



Notice of Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Committee Room, Ballina on **Friday 29 June 2018 at 3.00 pm.**

Business

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce meeting held 29 August 2017 (attached)
4. General Business
 - a) North Creek Dredging Project
 - b) NSW Boating Now Program
 - c) Tuckean Program
 - d) Healthy Waterways Program
 - e) Ballina Bar - Dredging
5. Business Without Notice
6. Next Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Hickey', with a long horizontal line underneath.

Paul Hickey
General Manager

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting held 29 August 2017**

The Minutes from the meeting held 29 August 2017 are included as an attachment to this agenda.

Recommendation

That the Taskforce confirms the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 August 2017.

4. **General Business**

(a) North Creek Dredging Project

The latest update on this project is that Hydrosphere Pty. Ltd. has now undertaken 43 sediment investigations. Results have identified the presence of acid sulfate potential to varying degrees in much of the sediment. However, this is a manageable issue subject to an appropriate level of planning and treatment.

Conversely, no contaminant levels of concern were found in any of the samples.

These sedimentation investigations together with other refinements around the project's constraints and risk profile, have allowed a more realistic footprint to be developed than was previously possible.

This has resulted in a significantly reduced dredge volume of 255,205 m³ from that conceptualised in the initial scoping stage (580,000 m³).

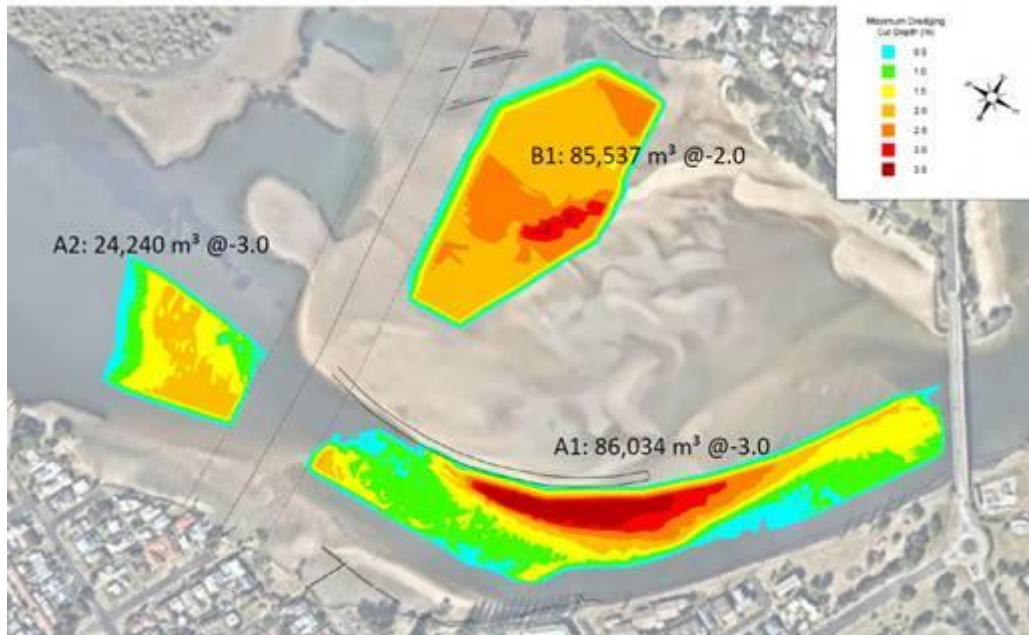
Some of this reduction is attributable to an underwater cable transecting areas A and B, necessitating a no-dredge buffer around the cable (refer to diagrams on following page).

Areas C and D have also reduced, although in this case to avoid significant areas of sea grass and poor quality sediment (as per the diagrams).

