

# Coastal Management Program

Community update, March 2023

The coast is one of our greatest assets and is constantly changing. We need to determine how we can protect our communities from the impact of climate change now and into the future.



**Understanding of risk exposure to current and future threats**



**A clear and consistent approach to coastal management**



**Partnerships with adjacent Councils and agencies**



**Improved grant funding opportunities and resource sharing**



**Improvement in land use and infrastructure planning**

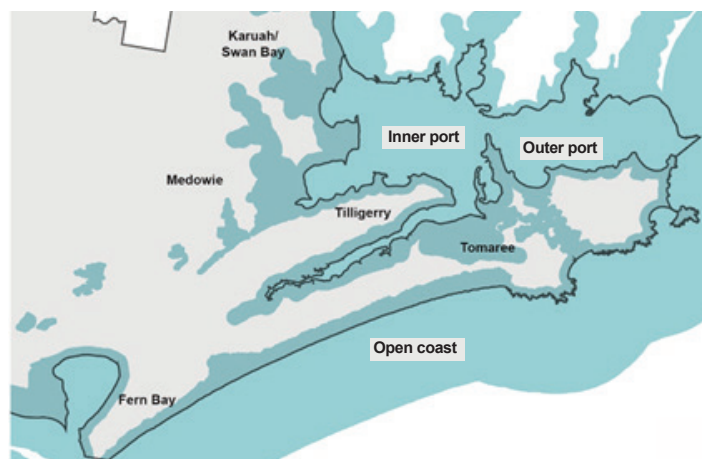
## What's the purpose of a coastal management program?

A coastal management program (CMP) sets the long-term strategy for managing our coast. It identifies risks to our coast and how to manage these now and into the future, so we can all continue to enjoy the benefits of the coast for years to come. CMPs are prepared by local councils in accordance with the Coastal Management Act 2016.

## What areas does it cover?

Port Stephens has a unique coastal zone – from its sandy beaches and rocky headlands to its mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrass beds. It stretches from Fern Bay in the south to Yaccaba Headland in the north, including the estuary of Port Stephens.

The Port Stephens CMP study area covers the open coast, inner port and outer port within the Port Stephens local government area\*.



\*Other coastal areas of Port Stephens are covered by a separate CMP called the Hunter Estuary CMP, which is being developed by the Hunter Estuary Alliance. The Hunter Estuary CMP is currently in Stage 1 and hasn't been covered in this fact sheet.



## Where is the development of the CMP up to?

Over the past few years, we've completed Stages 1 and 2 to set the foundations of the CMP. We've worked behind the scenes and talked to the community about how they use and value the coast. We're now progressing with Stages 3 and 4.

In Stage 1, we determined the main coastal hazards impacting Port Stephens.



**Coastal inundation**  
from both storm events,  
astronomical tides and  
sea level rise



**Coastal erosion** is the loss  
of land caused by tides,  
storms and sea level rise



**Dune transgression**  
is caused by  
movement of sand by  
the wind

In Stage 2, we looked at the above coastal hazards in detail and modelled each hazard across our coastal zone during the timeframes 2020, 2040, 2070 and 2120.

## Where are we now?

Now that we understand what the risks are, Stage 3 of the CMP involves working with our community to identify options for the management of our coastal zone in a way that supports the environmental, social and economic values that make Port Stephens a great place to live, work and play.


## Have your say


In early May, we'll be holding 4 drop-in sessions where the community can meet with Council staff and coastal specialists to discuss the coastal hazards identified in Stage 2 of the CMP.

Additional drop-in sessions will be held in early June to discuss and identify potential strategies to manage the risks to the coast.



## Learn more about the CMP

 [pscouncil.info/cmp](https://pscouncil.info/cmp)

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