



lake ainsworth management program

Lake Ainsworth is a freshwater coastal dune window lake located in Lennox Head within the Ballina Local Government Area. The Lake is considered a significant natural icon and is a popular destination for visitors and locals, providing a natural resource for undertaking various recreational activities.

A Coastal Management Program (CMP) for Lake Ainsworth is currently being prepared of behalf of Ballina Shire Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) by the Ballina-based company Hydrosphere Consulting. The goal of the CMP is to provide the long-term strategy and management actions for this water-body and catchment area. This CMP will supersede the current Lake Ainsworth Management Plan.

» Project Stages

Stage 1 - Scoping study – involves collation of existing information, preliminary risk assessment, implementation of community communication portal, development of a community consultation strategy and scoping of technical studies to fill key information gaps. Indicative timeline: January 2018 – May 2018. The Stage 1 Scoping Study has been completed and submitted to OEH and Council for review and approval.

Stage 2 - Detailed studies of vulnerabilities and opportunities – involves community engagement, confirmation of key issues and concerns, field work to confirm current knowledge and completion of identified technical studies to fill key information gaps.
Indicative timeline: June 2018 – May 2019.

Stage 3 - Response indication and evaluation – involves threat consequence and risk assessment, the evaluation and identification of management options and the development of management actions.
Indicative timeline: May 2019 – August 2019.

Stage 4 - Finalise, exhibit, certify and adopt the CMP – involves the preparation of a Draft CMP for agency review and public exhibition, the identification of funding and final mechanisms to implement the CMP, compiling and addressing submissions from agencies and the community and finalisation of the CMP document for certification.
Indicative timeline: August 2019 – February 2020.

Stage 5 - Implementation, monitoring and reporting – involves the implementation of management actions from the certified CMP by BSC and involved agencies as well as the monitoring and reporting of CMP progress.
Indicative timeline: Ongoing from February 2020.

» Community Engagement

There is a lot of public interest in this iconic lake and community input to this plan is critical in getting the right balance in management priorities. Community members can have their say via the:

Project webpage and communication portal
<https://www.hydrosphere.com.au/lakeainsworth>

Community survey which will be available online and as a paper copy in November 2018

Providing written submissions in response to the draft plan when it becomes available.

Community drop-in sessions will also be held during the survey period and during public display of the draft CMP.