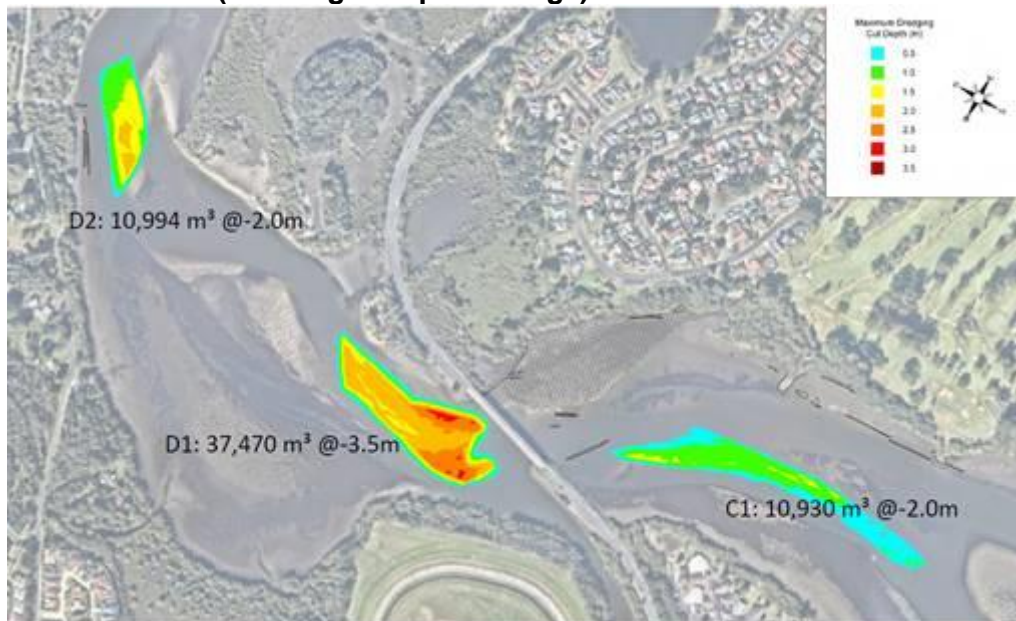
Further investigations, such as hydrodynamic modelling, are still needed before a final dredge footprint can be determined.

However, the areas shown in the diagrams are at this stage realistic and have provided a basis for re-evaluating the business case and re-calculating the project costs.

Areas A & B (showing Missingham Bridge & route of underwater cable)



Areas C and D (showing Prospect Bridge)



The projects costs are substantial, as summarised in the following table.

Item	Cost
<i>Costs to date</i>	\$ 178,536
Planning, Studies, Approvals	\$ 721,500
Dredging/Pumping Costs	\$ 4,415,508
Mob/De-mobilisation/Civil/ASS Mgt	\$ 305,000
Habitat Offsets	\$ 90,000
Project Mgt, Monitoring	\$ 60,000
Total Costs	\$ 5,770,544
Crown Lands Rescuing our Waterways grant	-\$ 230,700
Overall nett project cost	\$ 5,539,844
Cost per m ³	\$ 21.71
Cost per tonne	\$ 13.57

As per this summary it is estimated Council has to expend another \$721,500 to try and obtain an approval, with there being no guarantee of approval.

Council has secured \$230,700 in NSW Government funding to continue with the investigations, although this is subject to matching funding from Council, with no budget currently allocated for that work.

A Councillor briefing was held on 14 June 2018 to provide an update on the project. A report will next be presented to the elected Council to determine how they wish to proceed. Councillors will need to determine whether they wish to expend hundreds of thousands of dollars of public monies for a project with a number of significant risks.

Feedback on the merits of this project from community members on the Taskforce can be included in the report to Councillors.

(b) NSW Boating Now Program

Pontoons and Boat Ramps

Council's current round of projects are substantially complete where five local maritime sites have been upgraded with new pontoon installations, and in addition two amended designs have been finalized as future potential projects. The completed maritime upgrades comprise:

- Captain Cook Park, Ballina: installation of pontoon and gangway
- Fishery Creek, Ballina: installation of pontoon, gangway and paths with vegetation rehabilitation to commence.
- Faulks Reserve: installation of on-ramp pontoon
- Keith Hall boat ramp: construction of concrete boat ramp and on-ramp pontoon
- East Wardell: installation of pontoon and gangway

The two amended designs are for existing sites where the use of the current facilities are 'low key' and only minor improvements have been considered (North Creek, Lennox Head and Brunswick Street, Ballina).

The attached design memos describe the proposed improvements and feedback on the designs would be appreciated.

It is proposed to submit these two sites as nominations under the next round of the Boating Now program to provide funding for the actual improvement works. The next round of Boating Now applications is expected later in this year.

