

Conference Program

(subject to change)

Tuesday 4 November 2025

9.00am – 5.00pm **Pre-Conference Workshop: Coincident catchment and coastal flooding – working together in a changing climate** (additional cost), Anzac Room, *Ballina RSL Club*

5.30pm **Welcome to Ballina Drink**, *Shaws Bay Hotel*

Wednesday 5 November 2025

8.00am **Conference Registration**, *Ground Floor, Ballina RSL Club*

8.45am – 10.45am **Session 1 – Plenary**
Chair:
Location: Auditorium

8.50am **Welcome to Country**

9.00am – 9.10am **Welcome from Ballina Shire Council**

9.10am **Minister Address (TBC)**

Address by Major Sponsor

9.15am – 9.20am NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Keynote Address

9.20am – 10.00am **Dr Chels Marshall**, *University of Wollongong - Associate IKS Lab NIKIRI Institute Deakin University*

Address by Silver Sponsor

10.00am – 10.05am Southern Cross University

Keynote Address

10.05am – 10.45am 26 years on the Richmond River Floodplain – the grief, hope and urgency of now

Chrisy Clay, *Rous County Council*

10.45am – 11.15am Morning Tea

Session 2 11.15am – 12.55pm	2A: Policy, planning, legal insights and changes	2B: Contemporary approaches for assessing and adapting to coastal hazards and climate change risks	2C: Mangrove Dieback
Location:	Auditorium	Anzac Room 2	Anchorage/Spinnakers
Chair:		Beth Alexander	Aaron Wright
11.15am – 11.35am	Coastal Hazard Planning Alex Macvean <i>DPHI – Planning</i>	Navigating the establishment of an offshore sand borrow area for beach nourishment in NSW Evan Watterson <i>Bluecoast Consulting Engineers</i>	Documenting mangrove dieback in NSW with a new reporting tool Patrick Dwyer <i>NSW DPIRD Fisheries</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
11.40am – 12.00pm	From Forecast to Frontline: Strengthening Coastal Emergency Responses through CZEAS Marc Daley <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Severe coastal erosion in southeast Australia, driven by tropical cyclone Alfred Rachael Woods <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Monitoring mangrove dieback in response to catchment flooding at Minnamurra River Estuary Kristian Kumbier <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
12.05pm – 12.25pm	Five decades of coastal management in Tweed: will it futureproof the coast? Jane Lofthouse <i>Tweed Shire Council</i>	Navigating the chasms and pitfalls of lidar data to derive erosion rates John Spencer <i>Griffith University</i>	Assessing flood impacts on mangroves in NSW Estuaries Greg West <i>NSW DPIRD Fisheries</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover

12.30pm – 12.50pm	Understanding disaster risk across the Northern Rivers by leveraging coastal management programs Catherine Knight <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i>	Surf Life Saving Clubs - Balancing Coastal Vulnerability and Vital Function Greg Britton <i>Haskoning</i>	Catastrophic Flooding: Council-led response to mangrove loss in the Hawkesbury River James Campbell <i>Hornsby Shire Council</i>
12.50pm – 12.53pm	(Poster) Linking Ridge-to-reef and environmental-economic accounting approaches for NSW coastal strategy and planning Fitalew Taye	(Poster) Eroded with no remediation plans? What next... Jayden Kachel	(Poster) Post-flood monitoring on macrobenthic communities in the North Coast NSW estuaries Muhammad Islami
12.55pm – 1.40pm Lunch			
Session 3 1.40pm – 3.20pm	3A: Contemporary approaches for assessing and adapting to coastal hazards and climate change risks	3B: Healthy and productive estuaries and floodplains	3C: Shifting sands – estuary entrance management
		Sponsored by: 	
Location:	Auditorium	Anzac Room 2	Anchorage/Spinnakers
Chair:	Anneke Van den Brink	SCU	Marcello Sano
1.40pm – 2.00pm	Planning for change – community engagement on tidal inundation Jordan Vickers <i>Tweed Shire Council</i>	Managing catchment and climate change risks in a restored coastal wetland Pam Dean-Jones <i>Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia</i>	Preparing for a flood emergency on Crown land: pre-emptive ICOLL entrance management Danny Bucher <i>NSW DPHI - Crown Lands</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
2.05pm – 2.25pm	Incorporating Tidal Inundation Frequency Mapping into Risk Assessment Michael Rosenthal <i>Rhelm</i>	Hexham Swamp Climate Change Risk and Opportunity Assessment Peggy Svoboda, NSW Local Land Services & Toby Tucker, UNSW WRL	NSW ICOLL management audit - preliminary results Julie Scopelitis <i>DPIRD Fisheries</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
2.30pm – 2.50pm	Coastal overtopping and inundation, the risk “squeeze” and planning an emergency response Dan Messiter <i>Haskoning</i>	From disaster to recovery – The NSW Estuary Asset Protection Program Kylie Russell <i>DPIRD- Fisheries</i>	Are changes to the entrance of Wallis Lake accelerating? David Wainwright <i>Salients</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
2.55pm – 3.15pm	High Tides, Low Chill - What's up on the north coast? Stuart Young <i>NSW DCCEW</i>	Nature-based Solutions: building flood resilience in the Lismore Catchment Louissa Rogers, Richmond Landcare & James Sippo, Southern Cross University	“Dredge the entrance now!” Evidence-based responses to community concerns within Coastal Management Programs Joel Bienefelt <i>Bluecoast Consulting Engineers</i>
3.15pm – 3.18pm	(Poster) Case studies of catchment causes of coastal erosion in NSW and Queensland Roger Johnson	(Poster) Nutrient enrichment and cyclone disturbance enhance greenhouse gas emissions from seagrass beds Mona Andskog	(Poster) Novel insights for intermittently closed or open estuaries in NSW Toby Tucker
3.20pm – 3.45pm Afternoon Tea			

