Open Coast Coastal Management Program Engagement Report

Central Coast Council

1 January 2026

→ **The Power of Commitment**

Contents

1. Overview **1**
- 1.1 About the Open Coast Coastal Management Program 1
- 1.2 Community engagement 2
- 1.3 Engagement Accessibility 4
- 1.4 Engagement Promotion 4

2. Engagement evaluation **5**
- 2.1 Data analysis and evaluation process 5
  - 2.1.1 High-level data analysis and evaluation process 5
  - 2.1.2 Detailed data analysis and evaluation process 6

3. Engagement demographics **7**
- 3.1 Engagement feedback sources 7
- 3.2 Response rates across CMP categories 7
- 3.3 Respondents' relationship with the open coast 8
- 3.4 Respondent age group breakdown 9

4. Engagement outcomes **10**
- 4.1 Feedback on proposed CMP Actions 10
- 4.2 Wamberal Beach specific feedback 26
- 4.3 What's next? 28

Table index

Table 2.1 Engagement Feedback Sources 7
Table 2.2 response rates across CMP categories 8
Table 2.3 Respondents and their relationship with the open coast 9
Table 2.4 Respondent age group breakdown 10
Table 5 Average score interpretation 10
Table 2.6 Engagement Outcomes Summary CMP Actions 12
Table 2.7 Engagement outcomes summary wamberal actions 26

Figure index

Figure 1 High-level Data Analysis and Evaluation Process 5

1. Overview

1.1 About the Open Coast Coastal Management Program

The Open Coast Coastal Management Program (CMP) is Central Coast Council's strategic framework for managing and protecting the region's open coastline over the next decade. Extending from Killcare Beach in the south to Budgewoi Beach in the north, the CMP addresses the unique challenges and opportunities of the Central Coast's beaches, coastal ecosystems and adjacent public assets.

Developed in accordance with the NSW Coastal Management Act 2016, the CMP sets out a long-term vision for mitigating coastal hazards, safeguarding environmental values and public amenity and supporting sustainable coastal use and resilience.

The development of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) follows a structured five-stage process outlined in the NSW Coastal Management Manual. This process ensures each CMP is evidence-based, strategically aligned and informed by the community:

- Stage One - Scoping study: Establishes the CMP's context, identifies key issues and sets out the forward work program.
- Stage Two - Technical investigations: Fills knowledge gaps through detailed studies of coastal hazards, environmental conditions and community values.
- Stage Three - Options development: Assesses and compares management options using technical analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform the draft CMP.
- Stage Four - Finalisation and certification: Involves public exhibition, consideration of feedback and Ministerial certification of the CMP.
- Stage Five - Implementation and review: Delivers endorsed actions, with ongoing monitoring and periodic review to support adaptive, long-term coastal management.

Certification of the CMP by the NSW Government enables access to dedicated funding programs, strengthens inter-agency coordination and ensures coastal actions align with state-wide priorities. The CMP provides a clear, evidence-based pathway for Council and partners to deliver effective, adaptive management of the open coast, balancing ecological protection, recreational use and the needs of current and future generations.

Delivery and refinement of the CMP is led by Central Coast Council, in partnership with NSW Government agencies and technical advisors, with community input considered through formal exhibition and targeted engagement activities.

1.2 Community engagement

Engagement for the Open Coast CMP is guided by the NSW CMP Engagement Guidelines and IAP2 principles as well as Council's Stakeholder and Community Engagement Strategy and the Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. The objectives are to ensure transparent communication, inclusive participation and responsiveness to community and stakeholder feedback.

IAP2 alignment for exhibition activities:

- Inform: provide clear, accessible information about CMP actions
- Consult: invite feedback through the online survey and written submissions
- Involve/Collaborate: host in-person drop-ins enabling dialogue

Community engagement has played a vital role in shaping the Open Coast Coastal Management Program. It ensures that the values, concerns and lived experiences of the Central Coast community are reflected in the planning and management of our coastline.

Stage one engagement

Between 30 March and 15 June 2021, Council conducted region-wide engagement to inform the Stage One Scoping Study. Activities included:

- An online survey
- Pop-up information stalls
- Key interest focus groups
- A dedicated project webpage

View the Stage One Survey Report

Stage two-three engagement

In 2024, Council undertook targeted engagement to support the development of management options for the CMP. This included:

- Feedback on the long list of proposed management actions
- Community workshops and drop-in sessions
- Online feedback opportunities
- Stakeholder meetings

View the Stage 2/3 Consultation Report

Stage four engagement

During the public exhibition of the draft Open Coast CMP, Council sought meaningful input from residents, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders to ensure the plan reflects local priorities and values. Community members were invited to share their feedback between Monday 14 July 2025 and Monday 25 August 2025 through a range of channels:

- Completing the online survey
- Joining in-person drop-in sessions at four locations
- Emailing or writing to Council

Engagement included a broad range of stakeholders with an interest in the coastal environment. This included coastal residents and waterfront landholders, local businesses, beach users and surf clubs, community and advocacy groups and First Nations representatives. Environmental non-government organisations were also involved, along with relevant state agencies (including DCCEEW, DPI and NPWS). Key Council functions participated throughout the process, including environment, planning, assets, water and sewer, roads and drainage and community engagement.

This comprehensive engagement strategy was designed to foster transparency, build trust and support collaborative decision-making for a sustainable and resilient coastline. By actively seeking and considering community input, Central Coast Council aims to deliver a CMP that is both technically robust and socially responsive.

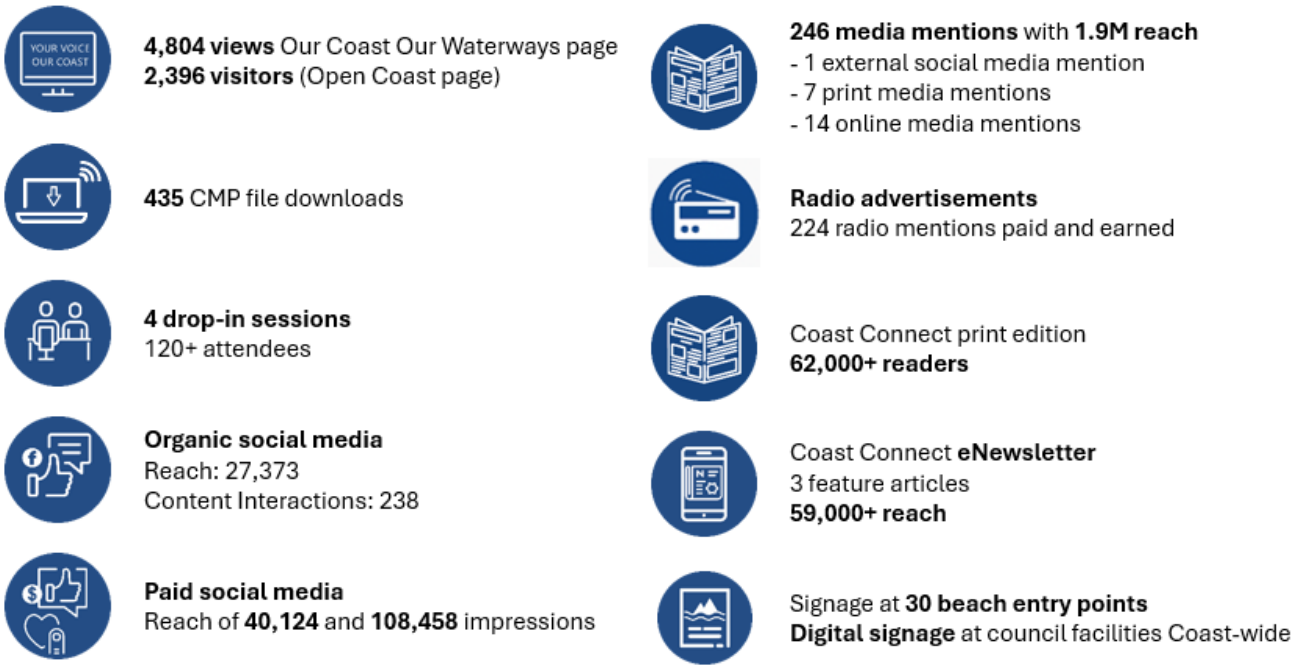
1.3 Engagement Accessibility

Central Coast Council ensured engagement for the Open Coast Coastal Management Program (CMP) was accessible and inclusive by providing multiple participation options during the exhibition period.

