

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*

6.00pm Welcome to Ballina Drink

Wednesday 5 November 2025

8.00am Conference Registration, *Ballina RSL Club*

8.45am – 10.45am Session 1 – Plenary

Welcome to Country
Welcome from Ballina Shire Council
Minister Address (TBC)
Address by Major Sponsor
Keynote Address
Address by Silver Sponsor
Keynote Address

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
11.15am – 11.35am	Coastal Hazard Planning Alex Macvean <i>DPHI - Crown Lands</i>	Offshore Beach Nourishment for Coastal Resilience in NSW Evan Watterson <i>Bluecoast Consulting Engineers</i>	Monitoring mangrove dieback in response to catchment flooding at Minnamurra River Estuary Kristian Kumbier <i>NSW DCCEEW</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 Tom Doyle <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Documenting mangrove dieback in NSW with a new reporting tool Patrick Dwyer <i>NSW DPIRD Fisheries</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 – 12.55pm	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>

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
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 <i>NSW Local Land Services</i>	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 DCCEEW</i>	Nature-based Solutions: building flood resilience in the Lismore Catchment Louissa Rogers <i>Richmond Landcare Inc</i>	“Dredge the entrance now!” Evidence-based responses to community concerns within Coastal Management Programs Joel Bienefelt <i>Bluecoast Consulting Engineers</i>
3.15pm – 3.20pm	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>
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
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>	3.45pm - 3.55pm ICOLL entrance management procedures and experiences in the City of Coffs Harbour Paul Bennet <i>City of Coffs Harbour</i> 3.55pm – 4.05pm Belmont Desalination Plant Marine Monitoring Program - Lower Hunter Water Security Plan Katie Newton <i>Worley</i>
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>	4.10pm – 4.20pm Case study in contemporary redesign and management of coastal agricultural drainage systems Lauren Edwards <i>Rous County Council</i>

			<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	<p>Is Beach Nourishment the Silver Bullet Coastal Management Option for NSW? Peter Horton Horton Coastal Engineering</p>	<p>Collaborative Conservation: Balancing Biodiversity, Heritage and Recreation in the Worimi Conservation Lands Chloe Killen <i>University of Newcastle</i></p>	<p>4.35pm – 4.45pm Ballina Coastcare: volunteers working on the dunes for 35 years Hedy Bryant <i>Ballina Coastcare</i> 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 – 5.00pm	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>
5.00pm	Close of Day One		
6.45pm – 9.45pm	<p>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)</p>		

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
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>	Lessons Learned in Delivering Multiple Coastal Management Programs Nigel Smith <i>Shoalhaven City Council</i>	Weaving an Aboriginal led approach to cultural values management into coastal strategy Martine Fraser <i>Wollongong City Council</i>
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 DCCEEW</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 - Crown Lands</i>	10.15am – 10.25am A New Story for an Old River: Reconnecting People with the Cooks Jason L'ecuyer <i>Cooks River Alliance</i>
			10.25am – 10.35am Returning to rainforests in Lismore's urban rivers Hannah Rice-Hayes <i>Lismore City Council</i>
10.35am – 10.40am	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>
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
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>	Including Ecosystem-Based Defenses within Government Budgets Daniel Rodger <i>JB Pacific</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>	Case studies in Breakwater Repair Design for Climate Change in NSW Indra Jayewardene <i>Manly Hydraulics Laboratory</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover

12.00pm – 12.20pm	Linking Catchment Processes to CMP Outcomes: A Prioritisation for the Richmond River Andrew Brooks <i>Griffith University</i>	Comprehensive Coastal Hazards Assessment for Wollongong: Foundations for a Resilient Future Amanda Schipp <i>Wollongong City Council</i>	NSW Tsunami inundation modelling project Nicholas Kuster <i>NSW SES</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
12.25pm – 12.45pm	From Soil to Supply Chain: The River Crystal Program’s Journey Joseph Leven <i>Casino Food Company</i>	Co-Designing a Collaborative Governance Framework for the Richmond River Dan Ware <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>	Mapping environmental projects as a tool for collaborative governance Martin Bryant <i>UTS</i>
12.45pm – 12.50pm	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>
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			
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			
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 <i>Sponsored by Haskoning</i>		

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
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, <i>DPIRD- Fisheries</i></p> <p>9.10am – 9.20am The feasibility of Isognomon ehippium as a candidate for oyster reef restoration. Christopher Klaas <i>Southern Cross University</i></p>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.25am – 9.45am	Enhancing and Restoring Estuary Threatened Ecological Communities in the Shoalhaven Braiya White <i>Shoalhaven City Council</i>	Will estuaries become saltier as a result of climate change? Alice Harrison <i>Water Research Laboratory, UNSW Sydney</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 DCCEEW</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>	Where do our seagrass shoots come from? Genetic insights to guide Posidonia australis restoration Natalie Coy <i>UNSW</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 Alexandra Maskell <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 Review of Environmental Green Tape of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Repair Aaron Judd <i>University of Newcastle</i></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>	Contemporary Coastal Dune Regeneration Practice in the Southeast Luke Moroney <i>Shoalhaven City Council</i>	<p>10.40am – 10.50am Integrating novel R&D methodologies into NSW offshore marine monitoring programs Megan Priestley, <i>Worley</i></p>

11.00am – 11.10am	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<i>3 minute poster presentation</i>	<div data-bbox="1120 88 1477 174" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> 10.50am – 11.00am <i>Presentation TBC</i> </div> <div data-bbox="1120 174 1477 237" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <i>3 minute poster presentation</i> </div>
11.10am – 11.40am Morning Tea			
11.40am – 1.00pm Session 9 – Plenary			
Keynote Address			
Keynote Address			
Conference Closing and Wrap-up – Professor Emeritus Bruce Thom			
1.00pm Lunch			