



Improving Estuary Health to Facilitate Traditional Harvesting of Wild Resources

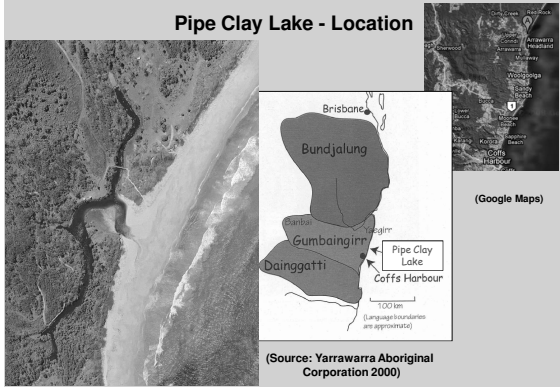
Pipe Clay Lake Estuary Management Plan




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Pipe Clay Lake - Location



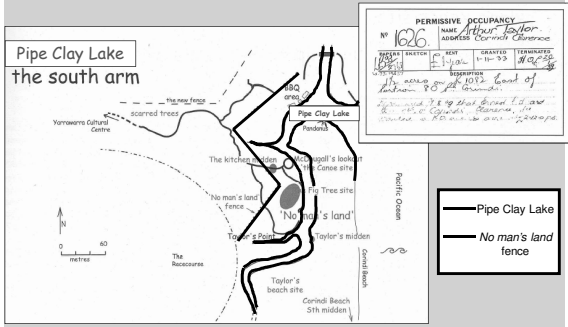
(Source: Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation 2000)



Pipe Clay Lake Catchment





Ongoing link




PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCY
 No 1026
 NAME Arthur Taylor
 ADDRESS Corindi Clarence
 DATE 1/12/93
 EXPIRES 1-10-95
 APPROVED BY [Signature]
 This allows my 100% lot of 80m x 80m to be used as a...
 [Signature]

— Pipe Clay Lake
 — No man's land fence

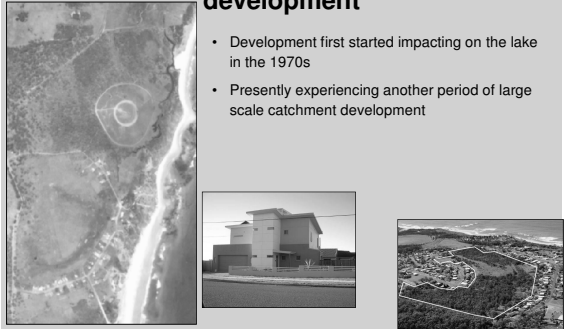


Relevance to NSW Estuary Management Framework

- The Estuary Management Manual requires inclusion of social and cultural factors in the development of EMPs
- In terms of indigenous culture – past focus has often been limited to protection of individual sites
- The health of waterways and the land is central to Aboriginal heritage
- Living cultural link benefits estuary and Aboriginal people
- Opportunity in this project to link improvements in estuary health to tangible benefits for cultural maintenance




Impact of catchment planning and development



- Development first started impacting on the lake in the 1970s
- Presently experiencing another period of large scale catchment development

Source: www.domain.com.au

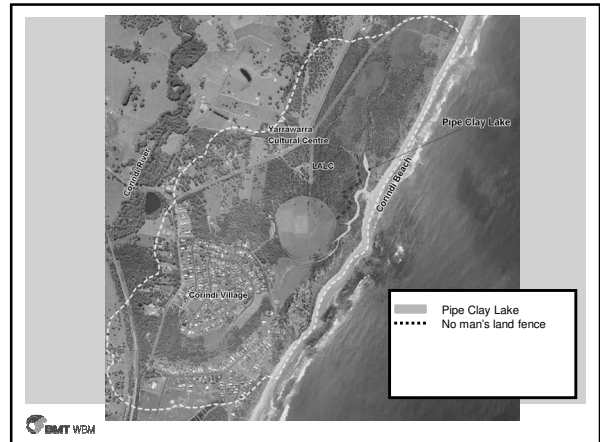


Sources of Pollution

- Concrete stormwater drain near the Corindi Beach Village shops
- Recent and continuing construction of Corindi Shores Estate



