

## Community feedback sought for Richmond River Coastal Management Program

Stage 1 of the new Richmond River Coastal Management Program (CMP) has commenced and the community is invited to share their local knowledge.

The CMP will follow on from work achieved over the past 10 years through the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Richmond River Estuary (CZMP), which was developed in 2012 by Ballina Shire, Lismore City, Richmond Valley and Rous County Councils.

The aim of this program is to update the CZMP for the Richmond River in line with new legislation and establish a whole-of-catchment management approach that will capture all issues and activities impacting the health of the estuary.

“The Richmond River estuary and catchment is highly valued by the community for many different reasons,” said Rous County Council’s Chair Keith Williams.

“It supports a network of ecosystems, a rich biodiversity, and a range of human land uses and activities. The area is also the traditional home of the Bundjalung Nation and has spiritual and cultural significance.”

“With such a large catchment area extending from the Queensland border in the north, to Tenterfield and Clarence Valley in the west, to the Clarence River catchment at its southern border, land uses across these regions have a significant impact on the health of the coastal zone.”

Rous County Council, Ballina Shire Council, Lismore City Council and Richmond Valley Council are partnering with the NSW Government to deliver the CMP. The whole-of-catchment approach means this CMP will also include the participation of Kyogle Council, Byron Shire Council and Clarence Valley Council.

The Stage 1 Scoping Study, the first of five stages, is now underway. Community input is a critical part of this stage and will help the project team to develop the Coastal Management Program. If you would like to share your local knowledge, concerns, ideas and photos please visit the program webpage at [www.hydrosphere.com.au/richmondrivercmp](http://www.hydrosphere.com.au/richmondrivercmp) and complete the feedback form.

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