

Pelican Bay Catchment Program

- NSW Mid North Coast
- Lower Manning River Estuary
- Mitchells Island

AIM: Improving water quality for oyster production

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Thank you

- Nick Bullock
- Ian Crisp, Gus and Chris Ruprecht
- MidCoast Council
- Anthony Zammit and Phil Baker
- Wayne O'Connor
- Landholders
- Crown Lands



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Where did it start?

- Oyster Transformation Project
- Sensor installed 2017
- March 2018:
 - Meeting re location
 - Direct Harvest?
 - Poor QAP results



“No rhyme or reason”

Where is the pollution coming from?



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Developing a subcatchment program

- Desktop review by Nick Bullock
- Landholder interviews by Nick Bullock and LLS
 - Values
 - Issues
 - History
 - Willingness
- Follow-up issues
 - Meeting
 - Projects



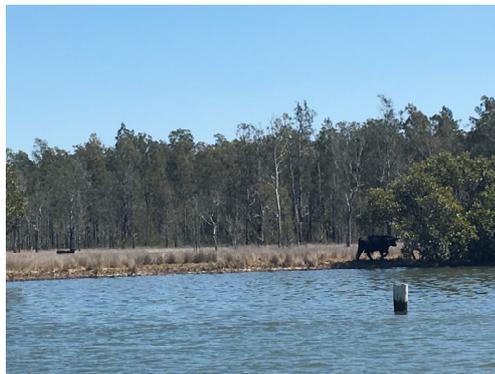
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Issues identified

- Willing landholders
- Stock access to bay and estuarine habitats
- On-site sewage management
- Barriers to tidal exchange
- Private land in the tidal zone
- Oyster farming practices

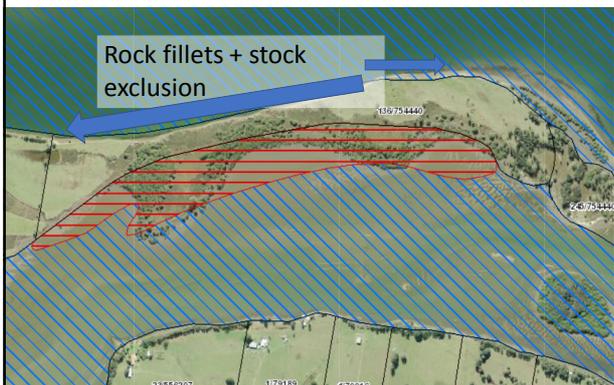
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Stock access – public vs private



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Crown land with grazing permit - now revoked



Grazing permit revoked but not fenced



Opportunity 1

- Review of public land that stock can access
 - Crown land, RMS etc
- Start with priority oyster areas
- Develop process to prevent grazing of mangroves, saltmarsh etc

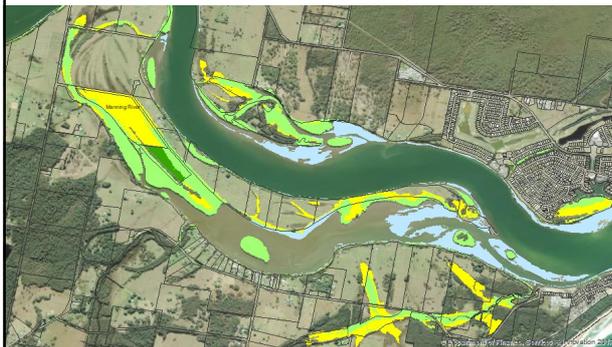
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Private land



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Mangroves and saltmarsh on private land



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Willing landholders



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On-site sewage management

- Lack of a regular inspection program
- Pump to sewer setup slipped between cracks
- Council inspected pump to sewer systems
- Pump to sewer systems OK but still no regular inspections or water sampling in this area

Opportunity 2: Talk to all Councils to make sure regular inspections happening

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Barriers to tidal exchange



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Old floodgate infrastructure



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Dying wetlands



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Undersized and blocked culvert



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Opportunity 3 (Underway)

- Develop program with Council and landholders to upgrade culverts, remove floodgates etc
- Fund projects (Marine Estate) with landholders to prevent stock access
- Acquire private land for conservation

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Benefits of Pelican Bay model

- Non-confronting approach with landholders
- No initial timeframe – idea first \$ later
- Places spotlight on issues
- Subcatchment draws on community links
- Collaboration between stakeholders
- Focus on fixing not blaming

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