Session 4 3.45pm – 5.00pm	4A: Contemporary approaches for assessing and adapting to coastal hazards and climate change risks	4B: First Nations peoples' perspectives and coastal community partnerships	4C: 10 Minute Presentations
Location:	Auditorium	Anzac Room 2	Anchorage/Spinnakers
Chair:	David Kirby	Emma Maltby	Beth Millsteed
3.45pm – 4.05pm	How much do seawalls cost? James Carley <i>Water Research Laboratory, UNSW Sydney</i>	Healthy Country, Healthy People Greg Telford <i>Rous Country Council</i>	<p>3.45pm - 3.55pm ICOLL entrance management procedures and experiences in the City of Coffs Harbour Paul Bennet <i>City of Coffs Harbour</i></p> <p>3.55pm – 4.05pm Belmont Desalination Plant Marine Monitoring Program - Lower Hunter Water Security Plan Katie Newton <i>Worley</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
4.10pm – 4.30pm	A new seawall for Coffs Creek, what we got right...and wrong Sally Whitelaw <i>City of Coffs Harbour</i>	Enabling indigenous peoples to work on Coastal Country Neil Dufty <i>Water Technology</i>	<p>4.10pm – 4.20pm Case study in contemporary redesign and management of coastal agricultural drainage systems Lauren Edwards <i>Rous County Council</i></p> <p>4.20pm – 4.30pm Marine bioindicators for assessing pesticide pollution hotspots in New South Wales estuaries Stefano Caraco <i>Southern Cross University</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
4.35pm – 4.55pm	Is Beach Nourishment the Silver Bullet Coastal Management Option for NSW? Peter Horton <i>Horton Coastal Engineering</i>	Collaborative Conservation: Balancing Biodiversity, Heritage and Recreation in the Worimi Conservation Lands Chloe Killen <i>University of Newcastle</i>	<p>4.35pm – 4.45pm Ballina Coastcare: volunteers working on the dunes for 35 years Hedy Bryant <i>Ballina Coastcare</i></p> <p>4.45pm – 4.55pm Saltwater, Cement, and Civic Value: Ocean Pools as Small- Scale, High-Return Community Assets Nicole Larkin <i>Nicole Larkin Architecture and Design</i></p>
4.55pm – 4.58pm	(Poster) The importance of the foredune in the initiation of mass sand drift Nick Lewis	(Poster) Connecting the Catchment: Strengthening Collaboration for Catchment Management in the Richmond River Emma Aspey	(Poster) Soft Edges, Strong Lines: Nature-Based Architecture for Coastal Adaptation Nicole Larkin
5.00pm	Close of Day One		
6.45pm – 9.45pm	Welcome Reception, Lennox Head Hotel <i>Sponsored by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands</i> Coaches will depart from Ballina at 6.30pm (locations tba)		