Emigrant Creek

This is another project which formed part of the Boating Now program and comprised the investigation of boating access along the lower reaches of Emigrant Creek. This project dealt with early investigations to assess the scope of any potential dredging, and to identify any obstacles to progressing this project further.

The draft report completed as part of this initial investigation is attached for information. Feedback on this report would be of interest.

It is proposed for this project to be nominated for further funding to take these early investigations to the next stage of investigation, scope definition and approvals. This would require successful funding applications to State Government programs like the Rescuing Our Waterways program and the Boating Now program.

Martin Street Boat Harbour Master Plan

The Master Plan for this precinct was nominated for a Boating Now grant last year to further the project to detail design and cost estimate stage. Last year's nomination was unsuccessful, but will again be submitted for this year's round.

Ballina Marina Master Plan

Council continues to lobby the State Government in respect to implementing this Master Plan, and despite a number of letters of in principle support from State Government representatives, no funding strategy has been identified.

(c) Tuckean Program

Update to be provided by Ozfish.

(d) Healthy Waterways Program

Council has now secured the special rate variation of approximately \$360,000 per annum for the Healthy Waterways program.

A draft priority listing of works for that funding is outlined as follows.

Preliminary Schedule of Actions for our Healthy Waterways Program

Action	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
North Creek					
North Creek CMP Process	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chickiba Grant – Office of Environment and Heritage	✓				
North Creek CZMP Implementation			✓	✓	✓
Emigrant, Maguires and Houghlahans Creek					
Riparian Revegetation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matching funding OEH grant – revegetation 2.6km Emigrant Creek		✓	✓	✓	
Maguires Creek – Stormwater		✓	✓	✓	✓
Weeds		✓	✓	✓	✓
Houghlahans Creek/Teven - Recreational Fishing Reserve		✓	✓	✓	✓
Main Trunk of River - Boundary Creek to Mouth					
Subsequent Drainage Management			✓	✓	✓
Riparian Revegetation		✓	✓	✓	✓
Instream Habitat (logs etc)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Mobbs Bay Drainage Study and subsequent works		✓	✓		✓
Tuckean Hydrological Study Contribution	✓	✓			
Lake Ainsworth CZMP Process	✓				
Project Management/Administration -	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education/Ongoing Engagement Activities					
Drainage Management Plans – Engagement and Facilitation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Information Nights	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stormwater and Rural Runoff Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sediment and Erosion Program	✓	✓	✓		
Monitoring	✓	✓			
Shaws Bay CZMP Implementation					
Water Quality Monitoring		✓	✓	✓	✓
Vegetation Mapping	✓			✓	

The following activities have commenced and occurred during the first year as part of the Healthy Waterways Program.

- Detailed studies for Lake Ainsworth, Tuckean Nature Reserve and North Creek have been initiated
- On-ground works have occurred in Maguires Creek at a number of locations. They were undertaken by local landcare groups and supported by Council
- On-ground works will be occurring at Teven and Alstonville and Ballina in the next few weeks
- Two information sessions have been held for locals to attend to understand more about river health issues
- Training for builders, landscapers and contractors has been held on erosion and sediment control issues
- Mapping showing locations of previous works by Landcare, Council and required as part of the development application process to assist in identifying future priority riparian revegetation locations
- Continued advertising of the 'Love it or Lose it' animations and website to reinforce these messages.

The funding is also helping to support the following projects.

Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan

This plan was gazetted by the State Government in June 2016 and Council has been proactively progressing the actions nominated in the Plan.

The Actions that required significant funding have generally now been completed with contributions from grant funding.

These infrastructure works and studies include;

- Action 1: Control of East arm bank erosion and creation of sandy beach - completed in June 2018
- Action 2: Dredging of Main Section of Shaws Bay – Dredging feasibility Investigation completed and Part V Application submitted to Council - completed June 2018
- Action 4: Enhanced safety and recreational amenity of Compton Drive foreshore – completed June 2018
- Action 6: Development of Fenwick Drive foreshore area – completed June 2018

North Creek

Council has commenced the Coastal Management Program for North Creek, a coastal tributary of the Richmond River.

