



Department of Primary Industries

OUT17/31878

The General Manager
Byron Shire Council
PO Box 219
MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482

Attention: Ms Chloe Dowsett

Dear Ms Dowsett



Brunswick Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan

Thank you for providing the Brunswick Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan (BECZMP) to DPI Fisheries for comment.

DPI Fisheries acknowledges Byron Shire Council's efforts in preparing the plan and undertaking consultation. DPI Fisheries cannot, however, endorse the plan in its current form and requests the following changes be made.

The terminology used in the BECZMP referring to 'DPI Marine Parks' and 'Department of Primary Industries – Marine Parks' needs to be amended to simply refer to 'DPI Fisheries'.

DPI Fisheries should not be identified as a lead or contributing agency to Item R1. This item is beyond the scope of DPI Fisheries activities.

DPI Fisheries should not be listed for actions where the Department's role will occur as part of its day to day regulatory role (ie R2 and R4), or, where DPI Fisheries will have only a minor role. DPI Fisheries does not support inclusion of these items in the BECZMP. Further, the current wording of R2 and R4 appears to extend beyond DPI Fisheries specific regulator role. For example the description in the subtask for item R4 states: 'BSC and DPI Fisheries to investigate illegal landowner development (built structures) and riparian vegetation clearing along all reaches of the Brunswick Estuary'. DPI Fisheries regulates harm to marine vegetation (kelp, seagrass, mangroves and saltmarsh) on public land. DPI Fisheries regulatory role does not encompass other riparian vegetation types within the Brunswick estuary. DPI Fisheries has a strong compliance function that works to ensure adherence to provisions within the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* within the Brunswick estuary. DPI Fisheries would support an action that recognised the cumulative impact of foreshore bank armouring and foreshore structures and proposed an estuary wide strategic assessment of the most suitable sites for these works.

DPI Fisheries agrees that the following Items IR1 and IR8 are desirable actions.

- 'IR1 Determine current status of recreational and commercial activities and their impact on estuary health and user values and develop a guidance document for the sustainable management of commercial activities' and
- 'IR8 Assessing the distribution and abundance of fish stocks in the Brunswick Estuary.'

However, participation by DPI Fisheries in the implementation of these actions is reliant upon the Department having sufficient resources or receiving specific funding to support the subject actions. This needs to be reflected in the wording of these actions.

DPI Fisheries highlights that a threat and risk assessment for the NSW marine estate is presently being finalised by the Marine Estate Management Authority (see www.marine.nsw.gov.au). Priority threats to the marine estate include foreshore development, urban stormwater discharge, boating infrastructure, and activities that damage wetland habitats such as mangroves and saltmarsh. CZMPs should be strategically aligned to these key threats and the DPI endorses actions that seek to address these threats as matters of priority for funding.

DPI Fisheries looks forward to reviewing the BECZMP once these changes have been adopted and anticipates working with all estuary management partners in implementing the CZMP into the future.

If you require any further information please contact either Mr Patrick Dwyer, Senior Fisheries Manager – Aquatic Ecosystems (North Coast) on 0407 264 391 or Mr Andrew Page, Cape Byron Marine Park Manager on 6620 9305.

Yours sincerely



Dr Geoff Allan
Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries
Date: 31 August 2017