

Schedule of submissions: summary of submissions, Councils response and changes made to the Southern Estuaries CMP.

*ID = Submission number as shown in Attachment 3

*ID	Submission summary	Councils Response	SECMC changes
10	This submission supported the Southern Estuaries CMP and highlighted the importance of controlling speed for recreational water craft.	Transport for NSW are the responsible authority for recreational water vehicles. The revision of speed limits was considered by Transport for NSW during the Stage 3 Options Development phase. However, an action to adjust speed limits did not progress further through the options assessment process, as Transport for NSW did not support proceeding with this measure.	No changes to the CMP proposed
13	The focus of this submission was on research and monitoring to improve understanding of sediment dynamics in the Port Stephens-Myall estuary system in order to support more adaptive and evidence-based management of shoreline erosion, navigation channels and estuarine habitats over the life of the Coastal Management Program. It recommends action in 5 key areas: 1. Sediment management framework/budget Investigate the development of a sediment management framework or sediment budget for the Port Stephens-Myall estuary system to improve understanding of sediment sources, transport pathways and depositional areas. 2. Sediment Dynamics in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework Include sediment dynamics within the CMP Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework, particularly in relation to shoreline change and sediment deposition within the estuary. 3. Monitor fate of sand from dredging Monitor the fate of sand associated with beach nourishment and dredging activities, including potential movement of sediment within the estuary. 4. Long term sediment and habitat monitoring Establish long-term sediment and habitat monitoring sites across representative areas of the estuary. 5. Collaboration Encourage collaboration between MidCoast Council, Port Stephens Council and relevant NSW agencies to improve understanding of sediment processes across the broader estuary system.	This submission refers to the Port Stephens-Myall estuary system. The Southern Estuaries CMP covers the Lower Myall River and the Karuah River. Several sites mentioned in this submission are outside of the Southern Estuaries CMP study extent and are either within the MidCoast Council Open Coast CMP, or the Port Stephens CMP. Details of this submission will be shared with Port Stephens Council and the Open Coast CMP. 1. Sediment management framework/budget The importance of understanding sediment processes and pathways across the Port Stephens-Myall Lakes estuary system, including influences from oceanic, tidal and catchment-derived sources, is acknowledged. The CMP recognises shoreline change, sedimentation and dredging as key management issues and this has been informed by a substantial body of existing studies, data and technical assessments relating to estuarine processes within the study area. Based on this existing knowledge base, it is considered that there is a sufficient level of understanding of sediment dynamics to support the development and implementation of appropriate management for the 10-year implementation phase of this CMP. The CMP has been designed to enable effective and adaptive management of the estuary, including actions that address shoreline change, navigation, and environmental values. The CMP adopts an adaptive management approach, and future monitoring and investigations may be undertaken where required to address emerging issues or refine understanding over time. Within the CMP study area, the CMP has included actions to address these the points raised in this submission 2. Sediment Dynamics in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework The suggestion to include sediment monitoring as part of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework is noted. There is sufficient understanding of the sediment transport system to plan and undertake management actions, and it is acknowledged that more detailed monitoring could be beneficial and interesting, it would not materially change the outcomes of current management. 3. Monitor fate of sand from dredging and beach nourishment activities. Monitoring the fate of sand from beach nourishment is outside the scope of this CMP as no sand nourishment occurs within CMP boundary. Following dredging Transport for NSW monitor the Monitoring the fate of sediments following dredging Dredging has occurred in the Lower Myall River, in this example sand is temporarily removed from the estuary but remains in the system once eroded from Jimmies Beach. Monitoring the post dredging channels is lead by Transport for NSW. There is a wealth of aerial and other monitoring available to undertake future sediment dynamic assessment if required.	No changes to the CMP proposed

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15	This submission indicated the Southern Estuaries CMP was on-target. It raised 5 key points: Prioritising protecting and restoring natural assets It was highlighted that priority should be given protecting and restoring natural assets as economic and social values depend on them. Priority-setting should also consider the costs of delaying action, as delays can worsen problems (e.g., increasing weed invasion along Wallis Lake foreshores). Reference to Councils Environmental Levy The submission makes the assumption that when environmental works are identified in the CMP revenue raised by the levy is being directed to general revenue Foreshore restoration and naturalisation only where root causes can be addressed It was recommended that foreshore restoration and naturalisation works such as the Wallamba River should only be funded where the cause of the damage (excessive boat wash) can be prevented 4WD impact on beaches The program lacks action on 4WD impacts on beaches. Minor administrative errors identified.	