

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 1 (Additional cost)

Wednesday 4 November 2026

8.00am Conference Registration, Foyer, Shellharbour Civic Centre

8.45am – 10.15am Session 1 – Opening Plenary
Jungah Auditorium

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:		Danny Bucher	
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 Andrew Williams NSW DCCEEW	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	Presentation title TBC 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:		Carla Ganassin		
1.10pm – 1.30pm	Protecting Today, Planning Tomorrow at Clarkes Beach Malcolm Robertson <i>NSW DPPI – Crown Lands & Public Spaces</i>	Sea Country and Moana: Practices of coastal care, Australia and New Zealand Melissa Nursey-Bray <i>NSW Coastal Council</i>	Integrating Foreshore Stabilisation, Public Access and Nature-Based Design in Constrained Coastal Settings Courtney Smith <i>Water Technology</i>	1.10pm – 1.20pm NSW ICOLL Dashboard: a leap forward to integrated management Julie Scopelitis <i>NSW DPIRD Fisheries</i>
				1.20pm – 1.30pm Muddy Lake - Using tides to manage Salvinia Vincent Miller <i>UNSW Water Research Laboratory</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
1.35pm – 1.55pm	Adaptive coastal management at Lady Robinsons Beach Megan Liu <i>Manly Hydraulics Laboratory</i>	Visualising Sea Country: A regional collaboration honouring Gathang Language and Culture Ben Foster <i>Port Macquarie Hastings Council</i>	Living Shoreline Mosaics: Integrating Erosion Management with Habitat Restoration Rebecca Morris <i>The University of Melbourne</i>	1.35pm – 1.45pm Assessing the effects of highly modified foreshores of Gamay on fish seascapes Jason Delamont <i>NSW DPIRD Fisheries</i>
				1.45pm – 1.55pm Diversity on the Rocks: Monitoring reef communities in uncertain times Liz West <i>Ecological Service Professionals</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
2.00pm – 2.20pm	Contemporary Coastal Dune Regeneration Practice in the Southeast Luke Moroney <i>Shoalhaven City Council</i>	At street level: Building trust through everyday engagement in coastal management Rebekah Lambert <i>Community Practitioner and Lived Experience Consultant</i>	Cross-agency collaboration framework drives better outcomes in the Swan Canning catchment Stuart Waters <i>Twyfords Consulting</i>	2.00pm – 2.10pm Keeping up with the Cadastrals: Whose sheet pile is this? Anneke Van Den Brink <i>NSW DCCEEW</i>
				2.10pm – 2.20pm A year of automated beach use monitoring on the Gold Coast Jonathan Chan <i>UNSW Water Research Laboratory</i>
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 <i>Manly Hydraulics Laboratory</i>	Community participation in the management of Hastings Point Jordan Vickers <i>Tweed Shire Council</i>	Artificial Rockpools Enhance Biodiversity on a Sydney Harbour Revetment Melanie Bishop <i>Macquarie University</i>	2.25pm – 2.35pm Aligning expectations in a multi-council CMP – Great Mackerel Beach case study John Hudson
				2.35pm – 2.45pm Presentation Title TBC Jodi Edwards <i>University of Wollongong</i>
5 min	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 <i>University of Wollongong</i>	Marine Estate Champions: A place-based program empowering community-led stewardship and action Chantelle Burns, NSW DPIRD & Ashley Kelly, <i>Nature Positive Australia</i>	Environmentally friendly moorings aid natural recovery in Australian coastal estuaries Lauren Hardiman & Leah Soo, CSIRO	2.50pm – 3.00pm <i>Points Advisory</i> Applied perspective of balancing flood mitigation and protecting coastal zone values Katie Gilbey <i>Shellharbour City Council</i>
	3.00pm – 3.10pm Bass Point littoral rainforest regeneration: delivering measurable coastal ecosystem recovery Bronwyn Anderson <i>Shellharbour City Council</i>			3.00pm – 3.10pm Strategic Syngnathid Management for Marine Infrastructure Projects Elly Baker <i>Stantec</i>
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			
3.40pm – 4.00pm	Lies, Damn Lies and Probabilistic Coastal Hazard Lines - What Should Change? Peter Horton <i>Horton Coastal Engineering</i>	Adapting to a Changing Coast: Planning Law Responses to Rising Risk Anna Sinclair <i>Lindsay Taylor Lawyers</i>	Enhancing and Restoring Estuary Threatened Ecological Communities in the Shoalhaven Braiya White <i>Shoalhaven City Council</i>	
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover	
4.05pm – 4.25pm	Too Conservative? Challenging Coastal Erosion Hazard Interpretation Greg Britton <i>Haskoning</i>	Coastal land status: surprises, consequences, solutions and lessons Danny Bucher <i>NSW DPPI - Crown Lands</i>	Evaluating and mapping socio-cultural values in an estuarine environment to enrich communities Jim DelBene <i>The Australian National University</i>	
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 <i>Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure</i>	4.35pm – 4.45pm The Creeping Forest: Saltmarsh Under Siege from Mangrove Encroachment Tim Glasby <i>NSW DPIRD</i>	
			4.45pm – 4.55pm Rehabilitation of the Panboola Wetland: A Collaborative Model for Coastal Floodplain Recovery Max Osborne <i>NSW DPIRD</i>	
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover	
5.00pm – 5.20pm	State of Erosion: State vs State (plus NZ) Showdown on Coastal Hazards Paul Prenzler <i>Moffatt & Nichol</i>	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 <i>NSW Fisheries</i>	
			5.10pm – 5.20pm Estuaries Don't Stand Still Jayden Kachel <i>JB Pacific</i>	
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 Jungah Auditorium
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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:			Malcolm Robertson	Tudy Costa
10.30am – 10.50am	From Shelf to Shore: Assessing Offshore Beach Nourishment for NSW Marc Daley NSW DCCEEW	From statewide inundation mapping to local risk-based coastal adaptation planning Michael Rosenthal Rhelm	A blue carbon research prospectus for coastal wetland restoration in NSW Jeff Kelleway University of Wollongong	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 Crookhaven Heads Intertidal Living Shoreline, Shoalhaven Nick Lewis, Moffatt & Nichol

