Coastal Zone Management in Gosford and Wyong LGA's

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Abstract

The coastal zone of NSW is of immense environmental, social and economic importance. It contains valuable and irreplaceable habitats, is a major source of food and raw materials, provides a magnet for recreation and tourism and is 'home' for a large percentage of the NSW population.

Many of the coastal areas that we find most attractive to recreate in and inhabit are subject to a range of pressures. There are growing population and development pressures on the coastal zone. Habitat degradation, declining water quality, resource depletion, loss of coastal amenity and restricted public access are just some of the issues of community concern.

It is very important that we give due regard to the impacts of any proposed development on natural processes within the coastal zone. Similarly, we must give due regard to the impacts of these natural processes on both existing and future development. The department's coastal zone management process, which is outlined in both the *Coastline Management Manual* (1990) and the *Estuary Management Manual* (1992), promotes the formulation of Coastal Zone Management Plans to better balance these competing interests.

Both Gosford and Wyong Councils have been following this process in recent years. Wyong is currently formulating its Estuary Management Study for Tuggerah Lakes and its Coastline Management Study for the coastal strip within its LGA. Gosford adopted its Open Coast Beaches Management Plan in 1995 which it is implementing on an ongoing basis. Gosford has also just begun an estuary process study for Brisbane Waters.

The NSW government's Coastal Zone Management process will be presented. The process will then be given local context though the example of Gosford and Wyong.