The aim of the program is to understand some of the longstanding water quality issues that are occurring within the creek, as well as how to best to enhance the ecological values of the waterway into the future.

There are significant amounts of new residential development planned for the North Creek catchment into the future, and it is a valued waterway for fishing, boating and swimming. Its natural beauty is also highly valued within the local community as a backdrop to our outdoor lifestyle.

There are five stages to a Coastal Management Program. These are:-

- Stage 1 – Identify the scope of the CMP (this is the stage at which the North Creek process is at).
- Stage 2 – Determine the risks (to the catchment), the vulnerabilities and opportunities. Studies will be undertaken during this stage to 'fill in the gaps' in our collective and scientific knowledge to build a picture of the catchment as a whole.
- Stage 3 – Identify and evaluate management options.
- Stage 4 – Prepare, exhibit and finalise a Coastal Management Program. The government is then asked to certify the CMP and it is adopted as a management program by Council and government agencies and resourced for implementation.
- Stage 5 - Implement the CMP, including monitoring of progress, evaluation of the implementation program and reporting back to Council, the community and government.

Council has contracted Alluvium to undertake the Scoping Study for North Creek. They are currently speaking to stakeholders and visiting critical sites throughout the catchment. They are also reviewing the literature, local history and water quality data that is held by Council, the NSW Government and local community about North Creek.

They are also developing a water quality investigation program for implementation as a backdrop to the Stage 2 studies.

As a parallel process, Council is also working with Kate Gahan, a local historian, to ask our local community about how the catchment has been used over the years to help us understand some of the contemporary conditions we see in the catchment now.

Refer to the following brochure for further information.

GET INVOLVED!

We are interested in hearing from the community about their views on the North Creek catchment. Your knowledge and feedback can help shape the future management of North Creek.

We would like you to spend 5-10 mins and take part in a survey. Please visit Ballina Shire Council homepage for details of the survey - www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

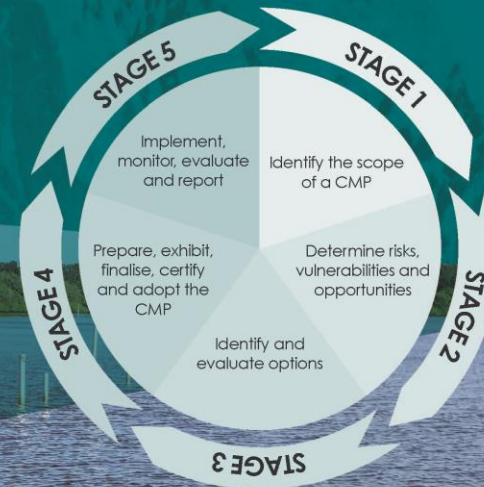
If you would like to discuss the North Creek scoping study further Please contact Misko Ivezich on 0401 048 241 or misko.ivezich@alluvium.com.au for more information.



NORTH CREEK COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SCOPING STUDY

PURPOSE

The North Creek Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study (Stage 1) aims to work with the community to understand the issues and values within the North Creek catchment. This understanding will help target additional investigations and studies in later stages of the North Creek CMP process.



Oyster farming is an important industry in the North Creek estuary

CMP FRAMEWORK

Council has been talking with landholders, farmers and oyster growers about water quality and other issues affecting the North Creek catchment.

It is working within the new NSW Government Coastal Management Framework to deliver a plan to improve the health of the creek and its catchment. The recently released Coastal Management Manual sets out mandatory requirements and essential elements for a Coastal Management Program.

Council is talking directly to landholders and interest groups as part of the process. But we would also like to hear from the broader community about how they see North Creek.

Note that dredging is being investigated in the lower reaches as part of a separate process (although the processes are talking to each other). The Coastal Management Program is considering the catchment as a whole.

