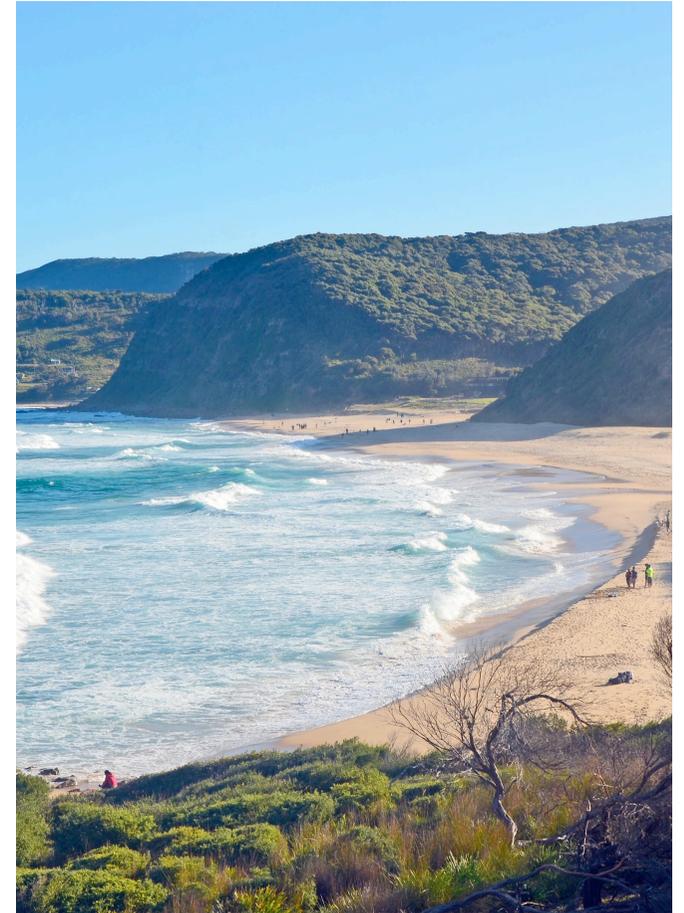


NSW Coastal Reforms



Context and background

- The journey so far
- What's new and
- Where we are at now.



The journey so far

- Announced in 2014, the coastal reforms aimed to:
 - reduce complexity
 - improve strategic alignment with land use planning
 - promote implementation.
- A key driver for the reforms was to better enable strategic and coordinated management of coastal issues by local councils in line with clear state wide objectives.



- The reforms aimed to create a new management framework that would enable coastal communities to:
 - protect and enhance the social, economic and environmental values of the coast
 - ensure ongoing use and enjoyment of our beaches and coastal foreshores
 - increase our resilience to existing and emerging coastal hazards and threats to coastal environments.



Coastal management framework

- The NSW Government has established a new coastal management framework to better equip coastal communities to respond to existing and future coastal challenges and opportunities.
- The new framework comprises:
 - *Coastal Management Act 2016* (CM Act)
 - State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management)
 - NSW Coastal Management Manual
 - NSW Coastal Council, and
 - Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.



Coastal Management Act 2016 (CM Act)

- The Coastal Management Act 2016 establishes the overarching framework and objectives for coastal management in NSW.
- The purpose of the CM Act is to manage the use and development of the coastal environment in an ecologically sustainable way, for the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the people of NSW.
- The objects of the CM Act highlight the complex values and processes of the coast.
- The aims of the CM Act support the aims of the Marine Estate Management Act 2014.



Coastal Management Act 2016 (CM Act)

- The CM Act defines the coastal zone, comprising four coastal management areas:
 - coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area
 - coastal vulnerability area
 - coastal environment area
 - coastal use area.
- The CM Act establishes management objectives specific to each of these management areas, reflecting their different values to the people of NSW.
- The CM Act replaces the Coastal Protection Act 1979.



State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management)

- The CM SEPP maps the coastal zone according to definitions in the CM Act. The CM SEPP streamlines coastal development assessment requirements.
- The CM SEPP identifies development controls for consent authorities to apply to each coastal management area to achieve the objectives of the CM Act.
- The CM SEPP also establishes the approval pathway for coastal protection works.



