Summary of management strategies and actions

Community Stewardship
Engage with our community to promote understanding and commitment to stewardship of our estuarine areas.

Agricultural Impacts
Support landholders and land managers to implement sustainable regenerative practices that contribute to improved estuarine health.

Biodiversity Conservation
Protect and restore biodiversity to maintain healthy resilient ecosystems through habitat restoration and pest and weed management to improve estuarine health.

Recreation
Reduce the impact of tourism on our estuaries and ensure residents and visitors have safe, easily accessible areas to enjoy.

Human Health
Reduce pollution risks by improving effluent management to safeguard both people and estuarine ecosystems.

Erosion and Sedimentation
Protect foreshore from erosion and improve riparian condition. Improve erosion and sediment control practices to minimise sediment runoff into estuaries and safeguard water quality and ecosystem health.

Urban Stormwater and litter
Restore ecological and hydrological systems, ensure the functionality of public and private water quality assets, reduce erosion at stormwater outlets, improve riparian biodiversity and reduce litter pollution to keep waterways healthy.

Land Use Planning
Strengthen planning by ensuring accurate coastal wetland mapping and implement a consistent, catchment-based regulatory framework to guide sustainable development in Forster and Tuncurry.

Coastal Wetlands
Protect foreshore and wetland ecosystems, restore their ecological function to support waterway health and ecosystem services coastal wetlands provide.

Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing
Strengthen collaborative partnerships that enhance understanding, efficiency, and informed decision-making to protect and restore aquaculture habitats in the Southern Estuaries.

Aboriginal Custodianship
Work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to care for high-conservation lands, strengthen cultural knowledge and appreciation, support ecosystem health and safeguard cultural heritage by raising awareness of emerging risks such as tidal inundation.

Entrance Modification
Improve understanding of changes to estuary entrances and how they will be impacted by changing climatic conditions. Advocate to State Government for ongoing management.

Agricultural Impacts
Support landholders and land managers to implement sustainable regenerative practices to improve catchment and river health.

Monitoring and Research
Build data-sharing partnerships, increase community understanding of the science behind waterway health, and ensure that management decisions for the southern estuaries are guided by robust, ongoing research and the best available evidence.

Tidal Inundation
Protect environmental and community assets, support the landward migration of coastal habitats, understand and plan for sea-level-rise impacts on infrastructure, guide land-use planning, and align adaptation actions with community risk tolerance.

Scan the QR code for a full list of management actions and to have your say.

MIDCOAST council

SOUTHERN ESTUARIES

Coastal Management Program

Summary document

The Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program is a 10-year plan to helps us manage our estuaries. It shows what we need to know, how to prepare, and how to respond to risks as they change.



Photo credit: Mitch Panada

HAVE YOUR SAY ON WATERWAYS

North Arm Cove Catchments
WALLIS LAKE
Khappinghat Creek
BLACK HEAD LAGOON
Myall Lakes
Smiths Lake
Karuah River
Kore Kore Creek

Do you love our waterways and want to help protect them?

Provide feedback on the draft Southern Estuaries Coastal Management Program that aims to protect our waterways from Wallabi Point to Karuah River from a range of threats over the next 10 years.

Your feedback will help refine the program before it goes to Council for endorsement.

This project is supported by the NSW Government through its Coast and Estuary Program.

Feedback closes **Thursday 9 April 2026**.

haveyoursay.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/oursouthernestuaries



63 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

are identified in the program including:

e-DNA monitoring of key locations

Three Wallis Lake community cleanups

Creation of two source control plans for stormwater and litter management

Work with landholders to reduce nutrient runoff

Management of seven water quality improvement devices to remove nutrients and sediment from stormwater

Protection and revegetation of seven major coastal wetlands

Report Card monitoring of 13 sites in the Southern Estuaries

Undertake improvements to unsealed roads in eight bushland reserves

Regeneration of 1500ha of southern estuaries key habitats

Pest and weed control throughout the southern estuaries

Install bins and educational signage at major fishing locations to reduce litter

Remediation of 11 stormwater discharge locations