

## A Local Adaptation Plan (LAP) update

### A QUICK RECAP ON LOCAL ADAPTATION PLANNING

Local Adaptation Plans are location-specific plans developed with the community to guide proactive planning to prepare and respond to flooding and sea level rise.

Between 2013-2021, Council worked with local residents to develop local adaptation plans for [Marks Point/ Belmont South](#) and [Pelican, Blacksmiths, Swansea and surrounds](#).

Together the two LAPs present over 50 actions covering on-ground works, planning and development controls, pilots, research, advocacy/engagement, governance and funding.

You can view a snapshot of key Council and community actions overleaf.

Visit our current [projects webpage](#) to learn more our adaptation and climate resilience planning initiatives.

### RELATED PROJECTS

#### Swansea Jetty Foreshore - Belmont Street Swansea

Access to the [seawall at Belmont Street](#) Swansea has been restricted since 2021 due to instability of the underwater slope of Swansea channel. Safety/exclusion fencing on foreshore remains in place, however, the jetty itself is safe and accessible..

Council is monitoring the site to assess ongoing movement and risk. Detailed designs are expected to be completed in early 2024. We'll seek funding opportunities to undertake the work and will keep the community informed of our progress.

#### Future proofing Belmont Bay and Village Bay foreshores



Council received funding from the NSW Coastal and Estuary grants program to future proof sections of Belmont Bay and Village Bay against further erosion and inundation. The project was informed by investigations undertaken by Council staff and the LAP Working Group.

These foreshore improvement works address resident concerns on poor amenity and access, erosion, wave overtopping, tidal inundation, and poor ecological health. The works will include around 140 metres of foreshore on the

northern side of the Belmont Lakeside Holiday Park (planned for August 2023 and mid-2024 pending approvals) and around 190 metres of foreshore in Village Bay (due 2024-2025).

Preliminary concept designs for the Village Bay site have been prepared and were reviewed by members of the Lake Macquarie Coastal Residents group (LMCR) in early 2023. Final concept designs for Village Bay will be shared with local residents in early 2024, prior to construction in 2024 - 2025.

#### Coastal Management Program update

Council adopted the [Lake Macquarie Coastal Management Program \(CMP\)](#) at its meeting of 26 June 2023. The CMP is the strategic plan to guide the management of our city's coastline, lake and Swansea Channel for the next 10 years.

Council has now written to the NSW Minister for the Environment requesting that the CMP be certified under the Coastal Management Act 2016.

#### Channel dredging

NSW MIDO (Marine Infrastructure Delivery Office) has been out to tender for maintenance [dredging in Swansea Channel](#). MIDO has indicated that it plans to carry out the first dredging campaign in in July/August 2023, with a second campaign scheduled in Autumn 2024. Each campaign will result in the removal of approximately 15,000 cubic metres of sand to provide a 30-metre-wide channel to a depth of -3.5 AHD. This will allow access for vessels with a draft of up to 2.5-metres.

#### Blacksmiths Beach - Maneela Street Beach Access










Council and the community are closely monitoring the condition of Blacksmiths Beach, particularly erosion at the Maneela Street access point. Previous attempts to restrict public access using temporary measures have proven unsuccessful. Council staff met with a qualified contractor in mid-July to determine the scope of short term remedial works for the site. This may involve implementing hay bales and limited sand nourishment in the dune scarp to mitigate erosion and encourage sand accumulation. An environmental assessment will be finalised in September 2023 before the commencement of the works. We will keep the community informed of our progress.

Additionally, the long-term Lake Macquarie Coastal Management Program includes measures such as active dune management and sand nourishment to safeguard the beach and dunes at this location.



## IMPLEMENTING OUR LAP ACTIONS

Council is progressing the nine key LAP action areas below, guided by the LAP Working Group and members of the Lake Macquarie Coastal Residents (LMCR) group.

	Action areas	Progress update at mid-2023
1 	Expand tidal gates pilot in Swansea and other areas	Council is evaluating a business case for extending <a href="#">tidal gates</a> to other low-lying areas in the city.
2 	Progress foreshore and channel protection works	Foreshore stabilisation works were undertaken at Black Ned's Bay and Emily Street in Marks Point. In 2023-2025 work is planned for Belmont Bay and Village Bay.
3 	Research concepts for filling land and raising properties and infrastructure	In May 2023 Council and Salients Pty Ltd held a workshop with community representatives, utility providers and government departments to identify considerations and principles for filling land and raising assets to adapt to sea level rise. These principles will help scenario testing in two small case study areas in Belmont South and Swansea and a discussion paper on this work will be shared in late 2023.
4 	Ensure development is above current and projected flood levels	The Local Environmental Plan 2014 and Development Control Plan 2014 include detailed provisions to ensure that development is above current and projected flood levels, or is resistant and adaptable to future flooding and sea level rise.
5 	Review planning and development controls to ensure we adapt to emerging risks	Council approved a Precinct Area Plan for Marks Point and Belmont South in 2016 and a further review of relevant planning and development controls is scheduled for the 2023/24 financial year.
6 	Promote and pilot flood resilient and adaptable design and construction – private and public assets	Council actively encourages internal staff, residents and development industry to adopt flood-resilient design. Council's asset management plans have been updated with pilots planned for 2023-2025 to enhance road and drainage systems.
7 	Ensure utilities adapt when and where needed	Council has been liaising with staff from Hunter Water, Ausgrid, Jemena and Transport for NSW to plan for a more integrated and sequenced approach to filling land and raising public assets when required (this is linked to action 3 above)..
8 	Improve emergency preparedness and response	The NSW SES provided excellent input and support with developing LAPs and Council continues to collaborate with the SES to improve <a href="#">emergency preparedness and response</a> .
9 	Explore funding options/ models for long term resourcing of adaptation actions	Council's 2023-24 Operational Plan includes an action (KPI 5.4.2) to: Research and develop sustainable funding options to support climate change adaptation and city resilience actions. Updates on this action will be available in mid-2024.



### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Council and the volunteer community Working Group are looking for more members to help with implementing LAP actions. If you've previously been involved in local adaptation planning and want to re-connect or if you'd like to learn more about this work and how to get involved please [visit our website](#) or contact Council on 4921 0333 and ask to speak to a City Resilience Officer.

If you have any questions, comments or to receive project updates: