



Department of Planning and Environment

Review and update of the NSW Water Quality Objectives

MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018-2028



environment.nsw.gov.au

NSW Coastal Conference – 2 June 2022

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Presentation outline



1. The Water Quality Objectives
2. Why are we reviewing and updating them?
3. How we are updating them – methods
4. Approvals and dissemination of results
5. Final outputs and timeline (draft)

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NSW GOVERNMENT

1. The NSW Water Quality Objectives

Healthy waterways to support community expectations

NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028

NSW GOVERNMENT

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NSW GOVERNMENT

1. The NSW Water Quality Objectives

Healthy waterways to support community expectations

	A	B	B
	Community environmental value and use	Indicator	Numerical criteria
Description	<i>The value or use a community derives from a waterway.</i>	<i>The water quality measure to gauge whether the waterway supports a value or use.</i>	<i>The criteria used to assess whether the value or use is supported.</i>
Water quality objective	A community values a waterway because they can use it for swimming. 	Enterococci (cfu/100ml) is measured to gauge whether a waterway is suitable for swimming.	A range of numerical criteria for enterococci is provided. The range represents risk of illness from contact with the water. For example, < 40 cfu/100ml indicates very good water quality for swimming.

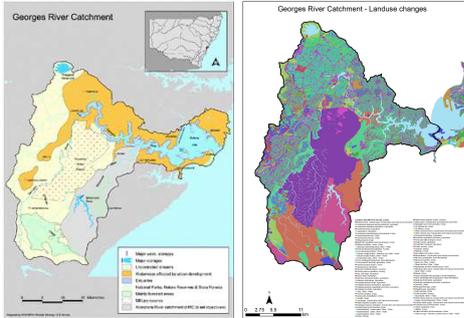
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2. Review Outcomes – why are we updating them?

1) Spatial 'management units' (2000 versus 2017-2020)



- ✓ mapping has become detailed
- ✓ Land use has changed

2) Community environmental values and uses

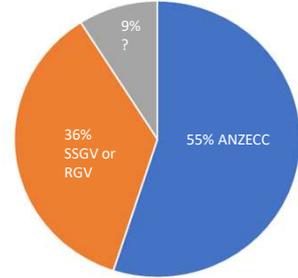


Cultural values

Industrial uses

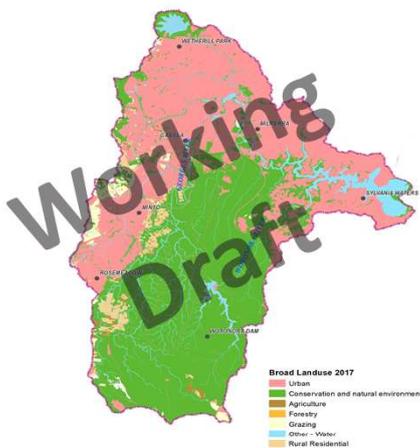


3) Guideline values



3. How we are updating the Objectives - methods

- Updating Spatial Management Units



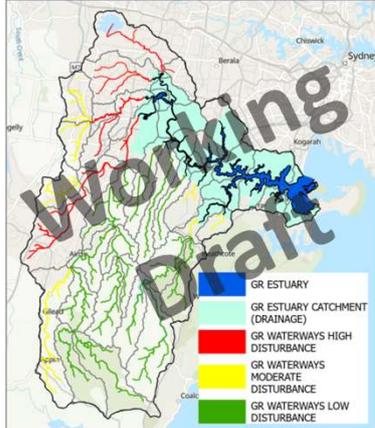




clip and assign to defined environmental values as per NWQMS



Heat maps – investigate data spread and summarize 'hot spots'