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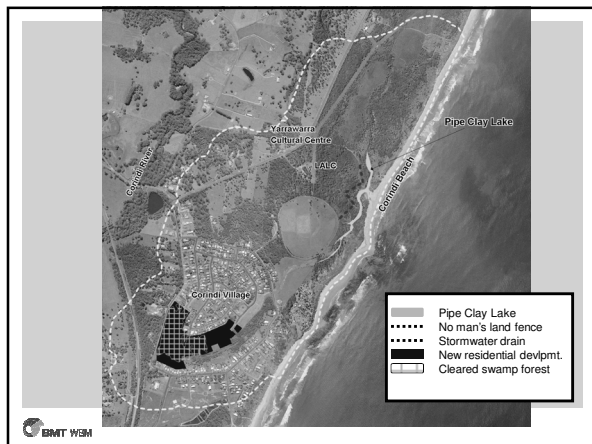
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Consultation with Gumbaynggirr Community

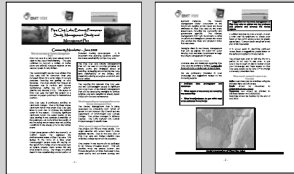
- Informal, site based over a period of one week
- Assistance with field investigations (e.g. water quality sampling)
- Genuine transfer of knowledge
- Cumulative total of a lot of volunteer people hours
- Key issue was environmental health of estuary and desire to continue cultural use



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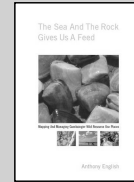
Consultation with the wider community

- Brochure mailed to 500 residents
- Option to meet with study team onsite
- Telephone based interviews
- Many people did not know that Pipe Clay Lake existed!



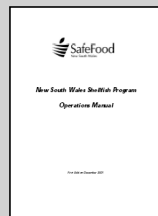
Wild resource utilisation

- Includes fish, crabs, prawns and estuary side vegetation
- Most sensitive resource utilised is shell fish (HRC Canaries)
- NSW Food Authority Shellfish program applies to human health aspects of commercially grown and harvested shellfish
- Non-commercial harvesting is regulated by DPI Fisheries through Saltwater Fishing Manual - focus is on bag limits as opposed to human health



NSW Shellfish Program - overview

- System for classifying Estuaries for conditions under which shellfish can be harvested
- Determined through a Comprehensive Sanitary Survey
- Includes shoreline survey / catchment inspection and a program of bacteriological water monitoring
- Monitoring includes random sampling and event based monitoring over a three year period
- Classifications reviewed annually based on ongoing monitoring



Literature Review

- Three NSW Estuary Management Plans:
 - Wallaga Lake (Bega Valley and Eurobodalla Shire Councils, 2000)
 - Shoalhaven River (Umwelt 2006)
 - Clarence River (Umwelt, 2003)
- Published literature in intercultural research on Pipe Clay Lake
- Healthy Country Healthy People Initiative in NT



Recommendations – 3 Targets

1. **Having clear guidelines of when the system is likely to be clean enough for harvesting**
 - Adaptation of the Shellfish program to Pipe Clay Lake
 - Include utilisation of local Aboriginal community in monitoring and capacity building
 - Key factor for success will be co-ordination
2. **Improving the water quality of stormwater and catchment inputs to reduce the proportion of time that harvesting is not safe**
 - Focus for this target will be placed on catchment activities
 - For example, gutter stencilling, signage and bins for dog owners, information packs and articles in the community newsletter
 - Planning and development controls



Recommendations Cont....

3. **Improving environmental conditions to increase the abundance and health of wild resource populations**
 - Improved stormwater treatment (stormwater harvesting, bioretention, reuse on racecourse?)
 - Planning and development controls (particularly related to water sensitive urban design)



Further actions to improve estuary health

- A guided cultural tour of Pipe Clay Lake for CHCC Planners
- Protecting living culture to benefit estuary health
- Direct and guided consideration of impacts to the estuary for DA process

