



Managing Coastal Waterways after the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires in South East NSW

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1

Where are we?



Wollongong
Kiama
Nowra/Bonnderry
Suewatinlet
Napoma
Bega
Eden

SHOALHAVEN
EUROBODALLA
BEGA VALLEY

New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland

LGAs location in relation to NSW



2

Drought

The map displays the coastline of New South Wales, Australia, with three local government areas highlighted: Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, and Bega Valley. Major cities like Wollongong, Kiama, Nowra-Bomaderry, and Eden are marked. The inset photograph shows a landscape where a lake bed is almost entirely dry, with only small, shallow pools of water remaining. The surrounding vegetation is sparse and dry.

72 estuaries within these three Council areas – around 60% of estuaries in NSW are ICOLLS

Example ICOLL – Lake Curralo Nov 2019 A. Beardsmore (DPE)

3

Fires

The map shows the same region as the 'Drought' slide, but with a color-coded overlay representing fire intensity. Darker brown and red areas indicate higher intensity fires, particularly in the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley regions. The inset photograph shows a hillside where many trees have been charred and stand as black skeletons against a backdrop of green regrowth. A dirt road winds through the landscape.

Fire Intensity map – darkest areas represent the highest fire intensity

Example fire impacts on hillslope – Nullica Catchment – R. Duczynski – Bega Council

4

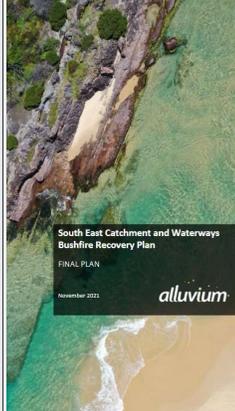
Where to start?



Emergency Soil and Erosion Control Works



Recovery Planning



Monitoring - Water Quality & Estuary Health



Riparian Restoration Works



Technical support and Financial Assistance was provided by the NSW Government – Coastal Management Program - Bushfire Affected Coastal Waterways Grants ⁵

5

Overview

Where are we?

Drought Fire and Flooding Rains

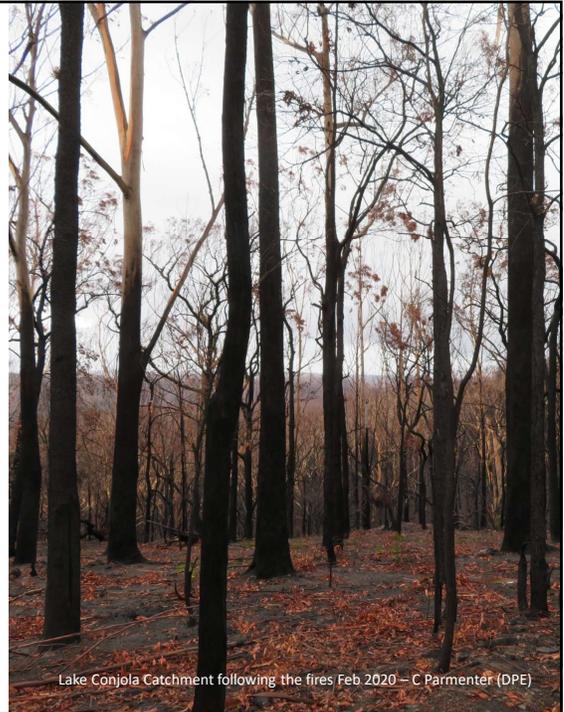
Where to start?