				11.30am – 11.40am Coastal management with open doors – Wamberal reflections Mark Lamont Wamberal Beach SOS
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 DCCEW	11.45am – 11.55am Spatial and temporal analysis of ocean outfall impacts on marine microbial ecology Benjamin Hipwell 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 Multi-metric assessment of outfall influence on temperate marine ecosystems Luke Walker University of Newcastle
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
12.10pm – 12.30pm	Stockton Beach Mass Sand Nourishment Project Casey Johnston NSW DCCEW	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 Performance Landscapes: Design-led Protection Works Nicole Larkin Nicole Larkin Architecture Design
				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

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Lunch

1.40pm – 5.00pm

Session 7 - Field Trips (including afternoon tea)

Sponsored by:



FT1: Lake Illawarra

FT2: Shellharbour Open Coast and Elliott Lake

FT3: The Shell Cove Marina and South Shellharbour Beach

FT4: Bass Point and Killalea

5.00pm

Close of Day Two

Conference Dinner & Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards

HARS Hangar

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

7.00pm – 11.30pm

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:



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:			
9.00am – 9.20am	Investigating the Comparative Performance of Concrete and Rock Armour Breakwater Heads NSW Indra Jayewardene <i>Manly Hydraulics Laboratory</i>	Quantifying the statewide economic impacts of coastal hazards in NSW Rai Ibaceta <i>NSW Reconstruction Authority</i>	9.00am – 9.10am Tackling the Whale in the Room – Managing Marine Wildlife Washed Ashore Adam Gietzelt <i>NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>
			9.10am – 9.20am Integrating estuary health into Coastal Management Programs Vanessa McCann <i>NSW DCCEW</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.25am – 9.45am	Berm Breakwaters - From Iceland to Shell Cove, Shellharbour Ermanno De Almeida <i>Haskoning</i>	New developments and insights for coastal monitoring of ICOLLS Toby Tucker <i>UNSW Water Research Laboratory</i>	Assembly of shorebirds at continental scale: Insights from joint species distribution modelling Li Wen <i>NSW DCCEW</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
9.50am – 10.10am	Holding the Line: Managing Legacy Coastal Protection Through CMPs Chris Beadle <i>Water Technology</i>	Morphologically adaptive coastal erosion modelling using ShoreTrans Jak McCarroll <i>Tonkin + Taylor</i>	9.50am – 10.00am Co-Design in Action: Empowering Communities to Shape Central Coast Lagoons Management Warren Brown <i>Central Coast Council</i>
			10.00am – 10.10am Adaptive Equilibrium Planning Using Bézier Diagnostics for Headland-Bay Beach Erosion Roger Johnson <i>University of Newcastle</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
10.15am – 10.35am	A scalable risk framework for environmental management of maritime infrastructure Mike Soltysiak <i>Stantec</i>	Integrating Net Ecosystem Values into Coastal Hazard and Climate Adaptation Planning Paul Seaton <i>Fugro</i>	10.15am – 10.25am Seagrass Health in Brisbane Water: Insights from Seasonal Surveys and Collaborative Partnerships Ben Cuerel <i>Central Coast Council</i>
			10.25am – 10.35am Are drift algae mats undervalued ecosystems in NSW? Rachael Przeslawski <i>Research Connect Blue</i>
5 min	Changeover	Changeover	Changeover
10.40am – 11.00am	Condition Inspection and AMPs for Government Authorities – Lessons Learnt from Implementation Rick Plain <i>Moffatt and Nichol</i>	Navigating the approvals maze for coastal restoration projects Emma Carmody <i>Restore Blue</i>	10.40am – 10.50am Roots, Resilience, and Rising Seas: Nature-Positive Strategies for Estuarine Foreshore Stability Daryl Lam <i>Water Technology</i>

			10.50am – 11.00am Reviving Everlasting Swamp: A science-based blueprint for blue carbon restoration in NSW Jessica Morris, NSW DCCEW
11.10am – 11.40am	Morning Tea		
11.40am – 1.00pm	Session 9 – Plenary <i>Jungah Auditorium</i>		
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	Keynote Address		
12.40pm – 1.00pm	Conference Closing and Wrap-up Professor Emeritus Bruce Thom		
1.00pm	Lunch		