



Coast Action Plan

November 2021



northern
beaches
council

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Executive summary

Northern Beaches Council set clear aspirations and commitments in relation to the coast in *Protect, Create, Live – Northern Beaches Environment and Climate Change Strategy 2040* (the Strategy). This action plan has been prepared to identify how Council will embed these strategic directions into Council's operations and support key stakeholders, partners and the community as a whole in taking action.

This plan provides a list of actions to be implemented by Council over the next four years to address issues relating to the coast. The plan will be revised at least every four years to retain its relevance and alignment with Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.



Why a Coast Action Plan?

This action plan responds to community outcomes for Environmental Protection and Environmental Sustainability in *Shape 2028: Northern Beaches Community Strategic Plan, Towards 2040: Northern Beaches Local Strategic Planning Statement* and a series of clear and ambitious aspirations and commitments in the Strategy. To help improve the condition of our coast, we need to accelerate action. This can be achieved with our community through a series of aspirations and commitments that will ensure our coastal environment, amenity and processes are protected into the future:

- Protect and enhance our unique coast and its processes
- Support a healthy coastal environment
- Provide excellent amenity and recreational opportunities.



Committed to change



Our Aspirations

Ensuring our coastal environment, amenity and processes are protected into the future

Our Commitments



Our beaches having the highest quality rating



Maintaining our beaches, headlands and rockpools to a high level of community satisfaction



Maximising retention of natural coastal habitat and improve the quality of coastal vegetation



Reducing the impact of urban runoff on the coast



Actively working to keep single use plastics and other litter off our coast.

Our actions so far

Council is committed to improving the condition of all our coast. Below are some examples of what we have already done:

- Strategic planning of our coastline improved with the completion of:
 - Coastal Zone Management Plans for Collaroy, Narrabeen and Fishermans Beaches, Bilgola Beach and Basin Beach at Mona Vale
 - A number of Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Sub Plans which assist Council to manage the coastline in times of emergency
 - Coastal Management Programs - Stage 1 Scoping Studies, as part of the revised State Government coastal management framework, for Hawkesbury-Nepean River System, Greater Sydney Harbour and a draft study for our Significant Open Coastal Hazard Locations
 - A Management Strategy and Dune Condition and Vegetation Assessment to guide our future dune protection and improvement works
 - Estuary Planning Level studies completed for all areas impacted by estuarine inundation to inform planning and development for coastal hazards
 - Coastal Erosion Policy, adopted by Council in 2016.
- Constructed over 200m of seawall to protect public assets at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach. We are currently working with local residents to progress private protection works here.
- Protecting and improving coastal habitat through bush regeneration in our dunes and headlands as well as undertaking State Government grant funded protection works on Curl Curl Headland and in the endangered Themeda grasslands at Long Reef.
- Improved recreational access to Fishermans Beach with dune and pathway rehabilitation works.
- Involved in research to improve the way we manage our coast, including investigating seahorse hotels to protect the endangered Whites Seahorse living in and around tidal pools, when periodic maintenance and renewal works are carried out.
- Instigated an early warning detection system at Little Manly Point old gas works site.
- Installed an early warning camera system and signage for coastal storms at Marine Parade, Fairy Bower.
- Coordinate geotechnical hazard risk assessments and warning signage on coastal headland cliff slopes.
- Investigating the use of onshore and offshore sand sources to replenish our beaches vulnerable to coastal erosion.
- Investigating installation of nearshore wave gauge at Marine Parade to compare the measured data with existing wave transformation matrices which underpin the current overtopping forecast.
- Installations of Living Seawalls.

Ensuring our coastal environment, amenity and processes are protected into the future

Council is working towards a vision for our unique coast that is enhanced, valued and enjoyed by our community. We are working to protect the coast and its processes to support a healthy natural environment and provide excellent amenity and recreation.

We will work towards this goal by acting in the following key areas:

1. Maintain clean beaches and coast
2. Reduce litter and single use plastics
3. Protect dune and headland habitats
4. Enhance sustainable recreation and enjoyment
5. Manage risk and compliance
6. Manage coastal hazards
7. Research, collaboration and innovation.