4. Long term sediment and habitat monitoring The recommendation for long term sediment and habitat monitoring is acknowledged. This topic could be considered for future studies. Council would support further research lead by research organisations or other agencies however it is outside of the scope of the CMP. 5. Collaboration It is acknowledged that collaboration is essential in relation to understanding sediment processes. This is particularly important in the Port Stephens-Myall estuary where two Councils share responsibility for managing the surrounding catchment. MidCoast Council have ongoing effective working relationships agencies and Port Stephens Council and to ensure continued collaboration Action T15.02 recommends facilitating an estuary processes stakeholder forum to improve understanding of estuary processes and inform management decisions. Feedback from this submission will be passed onto the Open Coast CMP. 1. Prioritising protecting and restoring natural assets Council agrees that protecting and restoring natural assets is critical for supporting the community values of the Southern Estuaries. There are multiple actions in the Southern Estuaries CMP that focus on protecting and restoring natural assets. Council actions include T3.01, wetland management and restoration and T6.01 coordinated weed and pest management; both of these actions have been identified as high priority to be implemented within 1-4 years. Operationally, there is an ongoing commitment for restoring natural assets as identified in Councils Delivery Program 'maintain public natural area reserves'. The Natural Systems team have a Natural Areas Management Plan which identifies priorities for investment, there is ongoing funding for these locations examples include Coomba Park, Wallamba River, Pacific Palms wetland, Wallis Lake Islands under Councils care and control (see Map 3.01 and Appendix B). Council agrees it is important not to delay these actions. The program also includes an action for Crown Lands to undertake assisted natural regeneration at priority locations in Southern Wallis Lake (Action T6.07), this action is identified as low priority. Low priority doesn't mean the action is unimportant – it indicates that funding is unavailable for the first few years, in this case, funding needs to be sought and received prior to commencing works. Low priority actions may still be implemented earlier based on availability of grant funding and programs. 2. Reference to Councils Environmental Levy Reference is made to Councils Environmental Levy, the submission makes the assumption that when environmental works are identified in the CMP revenue raised by the levy will be directed to general revenue, this is incorrect. Including actions in the CMP will allow Council to apply for grants to increase available funding and therefore the reach of its environmental programs. The Southern Estuaries CMP actions have been included in the Councils Delivery Program and long term financial plan indicating Councils ongoing commitment to delivering these programs. 3. Foreshore restoration and naturalisation only where root causes can be addressed The submission recommends that foreshore restoration and naturalisation works on the Wallamba River should only be funded where the cause of the damage (excessive boat wash) can be prevented. The root cause of erosion in the Wallamba River was addressed in 2003 through the Wallamba River Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU included the voluntary reduction in the area for skiing and wake boarding from 16km to 9km of river. Following this agreement, Council and its partners invested in bank protection along the 9 km stretch of river to	Update to Table 2-1, p30 has been amended to correct the areas of saltmarsh and mangrove.

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		reduce erosion of the riverbanks. To date 90% of the river impacted by active erosion has been restored with rock filelets and revegetation. One action in the Southern Estuaries CMP refers to minimising riverbank erosion on the Wallamba river (Action T4.07). This action recommends a public private partnership to address a long-standing erosion issue on the riverbank across from a public boat ramp near Bughwahl Creek. The existing boating infrastructure in this location warrants bank protection. 4. 4WD impact on beaches Council acknowledges that inappropriate use of 4WD on beaches presents threats to beach-nesting birds and other users. Beaches are outside of the scope of the Southern Estuaries CMP. Council are currently reviewing the beach vehicle use policy. This submission has been passed on to the MidCoast Open Coast CMP for consideration and the team reviewing the beach vehicle use policy. 5. Minor administrative errors identified were corrected. Council are not responsible for dredging and while dredging is not a legislated obligation, Transport for NSW holds overarching responsibility for the safety of navigation on NSW waterways. Historically, MCC has partnered with Transport for New South Wales to act as a delivery partner for dredging at Tuncurry and the lower Myall River. Council agrees with the recommendations in this submission to maintain the Eastern Channel this is reflected in Action T14.01 and the Dredging Position Statement in Appendix I. The Eastern Channel dredging site identified in the submission is listed in the Position Statement as a Key Priority Sites for Dredging. The Myall River navigation channel to Tambol mentioned in the submission but is not referred to in the dredging position statement however, Action T14.01 is about advocating for State Government commitment to fund ongoing, long-term maintenance of safe navigation. Council will pass this feedback onto Transport for NSW for consideration.	No update proposed.
