



NSW Coastal Council

Local government Coastal Management
Program & Coastal Zone Management
Plan Survey 2018

Summary Report

Surveying local government - 2018

Coastal Zone Management Plans & Coastal Management Programs

Survey Scope, Method and Coverage

Coastal Council surveyed local government Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) and Coastal Management Programs (CMP) in late 2018.

The survey sought to:

- baseline the status of local government CZMPs and CMPs for 2018;
- assess the capacity of councils to undertake their CZMPs and CMPs; and
- identify barriers to the planning and implementation of CZMPs and CMPs

Information was gathered by a combination of direct engagement with local government nominated representatives through an online survey and indirectly through their OEH metropolitan and regional offices

The survey was completed over a two week period from 28/11/18 to 12/12/18

A total of 56 organisations within the NSW coastal zone¹ were surveyed – 55 councils and 1 county council

¹ Local governments within the Coastal Management SEPP Land Application Area

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Questions and Responses

Questions

A total of 18 questions were asked addressing council capacity, status of their CZMPs/CMPs and barriers or issues to progressing the CZMPs/CMPs

Proxies for council capacity included self reported estimates of number of staff (Full Time Equivalent) involved in coastal management planning and implementation, proportion of total council annual budget allocated to coastal management and reliance of coastal planning and actions on grant funding.

CZMP and CMP status was compiled from a combination of local government survey responses and OEH information. Barriers and issues for CZMPS actions and CMPs stages were gathered from council survey responses.

Responses

Information on the status of CZMPs and CMPs was collected for **all 56** organisations (**100% return**). Fewer councils, 33 out of the 56 surveyed (**59%**), provided specific responses on capacity and barriers. Capacity information is a qualitative indicator only.

Proxies for the scale of councils' responsibilities in coastal planning and management were collected from state government published sources (DPE population projections; DPE spatial data on LGA areas in coastal zone).

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Summary Results – CZMP and CMP Status

Coastal Zone Management Plans

A total of 40 out of 56 councils (**71%**) reported involvement in at least one certified CZMPs for the open ocean coast or an estuary, some councils had multiple CZMPs. Numbers and percentages of councils with a single (or multiple) plan(s):

- 1 CZMP = 29 (73%)
- 2 CZMPs = 9 (23%)
- 3 or 4 CZMPs = 0
- 5 CZMPs = 1 (2%)
- 6 CZMPs = 1 (2%)

Coastal Management Programs

A total 46 out 56 councils (**82%**) reported having a CMP at any stage of planning or preparation, including a current grant application. The total number of CMPs for each council varied. Numbers and percentages of councils with a single (or multiple) program (s):

- 1 CMP = 32 (70%)
- 2 CMPs = 12 (26%)
- 3 CMPs = 1 (2%)
- 4 CMPs = 0
- 5 CMPs = 1 (2%)

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Summary Results – CMP Stage

Coastal Management Program Stage

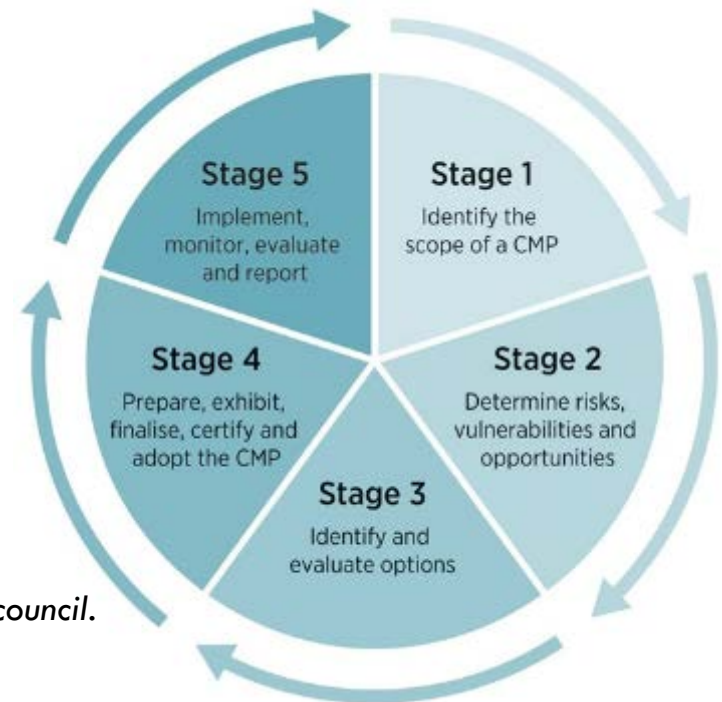
Of the 46 (**82%**) councils reporting having a CMP at any stage, there is a spread of planning, preparation and implementation activities underway

