

Coastal Management Program - Merimbula & Back Lake

August update

The review of the Merimbula Lake and Back Lake Estuary Management Plan, and progress towards a new Coastal Management Program for the lakes has been moving forward over the past 6 months.

Working with our Focus Group that was established earlier in the year, the project team has undertaken a range of activities with various stakeholders including:

- Detailed inspections around the lakes and lower catchment areas
- Reviewed the previous Estuary Management Plan status
- Produced a new summary document that provides an overview of key estuary processes, available data sets and gaps in our current knowledge
- Meetings with the Focus Group to discuss a number of management issues

We'd like to thank everyone who has provided input to the project team via our website: begavalley.wrl.unsw.edu.au. This information, along with our inspections and Focus Group meetings has allowed us to work towards a summary of management issues and opportunities moving forward.

While the lakes are in reasonably good shape, a number of localised issues have been identified that will require ongoing management into the future. Broadly these issues can be grouped into two key themes being:

1 Urbanisation of lower catchment areas

2 Climate change

Many of the issues overlap through these 2 themes and include aspects such as:

- Managing recreational and environmental needs
- Ongoing lower catchment development, urbanisation and associated impacts
- Land use, particularly for direct foreshore areas
- Sea level rise and its challenges for inundation of low lying assets, entrance management (Back Lake) and impacts on fringing ecology of both lakes
- Stormwater management
- Catchment management



Our project team is also looking at a range of opportunities that have been identified where we can make some improvements for recreation, tourism and environmental amenity around the lakes.

If you would like to get involved and provide some input, it's not too late. Jump onto the website to have your say about the issues that you see are important to the lakes, or to help us identify opportunities that we may have missed.

Thanks for reading and we'll be in touch again with further updates as we progress towards the new management program.



Have your say

begavalley.wrl.unsw.edu.au



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



Water
Research
Laboratory
School of Civil and
Environmental Engineering