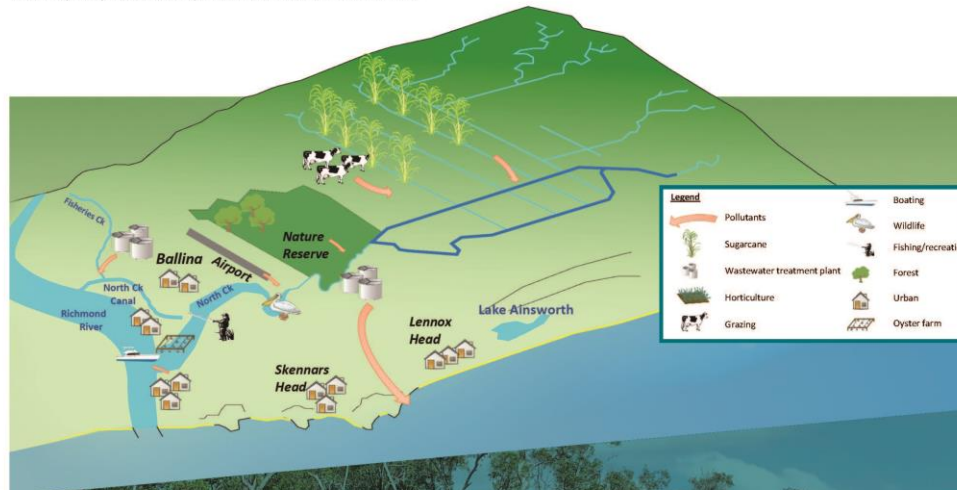
ABOUT THE CATCHMENT

North Creek is vital part of the Ballina region helping contribute to the economic, recreational and environmental values of the area.

Increasing land use pressure in the North Creek catchment is believed to have compromised the ability of North Creek and its receiving waters to support a functioning ecosystem. Urban development in the mid-catchment and drainage from agricultural areas in the upper and mid-catchment is contributing to high nutrient and sediment loads, and modified catchment hydrology.

These catchment pressures are believed to impact on estuary health. The estuary supports a range of important services including fish habitat, oyster production and recreation for Ballina's residents. The social, environmental and economic impacts of poor water quality in the catchment are not currently well understood. Evidence of pressure due to poor water quality has already been identified in the Ballina

Nature Reserve, by local volunteers and commercial oyster farmers. Over the years, a complex drainage network through the Nature Reserve has been constructed to manage drainage from surrounding grazing and horticultural areas, which has altered the area's natural ability to process floodwaters and pollutant loads.



Riparian habitat is important for estuary health and provides critical habitat for juvenile fish species

(e) **Ballina Bar – Dredging**

No recent updates have been provided by the State Government.

5. **Business Without Notice**

6. **Next Meeting**

As required.

**Minutes
Port Ballina Taskforce
Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 3.00 pm**

Attendance

Members

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Eoin Johnston, Ballina Shire Council
James Foster, Community Representative
Michael Cocks, Community Representative
Ian Hush, Community Representative
Darren Watson, RMS, Maritime
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative
Martin Corkery, Ballina Chamber of Commerce
Amanda Edmonds, Ballina Chamber of Commerce

Observers

Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council
Kerri Watts, Manager Public and Environmental Health, Ballina Shire Council

1. Welcome to New Members

The Taskforce welcomed new members John Larsson, Ozfish (recreational fisher representative) and Ian Hush (community representative) as well as Martin Corkery and Amanda Edmonds as the Ballina Chamber of Commerce representatives.

2. Apologies

John Larsson, Ozfish, recreational fisher representative
Brendan Logan, NSW Crown Lands

3. Declarations of Interest

James Foster – has been engaged by Council in respect to the Emigrant Creek Study.

4. Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting held 25 October 2016

That the Taskforce confirms the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 October 2016.

5. General Business

(a) NSW Boating Now Program

General discussion regarding the program of works. James Foster provided an overview of the community engagement proposed for the Emigrant Creek related study.

(b) Ballina Marina - Master Plan

Positive feedback in respect to the meeting co-ordinated by Council for people who made submissions to the draft Master Plan.

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29 August 2017

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(c) Tuckean Program

Comprehensive update provided by Ian Hush on behalf of OzFish.

(d) Healthy Waterways Program

Kerri Watts provided an overview of the various actions being taken in respect to this program, as well as an update on the Shaws Bay works planned by Council.

(e) Ballina Bar - Dredging

Copy of email from Brendan Logan distributed for information. Refer to the attachment to these minutes. Concerns expressed regarding how the depth issue is being managed by the State Government.