To maximise accessibility, Council implemented the following measures:

- Delivered a dedicated project website, Your Voice Our Coast, with project information, downloadable resources and an interactive online survey.
- Held in-person drop-in sessions at four accessible coastal locations across weekdays and weekends, with both pre-booking and walk-in options available.
- Accepted feedback through online submissions, email and written submissions to support both digital and non-digital participation.
- Installed A3 corflute signage with QR codes at beach entry points to enable rapid mobile engagement.
- Promoted the exhibition through multiple communication channels, including print and digital media, radio advertising, social media and direct email campaigns.
- Clearly communicated key dates, session details and participation options.
- Embedded a commitment to culturally safe engagement by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the Open Coast, inviting all relevant First Nations groups to participate, and identifying cultural knowledge and heritage considerations for planning and implementation.

1.4 Engagement Promotion



2. Engagement evaluation

2.1 Data analysis and evaluation process

2.1.1 High-level data analysis and evaluation process

To ensure that community feedback on the CMP was accurately interpreted and meaningfully applied, Council contracted a consultant to follow a structured analysis and evaluation process. This process was designed to handle feedback from multiple sources: online surveys, email submissions, in-person feedback and hard copy forms and to synthesise insights into clear, actionable outcomes. The steps below outline the high-level methodology used to manage and analyse the data.

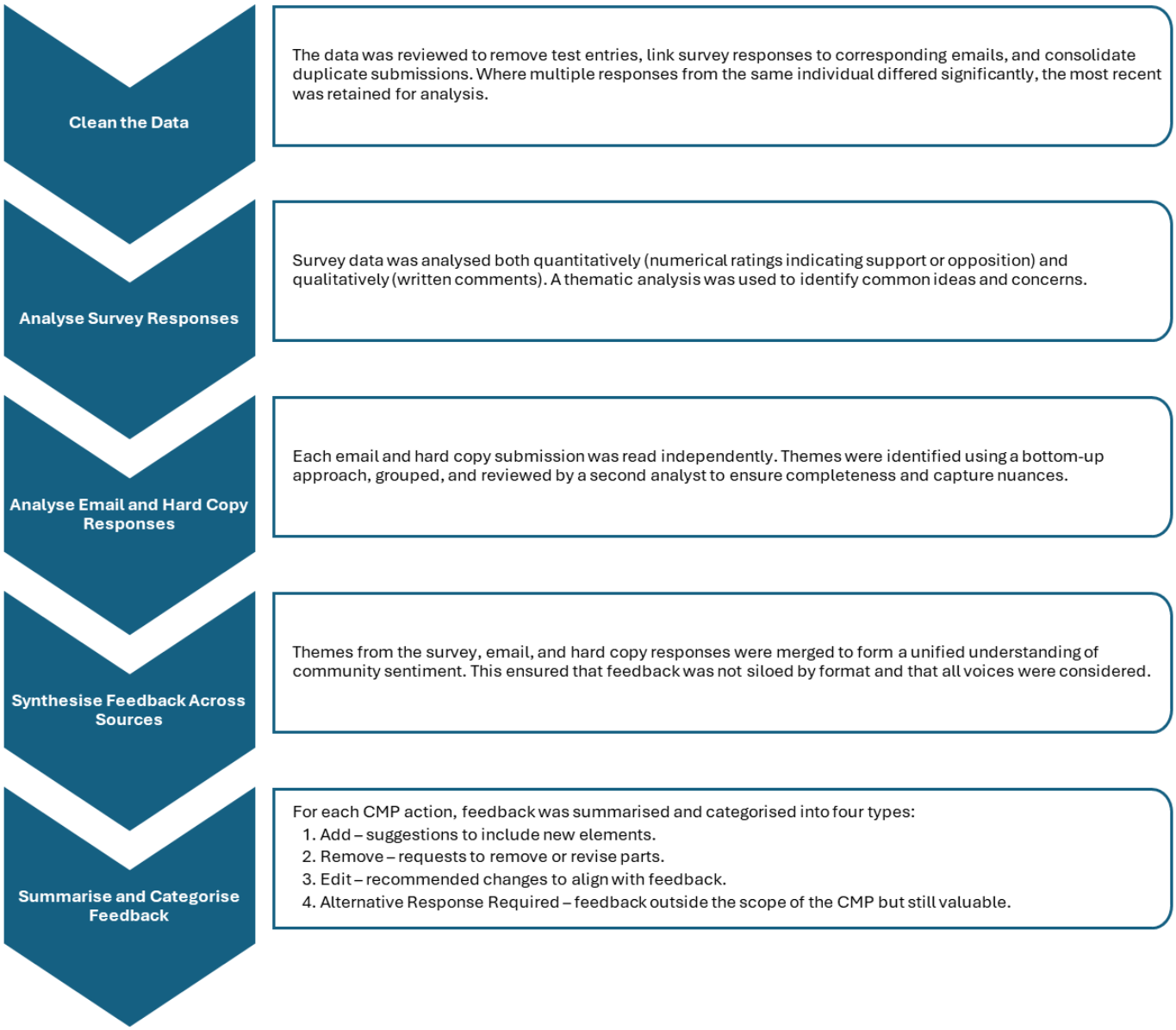


Figure 1 High-level Data Analysis and Evaluation Process

2.1.2 Detailed data analysis and evaluation process

During the engagement period for the CMP, Council received 240 submissions. This included 78 online survey responses, 21 email submissions and 141 hard copy responses. Before analysing the data, a cleaning process was undertaken to ensure accuracy and consistency.

Most of the hard copy and email responses focused on general feedback about the CMP and specific actions related to Wamberal Beach (WB01 and WB02). Many of the hard copy submissions included verbatim statements, indicating a transcript was provided. As a result, detailed feedback on the full set of 38 CMP actions was limited. However, where feedback was provided, it was often clear and strongly expressed. The summaries and themes presented in this report should be interpreted with this in mind.

Some responses required special handling:

– One survey respondent wrote “see comments in separate PDF document” in all survey fields. Their qualitative feedback supplied via email was included in the analysis, alongside their quantitative responses on the online survey.
– Another individual submitted both a survey and an email. These were combined into a single response for analysis.
– Three respondents completed the survey multiple times. Their feedback varied significantly between submissions, including changes in ratings and comments. Because of this, their most recent responses were included in the analysis and earlier submissions were reviewed but not counted.
– Two survey responses were identified as test entries and removed. These were flagged by the use of “Test” in the name fields.

Analysis of hard copy and email responses

Hard copy and emailed feedback were analysed using a bottom-up thematic analysis approach. This means each response was read carefully to identify key themes. After the first round of review, similar themes were grouped together and unique details were linked to respondent IDs to ensure they were not lost. A second consultant then re-analysed the responses to check for completeness and capture any missed nuances.

Each response was tagged with one of two categories:

– **Review CMP and suggest actions** for feedback that directly addressed CMP actions or sections.
– **Alternative response required** for feedback that was potentially of interest to council but outside the scope of the CMP.

Analysis of survey responses

Survey data was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively:

– **Quantitative analysis** looked at the number ratings respondents gave to each action, indicating levels of support or opposition. These ratings were updated to reflect input from hard copy and email responses.
– **Qualitative analysis** used the same bottom-up thematic approach as the hard copy and email responses. Written comments were reviewed in two rounds to ensure themes were accurate and comprehensive.

Not all survey respondents provided written feedback. For example, for action CW-A02 (Coastal Engineering Design Requirements), twenty-four respondents gave a rating, but only twenty-one provided written comments. This ratio varied across actions. Nonetheless, all feedback - written and numerical - was synthesised to ensure the final themes were clear, distinct and covered all relevant points.

Categorising community feedback

At the end of the analysis, each CMP action was assigned a set of feedback themes and a summary of recommended next steps for Council. These were grouped into three categories:

– **Add**: Suggestions to include additional elements in the action.
– **Remove**: Requests to remove or revise parts of the action.
– **Edit**: Recommendations for changes that align with community feedback and can be considered during implementation.

3. Engagement demographics

The following section provides an overview of the demographic characteristics of respondents to the draft CMP.

3.1 Engagement feedback sources

During the CMP engagement period, Council received feedback through three primary channels: 78 online survey responses, 21 email submissions and 141 hard copy responses.

It is important to note that demographic data was only collected through the online survey. As such, any demographic analysis presented in this report relates exclusively to survey respondents.

Implications for feedback interpretation:

The absence of demographic data from the hard copy and email submissions limits the ability to fully understand the profile of participants.

The online survey provides the most detailed insights into respondent characteristics and enables a more nuanced analysis of feedback trends. While email responses were relatively lower, respondents using this channel provided more detailed feedback on the CMP and shared technical documents as well as reports to be considered by Council.

Overall, the diversity of feedback sources demonstrates a broad level of community engagement. However, the limited demographic data from non-survey channels should be taken into account when analysing the representativeness of the feedback and identifying any potential gaps in engagement.