16	The submission recommends ongoing dredging at key locations in the Lower Myall River and inclusion of these sites in the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy.		
5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17	This group of submissions (7) relate to non-urban paper subdivisions at North Arm Cove. They call on Council to explore the economic feasibility of developing North Arm Cove paper subdivisions. Two (3) of these submissions raised the concern that there was inadequate consultation with the non-urban landholders in North Arm cove.	These submissions regarding non-urban paper subdivisions at North Arm Cove does not pertain to the Southern Estuaries CMP considerations regarding management of the coastal zone. MidCoast Council has passed this submission on to the relevant council department. Extensive community consultation has taken place throughout the development of the Coastal Management Program, including during the public exhibition period. The community had multiple opportunities to get involved. Surveys were available during stages one and three, and formal submissions were invited during stage four. Stage one consultation opened on 21 April 2022, and stage four closed on 9 April 2026. Council used a range of channels to reach the community, including media releases, flyers and summary booklets distributed across the local government area, and weekly promotion in Council's NewsWrap newsletter during consultation periods. Engagement was also supported through a photography competition, radio interviews, social media posts, and posts in local Facebook community groups. Face-to-face engagement was offered at several locations, including Tea Gardens. In total, we spoke with 239 people at pop-up sessions, received 440 survey responses across the different stages, and 17 formal submissions during the final public exhibition. More information about community engagement outcomes is available on the Have Your Say page: https://haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/index.php?cID=652 All engagement activities were carried out in line with Council's adopted Community Engagement Strategy.	

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		The consultation for this CMP met the NSW Government consultation requirements outlined in NSW Coastal Management Manual.	
14	This submission referred to the recent exhibition of the on-site sewage management strategy.	This submission does not pertain to the Southern Estuaries CMP. MidCoast Council has passed this submission on to the relevant council department.	No update Proposed
2	This submission supports the CMP's strategic direction but emphasises that effective implementation will depend on funding and commitment. The submission notes that Forster Keys is at risk from tidal inundation over the coming decades recommending dredging to reduce this risk.	Support for the program is noted, thank you. As referred to in the submission, Forster Keys has been identified as at risk from tidal inundation. To address this risk, the CMP has included <i>Action T4.03 - Develop an education program and co-design local adaptation plans for communities impacted by current and future tidal inundation risk</i> . Sediment and sand accumulation in the Forster Keys area will not exacerbate tidal inundation risk. Research indicates that tidal exchange in Wallis Lake is increasing over time not reducing.	No update required
4	This submission was prepared by a resident in Forster Keys, it refers to the need to dredge to improve the ability for stormwater to recede following floods. Minimal details were provided in the submission. Change in the estuary sediment over time from sandy to clay material was highlighted, submission suggested that this was a result of urban development.	Dredging in Wallis Lake has no impact on flood levels. Research indicates that tidal exchange in Wallis Lake is increasing over time not reducing. Dredging is only undertaken for navigation. There is one action in the Southern Estuaries CMP relating to dredging (Action T14.01) this action recommends Council advocate to State Government to fund dredging for safe navigation in Wallis Lake, Appendix I contains Councils Dredging Position Statement which will be used as a basis for this advocacy, two locations near the Tuncurry Boat rap in Wallis Lake are identified as Key Priority Sites for Dredging. It is noted in the submission that there has been a change in the estuary sediment over time from sandy to clay material. Estuaries are dynamic depositional environments that will naturally change over time, however, sediment runoff from development and erosion of banks were identified as key issues to address in the Southern Estuaries CMP. A number of actions are proposed to address erosion and sedimentation Action T9.03, T9.04, T9.01, T8.03, T8.02, T8.01.	No update proposed.