Thursday 6 November 2025

8.30am

Conference Registration, Ballina RSL Club

Session 5 9.00am – 10.40am	5A: New science and innovative Ideas	5B: Policy, planning, legal insights and changes	5C: First Nations peoples' perspectives and coastal community partnerships
Location:	Auditorium	Anzac Room 2	Anchorage/Spinnakers
Chair:	Fletcher Mingramm	Paul Donaldson	
9.00am – 9.20am	Assessment of the VedgeSat Toolbox for Mapping Coastal Dune Vegetation in NSW Kristen Splinter <i>Water Research Laboratory, UNSW Sydney</i>	Presentation TBC	Weaving an Aboriginal led approach to cultural values management into coastal strategy Martine Fraser, Wollongong City Council & Luke Lister, Kiama Municipal Council
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.25am – 9.45am	Light pollution: an emerging threat to coastal marine ecosystems Amelia Caley <i>UNSW</i>	Lessons Learned in the CMP Process: Design and Execution Christopher Beadle <i>Water Technology</i>	Integrating Birpai Sea Country Values into Coastal Management Planning Ben Foster <i>Port Macquarie Hastings Council</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.50am – 10.10am	Mangrove-Integrated Coastal Infrastructure: Conceptual Framework and Pilot Deployment at Manly Lagoon Danica Tothova <i>Water Research Laboratory, UNSW Sydney</i>	From Audit to Action: Insights for Coastal Management and Shaping our Response Michelle Fletcher <i>NSW DCCCEW</i>	Shaping our Shores: Navigating Native Title and Land Claims Megan Hawley <i>Lindsay Taylor Lawyers</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
10.15am – 10.35am	Marine Estate Management Strategy: Innovative ArcGIS web experiences for coastal land managers Hayley Leczkowski <i>DPIRD Fisheries</i>	Streamlining planning approvals for blue carbon and other ecosystem restoration works Maria Plytarias <i>DPHI – Planning</i>	<div>10.15am – 10.25am</div> <div>A New Story for an Old River: Reconnecting People with the Cooks Jason L'ecuyer <i>Cooks River Alliance</i></div> <div>10.25am – 10.35am</div> <div>Returning to rainforests in Lismore's urban rivers Hannah Rice-Hayes <i>Lismore City Council</i></div>
10.35am – 10.38am	(Poster) Aquaculture in the Marine Estate Emma Wilkie	(Poster) Contexts for coastal management decision-making – time for an ethical code? Helen Monks	(Poster) Accounting for blue carbon ecosystems in the Clarence River estuary: pilot estimates Fitalew Taye

10.40am – 11.10am		Morning Tea	
Session 6 11.10am - 12.50pm	6A: Healthy and productive estuaries and floodplains	6B: Councils and communities – the value of local knowledge and connections	6C: Contemporary approaches for assessing and adapting to coastal hazards and climate change risks
Location:	Auditorium	Anzac Room 2	Anchorage/Spinnakers
Chair:	Danny Bucher		
11.10am – 11.30am	Blackwater events in the Richmond River estuary 2001 – 2025 Chrisy Clay <i>Rous County Council</i>	Socio-cultural values derived from Wagonga Inlet and the Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline Jim DelBene <i>Australian National University</i>	Mapping environmental projects as a tool for collaborative governance Martin Bryant <i>UTS</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
11.35am – 11.55am	Confronting the wicked problems of NSW backswamps - Richmond River case study Angus Ferguson <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Engaging on Coastal Management Programs – lessons learned MidCoast Council Estuaries Prue Tucker <i>MidCoast Council</i>	Including Ecosystem-Based Defenses within Government Budgets Daniel Rodger <i>JB Pacific</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
12.00pm – 12.20pm	Co-Designing a Collaborative Governance Framework for the Richmond River Dan Ware <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Comprehensive Coastal Hazards Assessment for Wollongong: Foundations for a Resilient Future Amanda Schipp <i>Wollongong City Council</i>	Case studies in Breakwater Repair Design for Climate Change in NSW Indra Jayewardene <i>Manly Hydraulics Laboratory</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
12.25pm – 12.45pm	Linking Catchment Processes to CMP Outcomes: A Prioritisation for the Richmond River Andrew Brooks <i>Griffith University</i>	From Soil to Supply Chain: The River Crystal Program’s Journey Joseph Leven <i>Casino Food Company</i>	NSW Tsunami inundation modelling project Donna Reinhard <i>NSW SES</i>
12.45pm – 12.48pm	(Poster) No more reviews – fixing water quality across the Northern River’s floodplains Duncan Leadbitter	(Poster) CoastAdapt as “Useful and used”: Refreshing and rethinking a coastal decision-making platform Anne Leitch	(Poster) Applying CVA mapping to development assessment in the City of Coffs Harbour Paul Bennett
12.50pm – 1.30pm		Lunch	
1.30pm – 5.00pm		Session 7 - Field Trips (includes afternoon tea)	
FT1: Riding the River of Sand - Coastal Processes, Hazards, and Management Challenges for the Northern NSW Coast Sponsored by: Bluecoast Consulting Engineers			
FT2: Ballina Shaws Bay Revitalisation & Lighthouse Beach Dune Care			
FT3: Cultural Walking Tour			
FT4: From Field to Mill – Sugar Cane Farming and Industry on the North Coast			
FT5: Nature Based Solutions to Instream works in Maguires Creek Sponsored by: NSW Government Marine Estate Management Strategy and Local Land Services			
5.00pm		Close of Day Two	
7.00pm	Conference Dinner & Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards, Ballina RSL Club Dress Up Theme: REinvent REuse REpurpose REfashion Sponsored by Haskoning		