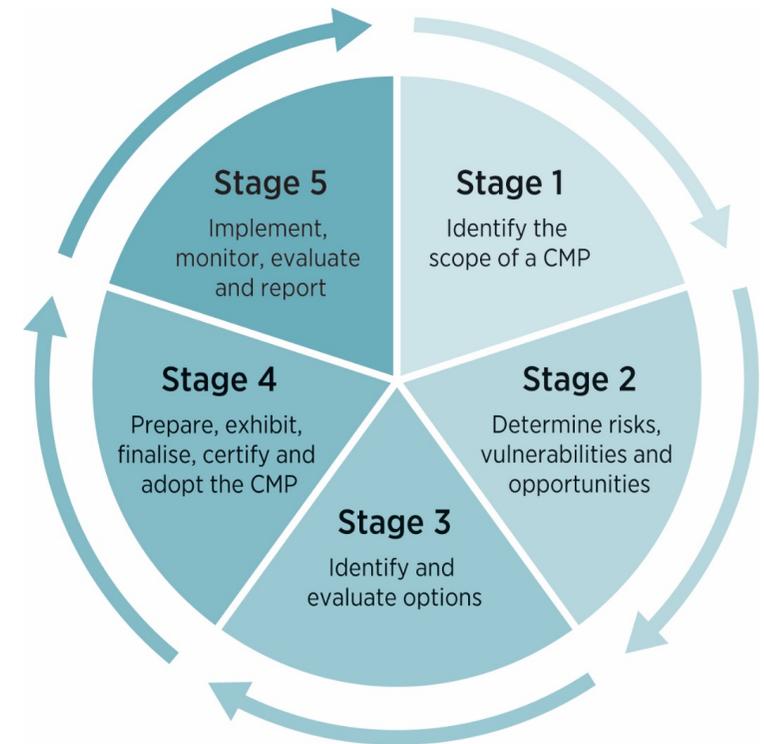
NSW Coastal Council

- The NSW Coastal Council is appointed to provide independent advice to the Minister on coastal issues.
- The Council has the following functions:
 - provides advice to the Minister relating to:
 - the Minister's functions under the CM Act
 - the compliance by local councils with the CM Act and the manual in preparing and reviewing CMPs, and
 - performance audits of local councils' CMPs.
 - advice to other public authorities on coastal management matters
 - any other functions under the CM Act.



Coastal Management Manual

- The manual provides guidance to local councils, public authorities and communities about how to implement the new coastal management framework.
- It provides step by step guidance on how to prepare a CMP and integrate coastal management with local councils' other strategic and land use planning processes.
- Adopts a five stage risk management process.
- Supported by a toolkit of additional information and guidance to help local councils.



Coastal Management Programs

- CMPs set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast, consistent with the objectives of the CM Act.
- CMPs are prepared by local councils in consultation with their communities and relevant public authorities.
- CMPs identify:
 - key management issues
 - actions to be implemented by council and other public authorities to address those issues
 - how and when actions will be implemented, and
 - the costs and cost-sharing arrangements to enable implementation.



Focus of a CMP

- The Act allows a council to prepare a CMP for the whole, or any part of, the four coastal management areas within the council area.
- Councils should work towards a position where coastal management issues, threats, hazards and risks are being given appropriate attention across the whole of their coastal zone.
- Priority actions in the CMP will generally focus on key management issues and locations with the highest threats hazards and risks.
- Councils should collaborate with public authorities that own or manage coastal land or have coastal roles and responsibilities, to strengthen management integration across all land tenures.



Scoping study

- The Scoping Study is a key step in the process to help councils identify their key management issues and decide on the focus of a CMP.
- The Scoping Study should consider the entire coastal zone of the council area and establish the context for the CMP.
- Councils should undertake a first pass risk assessment to identify the main hazards and threats and evaluate how effective current management is.
- Helps councils identify knowledge gaps and where further information may be required.
- The Scoping Study will help the council to build a strategic case for how the CMP will be prepared.



Risk management approach

- The manual introduces a staged risk management process.
- In Stage 1 councils undertake a ‘first pass’ or qualitative risk assessment to identify their key management issues.
- In later stages councils will undertake more detailed or quantitative risk assessments.
- Greater emphasis is placed on community engagement throughout the process.



Coastal and Estuary Grants Program

- Funding assistance to help councils to prepare and implement CMPs is available through the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

Transitional arrangements

- The CM Act includes transitional provisions that allow councils and proponents of new development to move towards the new arrangements over time.

