



## DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

12<sup>th</sup> September 2006

<b>DSDS4</b>	<b>KILLICK CREEK ESTUARY MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN FILE: E10 RFK</b>
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### SUMMARY:

Reporting that the Final Report - Killick Creek (April 06) Estuary Management Study and Plan has been prepared for Council's adoption.

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### Description

The Final Report – Killick Creek Estuary Management Study and Plan has been prepared in accordance with the NSW State Governments Estuary Management Manual (Oct 1992). The aim of the Estuary Management Plan is to ensure ecological sustainability of the estuary, whilst balancing the demands on the system by human uses.

The Final EMP was ratified by the Coast & Estuary Management Committee in June 2006. The Committee recommended that a 'letter of support' for the adoption of the Management Plan from the relevant state agencies be sought and that on receipt of the state agency replies that the EMP be presented to Council for adoption. Letters of support have been received from NSW Martine Authority and Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) ([Appendix E](#)). No reply has been received from the Department of Natural Resources, however, the Department is represented on Council's Committee and has contributed funding for the study.

The Killick Creek Estuary Management Study and Plan has been developed in close consultation with Council's Coast & Estuary Management Committee, the Killick Creek Working Group, the Department of Natural Resources (formally DIPNR) and other relevant state agencies.

The Reports follow the development of the Killick Creek Estuary Process Study (Nov 2002) and is underpinned by social, environmental and economic considerations.

Funding for the Report has been on a dollar for dollar basis between Kempsey Shire Council and Department of Natural Resources.

A summary of the main recommendations are provided [\(Appendix F\)](#) along with a summary of the financial requirements for implementing the strategies [\(Appendix G\)](#).

## Public Consultation

The Killick Creek Estuary Management Plan was placed on public exhibition from January 24 to February 21 2006. A public meeting was held at the Crescent Head Surf Club on Tuesday 14 February and 44 people attended.

Issues Raised as a result of public consultation may be summarised as follows [\(Appendix H, part 1, part 2, part 3\)](#)

Submitter	Comments	Response
Beranghi Coop	1. Strategies described in document should be in reverse order and start in the upper areas (Belmore)	1. Whilst upper catchment processes do indirectly impact of the estuary, the prioritisation of strategies identified in the EMP address the relative importance of actions to the continued health of the system.
	2. Killick Creek floodgates should be permanently opened or taken away.	2. This would result in saltwater penetrating a freshwater wetland environment resulting in the loss of habitat and degradation of the estuary.
	3. Request a road to be constructed through private land to allow access from Loftus Rd	3. Not a relevant issue for the Estuary Management Plan
	4. Support the concept of a paid Estuary Custodian	4. The Estuary Custodian concept was removed form the Final EMP due to financial and resource limitations.
	5. Supports the assessment of wetland	5. This is a recommendation of

	and estuarine habitats to identify critical habitat and protection of these areas through rezoning	EMP in the medium term (3-5 years)
	6. Support a detailed flora & fauna survey	6. This is a recommendation of EMP in the medium term (3-5 years)
	7. Support on-site stormwater management for existing Crescent Head dwellings	7. Stormwater Management is being investigated via the Crescent Head Stormwater Management Plan however, the imposition of controls on existing dwellings would be unreasonable.
	8. Generally support the EMP.	8. Noted
Mr Neil Chapman (Crescent Head resident)	9. Would like to see floodgates removed	9. (See Point 2)
	10. Would like dredging of the Creek to commence immediately	10. This is a recommendation of the EMP for the short term (1-3 year) period
	11. A break wall should be constructed to prevent sand build up in creek	11. Not considered feasible in an active surf zone. Proposed management practices provide for less intervention in natural processes.
Mrs B Kay (Crescent Head resident)	12. Suggest Council do some major works on stormwater drainage to prevent debris entering Killick Creek	12. Council has commenced works
	13. Suggests Council consider repairs to Rotunda	13. Not relevant to the EMP

Mr Lloyd Davis (upper Belmore landholder)	14. Would like to see the removal of sand build up to improve flood water removal	14. This is a recommendation of the EMP for the short term (1-3 year) period
Mr D Summerhayes (Crescent Head resident)	15. Indicated that the Training Wall should be upgraded and repaired.	15. This is a recommendation of the EMP for the short term (1-3 year) period
	16. Would like to see sediment shoal removed immediately.	16. This is a recommendation of the EMP for the short term (1-3 year) period
	17. Would like to see further investigation commence immediately to define entrance dredging strategies.	17. This is a recommendation of the EMP for the immediate term (within 12months) However this will be dependant on external funding
Mrs. M Lucas (Cres. H. Chamber of Commerce)	18. Suggest Council find funds to instigate the recommended actions of the EMP	18. This is a recommendation of this Report to Council. External funding programs are currently being investigated.
	19. Suggest recent condition of Creek has been horrendous on business houses	19. Highlights need for EMP to be implemented. (See Report Implications)
	20. Suggest that the sand build up at the entrance has restricted fishing boat access and resulted in overpowering smells at low tides driving visitors away	20. Highlights need for EMP to be implemented. (See Report Implications)
Mr I May (Crescent Head resident)	21. Suggests that the sand build has caused flooding	21. Was not identified in the Killick Ck Process Study
	22. Suggests Council should spend more money on creek to	22. Highlights need for EMP to be implemented.

	avoid eutrophication of water	
	23. Objects to having to tolerate the smell and poor water quality	23. Whilst water quality is expected to improve, odours resulting from the build up of red weed is likely to continue to occur.
Department of Lands	24. Request that the proposed revegetation recommendations of area near the Caravan park be limited as to not sterilise Crown Land from future options.	24. The recommendations have been retained in EMP but any such activities will be underpinned by a Riparian Revegetation Management Plan (medium term 1-3years)

**Report Implications:**

- **Environmental**

*The development and adoption of the Management Plan will provide guidance and assist Council in ensuring that the ecological integrity of the coastal aquatic ecosystem is sustainably managed and maintained.*

- **Social**

*The development and adoption of the Estuary Management Plan will provide guidance and assist Council in managing the social requirements of the system.*

- **Economic (Financial)**

*The development and adoption of the Estuary Management Plan will provide guidance and assist Council in ensuring that the economic benefits derived from the natural resource attraction of the system is sustained.*

*The EMP identifies capital works of \$150,000 and maintenance works of \$52,700 in the first 12 months with a total \$1.4m capital works and \$0.5m maintenance works over six (6) years.*

*Council will need to give consideration to allocating funds in future budget estimates and investigate alternative funding options to implement some of the priority strategies identified within the Estuary Management Plan. A number of the priorities are existing*

*programs that are already funded. In addition, external funding from such programs as the NRCMA Implementation of Estuary Management Plans Program and the NSW State Government Estuary Program can be sought to assist Council in implementing strategies described in the EMP. The process followed in preparing the EMP will greatly enhance Council's chances in obtaining funding.*

*The estuary is also an important element that attract visitors to the area. Enhancement of the estuary is the ultimate intended outcome of the EMP, thereby resulting in positive economic benefits to the village.*

- ***Policy or Statutory***

*The Killick Creek Estuary Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Governments Estuary Management Program.*

*Some recommendations of the EMP will require Council to consider policy changes to control development within the catchment.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council adopt the Killick Creek Estuary Management Plan.
2. That Council seek grant funding for implementing the priority strategies identified in the EMP.
3. That Council thank those who made submissions to the draft EMP.

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**R B Pitt**  
**DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**