Table 3.1 Engagement Feedback Sources

Source	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Survey responses	78	32.5%
Emails response	21	8.75%
Hard copy responses	141	58.75%
Total	**240**	**100%**

3.2 Response rates across CMP categories

From a total of 78 survey responses, the Coastal Hazards and Ecological Environment categories received the highest volume of feedback. Table 3.2 presents the distribution of responses across all five categories.

It is important to note that respondents were able to select the CMP actions they wished to comment on and were not required to provide feedback on every category. As a result, a single individual may have contributed multiple responses across different categories. In total, 237 responses were recorded across the six CMP categories.

Implications for feedback interpretation:

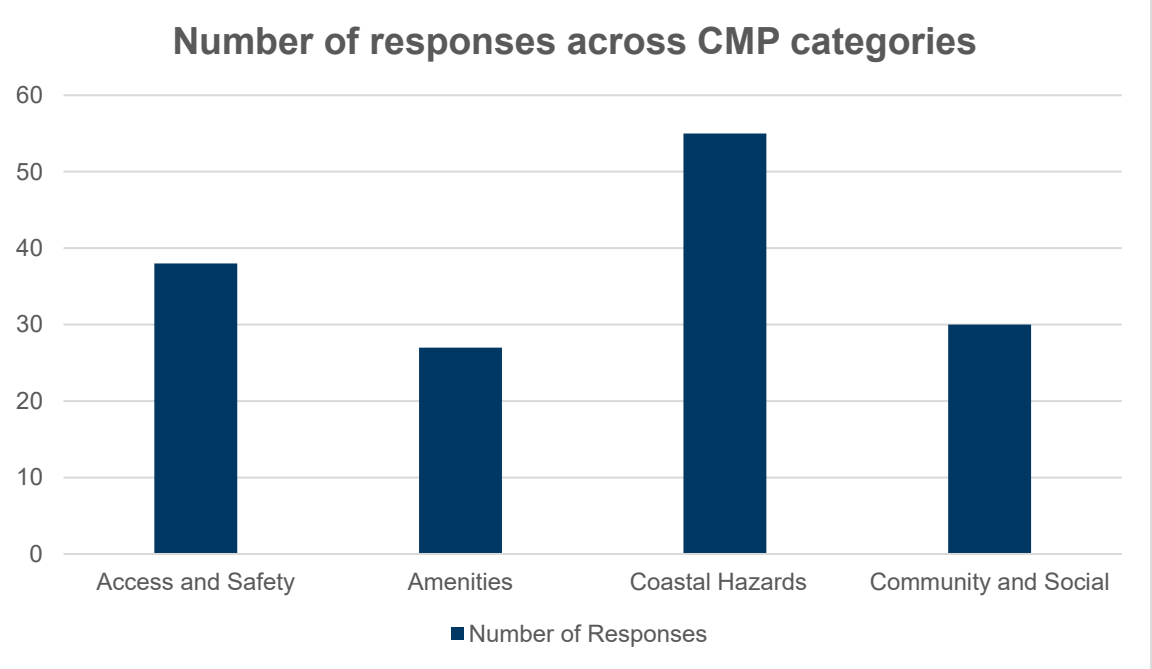
The high response rates for Coastal Hazards (71.43%) and Ecological Environment (64.94%) suggest that these areas are of particular concern to the community. This may reflect strong public interest in issues such as erosion, climate impacts, biodiversity and habitat protection.

Access and Safety (49.35%) and Development (48.05%) also received substantial attention, indicating that respondents are engaged with how coastal areas are accessed, used and managed in relation to infrastructure and planning. Community and Social (38.96%) and Amenities (35.06%) received comparatively fewer responses, which may suggest these areas are either less contentious or less visible in current public discourse.

Overall, the distribution of feedback highlights the need to prioritise actions related to environmental protection and hazard management, while also ensuring that social, amenity and development considerations are not overlooked. The varied response rates across categories may also reflect differing levels of public awareness or perceived relevance, which could inform future engagement strategies.

Table 3.2 response rates across CMP categories

CMP Categories	Number of Responses	Percentage of Respondents
Access and Safety	38	49.35%
Amenities	27	35.06%
Coastal Hazards	55	71.43%
Community & Social	30	38.96%
Development	37	48.05%
Ecological Environment	50	64.94%
Total	237 responses	



3.3 Respondents' relationship with the open coast

Table 3.3 presents how survey respondents identified their relationship to the Coastal Zone. Of the 78 respondents, the majority (51.28%) indicated that they are residents of the Coastal Zone area. A further 17.95% reported living elsewhere on the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone. Smaller proportions of respondents identified as waterfront residents (5.13%), members of local community groups (3.85%) or business owners operating in the area (2.56%).

A diverse range of other relationships were represented by individual respondents (each accounting for 1.28% of the total). These included combinations such as residents who also work in the area and participate in community groups, business owners who volunteer at beach care groups and individuals involved in advocacy or coastal planning. One respondent identified as a visitor to the area.

Implications for feedback interpretation:

The feedback received is predominantly shaped by individuals who reside within the Coastal Zone. This suggests that the consultation has successfully engaged those most directly affected by coastal management decisions. However, the relatively low representation of business owners, workers, visitors and advocacy groups indicates that economic, recreational and broader regional perspectives may be underrepresented, although many of these groups have been engaged as stakeholders throughout the CMP development process and have contributed formally through separate internal stakeholder and agency engagement.

Table 3.3 Respondents and their relationship with the open coast

Relationship with the open coast	Count	% of 78 Respondents
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area	40	51.28%
I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone	14	17.95%
I am a waterfront resident	4	5.13%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I represent a local community group	3	3.85%
I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone; I am an owner/operator of a business in the area	2	2.56%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I represent a local community group; I work in the area	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone; Other: I managed the preparation of the first Coastal Management Plan for Gosford.	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone; Other: I managed the preparation of the initial Gosford Coastal Management Plan	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone; I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone; I represent a local community group; I represent an advocacy group	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I represent a local community group; I represent an advocacy group	1	1.28%
I am a visitor to the area	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I work in the area; I am an owner/operator of a business in the area	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I am an owner/operator of a business in the area	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I work in the area; I am an owner/operator of a business in the area; I represent a local community group	1	1.28%
I am a waterfront resident; I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area	1	1.28%
I am a waterfront resident; I represent an advocacy group	1	1.28%
I am a resident of the Coastal Zone area; I am an owner/operator of a business in the area; Other: I am a volunteer at a beach care group and regular Wamberal Beach user	1	1.28%
I am a waterfront resident; I am a resident of the Central Coast, outside the Coastal Zone	1	1.28%

Note: percentages have been rounded.

3.4 Respondent age group breakdown

Older adults dominate the sample, with over 60% of respondents aged 55 or older, representing the largest single group of 55–64-year-olds (one-third of all responses). There was significant under-representation of younger voices, with only 4 respondents are under 35-year-olds and just one was aged 18–24. No respondents were under 18 years old.

Implications for feedback interpretation:

The feedback is likely to reflect the priorities, concerns and lived experiences of older residents whilst youth perspectives are underrepresented. As the CMP aims to be inclusive across generations, this skew suggests a need for targeted engagement with younger demographics in future consultations.

Table 3.4 Respondent age group breakdown

Age Group	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
<18	0	0.00%
18–24	1	1.52%
25–34	4	6.06%
35–44	9	13.64%
45–54	7	10.61%
55–64	22	33.33%
65–74	18	27.27%
75–84	5	7.58%
85+	0	0.00%

4. Engagement outcomes

4.1 Feedback on proposed CMP Actions

In the online survey, respondents were asked to rate their level of support for each CMP action using a numerical scale ranging from minus ten to positive ten (–10 to +10). This scoring system allowed respondents to express nuanced views and helped Council identify not only which actions were supported, but also the strength of that support across the community. Average scores were interpreted in line with the table below.

Table 5 Average score interpretation

Score Range	Level of Support
Positive 9 – Positive 10	Very high support
Positive 7– Positive 8	High support
Positive 4 – Positive 6	Moderate support
Positive 1 – Positive 3	Low support
0	Neutral
Negative 1– Negative 3	Lowly unsupported
Negative 4 – Negative 6	Moderately unsupported
Negative 7– Negative 8	Highly unsupported
Negative 9 – Negative 10	Very highly unsupported

There are six (6) overarching key insights from the qualitative responses provided across all submissions:

Integrated and adaptive coastal management

– Coastal management should adopt a systems-based approach that integrates stormwater, dune systems, floodplains and coastal hazards.
– Coordination across environmental processes and infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience.
– Stormwater management should be linked with lagoon systems and broader coastal processes.
– Sand nourishment should be part of a broader strategy including dune restoration and managed retreat.
– Drainage structures and erosion controls should be embedded in wider environmental remediation plans.