(f) North Creek - Dredging

Paul Hickey provided a brief history of this project. Consultants currently engaged to examine sediment sampling and economic viability of project.

(g) Martin Street Boat Harbour – Master Plan

Information noted.

6. Business Without Notice

Ian Hush – sought clarification from Rous County Council in respect to maintenance of tidal gates.

Kyme Lavelle subsequently advised as follows:

Michael Mc Kenzie did meet with Ozfish some months ago and advised that we are reviewing five Floodgate Management Plans for each Local Government area this financial year as part of our IP&R plan.

Darren Watson – advised that Emigrant Creek would be blocked for navigable purposes in the proximity of Duck Creek from 10 September for approximately 10 weeks due to demolition and removal of bridges related to the Pacific Highway upgrade.

7. Next Meeting

To be advised

Meeting closure: 4.10pm

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Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 3.00 pm

Attachment to Item (e) - Ballina Bar – Dredging

From: Brendan Logan <brendan.logan@crowland.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 August 2017 2:04 PM
To: Sandra Bailey; Paul Hickey
Subject: RE: Declined: Port Ballina Taskforce
Attachments: SURVEY PLAN.PDF; COLOURED CONTOUR PLAN.PDF; 11117_LAT_COLOUR PLAN.PDF; 11117_LAT_SURVEY PLAN.PDF

Hi Paul – I cannot make this afternoon, some updates below you can table if you wish to address agenda items that have touchpoints with our Department.

Entrance Dredging

NSW Public Works Advisory (PWA) has been engaged to assist DoI Lands & Forestry with the preparation of all necessary environmental impact assessments, studies and approvals for entrance bar dredging (if required).

PWA is also assisting with procurement for dredging services through a two staged process i.e. EOJ followed by select tender.

To date, DoI Lands & Forestry has not proceeded to select tender on the basis recent entrance surveys (attached) indicate adequate water depths (i.e. > 4 metres at low tide, as previously advised by stakeholders) prevail.

Nevertheless, DoI Lands & Forestry is progressing the approval process, and will consider dredging should surveyed depths over the entrance bar in future indicate a trend towards shoaling.

The approval process includes:

- Land based nourishment study (complete)
- Marine assessment (complete)
- Traffic assessment (complete)
- Consultation with government stakeholders (complete)
- Discussions commenced with Department of Environment & Energy as to the need for a sea dumping permit for placement in the near shore zone (some conflicting advice has been received to date on need for permit close to shore)
- Draft REF (almost complete)

Rescuing our Waterways

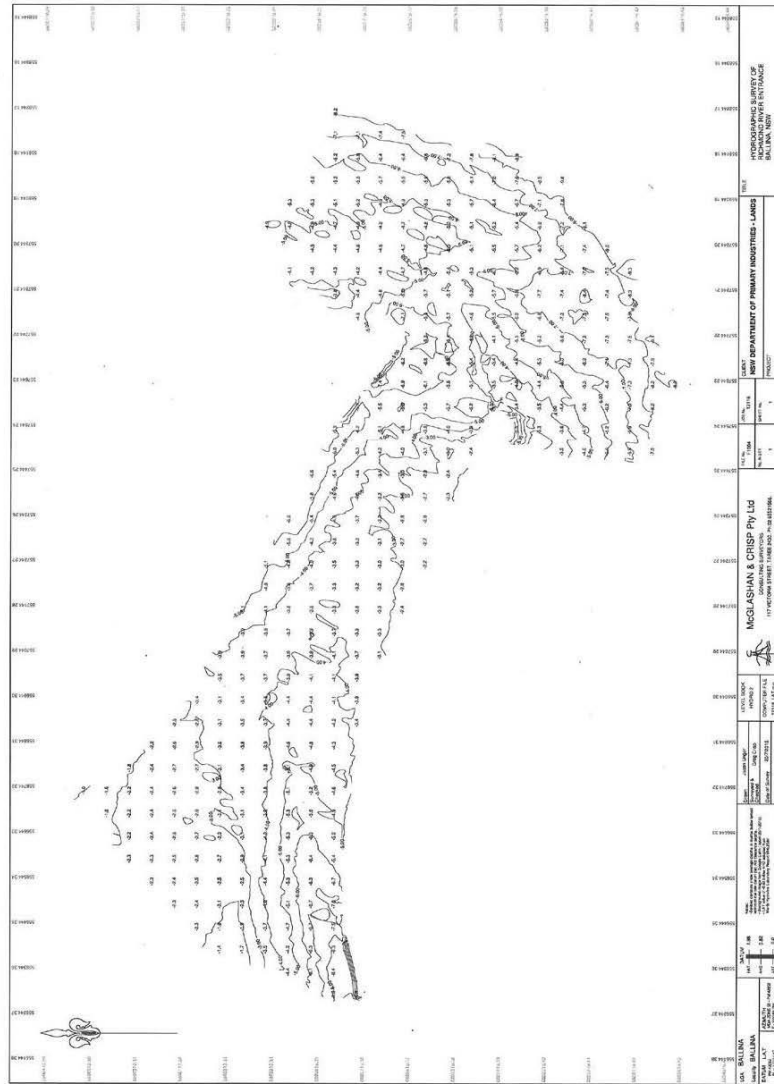
A number of applications have been received (including one from Ballina council for North Creek dredging EIS). Applications have been assessed and recommendations made for funding of successful projects. Pending senior level endorsement, the department will write to those councils whom submitted applications (anticipate early September 2017).

