

Ten-year plan for the Tweed River Estuary on exhibition

Recommendations to protect this scenic waterway, now and into the future

After three years' of research, planning and consultation, the Tweed River Estuary Management Plan is ready for comments from the public. The plan will set the focus for management of the Tweed River for 10 years, from 2020 – 2030.

The Plan will provide recommendations for the future management of this important waterway and will follow NSW Government guidelines for coastal management.

The Tweed River Estuary is the tidal section of the river, a 35km stretch between the Bray Park Weir at Murwillumbah and the river mouth at Tweed Heads.

Council's Waterways Program Leader, Tom Alletson said the scenic waterway and its picturesque surrounds are used extensively for recreational and tourism activities and are extremely important to the local community.

"The estuary retains a cultural connection for Aboriginal people and is a place for traditional cultural practices. It is also highly valued as a commercial waterway and is integral to tourism and agricultural practices on the floodplain, contributing to the local economy," Mr Alletson said.

"The plan aims to balance recreational, commercial and environmental priorities for the Tweed River. "Maintaining the environmental health of the river is essential to sustain its beneficial uses by the community. It can be difficult to find this balance, particularly in the face of population growth and rising sea levels.

"The health of the estuary environment is fundamental. Without good water quality and healthy and abundant flora and fauna, the Tweed River's value as a recreational and economic asset cannot be maintained," he said.

Mr Alletson said overall the river is in good shape, however, there are some serious concerns that need to be addressed, such as river bank erosion, habitat loss, poor water quality, tidal inundation, loss of biodiversity, and conflict between river users, to name just a few.

"The plan proposes 90 separate actions that address threats to the estuary. We are seeking feedback on how the plan could be improved to better manage the Tweed River, now and into the future," he said.

The plan will be on public exhibition from 2 September to 31 October 2019. The community is invited to a 'community conversation' session to discuss the plan and river management.

- **Thursday 19 September**, South Sea Islander Room, 6–8pm
Tweed Heads Civic and Cultural Centre, corner Brett St and Wharf St, Tweed Heads NSW 2485
- **Wednesday 25 September**, Canvas and Kettle Room, 6–8pm
Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre, 10–14 Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Copies of the plan will be available at Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah Council offices and libraries. For more information, to view the plan and to RSVP to a community conversation session, visit

www.yoursaytweed.com.au/TweedRiverEstuaryPlan

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