33RD NSW COASTAL CONFERENCE 2026

Focusing on our Changing Coast, for All

4 – 6 November 2026
Shellharbour Civic Centre

Conference Program

(subject to change)

Tuesday 3 November 2026

12.00pm – 5.00pm	**Pre-Conference Workshop: Estuary management under the NSW Coastal Management Framework** *Shellharbour Civic Centre, Jungah Room 2 (Additional cost)*
5.30pm – 6.30pm	**Welcome to Shellharbour Drink** *Ocean Beach Hotel*

Wednesday 4 November 2026

8.00am **Conference Registration,** *Foyer, Shellharbour Civic Centre*

8.45am – 10.15am	**Session 1 – Opening Plenary** Location: Jungah Auditorium Chair: Leslie Reid
8.45am	Welcome to Country **Aunty Jodi Edwards**
9.00am – 9.15am	Welcome from Shellharbour City Council **Mayor Chris Homer,** *Shellharbour City Council*
9.15am – 9.55am	Mapping changes in the Five Islands Nature Reserve, Port Kembla: Stories of flora and fauna in transition **A/Prof Sarah Hamylton,** *University of Wollongong*
9.55am – 10.15am	Address by Major Sponsor **Ingrid Emery,** *NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)*

10.15am – 10.45am	**Morning Tea**		
Session 2 10.45am – 12.20pm	**2A: Coastal planning & adaptation**	**2B: Tides, estuaries & catchments**	**2C: Coastal processes**
Location:	Jungah Room 1	Jungah Room 2	Gadhu Room
Chair:	Anneke Van Den Brink	Danny Bucher	Jon Williams
10.45am – 11.05am	NSW Coastal Management Manual (Part A) Revision **Paul Donaldson & Vanessa McCann,** *NSW DCCEEW*	From Catchment to Coast: Assessing the Estuary Condition of Elliott Lake, Shellharbour **Claire Morgan** *Water Technology*	Ocean water level considerations for inundation studies at trained entrances in NSW **Joel Bienefelt** *Bluecoast Consulting Engineers*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
11.10am – 11.30am	The NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program Implementation Plan **Ingrid Emery,** *NSW DCCEEW* & **Bonnie Bley**, *Australian Public Policy Institute*	Adapting to Changing Coastal Systems: From Data to Decisions at Tuggerah Lakes **Bronson McPherson** *Manly Hydraulics Laboratory*	Forecasting approaches for adaptive sediment management and sustainable dredging planning **Lucas Moorlag** *BMT*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
11.35am – 11.55am	Beyond Actions: Making Coastal Management Programs Work for Strategic Planning in NSW **Emma Maratea** *Rhelm*	A decadal update on the status of Lake Illawarra following entrance modification **Danny Wiecek** *NSW DCCEEW*	Coastal monitoring for evaluation of nearshore dredge placement and sand management effectiveness **Ryan Nguyen** *Hatch*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
12.00pm – 12.20pm	Coastal management in action: a regional snapshot from Wollongong to Eden **Aimee Beardsmore** *NSW DCCEEW*	Coastal Impacts of Shell Cove Boat Harbour Breakwaters **Ben Morgan** *Worley*	Coastal Inundation Damages: What Are We Missing? **Natalie Patterson** *Haskoning*
12.20pm – 1.10pm	**Lunch**		