Friday 7 November 2025

8.30am

Conference Registration, Ballina RSL Club

Session 8 9.00am – 11.00am	8A Healthy and productive estuaries and floodplains	8B: Contemporary approaches for assessing and adapting to coastal hazards and climate change risks	8C: 10 Minute Presentations
Location:	Auditorium	Anzac Room 2	Anchorage/Spinnakers
Chair:	Rachael Woods	Danial Khojasteh	
9.00am – 9.20am	Achieving a Health Estuary – Moving beyond Planning. The Midcoast Experience Gerard Tuckerman <i>MidCoast Council</i>	The rising tide of floodplain drainage vulnerability in NSW estuaries Kate Waddington <i>UNSW</i>	<p>9.00am – 9.10am Tracking Flood-Driven Declines in Zostera Meadows Across NSW Estuaries Daniel Swadling, DPIRD- Fisheries</p> <p>9.10am – 9.20am The feasibility of Isognomon ephippium as a candidate for oyster reef restoration. Christopher Klaas <i>Southern Cross University</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.25am – 9.45am	Will estuaries become saltier as a result of climate change? Alice Harrison <i>Water Research Laboratory, UNSW Sydney</i>	Where do our seagrass shoots come from? Genetic insights to guide Posidonia australis restoration Natalie Coy <i>UNSW</i>	<p>9.25am – 9.35am Projecting NSW coastal habitat futures indicates major ecosystem changes are coming! Tom Davis <i>DPIRD- Fisheries</i></p> <p>9.35am – 9.45am Marine Estate Management Strategy: Coastal Floodplain Drainage Project Charity Nichols <i>NSW DCCEW</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.50am – 10.10am	Flood recovery and renewed baselines: a monitoring program for estuaries in NSW Maarten De Brauer <i>Southern Cross University</i>	CFD for Modelling Infragravity Waves in Boat Harbours Chris Adamantidis <i>Worley</i>	<p>9.50am – 10.00am Chasing the tail (water) Jacob Lee, <i>Stantec</i></p> <p>10.00am – 10.10am Wollongong probabilistic coastal erosion mapping: Integrating local geology and geotechnical data Jayden Kachel <i>JB Pacific</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
10.15am – 10.35am	From Pipe to Plume: Predicting Pollution Pathways in Urban Estuaries Courtney Smith <i>Water Technology</i>	(Eco) Engineering for Ocean and Mud Waves at Lyttelton Port Patrick Lawless <i>Haskoning</i>	<p>10.15am – 10.25am Implementation Study of Integrated Solution for Sustainable Sediment Backpassing in Esperance Bay Lucas Moorlag</p> <p>10.25am – 10.35am Sediment and nutrient accretion in estuaries vary by hydrogeology and habitat type Nathaniel Hess <i>Southern Cross University</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover

10.40am – 11.00am	NSW Water Quality Monitoring Framework Ellery Johnson <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Presentation Title TBC <i>Ballina Shire Council</i>	10.40am – 10.50am Integrating novel R&D methodologies into NSW offshore marine monitoring programs Megan Priestley, Worley
			10.50am – 11.00am State of the Coast: Coastal Management Programs, Progress, and Practice Jon Williams <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>
11.00am – 11.03am	(Poster) Collaboration for sustainable coastal wetland management Pam Dean-Jones		(Poster) Understanding Sediment Connectivity for Proactive Shoreline Management - Case Study: Forster-Manning Region Ruby Hammond
11.05am – 11.35am Morning Tea			
11.35am – 1.00pm Session 9 – Plenary			
Keynote Address			
11.40am – 12.20pm	Navigating the transition: A systems-based reflection on catchment management Professor Scott Johnston, Southern Cross University		
Keynote Address			
12.20pm – 12.40pm	The Rock Pool Waltz Marlon Denning , local year 12 student		
12.40pm	Conference Closing and Wrap-up – Professor Emeritus Bruce Thom		
1.00pm Lunch			