Transparency, accountability and public trust

– Clearer communication, public reporting and visible enforcement. Desire to further understand how decisions are made, who is responsible and how outcomes are tracked.
– Council should proactively communicate coastal risks and mitigation plans, not just during emergencies.
– Compliance actions should be more visible through dashboards and reporting tools.
– More asset risk registers, monitoring data and geotechnical databases should be publicly accessible.

Nature-based and community-inclusive solutions

– Support for soft engineering, ecological restoration and community stewardship over hard infrastructure.
– Desire to further embed local knowledge, first nations perspectives and citizen science into coastal management.
– Community groups and first nations stakeholders should be more involved in monitoring and maintenance.
– Desire for marine sanctuaries, vegetation buffers and adaptive sand use.

Strategic planning and implementation urgency

– Desire for fewer documents and more action, with clearer timelines, funding pathways and more measurable outcomes.
– Emergency works and outdated infrastructure should be reviewed and removed or remediated quickly.
– Monitoring programs and adaptation strategies should be rolled out quickly to fill data gaps.
– Planning controls and coastal vulnerability area mapping should be updated to reflect current risks and guide development.

Inclusive governance and representation

– Governance structures should be reviewed to ensure independence, technical competence and diverse representation.
– Committees and decision-making bodies should reflect community values and strategic priorities.
– Coastal committees should include broader age and cultural representation and report directly to council.
– Cultural consultation should involve all relevant first nations groups and occur during planning phases.
– Governance should be accountable to strategic plans and avoid conflicts of interest.

Coastal safety and public amenity

– Safety infrastructure, recreational assets and accessibility improvements are supported when aligned with hazard planning and environmental protection.
– Support for coastal spaces to be safe, inclusive and enjoyable.
– Infrastructure upgrades (e.g., lifeguard towers, headland safety) should consider hazard lines and erosion risks.
– Accessibility improvements should follow universal design principles and avoid damaging natural features.
– Public amenity enhancements should be balanced with ecological sensitivity and long-term resilience.