Session 3 1.10pm – 3.10pm	**3A: Ocean and open coast**	**3B: Community caring for our changing coast**	**3C: Tides, estuaries & catchments**	**3D: 10 Minute Presentations**
Location:	Jungah Room 1	Jungah Room 2	Gadhu Room	Ground Floor Room
Chair:	Daylan Cameron	Carla Ganassin	Beth Millsteed	Jim Fraser
1.10pm – 1.30pm	Protecting Today, Planning Tomorrow at Clarkes Beach **Malcolm Robertson** *NSW DPHI – Crown Lands & Public Spaces*	Sea Country and Moana: Practices of coastal care, Australia and New Zealand **Melissa Nursey-Bray** *NSW Coastal Council*	Integrating Foreshore Stabilisation, Public Access and Nature-Based Design in Constrained Coastal Settings **Courtney Smith** *Water Technology*	**1.10pm – 1.20pm** NSW ICOLL Dashboard: a leap forward to integrated management **Julie Scopelitis** NSW *DPIRD Fisheries* **1.20pm – 1.30pm** Muddy Lake - Using tides to manage Salvinia **Vincent Miller** *UNSW Water Research Laboratory*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
1.35pm – 1.55pm	Adaptive coastal management at Lady Robinsons Beach **Megan Liu** *Manly Hydraulics Laboratory*	Visualising Sea Country: A regional collaboration honouring Gathang Language and Culture **Ben Foster** *Port Macquarie Hastings Council*	Living Shoreline Mosaics: Integrating Erosion Management with Habitat Restoration **Rebecca Morris** *The University of Melbourne*	**1.35pm – 1.45pm** Assessing the effects of highly modified foreshores of Gamay on fish seascapes **Jason Delamont** NSW *DPIRD Fisheries* **1.45pm – 1.55pm** Diversity on the Rocks: Monitoring reef communities in uncertain times **Simon Walker** *Ecological Service Professionals*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
2.00pm – 2.20pm	Contemporary Coastal Dune Regeneration Practice in the Southeast **Luke Moroney** *Shoalhaven City Council*	At street level: Building trust through everyday engagement in coastal management **Rebekah Lambert** *Community Practitioner and Lived Experience Consultant*	Cross-agency collaboration framework drives better outcomes in the Swan Canning catchment **Stuart Waters** *Twyfords Consulting*	**2.00pm – 2.10pm** Keeping up with the Cadastrals: Whose sheet pile is this? **Anneke Van Den Brink** *NSW DCCEEW* **2.10pm – 2.20pm** Strategic Syngnathid Management for Marine Infrastructure Projects **Elly Baker** *Stantec*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
2.25pm – 2.45pm	Three decades of NSW breakwater appraisal: evolving methods and emerging datasets **Kyle Hasler & Joe Beale** *Manly Hydraulics Laboratory*	Community participation in the management of Hastings Point **Jordan Vickers** *Tweed Shire Council*	Artificial Rockpools Enhance Biodiversity on a Sydney Harbour Revetment **Melanie Bishop** *Macquarie University*	**2.25pm – 2.35pm** Aligning expectations in a multi-council CMP – Great Mackerel Beach case study **John Hudson** *Points Advisory* **2.35pm – 2.45pm** A year of automated beach use monitoring on the Gold Coast **Jonathan Chan** *UNSW Water Research Laboratory*