The reported number CMPs at various stages:

- Pre Stage 1 (grant application) = 18 (28%)
- Stage 1 (scoping) = 18 (28%)
- Stage 2 (risks & opportunities) = 18 (28%)*
- Stage 3 (identify options) = 6 (10%)
- Stage 4 (prepare, exhibit, certify) = 3 (5%)
- Stage 5 (implement, monitor, report) = 0

**Includes councils reporting involvement in Greater Sydney Harbour*

Scoping Study, reported as at Stage 2, despite study having no lead council.



Collaboration on CMPs

Councils reporting joint preparation of a CMP with adjacent councils = 34 (77% of councils with CMP at any stage). The high percentage is driven primarily by Greater Sydney Region councils collaborating on estuarine CMPs.

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Summary Results – Council Capacity & Context

Resources

A total of 34 of all 56 councils (**61%**) reported estimates on most capacity proxies (ie. budget and staff allocated to coastal management and reliance on grant funding for plans and programs). Reported values are considered indicative only.

Staff: estimated average number of staff involved in coastal management is around **4 FTE** (range 0.01 to 40). High values greater than 10 FTE reported by three councils appear to include field/operational staff. Generally staff numbers are low (<5 FTE) with no clear pattern of higher staff numbers in metropolitan versus regional councils.

Budget: average estimated proportion of total council budget allocated to coastal management is around **2%** (range 0.0002 to 10%; majority <1%). **Grants** average 17% (range 0 to 50%) of councils' coastal management budget

Context

Coastal Area: the average area of each council area within the Coastal Management SEPP is **125km²** (range <1 to 1024km²). Regional councils fill the top ten places by area. Largest council is Mid-Coast (1,024km²), largest metropolitan council is Northern Beaches (74km²)

Population Change: Councils are projected to have on average **33% population growth** (2011 to 2036). The top ten growth councils (>**50%** growth) are all in the Greater Sydney Region.

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Summary Results – CZMP/CMP barriers

Councils have previously provided feedback on the barriers and issues to CZMPs and CMPs at the NSW 2018 Coastal Conference. This feedback was summarised in the Coastal Council's November 2018 report to the Minister.

Councils had another opportunity to outline their issues with CZMPs/CMPs in this survey, 24 (**42% of all councils**) provided information on which the following high level summary is based.

Issue	Barriers to CZMP/CMP progress
Guidance	Timely and consistent advice from OEH on CMP scope definition and stage tasks
Governance & Coordination with Agencies	Securing commitment of state agencies (including MEMA; Crown Lands) to councils' CZMP and CMP actions
Governance & Coordination between Councils	Challenge of working with multiple councils with differing priorities and capacities
Resources & Grant Program	Onerous application criteria, 50:50 matching, time lag for award of funds, resource drain and administrative overheads in preparing applications Staff workload, limited council budgets, internal prioritisation of coastal actions
Transition to CMPs	Community consultation fatigue More time consumed in planning and less on on-the-ground works Reuse and adaptation of CZMP information into CMPs Not enough time (December 2021) to prepare CMPs
Capacity Building	Lack of practical fit-for-purpose guidance material and examples for council officers Training for staff to have less reliance on consultants

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