Will call tomorrow to discuss if you are available.

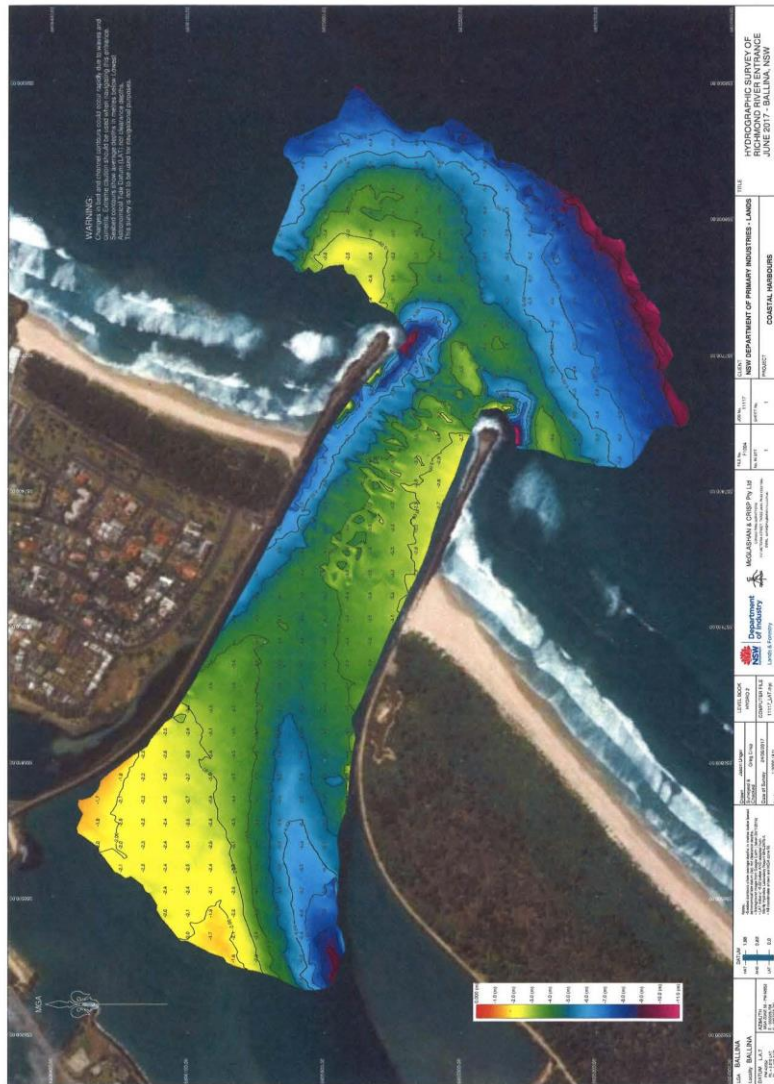
BL.

Dr Brendan Logan | Manager – Coastal Management Unit
NSW Department of Industry – Lands & Forestry
Project Manager for the NSW and Qld Governments – Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project

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