5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
2.50pm – 3.10pm	**2.50pm – 3.00pm** Multi-decadal monitoring of Warilla Beach provides insights for coastal management in NSW **Dylan McLaughlin** *University of Wollongong* **3.00pm – 3.10pm** Bass Point littoral rainforest regeneration: delivering measurable coastal ecosystem recovery **Bronwyn Anderson & Leslie Reid** *Shellharbour City Council*	Marine Estate Champions: A place-based program empowering community-led stewardship and action **Chantelle Burns,** *NSW DPIRD* & **Ashley Kelly,** *Nature Positive Australia*	Environmentally friendly moorings aid natural recovery in Australian coastal estuaries **Lauren Hardiman & Leah Soo,** *CSIRO*	**2.50pm – 3.00pm** Aboriginal Stories, Songlines and Stewardship for a Changing Illawarra **Jodi Edwards** *University of Wollongong* **3.00pm – 3.10pm** Applied perspective of balancing flood mitigation and protecting coastal zone values **Katie Gilbey** *Shellharbour City Council*
3.10pm – 3.40pm	**Afternoon Tea**			
Session 4 3.40pm – 5.20pm	**4A: Coastal hazards**	**4B: Planning, policy & legal**	**4C: Tides, estuaries & catchments**	
Location:	Jungah Room 1	Jungah Room 2	Gadhu Room	
Chair:	Marc Daley	Danny Wiecek	James Wraith	
3.40pm – 4.00pm	Lies, Damn Lies and Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Lines - What Should Change? **Peter Horton** *Horton Coastal Engineering*	Adapting to a Changing Coast: Planning Law Responses to Rising Risk **Anna Sinclair** *Lindsay Taylor Lawyers*	Enhancing and Restoring Estuary Threatened Ecological Communities in the Shoalhaven **Braiya White** *Shoalhaven City Council*	
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	
4.05pm – 4.25pm	Too Conservative? Challenging Coastal Erosion Hazard Interpretation **Greg Britton & Arjen Overduin** *Haskoning*	Coastal land status: surprises, consequences, solutions and lessons **Danny Bucher** *NSW DPHI - Crown Lands*	Evaluating and mapping socio-cultural values in an estuarine environment to enrich communities **Jim DelBene** *The Australian National University*	
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	
4.35pm – 4.55pm	Changing Land Use or Prolonging Legacy Development on the NSW Coast? **Doug Lord**	Planning for Coastal Hazards **Alex Macvean** *Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure*	4.35pm – 4.45pm The Creeping Forest: Saltmarsh Under Siege from Mangrove Encroachment **Daniel Swadling** *NSW DPIRD* 4.45pm – 4.55pm Rehabilitation of the Panboola Wetland: A Collaborative Model for Coastal Floodplain Recovery **Max Osborne** *NSW DPIRD*	
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	
5.00pm – 5.20pm	State of Erosion: State vs State (plus NZ) Showdown on Coastal Hazards **Paul Prenzler** *Moffatt & Nichol*	The Egger case and seawall end effects **James Carley,** *UNSW WRL &* **Ballanda Sack,** *Beatty Hughes & Associates*	5.00pm – 5.10pm How entrance training reshaped macrophytes and fisheries in Lake Illawarra **Daniel Swadling** *NSW Fisheries* 5.10pm – 5.20pm Estuaries Don't Stand Still **Jayden Kachel** *JB Pacific*	
5.20pm	**Close of Day One**			

7.00pm – 10.00pm	**Welcome Reception,** Georgia Rose, Shell Cove Marina *Sponsored by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands*

Thursday 5 November 2026

8.30am	**Conference Registration,** *Foyer, Shellharbour Civic Centre*
9.00am - 10.00am	**Session 5 – Plenary** Location: Jungah Auditorium Chair: Leslie Reid
9.00am – 9.05am	Welcome to Day 2
9.05am – 9.20am	**NSW Coastal Council Address** **Dr Philip Haines,** *Chairperson, NSW Coastal Council*
9.20am – 10.00am	Holocene evolution of an ICOLL – Lake Illawarra **Associate Professor Brian Jones,** *University of Wollongong*
10.00am – 10.30am	**Morning Tea**

Session 6 10.30am – 12.40pm	**6A: Beach nourishment & sand management**	**6B: Coastal planning & adaptation**	**6C: Tides, estuaries and catchments**	**6D: 10 Minute Presentations**
Location:	Jungah Room 1	Jungah Room 2	Gadhu Room	Ground Floor Room
Chair:	Chris Drummond	Cherie Parmenter	Malcolm Robertson	Trudy Costa
10.30am – 10.50am	From Shelf to Shore: Assessing Offshore Beach Nourishment for NSW **Marc Daley,** *NSW DCCEEW* & **Evan Watterson,** *Bluecoast Consulting Engineers* & **Leo Drynan**, *Rhelm*	From statewide inundation mapping to local risk-based coastal adaptation planning **Michael Rosenthal** *Rhelm*	***Presentation TBA***	**10.30am – 10.40am** Reimagining coastal agribusiness in a changing climate **Grantley Smith** *Restore Blue* **10.40am – 10.50am** Tidal inundation, the disaster hiding in plain sight **Kirsty Langdon** *NSW Reconstruction Authority*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
10.55am – 11.15am	NSW shelf sand bodies: Location, characteristics and potential suitability for beach nourishment **Marie Ferland** *Australian Coastal Society*	A community with a focus on the future – A Managed Retreat Approach **Gerard Tuckerman** *Mid Coast Council*	From strategy to scale: advancing blue carbon delivery in New South Wales **Sian Fawcett** *NSW DCCEEW*	**10.55am – 11.05am** Understanding the impact of environment, species and configuration on eco-engineering outcomes **Kyle Hilliam** *Sydney Institute of Marine Science* **11.05am – 11.15am** Our oceans are changing: climate impacts on the NSW marine estate **Dakota Comino** *NSW DCCEEW*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
11.20am – 11.40am	How much sand is enough? Adaptive investigations for offshore nourishment sources **Tom Fallon** *Bluecoast Consulting Engineers*	Knowledge to action: Coastal adaptation guidance for practitioners through CoastAdapt and AdaptLand&Sea **Anne Leitch** *Griffith University*	Mapping Wetland Migration and Adaptation to Sea Level Rise **Chris Adamantidis** *Worley*	**11.20am – 11.30am** Coastal Performance Landscapes: Design-led Protection Works **Nicole Larkin** *Nicole Larkin Architecture Design*

