



Seaham Weir Pool Draft Erosion Management Plan

December 2022

Community and Stakeholder Engagement
Outcomes Report

Acknowledgement of Country

Water from the Williams River flows through the traditional country of the Wonaruah, Worimi and Awabakal peoples. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land and water, and acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

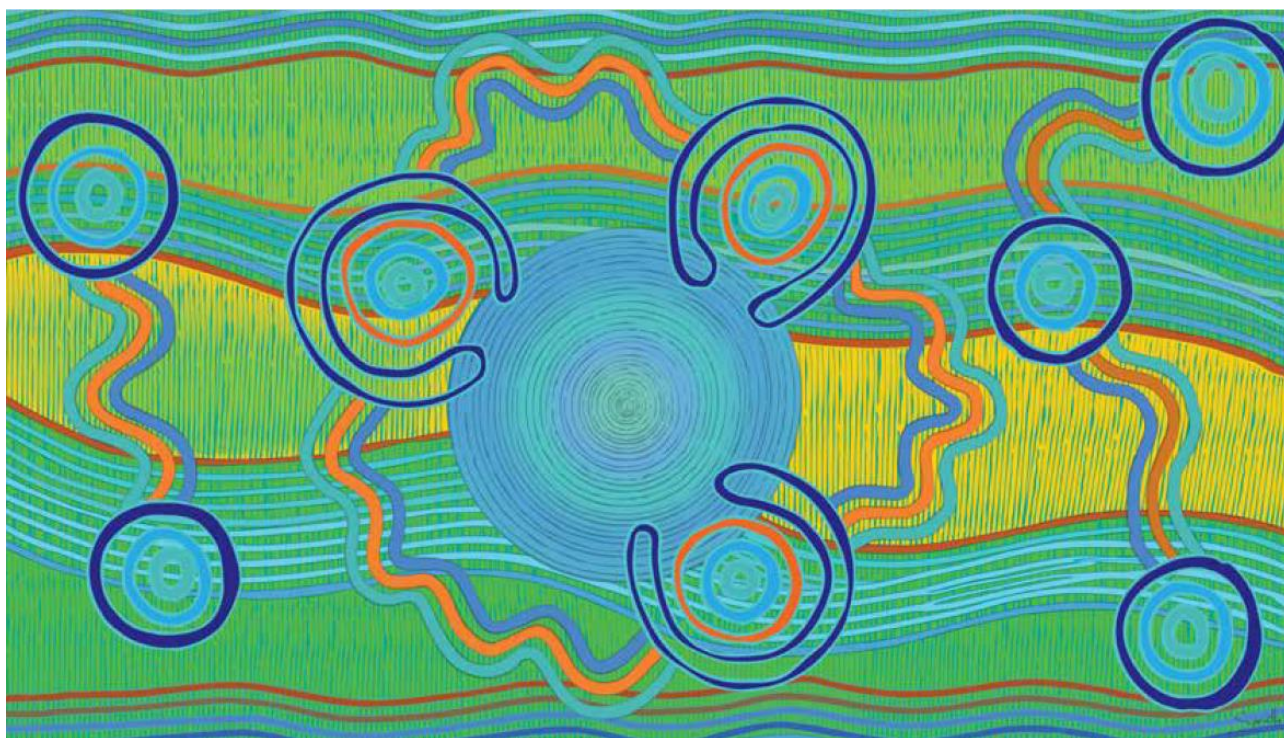


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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Williams River is the primary drinking water source for the population of the Lower Hunter region. Hunter Water harvests raw water from the river at Seaham Weir and is required to manage the water supply system in accordance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Erosion of riverbanks is recognised as a key factor contributing to poor water quality in waterways resulting in elevated concentrations of soil particles and associated factors, such as nutrients, in the water. Erosion of riverbanks along the reaches of the Williams River has long been recognised as a management issue for the health of the river and, consequently, is a major factor contributing to degraded water quality in Seaham Weir Pool that influences Hunter Water's ability to harvest drinking water for supply to the Lower Hunter population.

Following detailed assessments of the condition of riverbanks between Clarence Town and Raymond Terrace, an inter-agency working group was established in October 2016 to oversee the development of the Upper Williams River Erosion Management Plan for the weir pool section of the river, which was prioritised in recognition of it being the primary drinking water source. The Seaham Weir Pool draft Erosion Management Plan (the draft Plan) was completed in October 2022 and endorsed for public exhibition by the members of the Inter Agency working group, which includes representatives from Hunter Water, Transport for NSW, Hunter Local Land Services, Port Stephens Council and Dungog Shire Council

The draft Plan was placed on public exhibition from 25 October 2022 to 22 November 2022.

