



MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## Working together to manage our marine estate

[www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au)

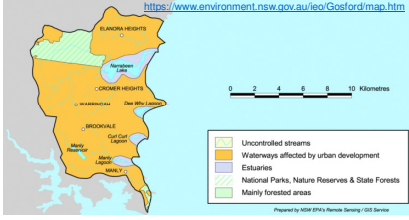
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PLACE BASED SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

NSW marine estate management strategy - Management Sub-action 1.2.5

Updating the NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives (WQ & RFOs)  
Stage1: Establishing foundational mapping layers

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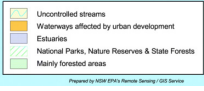
## NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives (WQ & RFOs)




<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/leo/Gosford/map.htm>

Used in various legislation and policies

- water policies, e.g. Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) and Water Sharing Plans (WSPs)
- Decision making in EPA regulatory activities – POEO Act 1997



Gosford and Northern Beaches Lagoons Catchments




<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/leo/Gosford/caag.htm>

## Updating NSW WQ & RFOs

### Key deliverables for Stage 1 (June 2020):

- Foundational mapping layers for coastal NSW, specifically:
  - Basemap
  - High Ecological Value (HEV) waterways and water dependent ecosystem mapping – please refer to presentation (G. Dawson et al.) at Coastal & Estuarine Science (6C) session for details.
- Updated community environmental values and uses for waterways in pilot areas and coastal NSW
- Updated water quality indicators and "site specific guideline values" for selected sites in pilots
- Updated current NSW WQ & RFO website



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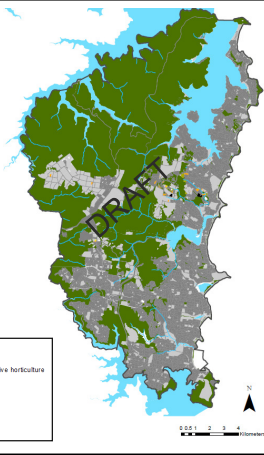
## 1. Foundational mapping

### Basemap







- Generated based on reclassification of recent land use maps, considering land use intensity and land use types.
- Presents land use surrounding a particular waterway / level of disturbance in catchments.
- Supports to assign three management goals of each waterway – to 'protect', 'improve' or 'maintain'.

### Land use classes

Conservation and natural environments	Cropping and dryland horticulture
Plantation forestry	Irrigated cropping and irrigated horticulture
Grazing native vegetation	Intensive animal husbandry
Grazing modified pastures	Rural residential and others
Land in transition	Urban
	Mining

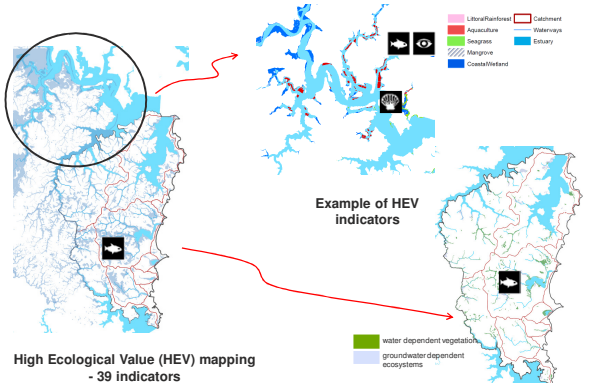


## 2. Community Environmental Values and Uses

	Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems (includes riparian corridors for rivers and streams)		Visual amenity
	Primary contact recreation		Drinking water
	Secondary contact recreation		Aquaculture & Aquatic Foods

- what the community believe to be important for a healthy aquatic ecosystem, for public benefit, welfare, safety or health.
- represented through basemap across coastal NSW.

### Method – utilizing spatial dataset to update community environmental values and uses

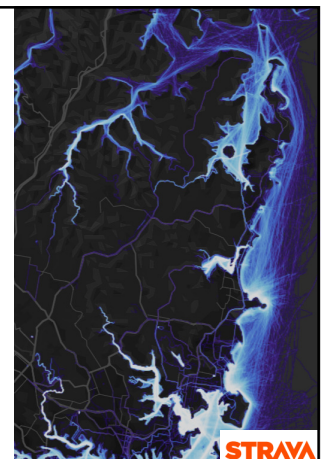


### Method – utilizing social media dataset to update community environmental values and uses

Waterways affected by urban development  
(Narrabeen Lagoon and catchment)




<https://www.strava.com/heatmap#11.64/151.23998/33.64650/blue/water>

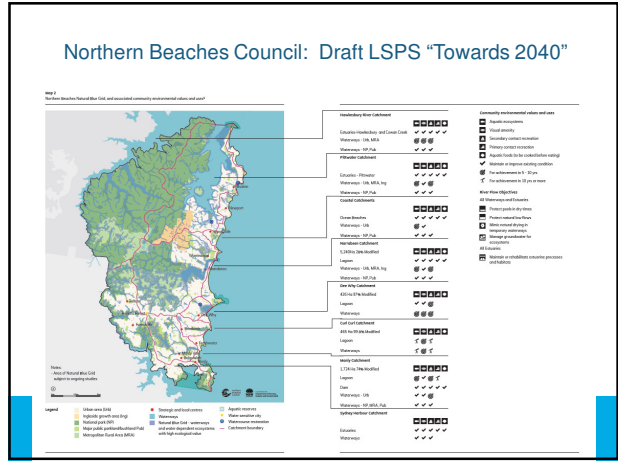


### 3. Water quality indicators and site specific guideline values for reference sites

- Being updated for selected sites in pilot areas, using data obtained from water quality monitoring programs

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/info/Gosford/report-03.htm>

Environmental value	Indicators	Numeric Criteria (e.g. 'trigger values' on current policy for Northern Beaches Lagoons)
	Total phosphorus (TP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland rivers: 20 µg/L</li> <li>• Lowland rivers: 25 µg/L for rivers flowing to the coast</li> <li>• Lakes &amp; reservoirs: 10 µg/L</li> <li>• Estuaries: 30 µg/L</li> </ul>
	Total nitrogen (TN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland rivers: 250 µg/L</li> <li>• Lowland rivers: 350 µg/L for rivers flowing to the coast</li> <li>• Lakes &amp; reservoirs: 350 µg/L</li> <li>• Estuaries: 300µg/L</li> </ul>
	Electrical Conductivity (Salinity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland rivers: 30-350 µS/cm</li> <li>• Lowland rivers: 125-2200 µS/cm</li> </ul>
	Turbidity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland rivers: 2-25 NTU</li> <li>• Lowland rivers: 6-50 NTU</li> </ul>
	PH	.....
	Dissolved Oxygen	.....



### Questions? Comments?

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