				11.30am – 11.40am Collaborating with local dive and snorkel tour operators to develop a Code of Conduct for Cook Island Aquatic Reserve **Lesley Diver** *NSW Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
11.45am – 12.05pm	Beyond maintenance dredging: re-using Swansea Channel sand to support coast, community, habitat **Hayden Nichols** *Haskoning*	**11.45am – 11.55am** The value of regional coastal hazard risk insights for adaptation planning **Catherine Knight** *NSW Reconstruction Authority*	Are NSW saltmarsh and mangrove communities fated to be climate refugees? **Tanya Mason** *NSW DCCEEW*	**11.45am – 11.55am** Multi-metric assessment of outfall influence on temperate marine ecosystems **Luke Walker** *University of Newcastle*
		11.55am – 12.05pm Coastal Management Program development: the ebbs and flows from Ballina Shire **Issy Spinks** *Ballina Shire Council*		**11.55am – 12.05pm** Spatial and temporal analysis of ocean outfall impacts on marine microbial ecology **Benjamin Hipwell** *University of Newcastle*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
12.10pm – 12.30pm	Stockton Beach Mass Sand Nourishment Project **Casey Johnston** *NSW DCCEEW*	Who owns Sydney Harbour and for Whom **Ballanda Sack**, *Beatty Hughes & Associates* & **Bruce Thom,** *Australian Coastal Society*	Understanding why mangroves thrive or die: a new lifecycle approach for estuaries **William Glamore** *UNSW WRL*	**12.10pm – 12.20pm** Coastal management with open doors – Wamberal reflections **Mark Lamont** *Wamberal Beach SOS*
				12.20pm – 12.30pm Crookhaven Heads Intertidal Living Shoreline, Shoalhaven **Nick Lewis**, *Moffatt & Nichol*

12.30pm – 1.30pm **Lunch**

1.30pm – 5.00pm **Session 7 - Field Trips** (including afternoon tea)

Sponsored by: bluecoast CONSULTING ENGINEERS

FT1: Lake Illawarra

FT2: Shellharbour Open Coast and Elliott Lake

FT3: The Shell Cove Marina and South Shellharbour Beach

FT4: Bass Point and Killalea - **Departs at 1.15pm**

5.00pm **Close of Day Two**

7.00pm – 11.30pm

Conference Dinner & Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards

HARS Hangar

Dress Up Theme: *Taylor had her Eras Tour... now it's time for yours!*

Travel through time—past, present or future—and dress as the era that speaks to you