Table 4.6 Engagement Outcomes Summary CMP Actions

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-S01 Monitoring and improvement of coastal stormwater outlets	10	Very high support	Expansion of the impacts of costal hazards: stormwater outlets and drainage systems are not only vulnerable to coastal hazards but also actively contribute to erosion, shoreline recession, and lagoon instability. *Count: 6* Holistic inspection and maintenance: there is a need for frequent and routine inspections and maintenance of stormwater outlets, including structural assessments and water quality testing. Count: 3 Integrated stormwater and costal management: stormwater management should not be treated in isolation, it must be coordinated with lagoon systems, floodplains, and broader coastal processes. Count: 3 Impacts of private stormwater discharge: illegal or unmanaged stormwater discharge from private properties is seen as a major issue, especially where it damages dunes or flows directly into sensitive areas. There is a need for accountability and enforcement for private stormwater runoff. Count: 2 Increased outcomes and actions reporting: call for greater public reporting and stakeholder engagement are desired to provide clarity on how stormwater assets are assessed, what triggers intervention, and how results are shared. Count: 1 Clarify value-add of this action: there is a lack of clarity as to how this action adds new value to existing stormwater monitoring delivered as part of essential services. Count: 1
CW-S02 Develop and implement an integrated coastal processes and hazards education and awareness program	8	High support	Public access to coastal hazard information must be improved: respondents emphasised that while awareness of coastal hazards exists due to media coverage, access to detailed, location-specific hazard data is lacking. They want better online mapping tools, historical storm data, and integration with planning portals to help residents understand risks to their properties and communities. Count: 5 Council must communicate proactively and build public trust: there is a call for council to shift from reactive communication (e.g., only during emergencies) to proactive education. This includes informing residents about erosion risks, mitigation plans, ensuring elected officials are well-informed to avoid misrepresentation of technical advice and that the program has clear objectives, measurable outcomes, and public reporting. Annual reviews and evidence that the program is effective are desirable. Count: 3 Digital tools should be central to education delivery: there is interest in the use of digital platforms such as mobile apps or web portals to deliver real-time beach status updates, hazard alerts, educational content, and community reporting tools. These tools should be accessible, user-friendly and benchmarked against other councils (gold coast, northern beaches). Count: 2 Clarify funding responsibility between council and state: there is a question as to whether this type of education should be funded and delivered by local council or state government, suggesting that council's role may be limited. Count: 1
CW-S03 Develop and implement coastal compliance procedures	7	High support	Council's historical inaction has enabled coastal non-compliance: several respondents expressed frustration that council has failed to enforce regulations over many years, allowing illegal structures and encroachments to proliferate, especially at wamberal and north entrance beaches. Count: 4 Compliance procedures must be broad and enforceable: support for enforcement against illegal dumping, vegetation clearing, unapproved structures, and unlawful activities. Respondents want clear procedures and accountability. Count: 3 Compliance must restore public space and be properly resourced: requests for illegal encroachments removed and public access restored. They emphasise that enforcement must be backed by adequate funding, staffing, and planning. Count: 2 Transparency and community engagement are critical: call for visibility into compliance actions through dashboards, reporting tools, and community involvement. Where possible interagency coordination should be established to enable rapid response. Count: 1 Jurisdictional clarity is needed: one respondent questioned whether coastal compliance is a council or state responsibility, suggesting CCC's role should be limited to public awareness. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-S04 Review and implement updated Beach Maintenance Program	8.5	High support	Urgent review and implementation is needed: the current beach maintenance program is seen as outdated and ineffective. Respondents highlighted that creeping development and emergency protection works have disrupted natural dune recovery, especially at wamberal. A comprehensive review of dune management is needed (NSW coastal dune management manual). Count: 4 Sand nourishment and nature-based solutions must be central: support for sand nourishment and soft engineering approaches like dune revegetation to restore natural coastal processes. Count: 3 Maintenance must be environmentally safe and proactive: respondents want maintenance to be done in a way that protects ecosystems and avoids passive deterioration. Language should reflect active intervention. Count: 2 Maintenance should improve access and connectivity: maintenance should go beyond formal accessways to include cycle/walk links and apply universal design principles for inclusive access. Count: 2 Maintenance should be data-driven and community-inclusive: request that maintenance actions be linked to coastal hazard monitoring and involve local groups like coastcare and surf clubs in stewardship. Count: 1 Maintenance should include lagoon and lake management: maintenance should incorporate regular water release from lakes to prevent erosion and flooding. Count: 1 Emergency response and funding must be embedded: maintenance should include storm recovery coordination and enable ccc to access grant funding for clean-up costs. Count: 1
CW-S05 Develop and implement a Coastal Monitoring Program	9	Very high support	Monitoring tools and data must be integrated and accessible: respondents want the program to leverage existing tools (e.g., beachwatch, coastsnap, nearmap, sentinel-2) and datasets and make them accessible to the public through a unified platform. Community members want to be involved in data collection and reporting. Count: 2 Monitoring is essential for long-term coastal stewardship: respondents view monitoring as a critical foundation for preserving beaches and managing coastal assets for future generations. Count: 2 Monitoring scope should include flood risk: monitoring should not be limited to beach erosion, it must include flood studies and inland-coastal interactions. Count: 1 Monitoring program must be implemented urgently: call for immediate rollout of the program to address current gaps in coastal data and response. Count: 1 Monitoring should be embedded in maintenance and operations: monitoring should be part of routine maintenance and observation, not treated as a separate or optional activity. Count: 1 Monitoring methods should be expanded and structured: suggestion that the program includes UAVs, citizen science, post-event reporting, and clear thresholds for triggering action. Count: 1 Monitoring effectiveness must be evaluated; there is concern about the reliability of existing tools like coastsnap, especially where access to public land is limited. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-S06 Investigate and develop a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy for affected coastal communities	9	Very high support	Hard engineering solutions are failing and should be replaced: respondents emphasised that traditional hard structures (e.g., seawalls) are ineffective and damaging. They advocate for nature-based, adaptive approaches, halting new development on fragile coastal land and reclaiming high-risk properties to restore public access and protect beaches through retreat, buy-backs and development restrictions. Count: 3 Urgent action is needed a strategy should already exist: there is frustration that a strategy hasn't already been developed and implemented. Respondents want it to be clear that the action applies to the community (notably property asset owners) and to public infrastructure. There is support for a whole-of-coast, future-focused strategy that builds resilience across communities and is delivered in the medium term to enable learnings ahead of framing the successor CMP. Count: 3 Excessive planning without implementation is counterproductive: there is concern that too many plans and strategies lead to inaction. Respondents want fewer documents and more execution and believe that having the right people involved will ensure effective strategy development and implementation. Count: 2 Strategy must be communicated clearly and be adaptable: call for visual tools (e.g., decision trees) and dynamic policies that evolve with climate and engineering data. Count: 1
CW-S07 Investigate feasibility and responsibilities of long-term sand nourishment licences	10	Very high support	Sand nourishment must be part of a broader, integrated strategy: sand nourishment is not a standalone solution. It must be paired with dune restoration, managed retreat, or protection structures to be effective. Count: 2 Strong support for sand nourishment as a protective measure: respondents view sand nourishment as a key tool to reduce storm exposure and protect beachfront assets and communities. Count: 5 Licensing process must be transparent and accountable: call for clarity on how licences are obtained, who is responsible, and how sand sourcing is reviewed over time. Count: 1 Cost and commitment are major barriers: there is concern that feasibility studies are stalled due to high costs and lack of political or expert commitment. Count: 1 Sand nourishment must not be exploited for commercial gain support is conditional on ensuring that sand nourishment is not used as a cover for sand extraction for construction or other industries. Count: 1 Sand nourishment should align with nature-based mitigation: support for nourishment as part of a broader nature-based approach, especially in opposition to hard engineering solutions. Count: 1
CW-S08 Prioritise and upgrade beach lifeguard patrol towers and ancillary structures	10	Very high support	Council should already be managing this as part of asset oversight: some respondents believe lifeguard tower audits and upgrades should already be embedded in council's asset and risk management processes. Count: 3 General support for lifeguard tower upgrades: respondents support the action, recognizing its value for beach safety and public service. Count: 2 Lifeguard infrastructure should be part of broader coastal hazard planning: upgrades should consider hazard lines and be integrated into coastal building plans to avoid placing structures in vulnerable areas. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
SB02 Investigate options to improve public safety at Soldiers Point headland	8	High support	Relocation of infrastructure to reduce risk: respondents support moving high-risk infrastructure (e.g., carpark, toilet) away from unstable cliff edges to safer locations. Count: 2 Installation of safety infrastructure: call for physical safety measures such as railings, signage, and viewing platforms to prevent accidents. Count: 1 Frustration over lack of action despite prior assessments: concern that although assessments have been conducted, no safety improvements have been implemented. Count: 1 Desire for broader safety improvements beyond soldiers point: one respondent questions whether the safety upgrades will apply to other coastal headlands or hazardous areas. Count: 1 Support for environmental restoration and public amenity. There is interest in restoring the headland to a natural state, improving both safety and public enjoyment. Count: 1
CW-A01 Coastal recreation assets and infrastructure renewal program	9	Very high support	Recreational infrastructure should be integrated into long-term coastal adaptation planning: support for renewal of assets but that it must align with broader coastal resilience and adaptation strategies to avoid unsustainable investment. Count: 1 Call for more recreational infrastructure across the coast: call for more facilities and assets to support public use and enjoyment of coastal areas. Count: 1 Design standards and accessibility must be embedded: infrastructure renewal should include shared-path standards and universal design principles to ensure inclusive access and connectivity. Count: 1 Recreational infrastructure is not a high priority compared to other coastal needs: respondent feels this action is less urgent than other coastal hazard or environmental management actions. Count: 1 This action may belong in a different strategic framework: there is concern that recreational infrastructure renewal is outside the scope of the CMP and should be managed under lifestyle or community infrastructure strategies. Count: 1
CW-A02 Develop and implement Coastal Engineering Design Requirements	6	Moderate Support	Strong opposition to seawalls and hard engineering on high-energy coastlines: respondents argue that seawalls are unsustainable, degrade public beaches, and should not be part of coastal design requirements. Count: 3 CEDRs must promote nature-based, adaptive, and context-sensitive design: support for integrating nature-based solutions, indigenous planting, public-realm considerations, and site-specific design standards. Count: 3 CEDRs should be part of a broader coastal adaptation strategy: respondent suggests replacing or embedding CEDRs within a comprehensive adaptation framework that includes managed retreat and long-term planning. Count: 1 design requirements must be flexible and reviewed periodically: CEDRs should allow for innovation, be updated as guidelines evolve, and include clear responsibilities for lifecycle management. Count: 1 existing engineering models are already in use: respondent notes that design models and precast structures are already being implemented, suggesting the action may duplicate existing efforts. Count: 1 public funding should not support private coastal protection: respondent opposes the use of public funds for protecting private properties, especially those built on vulnerable dune systems. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-A03 Review waste collection assets and servicing in coastal public spaces	8	High support	Waste hazards from coastal infrastructure must be regulated and rapidly managed: respondent highlights that debris from private structures (e.g., after storms) poses safety and environmental risks. Council needs clearer authority and faster response mechanisms. Count: 1 Waste management should prioritise local needs: there is concern that coastal waste infrastructure may be used to handle waste from outside the region. Count: 1 Event organisers should be responsible for waste servicing: waste collection during events should be funded and managed by organisers, not the council. Count: 1 Waste collection strategy may not belong in the CMP: suggestion this action is outside the scope of coastal hazard and environmental management and should be handled under a separate waste strategy. Count: 1
CW-H01 Review and update coastal development planning controls and undertake Planning Proposal to adopt Coastal Vulnerability Area	6	Moderate Support	Development must be restricted in vulnerable coastal areas: there is support for banning new development on foreshores and fragile dune systems to prevent future erosion-related damage. Count: 2 CVA mapping and planning controls are overdue and must be holistic: support for updating planning controls and CVA mapping to reflect current coastal risks and enable long-term adaptation planning. Count: 1 Planning controls should be linked to hazard lines: respondent wants hazard lines to be embedded in planning documents and used as criteria for assessing development applications. Count: 1 Vulnerable properties should be identified and disclosed: there is support for formally identifying CVA properties on title deeds and zoning reports, with implications for insurance, borrowing, and development rights. Count: 1 Community education and targeted communication are essential: respondent emphasises the need to explain CVA implications clearly to residents, especially those in high-risk areas. Count: 1
CW-H02 Identify the extent, nature, and condition of existing coastal emergency works (including potential removal or remediation)	9	Very high support	Emergency works are erosion hazards and must be strategically removed: respondents suggest that non-natural structures (e.g., rubble, tanks, revetments) actively worsen erosion and should be systematically removed. Count: 3 Unauthorised emergency works require enforcement and accountability: there is support for penalising those who installed illegal structures, including fines, property confiscation, and compulsory acquisition. Count: 2 Urgent action is needed to address emergency works: respondents emphasise the need to act quickly, especially in high-risk areas like wamberal. Count: 2 Some emergency works should be remediated, not removed: one respondent suggests that not all emergency works should be removed, some may be better remediated following an evaluation. Count: 1 Planning controls must be strengthened to prevent recurrence: respondent wants the review to address loopholes in planning regulations that allow emergency works to persist and undermine an effective long-term adaptation strategy (cw-so6 above). Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CT01 Design and construct Stage 2 of the existing Cabbage Tree Harbour toe drainage structure	8	High support	Drainage structure alone is insufficient without addressing broader environmental factors: respondent believes that toe drainage construction must be part of a wider environmental remediation plan, including invasive species removal, stormwater management, and erosion control. Count: 1 Nature-based solutions should be incorporated: there is support for using vegetation, such as native palms, to stabilise the area and complement engineered solutions. Count: 1 Project must be done properly and completely: respondent emphasises the importance of quality execution and avoiding piecemeal or short-term fixes. Historical land use impacts, invasive vegetation, stormwater outlets, and marine access ramps as contributing factors to instability. These should be addressed as well - the drainage structure alone won't solve the problem. Count: 1 Cost and feasibility must be carefully evaluated: support is conditional on financial viability and consideration of alternatives like managed retreat. Count: 1
MM01 Complete coastal risk and options assessment for Marine Parade at MacMasters Beach	8	High support	Stormwater and groundwater are key drivers of coastal risk: respondent emphasises that stormwater outlets and groundwater runoff are major contributors to erosion and infrastructure vulnerability at marine parade. Count: 1 Assessment scope should be expanded to include other high-risk areas: there is concern that the CMP is too narrowly focused and should include other emergency-declared or erosion-prone areas like wamberal and the entrance north. Count: 1 Preference for adaptive, nature-based solutions over hard engineering: respondent supports soft engineering and adaptive approaches rather than hard protection structures. Count: 1 CMP must clearly present risk and management options: respondent wants the CMP to detail erosion risks and explicitly outline the range of management options being considered, including retreat, protection, and nourishment. Count: 1
EN01 Monitor and manage risk of contamination from closed landfill sites	9	Very high support	General support for monitoring and managing contamination risks: respondent agrees that this is a necessary and important action to protect coastal environments and public health. Count: 1 Terminology and scope need clarification: there is confusion about what constitutes a "legacy closed landfill site" and how it relates to coastal management. Count: 1 Closed landfill sites should be rehabilitated and converted to parkland: respondent supports restoring these sites as green spaces rather than allowing further development. Count: 1 Public should be informed about site locations: there is a call for transparency about where these sites are and what risks they pose. Count: 1 Action may belong in a broader waste or contamination strategy: one respondent feels this action is outside the scope of the CMP and should be managed under a dedicated waste or contamination framework. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
EN02 Continue to nourish The Entrance North Beach with sand from The Entrance channel berm management or dredging activities when available to increase beach amenity and resilience.	9	Very high support	Sand nourishment must be regular, reliable, and strategically committed: respondents want nourishment to be a consistent, proactive measure—not reactive or conditional. Confidence in delivery is key to restoring community trust. Count: 2 Sand quality and source must be carefully managed: nourishment sand must match beach sand in consistency and origin. Respondents also call for research into sand movement and channel optimization. Count: 2 Structural interference must be addressed before nourishment: the rock groyne is seen as a major contributor to erosion. Respondent suggests that its removal should precede or accompany nourishment efforts. Count: 1 Nourishment is supported by historical studies and should be continued: respondent references past estuary management plans that recommended dredging and nourishment, reinforcing its validity. Count: 1 Community messaging should clarify the role of nourishment: nourishment should be explained as part of a broader coastal protection strategy, especially where revetment walls are already in place. Count: 1
EB01 Review the structural integrity and extent of the foreshore revetment and embankment protecting Marine Parade, The Entrance and undertake remedial works as required	8.5	High support	Structural and environmental factors must be assessed holistically: respondents believe erosion and embankment instability are caused by a combination of groyne interference, stormwater drainage, and vegetation loss. These must be addressed together. Count: 2 Effectiveness of existing structures must be evaluated transparently: there is a call for formal studies (e.g., EIS/SEE) to assess the groyne's impact and inform future decisions. Count: 1 Support for proactive erosion mitigation and planning: respondent supports the action as necessary to prevent further erosion and guide long-term coastal protection. Count: 1 Opposition to hard revetment structures: one respondent opposes hard engineering solutions, suggesting a preference for nature-based or adaptive alternatives. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
WB01 Undertake an engineering review of the Wamberal Beach engineering design requirements (EDR) so that they may be referred to in future revisions of Council's Coastal Development Control Plan (DCP)	2	Low Support	Sentiment on fairness, trust and politics (threaded across responses): many express distrusts in council, frustration with political handling and concern that community voices are being ignored. Count: 29 Opposition to a seawall or vertical hard structure: community members 'reject' the idea of a vertical seawall. They suggest it destroys beaches, public land and natural processes and should be removed from the CMP entirely. Count: 20 Support for alternative solutions and nature-based approaches: respondents want the engineering review to explore sand nourishment, dune restoration, hybrid/nature-based solutions and reject the idea of a single structural fix. Count: 14 Opposition to private property protection and cost allocation concerns: respondents oppose using public funds to protect private beachfront homes. They advocate for owner-funded protection, no compensation and accountability for risky development. Count: 12 Support for progressive retreat and dune restoration: a subset of responses call for buybacks, regeneration of dunes and a long-term retreat strategy to restore the natural coastline. Count: 7 Calls for independent, science-based, best-practice engagement: respondents want independent experts, environmental authorities and rigorous science to guide the review. Requests are underpinned by distrust in council and suspicion of vested interests or cost-cutting. Count: 6 Criticism of council process and review fatigue: some express frustration with repeated reviews, lack of progress and political delays. They call for a permanent resolution. Count: 4 Public amenity, social value and environmental considerations: respondents highlight the need for the EDR to reflect public access (including disability access), tourism and environmental values - not just private property protection. Count: 3 Flood risk, geotechnical and technical concerns: submissions call for geotechnical surveys and flood modelling for Wamberal and Terrigal lagoons, with detailed suggestions on data and modelling methods. Count: 3 See additional feedback on wamberal beach issues in section 0