6	FAWNA (For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid) provided a submission indicating that there are many aspects to the Southern Estuaries CMP that are positive for the natural environment. FAWNA commended the Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program for its strong focus on protecting the natural environment. The submission highlights the need for immediate action to protect wildlife from discarded fishing rubbish. It recommends that actions relating to education about fishing rubbish, marine debris engagement and identifying habitat offsets become a high priority in order for these actions to be implemented in years 1-2. The opportunity to partner with FAWNA and Ozfish to mitigate threats to our wildlife was highlighted.	There are three actions focusing on protecting wildlife from discarded fishing rubbish and these actions range from low to high priority, combined they represent a sustained and holistic approach to address the threat of fishing (and other) rubbish on wildlife. - T5.01 Installation of educational signage and fishing line collection bins (low priority) - T2.04 A litter and stormwater pollution source control program including a marine debris engagement program (high priority) - T9.02 Community and industry clean up campaigns (medium priority). Prioritisation within the CMP does not indicate the relative importance of an action, but rather its anticipated timing based on funding, resources, and delivery constraints. The prioritisation does not preclude commencing an action sooner for example, due to a new partnership with FAWNA, work has commenced on educational signage ahead of schedule (Action T5.01). Identifying locations for habitat offsets (Action T3.04) will remain as a medium priority to ensure adequate resourcing. Council appreciate and look forward to ongoing partnerships with OzFish and FAWNA on these actions.	No update proposed

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1	This submission was provided by a bush regenerator with local experience in habitat restoration. The submission offers detailed feedback on some actions and a comprehensive review of the mapping contained in the CMP. The submission includes the following themes: Wetland and foreshore management The importance of natural wetlands for water quality management and effort of local bush regenerators in these ecosystems wetlands was highlighted. The submission seeks acknowledgement of the work of bush regenerators in this area in the CMP. Concern was raised about the lack of long term planning and funding for wetland restoration. A question was raised about how wetlands were prioritised in Action T3.01 and if the wetlands listed in the action were the only ones where work would occur It was noted that there is an extensive network of wetlands currently being maintained and that identifying new sites referred to in Action T3.03 should not occur while work is still required in the existing wetlands. The submission also sought to clarify if an existing technical document about restoring the Wallis Lake foreshore was used to develop actions. Community Consultation This submission raised concern that there was inadequate consultation with the local bush regeneration community. National Parks and Wildlife actions The submission suggests that Council is undertaking actions in National Parks and raises questions about why NPWS have focussed on particular roads for sealing e.g. Action T4.09. Implementation costs It was suggested that the business plan significantly underestimates the implementation costs for the program and the submission highlighted that there are no documented 'maintenance' costs. Council Operations Several comments related to Councils operations but were not directly relevant to the CMP content. NOTED and passed onto to relevant dept Other	Wetland and foreshore management Council agrees that natural wetlands play a critical role in protecting waterway health and biodiversity and acknowledge that habitat enhancement through weed removal and assisted regeneration is essential to optimise these values. The significant achievements of bush regenerators in these wetlands over many years is commendable. As the CMP is a strategic document, this level of details is not required. No change is recommended in the CMP. There is an ongoing commitment from Council to restore wetlands on public reserves as identified in Councils Delivery Program 'maintain public natural area reserves'. The Natural Systems team have a Natural Areas Management Plan which identifies priorities for investment linked to ongoing funding. As these sites include wetlands listed in Action T3.01, the CMP will allow Council to apply for grants, increase available funding and therefore the reach of its environmental programs. Wetland sites listed in Action T3.01 include those situated within the CMP boundary, Council-managed land, and priorities within Councils Natural Areas Management Plan. This includes the Pacific Palms reserves, which cover Charlotte Creek