combine pins within same management units

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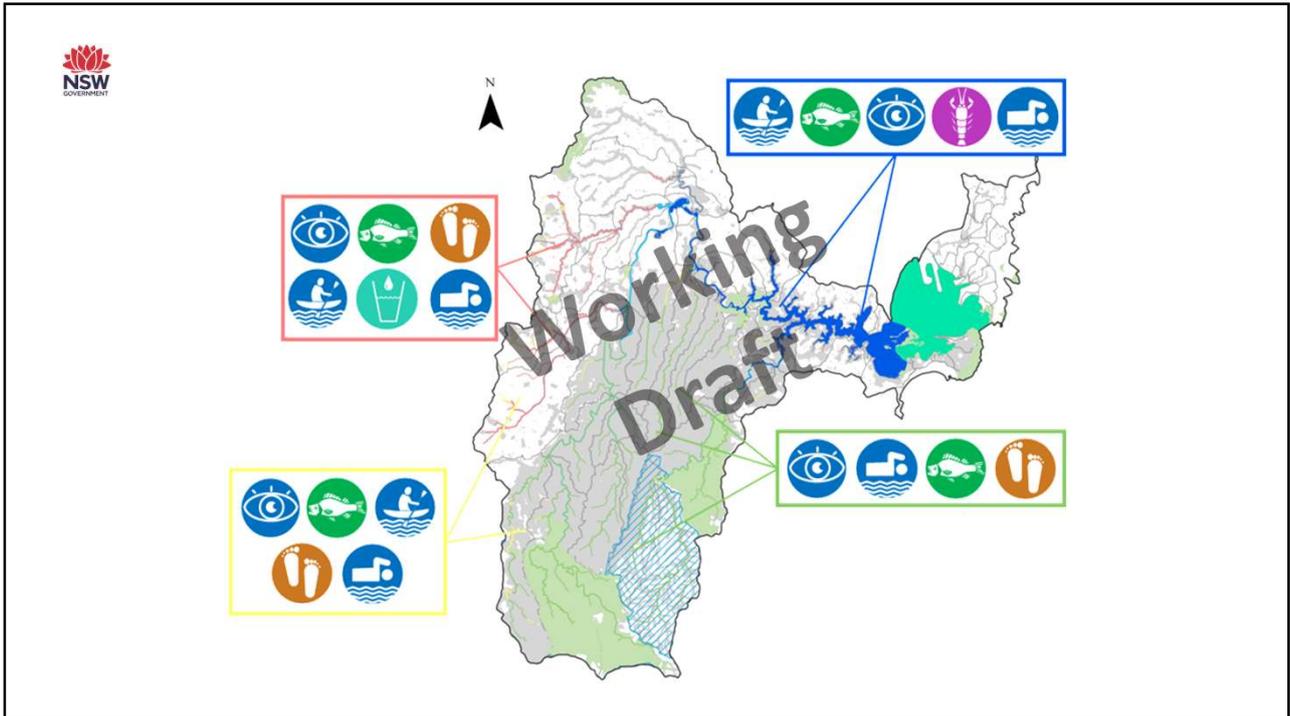


Mgmt. Unit									
Estuary (& drainage catchment)	410	406	121	422	130	69	23	13	9

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Using proportions of pins for each management unit to determine key WQOs
→ 80% cutoff

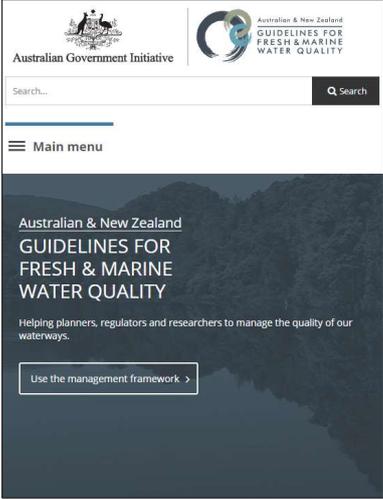
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3. How we are updating the Objectives – Guideline values



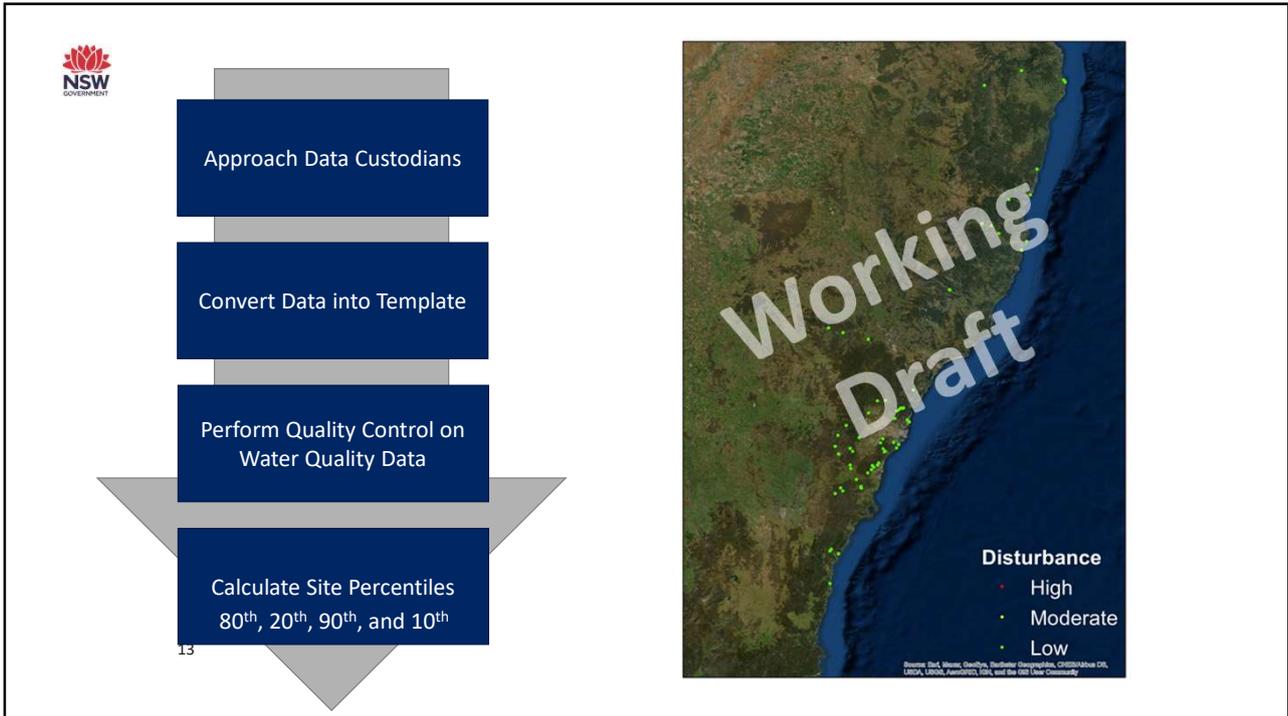
<https://www.waterquality.gov.au/anz-guidelines>