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
WB02 Implement whole of embayment terminal protection solution for Wamberal Beach Council owned lands in accordance with the principles of the Engineering Design Requirements	-9	Not supported	Opposition to hard protection structures (e.g. Seawalls, vertical walls): rejection of seawalls or terminal walls as default solutions. Seen as destructive to beach amenity, public access and ecological resilience. Count: 15 Support for alternative/nature-based solutions: calls for sand nourishment, dune restoration, adaptive reef structures and hybrid designs. Preference for soft engineering over hard infrastructure. Count: 12 Process fairness, transparency and consistency issues: concerns about lack of transparency, landowner-led framing, contradictions with CMP promises and suppressed cost-benefit analyses. Count: 9 Other/minor or tangential points: includes philosophical views on erosion, general political commentary and references to external figures or unrelated CMP actions. Count 8 Flood risk and lagoon impact concerns: concerns that a continuous structure could increase flooding in Wamberal and Terrigal lagoons. Requests for hydrological modelling and risk assessments. Count: 6 Homeowner responsibility and retreat strategy: advocacy for progressive retreat, no compensation for risky development, caveats on titles and removal of unauthorised structures. Count: 6 Public amenity and environmental values: emphasis on protecting public open space, inclusive access (including for people with disabilities) and ecological health. Count: 2 Qualified support for whole-of-embayment approach: support contingent on avoiding seawalls, ensuring full coverage and addressing end-effects and land access issues. Count: 3 Political frustration and urgency for action: desire to move past delays and political gridlock. Calls for permanent resolution despite controversy. Count: 3 Confusion about CMP contradictions (WB01 vs WB02): questions about implementing EDRs in WB02 while WB01 calls for their review. Count: 1 See additional feedback on wamberal beach issues in section 0

