

NSW Coastal Management Performance Audit – Implementation Plan

Survey response from open coast perspective

No.	Question	SCCG response
3	In your view, what should the Coastal and Estuary Management Program primarily do? Please list up to three objectives for the Program.	1. To protect and manage public safety and infrastructure on the coast and clarify council and state-owned coastal assets, including shared State Govt-council responsibilities for beaches and beach nourishment. 2. To protect and improve the coastal environmental, social, public health and amenity, economic and cultural values, including beach amenity and access. 3. To reduce current and future risks of managing beaches in the face of climate change and reduce financial risk to councils.
4	What changes or benefits should the Coastal and Estuary Management Program achieve over time? Please list up to three long-term outcomes you would like to see achieved.	1. Appropriate funding and cost-sharing among councils and state agencies for beach protection and amenity. 2. Improved overall governance in line with current and future SEPPs and streamlined approvals. 3. Ecosystem resilience and migration in face of climate change.
5	In your view, what is the optimal role for local councils in the Coastal and Estuary Management Program? Please list up to three things that councils should be accountable for.	1. Identifying local needs through engaging with their communities. 2. Local implementation such as on-ground works. 3. Management of council-owned assets that are within their capacity.
6	In your view, what is the optimal role for NSW Government agencies in the Coastal and Estuary Management Program? Please list up to three things that NSW Government should be accountable for, including the name of specific NSW Government agencies where possible.	1. Finding solutions to coastal management problems. 2. Beach monitoring to inform local management needs including coastal protection and amenity through beach nourishment. 3. Establishing a whole-of-government approach to beach nourishment.
7	What changes or improvements to the Program would help your council to deliver coastal management more effectively? Please list up to three improvements to the Program you would like to see implemented as a priority.	1. Stable funding for Councils to conduct major foreshore works, including beach nourishment, hazard mitigation and monitoring and adaptation programs. The current grant-based model is short-term, competitive and administratively heavy. 2. Strengthen whole-of-government coordination and require NSW agencies to participate in CMP delivery in a collaborative partnership. 3. Provide more flexible funding for emergency coastal protection works outside of CMPs, including for beach nourishment in response to extreme storm events.
8	In your view, what would make monitoring, evaluation, reporting and continuous improvement (MERI) on coastal management practical and meaningful for councils? Please suggest up to three ideas that could support MERI activities.	1. MERI informs the next variation of the CMP and determines if actions are working or not. 2. A simple standardized MERI framework with core indicators used across all CMPs. Councils currently use different monitoring programs, methods and data sets; a standardized MERI framework would reduce cost, duplication and uncertainty. 3. State-funded, regionally coordinated monitoring programs and shared data platforms. MERI becomes meaningful when councils can access high quality, long term datasets without carrying the full costs. 4. Clear accountability and participation from NSW agencies in MERI. Many CMP actions and the pressures they address, relate to state-owned assets and state-regulated activities; MERI must reflect this. Councils cannot report meaningfully on outcomes when major drivers of coastal conditions sit outside their control.