

Memo

Subject	Reply to submissions
Distribution	James Flockton (Byron Shire Council)
Date	September 2019
Project	Belongil Creek catchment issues study

Overview

Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty. Ltd. (Alluvium) have been engaged by Byron Shire Council (Council) to develop the Belongil Creek catchment issues study. The Belongil Creek catchment is an integral component of the Byron Bay community. The catchment provides significant social, environmental and economic values to the local community. Many of these values are threatened without changes in management responses.

The study summarises the major management issues facing the Belongil Creek catchment and provides a recommended framework for the development of either a catchment management plan or Coast Management Program. The development of this report has involved an extensive review of previous studies, a stakeholder workshop with state agencies, Council staff, local businesses and landholders and discussions with the Coast, Estuary and Catchment Panel. The draft Belongil Creek catchment issues study was provided to key stakeholders for comment in June 2019 and submissions were provided to Council.

The following document presents an overview of the submissions received and how certain feedback has been incorporated into the issues study. Where feedback has not been incorporated, the reason why has also been outlined.

Submissions

A list of the submissions received, and an overview of each submission is provided below.

1. **Jenny Atkins (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service), received 02/08/2019:** The key items to the submission and the responses are presented in Table 1.
2. **Andrew Page (Cape Byron Marine Park, NSW DPI fisheries), received 15/08/2019:** *The development of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the Belongil catchment is considered the best way to ensure that the multiple threats affecting the catchment are adequately addressed.* The key items to the submission and the responses are presented in **Error! Reference source not found..**

Table 1. Jenny Atkins (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service), key submission items and responses

Key submission item	Reply to submission
<p>1. Figure 1 – map shows the catchment north of Grays Lane/Black Rock Road. Ground water may flow north into Simpson Creek, or is there a criteria that places part of the Reserve north of Black Rock Road in the Belongil Catchment? There is no connecting drainage between the north/south side of the road so the south side goes towards Belongil. Part of the drain on Figure 7 (Grays Lane and Black Rock Road intersection) has been filled in by the Landowner.</p>	<p>Added commentary in section 2.5-Drainage around the north/south drainage near Black Rock Road</p>
<p>2. Figure 5 – add Bundjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal) Native Title Consent Determination by the Federal Court of Australia 30 April 2001.</p>	<p>Figure 5 amended</p>
<p>3. Figure 18, an arrow points to Cosy Corner and refers to rubbish dumping and grazing. If this statement applies to the neighbours move the arrow closer to residential property</p>	<p>Figure 18 amended and reference to grazing removed</p>
<p>4. Figure 18, an arrow points to Arakwal NP and makes reference to feral pigs. Remove the pig reference as non are present in Arakwal NP.</p>	<p>Figure 18 amended</p>
<p>5. Figure 22 – an arrow points to Cumbebin NR and makes reference to feral pigs. Remove the pig reference as non are present in Cumbebin NR</p>	<p>Figure 22 amended</p>
<p>6. Section 3.6 makes reference to feral pigs. NPWS has no reports of feral pigs on-Park. If there are no reports from Council or LLS, can this be removed?</p>	<p>Text amended</p>
<p>7. Figure 26 - an arrow points to Cumbebin NR and makes reference to feral pigs. Remove the pig reference as non are present in Cumbebin NR</p>	<p>Figure 26 amended</p>
<p>8. Figure 30 - an arrow points to Tyagarah NR and makes reference to feral pigs. Remove the pig reference as non are present in Tyagarah NR</p>	<p>Figure 30 amended</p>

Table 2. Andrew Page (Cape Byron Marine Park, NSW DPI fisheries), key submission items and responses

Key submission item	Reply to submission
1. I note that fauna and fish surveys quoted in the draft Strategy are dated (e.g. Parker 1996, 1998; Schneirer 1988) and no indication is provided of any effects that the current management regime has had on these populations since these surveys were undertaken. Consequently, no information is provided on the current status of fauna in Belongil Creek to inform any ongoing assessment of the current inputs and management approach and, for example, any influences on the creek since discharges from the Sewage Treatment Plant commenced.	Fauna and fish survey are recommended in the report and should be conducted as a part of catchment management plan or CMP.
2. An Entrance Opening Strategy for Belongil Creek would be an integral part of the CMP and could be finalised as part of the CMP to ensure consistency with the objectives for the management of the catchment.	Amendments to the Opening Strategy to be considered as a part of the CMP to ensure consistency.
3. I am advised by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Energy and Science Group, that the approach proposed in Part 5 of the Study may not be consistent with the NSW Coastal Management framework. While positive actions to improve the health and water quality of Belongil Creek are supported and the production of the Study is great progress in that regard, it is problematic for the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries to support an approach which is not in accordance with NSW State Government guidelines.	Text amended to include the option for development of a CMP under the NSW Coastal Management framework.