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
A01 Undertake a detailed wave overtopping and inundation assessment for high-risk locations	8	High support	Assessment must be transparent and include public consultation: respondents want the findings to be publicly available and reviewed by the community before final decisions are made. Respondents indicate that action should proceed in consultation with the community to build awareness of the inundation risks and implications of management options. Count: 3 Opposition to public spending on risk assessments or private protection: some respondents oppose using taxpayer money for assessments or protection of properties knowingly built in high-risk areas. Count: 3 Preference for adaptation over control of natural processes: respondents argue that council should focus on adapting to nature rather than trying to control it. Count: 1 Support for data collection and technical modelling: respondents support collecting more data and modelling future climate scenarios to inform mitigation strategies. Count: 2 Strong support for assessment as part of coastal adaptation planning: respondents view the assessment as essential for understanding risks and guiding long-term planning, especially when paired with community efforts and historical restoration. Count: 2
EB02 Undertake a detailed wave overtopping and inundation assessment for high-risk locations	9	Very high support	The rock groyne is a major cause of erosion and should be removed or reassessed: respondents argue that the groyne has disrupted natural sand movement, caused downdrift erosion, and harmed local ecology. Its removal or redesign should be part of the assessment. Count: 4 Wave and inundation assessment must be transparent and expert-led: respondents want the assessment to include formal environmental reviews (EIS/SEE), be led by independent experts, and involve community consultation. Count: 3 Channel design and hydrology should be part of the assessment: respondents suggest that deepening or redesigning the channel could help manage water flow and reduce erosion. Count: 2 Opposition to spending or support for existing structures: some respondents oppose spending on new assessments or support keeping the groyne due to its perceived protective benefits. Count: 2 Urgent action is needed to address coastal risks: sentiment that the assessment and any resulting actions must be implemented quickly to prevent further damage. Count: 1 Managed retreat should be considered as a viable strategy: respondent supports retreat over hard engineering as a long-term solution to inundation and erosion. Count: 1
T02 Options study for replacement of aging seawall at The Haven	4.5	Moderate Support	Support for soft engineering and natural alternatives: there is support for replacing the aging seawall with softer, more natural solutions that restore coastal processes, improve aesthetics, and reduce environmental impact. Count: 8 Opposition to replacement or scepticism about need: some respondents believe the seawall is still functional and question the need for replacement, suggesting resources could be better allocated. Count: 4 Support for conducting the options study: respondents agree that a study is necessary to assess the seawall's condition, explore alternatives, and ensure decisions are guided by safety, sustainability, and community values. Count: 3 Concern about overlooked public safety risks: respondents highlight serious risks such as cliff instability and historical storm inundation that are missing from the CMP and should be addressed urgently. Count: 2 Frustration with repeated studies: there is concern that council commissions too many studies without taking action, leading to wasted resources. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-C01 Continue the role of a coastal, estuary and floodplain management Advisory Committee	9	Very high support	Community representation must be broader and more inclusive: respondents want the committee to include diverse voices, especially across age groups, and restore the broader representation seen in previous iterations. Count: 2 Governance structure needs review to ensure independence and authority: respondents suggest the committee should report directly to council and have authority to challenge or override staff decisions. Count: 2 Committee must be professionally led and technically competent: there is concern about community members lacking expertise or having conflicts of interest. Respondents support professional leadership to ensure sound environmental outcomes. Count: 1 Committee must be accountable to strategic plans and outcomes: there is frustration that the committee has not adhered to previous plans (e.g., estuary management plan), and respondents want clearer accountability. Count: 1 Neutrality and transparency are essential: concerns were raised about council staff using committee platforms to promote specific projects (e.g., wamberal seawall), which undermines trust. Count: 1
CW-C02 Work with First Nation groups and stakeholders to evaluate arrangements for undertaking beach maintenance operations	6.5	Moderate Support	Support for first nations involvement in beach maintenance: respondents agree that first nations groups should be involved in evaluating and guiding beach maintenance operations. Count: 2 Recognition of traditional custodians over administrative bodies: there is a call to prioritize engagement with traditional custodians rather than relying solely on local aboriginal land councils for land use decisions. Count: 1 Inclusive representation of local first nations groups: respondent wants to ensure that all relevant first nations stakeholders, including central coast bloodline groups, are included—not just dominant or administrative entities. Count: 1
CW-C03 Management of unapproved memorials in public coastal spaces	4	Moderate Support	Support for removal of unauthorised memorials: respondents advocate for the removal of unapproved or inappropriate memorials from public coastal spaces. Count: 2 Conditional acceptance of memorials (size, safety, unobtrusiveness): support exists for allowing memorials if they meet criteria such as being small, safe, and appropriately placed. Count: 2 Concerns about cultural sensitivity and community consultation: emphasis on respecting culturally sensitive areas and ensuring community involvement in decisions. Count: 1 Perceived irrelevance to coastal management priorities: one respondent questions whether memorial management belongs in a CMP. Count: 1 Support for formal approval processes: encouragement for structured, da-based memorial approvals with community and stakeholder input. Count: 1 Opposition to action / low priority: viewed as minor and not worth prioritising in the broader coastal management context. Count: 1
CW-C04 Update and maintain Council's website to improve awareness and make information on coastal processes, hazards, and issues more accessible	8	High support	Website usability and accessibility: request for a clearer, more navigable, and engaging website with embedded interactive and integrated digital tools that support community reporting and spatial issue tracking. Count: 3 Transparency and trust in council communications: respondent wants the website to reflect community sentiment and government decisions accurately, specifically, respondents want the wamberal beach webpage to reflect objections to the seawall proposal. Count: 1 Customer service and responsiveness: concerns raised about council's low responsiveness and website reliability. Count: 1 Policy clarity and coastal responsibility: calls for clearer communication on council's role in coastal development and retreat strategies. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-C05 Knowledge sharing and protection of cultural heritage	7	High support	General support for cultural heritage protection: respondents affirm the importance of protecting and sharing cultural heritage noting that there are instances already occurring at Copacabana. Count: 2 Inclusive consultation with all first nations groups: call for consultation with all relevant first nations communities, including less-recognised groups including the Guringai people in the Norah Head / Toukley area. Count: 1 Complexity of stakeholder collaboration: respondent acknowledges the challenge of identifying and engaging appropriate cultural collaborators. Count: 1 broader community inclusion beyond indigenous groups: call for cultural consultation to include all residents, not just indigenous stakeholders. Count: 1 timing of cultural consultation during planning and works: respondent suggests that cultural engagement should occur during master planning and site development phases. Count: 1
CW-D01 Develop and maintain a coastal geotechnical database	7	High support	Comprehensive scope and integration of geotechnical data: there is support for geotechnical data as foundational to coastal management, it is recognised as essential for informed policy and planning. There are calls for broad data coverage across existing studies, da submissions, and agency records and inter-agency (NSW SES) collaboration. Count: 2 Accessibility and transparency of geotechnical data: respondents wants open access to the database via council's website and there is an expectation that such a resource should already be in place. Count: 2 Funding and shared responsibility: feedback suggests the state should help fund and manage the database. Count: 1 Opposition to geotechnical database for natural beach areas: one views the database as unnecessary for natural beach areas. Count: 1
CW-D02 Conduct geotechnical investigations to improve understanding of underlying geology along the coast	7	High support	Support for data-driven coastal management: respondent values the role of data in shaping coastal decisions and express enthusiasm for its collection and use. Count: 1 Clarification of funding and responsibility: there is a call for the state to take responsibility for funding and oversight of geotechnical investigations. Count: 1 Critique of planning priorities and timing: one person suggests geotechnical investigations should have been a priority earlier in the coastal planning process. Count: 1
CW-D03 Develop a Coastal Assets at Risk register and update asset management program	8	High support	General support for asset risk register and management updates: suggestion that this action is necessary and appropriate within the coastal management framework. Count: 1 Clarification of scope and inclusivity of assets: respondent seeks clarity on whether the register includes only built assets or also natural and ecological assets such as plants, animals, and marine life. Count: 1 Accessibility and transparency of asset data: there is a call for the asset risk register to be made publicly accessible to improve transparency and community awareness. Count: 1 Integration with strategic planning and hazard mapping: one person suggests the register should inform and be informed by broader planning strategies, including hazard lines and masterplans for surf lifesaving clubs and active lifestyle infrastructure. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
CW-D04 Continue to improve accessibility and inclusiveness of coastal and foreshore areas	9	Very high support	Environmental sensitivity and protection of natural features: respondents support accessibility improvements but caution against erosion risks and the loss of natural character, especially at headlands and ocean baths. Count: 3 Strategic alignment and governance: there is a call for accessibility initiatives to be embedded within broader planning frameworks such as the active lifestyles strategy and DIAP, ensuring consistency across projects. Count: 2 Recognition of accessibility as a growing issue: accessibility is acknowledged as a significant and emerging concern at specific beaches like Copacabana. Count: 1 Environmental quality as a prerequisite for access: one person's feedback highlights that accessibility is meaningless if environmental conditions (e.g., water pollution) are not addressed. Count: 1 Alignment with coastal protection priorities: question about how accessibility goals are being balanced with protection works at Terrigal and Wamberal given the focus on protection works. Count: 1
CW-D05 Review coastal hazard notations and planning certificates	9	Very high support	Community education and awareness. This combination of actions is a worthwhile inclusion. "Council will provide a publicly usable form of the coastal hazard spatial mapping (interpretable at the property level), accompanied by clear explanations of what the various terms, qualifications etc. Mean. Count 1
CW-E01 Review and implement Council's coastal water quality monitoring program	9	Very high support	Marine biodiversity protection and pollution concerns: there is concern that water quality monitoring alone is insufficient without broader action to protect marine ecosystems, address overfishing, and prevent pollution from vehicles and boats. Count: 1 Frustration with communication and engagement: feedback reflects dissatisfaction with how council communicates its intentions and engages the public, with calls for clearer language and genuine opportunities for input. Count: 1
CW-E02 Develop and implement a Coastal Vegetation Strategy	10	Very high support	Marine biodiversity protection and coastal ecosystem restoration: there is support for restoring marine vegetation such as crayweed and protecting marine life through regulated fishing and designated marine zones. The strategy should address threats from recreational activities and promote ecological resilience. Count: 1 Integration of vegetation with public amenity and landscape character: coastal vegetation should enhance public spaces by providing shade, aesthetic value, and compatibility with shared pathways. Large coastal trees are seen as beneficial for both environmental and recreational purposes. Count: 1
T01 Undertake and support research projects and citizen science initiatives aimed at enhancing and conserving marine biodiversity, science, recreation, and education	9	Very high support	Site-specific conservation actions (e.g., marine sanctuaries, lagoon flow): suggestions for targeted conservation measures such as marine sanctuaries at Copacabana rock platform to protect species from over-visitation, lagoon water flow improvements, and avoiding infrastructure (boardwalks) in sensitive areas. Count: 5 Support for citizen science and local knowledge: support for leveraging local expertise and community involvement in marine research and conservation. Respondents note that they have been met with slow responses from council previously however would support on-ging collaboration. Count: 4 Call for inclusion of expert agencies (e.g., NPWS): respondents recommend involving formal environmental and recreational bodies like NPWS and surfing groups. Count: 2 Scepticism about citizen science credibility: concern raised about the reliability and objectivity of community-led science initiatives as community groups may lack expertise and have conflicts of interest. Count: 1 Opposition to harmful practices (e.g., shark nets) call to eliminate practices perceived as harmful to marine biodiversity, such as shark netting to protect marine biodiversity. Count: 1