Shoalhaven

Eurobodalla

Bega Valley

Lessons from the field

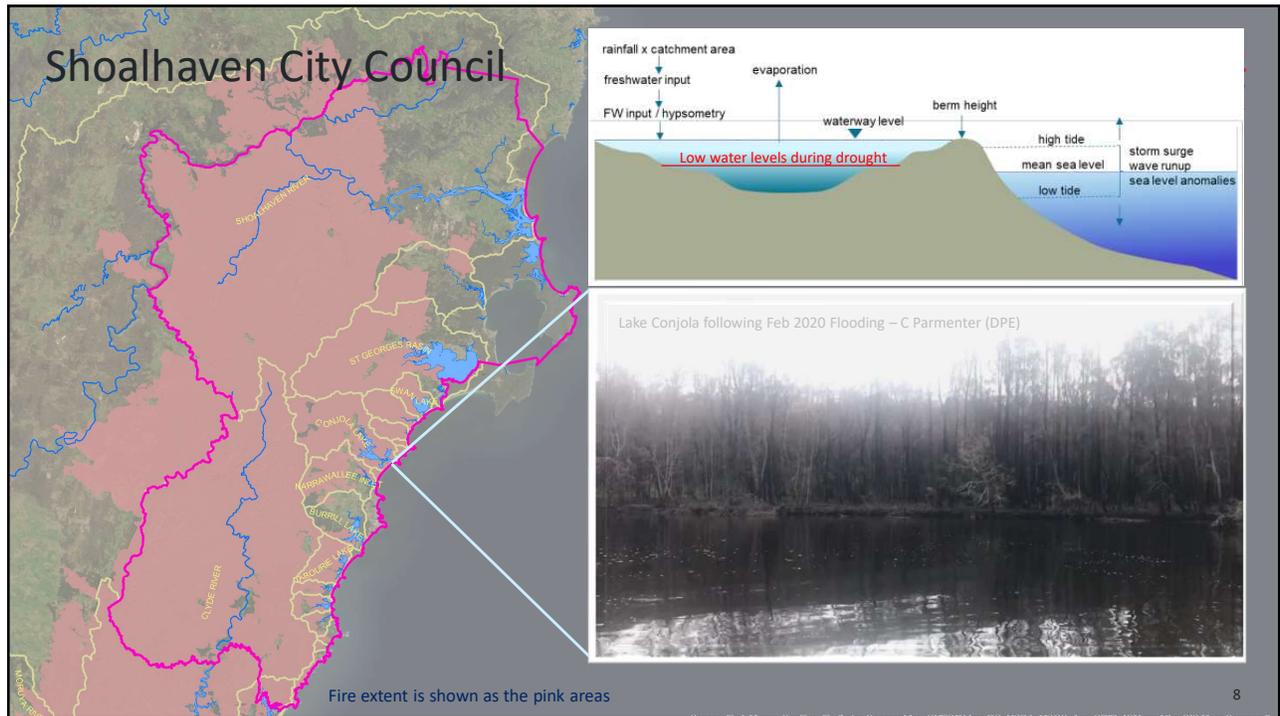


Lake Conjola Catchment following the fires Feb 2020 – C Parmenter (DPE)

6



7



8

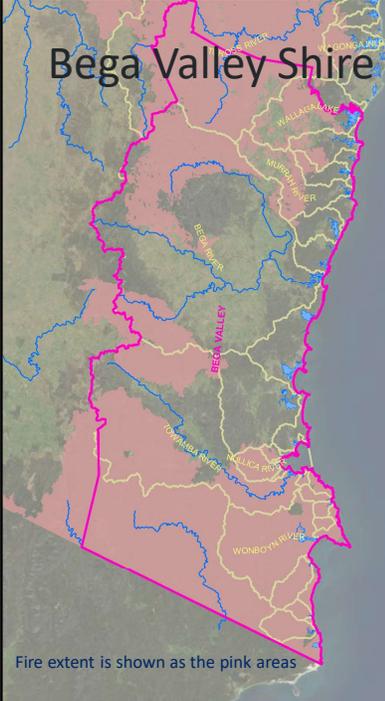


9



10

Bega Valley Shire



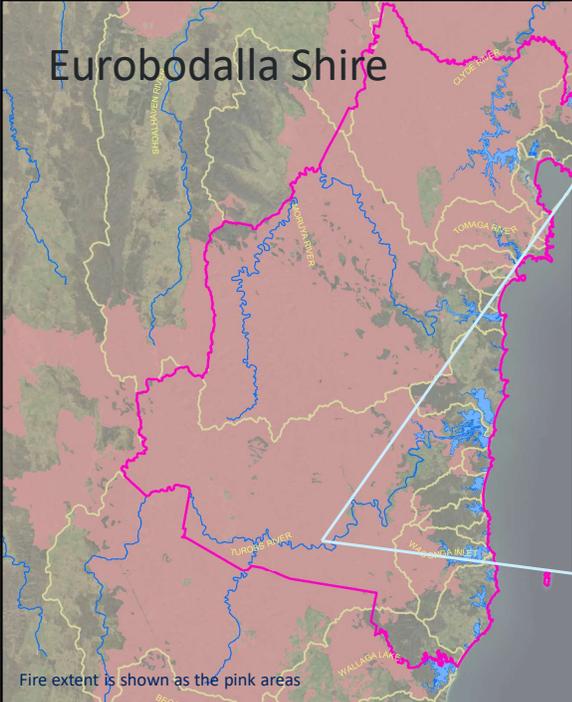
Fire extent is shown as the pink areas



11

11

Eurobodalla Shire



Fire extent is shown as the pink areas



12

12

Lessons from the field



- Ensure funding is quickly made available – don't limit to lower catchments and the coastal zone
- Work together with neighbouring Councils, agencies, landholders and community
- Get in the field early to assess impacts using rapid assessment techniques
- Focus initial efforts on key assets, already degraded areas and steeper upper catchments
- Remember areas with good riparian vegetation will mostly come back on their own
- Install soil and erosion controls ASAP prior to the first rain
- Focus weed control efforts on key known problem weeds and treat them as they re-emerge
- Get organised early if you want to capture the initial water quality impacts
- ICOLLs will open again with rainfall and high water levels
- Set up drone / flora monitoring early to capture landscape changes
- Remember it's a marathon not a sprint – it can take years for recovery

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13

Waterway Resilience



Build future resilience of waterways to all hazards by restoring riparian areas currently in poor condition

Example good riparian zone – Bega – Bowantz Feb 2022

14

14



Find out more at

<https://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-affected-coastal-waterways>



Technical and financial assistance for these projects is being provided by
the NSW Government under its

Bushfire Affected Coastal Waterways Program

15