Return Coaches will be available from Shellharbour and Shell Cove

Sponsored by: Haskoning Enhancing Society Together

Friday 6 November 2026

8.30am **Conference Registration** *Foyer, Shellharbour Civic Centre*

Session 8 9.00am – 11.00am	**8A: Coastal & maritime Infrastructure**	**8B: Adaptation planning & coastal hazards**	**8C: Coastal & estuarine ecology**
Location:	Jungah Room 1	Jungah Room 2	Gadhu Room
Chair:	Zoe Immisch	Katie Gilbey	Nuria Lahuerta Pineiro
9.00am – 9.20am	Investigating the Comparative Performance of Concrete and Rock Armour Breakwater Heads NSW **Indra Jayewardene** *Manly Hydraulics Laboratory*	Reviving Everlasting Swamp: A science-based blueprint for blue carbon restoration in NSW **Jessica Morris** *NSW DCCEEW*	Tackling the Whale in the Room – Managing Marine Wildlife Washed Ashore **Adam Gietzelt** *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
9.25am – 9.45am	Berm Breakwaters - From Iceland to Shell Cove, Shellharbour **Ermano De Almeida** *Haskoning*	New developments and insights for coastal monitoring of ICOLLs **Toby Tucker** *UNSW Water Research Laboratory*	Assembly of shorebirds at continental scale: Insights from joint species distribution modelling **Li Wen,** *NSW DCCEEW*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
9.50am – 10.10am	Holding the Line: Managing Legacy Coastal Protection Through CMPs **Chris Beadle** *Water Technology*	Morphologically adaptive coastal erosion modelling using ShoreTrans **Jak McCarroll** *Tonkin + Taylor*	**9.50am – 10.00am** Co-Design in Action: Empowering Communities to Shape Central Coast Lagoons Management **Warren Brown** *Central Coast Council* **10.00am – 10.10am** Adaptive Equilibrium Planning Using Bézier Diagnostics for Headland-Bay Beach Erosion **Roger Johnson** *University of Newcastle*
5 min	***Changeover***	***Changeover***	***Changeover***
10.15am – 10.35am	A scalable risk framework for environmental management of maritime infrastructure **Mike Soltysiak** *Stantec*	Integrating Net Ecosystem Values into Coastal Hazard and Climate Adaptation Planning **Paul Seaton** *Fugro*	**10.15am – 10.25am** Seagrass Health in Brisbane Water: Insights from Seasonal Surveys and Collaborative Partnerships **Ben Cuerel** *Central Coast Council* **10.25am – 10.35am** Are drift algae mats undervalued ecosystems in NSW? **Rachel Przeslawski** *Research Connect Blue*
5 min	***Changeover***		***Changeover***
10.40am – 11.00am	Condition Inspection and AMPs for Government Authorities – Lessons Learnt from Implementation **Rick Plain** *Moffatt and Nichol*	Navigating the approvals maze for coastal restoration projects **Emma Carmody** *Restore Blue*	**10.40am – 10.50am** Roots, Resilience, and Rising Seas: Nature-Positive Strategies for Estuarine Foreshore Stability **Daryl Lam,** *Water Technology* **10.50am – 11.00am** Integrating estuary health into Coastal Management Programs **Vanessa McCann,** *NSW DCCEEW*
11.00am – 11.03am			**3 Min Poster Presentation:** Performance of TECCO® Cell Mobile Under Full-Scale Wave Testing **Mojtaba Tajziehchi**

11.05am – 11.40am	**Morning Tea**
11.40am – 1.00pm	**Session 9 – Plenary** Location: Jungah Auditorium Chair: Leslie Reid
11.40am – 12.20pm	Overcoming Coastal Zone Design and Construction Challenges with Reference to Shell Cove Boat Harbour and Coastal Legacy Areas **Greg Britton**, *Haskoning*
12.20pm – 12.40pm	Connecting Global Policy to Local Solutions for Resilient Coasts: A Youth Perspective **Phebe Fidge**, *Youth Ambassador*
12.40pm – 1.00pm	Conference Closing and Wrap-up **Professor Emeritus Bruce Thom**
1.00pm	**Lunch**

Disclaimer: The views, opinions and information presented by speakers are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of East Coast Conferences or the Conference Organising Committee. While reasonable care has been taken in preparing the conference program, East Coast Conferences and the Organising Committee does not warrant the accuracy, completeness or reliability of information supplied by presenters and accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions in such information.