Management Programs to the State and Federal Government.

Protection works

Councils can undertake specific coastal protection works, pursuant to the Coastal Management SEPP 2018, and in times of an emergency, under direction from the emergency controller under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. With some exceptions, a council must apply for and obtain development consent from a Regional Planning Panel for coastal protection works it wishes to carry out. Councils are required to consider and determine development applications for most development in the coastal zone. This includes the construction of homes and other structures and coastal protection works proposed by persons other than public authorities which are identified in a certified coastal management program.

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Coastal protection works proposed by persons other than public authorities which are not identified in a certified coastal management program require development consent from a Regional Planning Panel established by the State Government.

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<tr>
<th>Within Council’s control</th>
<th>Out of Council’s Control</th>
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<td>• Council funding assistance</td>
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<td>• Assessment of development applications for private coastal protection works</td>
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<td>• Licences or agreements with owners if works extend onto Council land</td>
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<td>• Protection of private assets and timing of works</td>
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<td>• NSW Government and private funding</td>
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<td>• Legal challenges to development applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>• NSW Legislative Framework</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

that the works will be sound and will not impact on other homes in the coastal zone, public safety, public beach access or cause any other environmental impacts.

Emergencies

In the case of an emergency, Council is not an Emergency Service Provider. Under the legislative requirements of the State Emergency Management Plan, Council’s role is to support the lead Emergency Service Provider with resources, people and equipment to assist their emergency and recovery plans. If an emergency is deemed a natural disaster, applications for emergency works are expediated and funding is made available to impacted residents and Council for recovery works. In NSW, Emergency Service Providers include:

- Ambulance Service of NSW
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- a fire brigade within the meaning of the Fire and Rescue NSW Act 1989
- NSW Police Force
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- State Emergency Service
- Surf Life Saving New South Wales
- New South Wales Volunteer Rescue Association Inc
- Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW
- an agency that manages or controls an accredited rescue unit

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- a non-government agency that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

The State Emergency Management Plan sets out who the Emergency Service Provider is for different types of emergencies.

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<tr>
<th>Emergency</th>
<th>Responsible Agency</th>
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<td>Animal, Plant Disease, Rodent or Insect Plague</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industries</td>
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<td>Fire (within rural fire district)</td>
<td>NSW Rural Fire Service</td>
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<td>Fire (within a fire district)</td>
<td>Fire &amp; Rescue New South Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food industry</td>
<td>NSW Food Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>NSW State Emergency Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous material • on land • inland waters • state waters</td>
<td>• Fire &amp; Rescue New South Wales • Fire &amp; Rescue New South Wales • Relevant Port Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law enforcement during a declaration</td>
<td>NSW police force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major structure collapse</td>
<td>Fire &amp; Rescue New South Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine oil &amp; chemical spills</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime Authority or the Port Authority of NSW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pandemic</td>
<td>NSW Health</td>
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<td>Search and rescue</td>
<td>NSW Police Force</td>
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<td>Storm and tempest</td>
<td>NSW State Emergency Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrorist act</td>
<td>NSW Police Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsunami</td>
<td>NSW State Emergency Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Related resources

State Legislation and Policy
- [Coastal Management Act 2016](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018](#)
- [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)
- [State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989](#)

New South Wales Dept. Planning, Industry & Environment
- [Coastal Management Framework](#)
- [Coastal Management Manual](#)
- [Emergency coastal protection works](#)
- [New South Wales Coastal Council](#)
- [Coastal management toolkit](#)
- [Coastal Management planning information](#)
- [Coastal Protection Works Fact Sheet](#)
- [AdaptNew South Wales (Climate Change)](#)
- [Sea Level Rise](#)

Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy
- [Climate Change](#)

Landslide Risk Management
- [Landslide Risk Management](#)

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