- ✓ Freshwater tributaries (estuaries completed)
- ✓ **Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems** (default to NHMRC for primary and secondary contact recreation)

Referential approach

1. Availability water quality monitoring data available, and data from these sites collected, stored and analysed using approved protocols
2. No significant point source and diffuse source discharges nearby or upstream
3. Minimal disturbance to local environment and upstream
4. Flow or water regime not significantly altered
5. Final selection by authority

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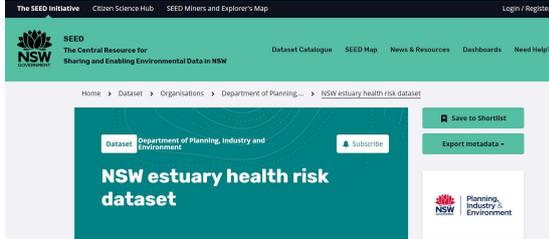
4. Approvals and Dissemination of results

Workshop	Local Government Area/s	Proposed date
South Coast		
1	Bega Valley Shire	19 July
2	Eurobodalla	20 July
3	Shoalhaven	22 July
Sydney Metro Region – part 1		
4	Sydney drinking water	26 July
5	Hawkesbury – Nepean	28 July
6	Illawarra Councils (?)	29 July
Hunter & Central Coast		
7	Lake Mac & Central Coast	1 Aug
8	Hunter River	3 Aug
9	Port Stephens & MidCoast	4 Aug
Sydney Metro Region – part 2		
10	Cooks, Georges, Botany	9 Aug
11	Greater Sydney Harbour	11 Aug
Mid-north & North Coast		
12	Port Mac to Coffs Harbour	15 Aug
13	Clarence to Richmond	17 Aug
14	Tweed and Byron	19 Aug

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4. Final outputs



- ✓ State-wide Community use and value pins (raw)
- ✓ State-wide Freshwater tributaries Water Quality (WQ) data (raw)
- ✓ Updated Water Quality Objectives (for each coastal catchment)
- ✓ Site-specific / Regional WQ guideline values

Coastal management program progress

Coastal management programs set a long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast, with a focus on achieving the objectives of the Coastal Management Act 2016.

We provide oversight for local councils and other authorities responsible for managing the coastal zone through coastal management programs (CMPs). Local councils prepare a CMP to develop a strategic and integrated course of action for management of the coastal zone in their area.

CMPs identify:

- coastal management issues
- actions required to address these issues in a strategic and integrated way
- how and when those actions are to be implemented
- costs and proposed cost-sharing arrangements
- other viable funding mechanisms.



Contact us

Department of Planning and Environment

1300 361 967 [Email](#)

Coastal and estuary grants

The Coastal and Estuary Grants Program underpins the implementation of the coastal management framework and supports local councils and communities to:

- prepare CMPs
- implement actions to better manage the coastal and estuarine environment.

The program requires contributions at a 1:1 or 2:1, NSW Government to local council ratio, depending on the project. For more information see our [Coastal and estuary grants webpage](#).

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4. Timeline for delivery

APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community values and uses data collection ✓ Spatial Management Units ✓ Water Quality Database ✓ Site Specific Guideline Values
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regional Guideline Values ✓ Mapped Community Values and Uses
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local Gov't workshops ✓ State Gov't workshops
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local Gov't workshops ✓ State Gov't workshops
AUGUST to NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Final workshops ✓ Public Exhibition

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Where to find out more, or collaborate with us!

Tom Doyle

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- Review of NSW Water Quality Objectives
<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/strategy-implementation/water-quality-and-litter/review-of-the-nsw-water-quality-objectives>

Jocelyn Dela-Cruz

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- Risk-based framework for urban waterway health:
<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/strategy-implementation/water-quality-and-litter/risk-based-framework-for-urban-waterway-health>
- Building capacity on the Risk-based framework:
<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/strategy-implementation/water-quality-and-litter/building-capacity-on-the-risk-based-framework>



REMEMBER: Endorsement workshops – July to Aug 2022