mentioned in the submission. It is acknowledged that other coastal wetlands are within the study area however, these are not within Council management. Action T3.03 seeks to identify new wetland sites for protection. The submission suggested that identifying new wetland sites is not needed while there is still work to do on the ones on Council land. The submission appears to have mis understood as this action as is not recommending more wetland acquisition by Council rather, the identification of priority sites in order to partner with landholders and other agencies to achieve protection and restoration of coastal wetlands. There are two additional actions that refer to restoring natural areas including estuary foreshores: Action T6.01 coordinated weed and pest management and T6.07 assisted natural regeneration at priority locations in Southern Wallis Lake. Both of these actions were informed by the Restoration Plan for the Southern Wallis Lake Foreshore Reserve, this restoration plan will be used to guide these actions during implementation. This plan has been included in the CMP as a contributing document. Community Consultation Extensive community consultation has taken place throughout the development of the Coastal Management Program, including during the public exhibition period. The community had multiple opportunities to get involved. Surveys were available during stages one and three, and formal submissions were invited during stage four. Stage one consultation opened on 21 April 2022, and stage four closed on 9 April 2026. Council used a range of channels to reach the community, including media releases, flyers and summary booklets distributed across the local government area, and weekly promotion in Council's NewsWrap newsletter during consultation periods. Engagement was also supported through a photography competition, radio interviews, social media posts, and posts in local Facebook community groups. Face-to-face engagement was offered at several locations, including Tea Gardens. In total, we spoke with 239 people at pop-up sessions, received 440 survey responses across the different stages, and 17 formal submissions during the final public exhibition. More information about community engagement outcomes is available on the Have Your Say page: https://haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/index.php?cID=652 All engagement activities were carried out in line with Council's adopted Community Engagement Strategy.	No significant changes were made to the CMP as a result of this submission, administrative amendments listed below: The CMP has been amended to include the Restoration Plan for the Southern Wallis Lake Foreshore Reserve as a contributing document. The CMP has been amended to update Action T5.03 Action map title. The CMP has been amended to update Action T6.01 Action map figure legend.

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	It was suggested that additional planning is not required to manage the impact of litter (Action T2.04) and that the focus should be on action. A number of recommendations were raised about how to go about implementing the actions. Minor mapping and administrative improvements were recommended.	3. National Parks and Wildlife actions The CMP is a cross-tenure program, and National Parks and Wildlife Service has been a key contributor. There is no intention of Council undertaking actions on NPWS land. NPWS have identified locations within their estate that will enhance the environmental, economic, social and cultural values of the Southern Estuaries. 4. Implementation costs Council and state agencies have undertaken a complex action development process and business plan. Councils actions have been costed by staff involved in delivering similar projects and the scope of the actions was developed to meet the budget available within Councils 10-year financial plan. Including 'maintenance' column in the business plan is a State Government requirement for CMPs. There are no 'maintenance' costs as Council utilise their operational budget for maintenance projects. 5. Council Operations Several comments related to Councils operations have been noted and will be passed onto to relevant departments. 6. Other It is agreed that the focus should be on action in relation to litter management. This is reflected in the following actions: - T5.01 Installation of educational signage and fishing line collection bins - T9.02 Community and industry clean up campaigns - T2.04 A litter and stormwater pollution source control program including a marine debris engagement program. - Action T2.04 mentioned in the submission includes source control planning to identify the source of the litter in order to focus litter removal and engagement to achieve the greatest impact. A number of recommendations were raised about how to go about implementing the actions, this feedback is noted and will be considered during implementation. Minor mapping and administrative improvements were recommended and updates were made to the CMP.	