CMP Action ID and Name	Median score – support level from online survey (-10 to +10)	Level of support (all feedback channels considered)	Feedback sentiments
SB01 Undertake dune management works at the southern carpark of Soldiers Beach	9	Very high support	Need for strategic and region-wide dune management: respondent suggests a broader, coordinated approach to dune management across the coastline. Count: 1 Support for adaptive use of sand resources: feedback encourages using accumulated sand for erosion mitigation near built assets including replenishment of the beach in front of the clubhouse and ramp . Count: 1 Low concern or neutral sentiment: one respondent views sand movement as a natural process that doesn't warrant intervention. Count: 1 Support for targeted dune management: preference for localised dune works at soldiers beach, with caution against managing artificial dunes. Count: 1

4.2 Wamberal Beach specific feedback

Council acknowledges that a significant level of the public interest and contribution received regarding the Open Coast CMP related to Wamberal Beach. All feedback has been carefully read and considered. While much of the feedback mentioning Wamberal Beach related to the overall CMP rather than the specific actions for that location, Council has ensured this input has been incorporated into the analysis of the Wamberal-specific actions WB01 and WB02 to strengthen their alignment with community priorities and the CMP's broader objectives.

Table 4.7 Engagement outcomes summary wamberal actions

Key issue raised. (Number of times issue raised)	Our Understanding / Interpretation	Response
There is a lack of clear implementation timeframes or responsibilities (41)	Community members concerned about a lack of specific timelines and clarity on who is responsible for implementing actions in the CMP.	The draft CMP at Section 6 includes a Business Plan. All management actions are categorised as short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-6 years), and long term (7-10 years). Each action specifies the lead agency (predominantly Council) and supporting agencies.
There is a lack of cost estimates/ cost-benefit analysis or detailed funding strategies (inc. how costs will be shared between Council, private landowners, and NSW Government) (57)	Stakeholders are seeking clarity on the financial implications of proposed actions, including who will bear the costs.	The Business Plan includes an estimate of the costs for each of the actions. The responsibility for costs is met by the lead agency which may be supplemented by grant funding, though this is not guaranteed. As per the resolutions of Council in June and October 2022 for Wamberal terminal protection and sand nourishment studies the costs for private works are to be paid for by each landowner. If any actions for private properties are included in an updated CMP, then the responsibility for funding would also be included in the business plan.
The CMP does not adequately meet the requirements of section 15 of the Coastal Management Act, regarding clarity of actions, emergency action sub-plans for erosion prone areas and deliverables (76)	Concern that the CMP does not meet legislative requirements for clear, actionable steps and emergency response planning.	The CMP has been developed in alignment with the Coastal Management Act 2016, including Section 15. It identifies priority management areas, outlines strategic actions, and includes provisions for emergency response. The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water reviews the CMP to ensure that it meets the CM Act requirements.
The CMP does not give enough consideration to alternative solutions to seawalls (including nature-based solutions, gradual retreat and buy-backs) (99)	Community perceives a lack of exploration of non-hard engineering options, suggesting a preference for seawalls.	The CMP considers a range of coastal management options, including nature-based solutions in line with the NSW Coastal Management Framework. The selection of preferred options is based on technical assessments, community input, and feasibility studies.
Conflict of interest concerns regarding consultants and council staff involved in seawall DAs and the development of the CMP (47)	Concern about impartiality and transparency in the development of the CMP.	Council maintains strict probity standards and procurement processes to ensure transparency and integrity. Consultants are engaged through competitive processes and bound by professional codes of conduct. The various parts and stages of the CMP were developed over many years by various staff, consultancies in collaboration with NSW DCCEEW staff to meet the requirements of the Coastal Management Manual and the Coastal Management Act.
Concerns that the CMP prioritises private landowners and that other constituents have concerns related to public funds involved in erosion management (47)	Perception that public funds may be used to benefit private landowners without broader community consent.	As per page 19 of the Draft Open Coast CMP, "Public money is not proposed in this CMP to address existing or future coastal risks on private lands." As per the resolutions of Council in June and October 2022 for Wamberal terminal protection and sand nourishment studies the costs for private works are to be paid for by each landowner. If any actions for private properties are included in an updated

Key issue raised. (Number of times issue raised)	Our Understanding / Interpretation	Response
		CMP, then the responsibility for funding would also be included in the business plan.
Concerns that community resilience connected to the amenity and access to the beach will be reduced should a seawall be constructed (23)	Concern that the impact of hard infrastructure on public beach access and amenity has not been adequately addressed.	The CMP acknowledges the importance of balancing public access and amenity. Any proposed protection works, including seawalls, will be subject to detailed design and environmental assessment processes. Further to this any private coastal protection works are also subject to a development approval process. For example, the development applications for coastal protection works at Wamberal Beach are being assessed by the Regional Planning Panel.
Concerns that key technical studies (hard risk and cost-benefit reports) have not been made publicly available (32)	Stakeholders are concerned about transparency and the ability to scrutinise the evidence base for the CMP.	The coastal hazard study and options assessment report were made available before public exhibition. Further to this the Wamberal Terminal Protection and Sand Nourishment Studies were developed from 2020 to 2022 included a coast benefit and distributional analysis and went through four community consultation rounds. Further information on these background studies are available on Council's website here: **Coastal Erosion - Wamberal Beach | Central Coast Council**
The CMP does not adequately meet the requirements the Coastal Management Act regarding clarity of actions and emergency planning for the management of the lagoons (36)	Concern that the CMP does not adequately address flood risk and emergency response for lagoon areas.	The Coastal Lagoons CMP is a separate CMP that covers the coastal lagoon study area, and this issue will be addressed in that CMP. It is appropriate that flood risks associated with a particular proposed development be addressed as part of any development application for coastal protection works. Catchment flooding of the coastal lagoons is addressed through the NSW Floodplain Management Process. Council has a Coastal Lagoons Catchment Overland Flood Study and separate Floodplain Risk Management Plans for each of the coastal lagoons available on its website here: **Floodplain Risk Management Plans | Central Coast Council**
The CMP does not adequately consider 'end effect' inundation to the adjacent lagoons nor provide emergency actions regarding the flooding of these lagoons because of a seawall at Wamberal Beach (27)	Concern that the downstream impacts of terminal protection structures, such as end effects and lagoon inundation, are not addressed.	It is appropriate that flood risks associated with a particular proposed development be addressed as part of any development application for coastal protection works. The Coastal Lagoons CMP is a separate CMP that covers the coastal lagoon study area and this issue will be addressed in that CMP.
There is a lack of specific monitoring mechanisms and detailed evaluation framework for the CMP to be reviewed and improved over time (33)	Stakeholders are concerned about the lack of mechanisms to track progress and adapt the CMP over time.	The CMP at Section 8 includes a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting program. A CMP is reviewed and updated at least every 10 years. The actions are inherently flexible to allow for adaptation over the 10-year life of the plan.
Concern that community feedback opposing hard protection measures has not been adequately considered (97)	Perception that community opposition to hard infrastructure, particularly the seawall, has not been adequately reflected in the CMP.	Council acknowledges the diversity of community views and has considered all feedback received. The CMP aims to balance environmental, social, and economic factors, and includes a range of management options. The actions within the CMP have been chosen to address the current and future risks to the natural, public, and private assets as required by the NSW Coastal Management Framework.

4.3 What's next?

The Open Coast Coastal Management Program is currently being amended following public exhibition, considering the feedback received. It will be presented to Council in early 2026 for consideration, either to commence the certification process or to proceed with further public exhibition.

Once certified, Council will look to apply for State and Federal Government funding to progress the project.

Throughout the development of the Open Coast Coastal Management Program, a consistent theme raised during engagement was community frustration with the volume of plans, strategies and reports, and a desire to see more tangible on-ground action. Development of the Open Coast CMP has been lengthy and has necessarily involved a detailed and structured planning process, including technical studies and risk assessments as per the requirements of the Coastal Management Act 2016 and the NSW Coastal Management Program framework.

Certification of the Open Coast CMP marks the transition into Stage 5 - Implementation and Monitoring, where the focus is on delivering priority actions, tracking outcomes and adapting management over time. For the Open Coast, this means priority actions identified through the CMP can now be progressed through Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework, land-use planning systems, asset management and works programs. In this way, certification provides the mechanism to move from planning to implementation and respond directly to the community's call for meaningful on-ground action.

Find out more and stay up to date at

www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/our-coast-our-waterways/open-coast