1. Maintain clean beaches and coast

To ensure a clean coast and beaches we will:

- 1.1 Minimise the impact of the urban environment by applying appropriate conditions and controls on coastal development applications.
- 1.2 Implement the actions in our waterways and catchments action plans that relate to improving water quality, to ensure our beaches have the highest water quality rating.
- 1.3 Reduce pollution entering our coastal environment using best practice source controls, treatment measures and better detection systems.



2. Reduce litter and single use plastics

To ensure a clean coast and beaches we will:

- 2.1 Investigate innovative strategies and work with the community to reduce litter and single use plastics at strategic locations to protect the coast and receiving waters.
- 2.2 Continue to improve the design, management and maintenance of stormwater and water quality devices.



3. Protect dune and headland habitats

We will protect dune and headland habitats by:

- 3.1 Maximising retention of our natural coastal habitat through ongoing bush regeneration programs, weed control and protection of endangered species in our dune and headland reserves.
- 3.2 Working closely with key stakeholders and NSW Government agencies to achieve maximum environmental outcomes for our coast.
- 3.3 Educating the community on the importance of native vegetation in our dunes and headlands and the role dunes play in protecting the coast.
- 3.4 Provide input into the LEP and DCP planning framework to help reduce impacts on dunes and headlands.



4. Enhance sustainable recreation and enjoyment

We will continue to provide high quality sustainable recreation and enjoyment by:

- 4.1 Providing clean, sandy beaches and maintaining our beaches, headlands and rock pools to a high standard
- 4.2 Maintaining beach dune stabilisation and access-ways through appropriate planting of native species and protective fencing
- 4.3 Undertaking beach scraping and nourishment to replenish sand on our beaches that are at risk of coastal erosion
- 4.4 Providing and maintaining safe and sustainable walking trails along our coast.





5. Manage risk and compliance

We will manage planning and compliance by:

- 5.1 Revising and finalising Coastal Management Programs for open coastline and estuaries
- 5.2 Revise and update Council's Coastal Erosion Policy
- 5.3 Addressing safety issues such as dangerous trees and debris on beaches
- 5.4 Maintaining safe beach access
- 5.5 Working to prevent unlawful actions on our coast through education, monitoring and enforcement
- 5.6 Work closely with external agencies to monitor and respond to stormwater and sewage overflow into our waterways and onto beaches
- 5.7 Undertaking environmental monitoring and maintenance of contaminated sites.





6. Manage coastal hazards

We will continue to ensure our community and coastal environment are resilient to current and future coastal hazards by:

- 6.1 Supporting a coastline that is resilient to the impacts of current and future coastal hazards
- 6.2 Minimising development impacts on the coast and minimising impacts to development from coastal hazards
- 6.3 Preparing for and responding to coastal storm events
- 6.4 Implementing geotechnical headland risk assessments on headland cliff slopes
- 6.5 Undertaking works to protect and enhance our coastline
- 6.6 Providing input into the LEP and DCP planning framework to manage coastal hazards.





7. Research, collaboration and innovation

We will continue to ensure that Northern Beaches Council is a leader in coastal management through research, collaboration and innovation with government and non-government stakeholders by:

- 7.1 Partnering with research organisations, government agencies and other Councils on projects that deliver research, collaboration and innovation
- 7.2 Integrating the findings and recommendations from research and innovation projects in Council's management of the coast
- 7.3 Working collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement effective and coordinated management of the coastal zone.



Measuring, monitoring, and reporting

Each year, we will continually gather data to ensure we are delivering the actions in this plan and tracking towards the aspirations and commitments in the Protect. Create. Live. Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

The Coast Action Plan will help guide us towards our goals outlined in the Strategy, and the actions will be evaluated and revised annually. They will be amended as needed to ensure the plan remains relevant. Key measurables will be reported each year in Council's Annual Report. We will:

- Continue to assess and report on the condition of our coastal dune habitats and vegetation
- Monitor our coastal headland and cliff slopes annually for geotechnical risk
- Monitor our beaches and coast for litter and pollution from stormwater runoff.





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