3	Submission not complete, name entered only		
22	The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands provided their approval of the SECMP but advised that several proposed actions may require approval under the Crown Land Management Act 2016, particularly where works occur on Crown waterways or land managed by the Minister. They suggested the CMP should explicitly acknowledge these statutory requirements. Recommended amendments from Crown Lands included updating Action 8.02 to incorporate Crown Lands as a support agency, apply best-practice	Crown Land approval for the CMP is noted, thank you. The need for approval for some actions in the implementation phase is noted. All recommended improvements to actions and administrative corrections were made.	Added Crown Land as support agency in Action T8.02 Updated CMP to include statutory requirement with provided wording Updated mapping and action figures to correct administrative errors Added Crown Land as support agency in Action T8.05

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	foreshore management guidance, and resolve inconsistencies in mapping and figures, as well as revising Action T8.05 (Pindimar) to prioritise low-impact, non-structural coastal protection, ensure works are appropriately located and authorised and address environmental considerations for mapped wetlands. Minor administrative corrections were identified.		Updated and included the NSW Coastal Design Guidelines
20	The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) supported the strategic intent of the Draft Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program (CMP) and its inclusion as both a lead and support agency for actions affecting key reserves. NPWS recommended minor amendments to improve clarity and accuracy in action descriptions, monitoring tables, and mapping, particularly for flood and tidal risk planning (Action T4.10) and boat ramp management (Action T5.03), noting that while maintenance is funded, upgrades remain unfunded and subject to review. It also requested increased priority for selected actions, adjustments to mapping to reflect Ramsar-listed areas, and ongoing consultation for Council-led actions of interest. NPWS emphasises that its involvement is subject to funding and reserve priorities and will provide formal endorsement following review of the revised CMP.	NPWS approval for the CMP is noted, thank you. All recommended improvements to actions and administrative corrections were made.	Minor edits to monitoring evaluation and reporting. Prioritisation of three actions have been updated, based on NPWS feedback, to ensure that internal NPWS prioritisation reflects that of the CMP. Update to mapping for T4.10 to include NPWS Reserve Update T5.03, and broadening the study area it applies to. The wording was changed to expand to the "Southern Estuaries CMP study area", broadening the action from just the "Great Lakes and estuaries of Myall Lakes National Park
18	Transport for NSW (TfNSW, including NSW Maritime) supported the exhibition draft of the Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program (SECMP) and advised they are willing to review the final version to progress a formal Letter of Support. TfNSW outlined its approach to key actions, confirming it will document an internal delivery plan for Action T13.04 (effluent education and monitoring), combining statewide initiatives with periodic local campaigns, and supports inclusion of targeted survey and monitoring under Action T14.02, noting that any resulting data will be primarily managed and actioned by Council, with TfNSW providing support where appropriate.	TfNSW approval for the CMP is noted, thank you.	No Update Required
21	MidCoast 2 Tops Landcare supported the Draft Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program (CMP) and has committed to its role as a support agency for key actions focused on habitat conservation, restoration, and sustainable agriculture (including Actions T6.04, T12.01 and T12.02). The organisation recognised the draft as a well-developed, strategic outcome of extensive planning and	MidCoast 2 Tops Landcare approval for the CMP is noted, thank you.	No update proposed

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19	consultation, and has expressed its intention to work collaboratively with Council during implementation. Local Land Services (LLS) supported the Draft Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program (CMP) and acknowledged the collaborative effort involved in its development. LLS confirmed its commitment to partner with MidCoast Council in delivering a range of actions focused on wetland migration planning, community education, pest and weed management, habitat restoration, Aboriginal engagement, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration (including Wallis Lake), and improved data collection and knowledge sharing. LLS also noted that where it is identified as a lead agency, its contribution will be limited to staff time and in-kind support, as no specific funding has been allocated for these actions.	Hunter Local Land Services approval for the CMP is noted, thank you. We also note actions will be assisted with staff time and resources and no funding is available.	No Action Required.
23	NSW DPIRD Fisheries supported the Draft Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program (CMP) but raised several clarifications and corrections, primarily relating to funding responsibilities and technical details. notes that its only lead role (Action T6.08) is already funded under the Marine Estate Management Strategy, though this is not reflected in the CMP business case. For actions where it is a supporting agency, DPIRD Fisheries requests removal of references to its operating budget as a funding source—particularly for capital costs and for actions where it has no formal role. Additional feedback includes minor corrections to mapping, terminology, and planning references, as well as clarification of fishing regulations within marine park zones. DPIRD Fisheries also highlights that several CMP actions may require marine park permits and indicates its willingness to assist with approvals to enable implementation.	DPIRD Fisheries approval for the CMP is noted, thank you. The need for approval for some actions in the implementation phase is noted.	Updated action T6.08 to include MEMS funding as a possible funding source. Removed DPIRD Fisheries as a potential funding source for the actions requested. Updated the CMP with all edits suggested on pages 43, 48, 56, 76. Updated Marine Park Mapping to official map