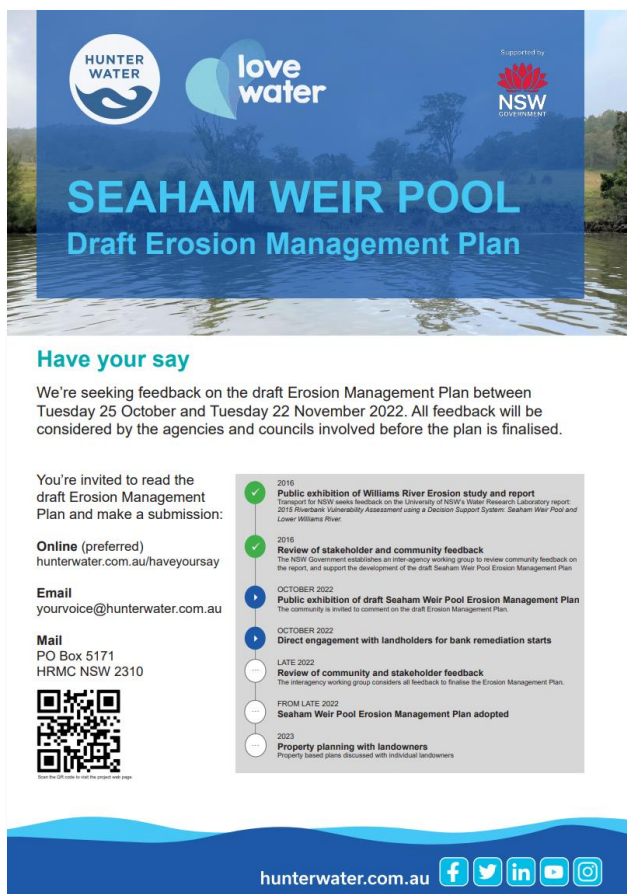
The aim of the consultation and engagement undertaken during the exhibition period was to proactively inform community members and stakeholders of activities proposed in the draft Plan to address priority erosion locations and provide opportunities for the community and other stakeholders to communicate issues or concerns regarding the proposed actions in the plan.

Key stakeholder groups included:

- Directly affected Landowners
- Peak bodies and associations representing landowners, businesses and community
- Local Government
- NSW Government agencies
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Community.

A total of 45 meetings and discussions have taken place with directly affected landowners in the project area to date and 23 formal submissions were received.

Meetings and project briefings were also offered to key stakeholders including, Local Councils, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Government agencies and interested community groups and associations.



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SEAHAM WEIR POOL

Draft Erosion Management Plan

Have your say


We're seeking feedback on the draft Erosion Management Plan between Tuesday 25 October and Tuesday 22 November 2022. All feedback will be considered by the agencies and councils involved before the plan is finalised.

You're invited to read the draft Erosion Management Plan and make a submission:

Online (preferred)
hunterwater.com.au/haveyoursay

Email
yourvoice@hunterwater.com.au



Mail
 PO Box 5171
 HRMC NSW 2310



Scan the QR code to visit the project web page

Timeline:

- 2016: Public exhibition of Williams River Erosion study and report. Transport for NSW seeks feedback on the University of NSW's Water Research Laboratory report. 2015 Riverbank Vulnerability Assessment using a Decision Support System. Seaham Weir Pool and Lower Williams River.
- 2016: Review of stakeholder and community feedback. The NSW Government establishes an inter-agency working group to review community feedback on the report, and support the development of the draft Seaham Weir Pool Erosion Management Plan.
- OCTOBER 2022: Public exhibition of draft Seaham Weir Pool Erosion Management Plan. The community is invited to comment on the draft Erosion Management Plan.
- OCTOBER 2022: Direct engagement with landholders for bank remediation starts.
- LATE 2022: Review of community and stakeholder feedback. The inter-agency working group considers all feedback to finalise the Erosion Management Plan.
- FROM LATE 2022: Seaham Weir Pool Erosion Management Plan adopted.
- 2023: Property planning with landowners. Property based plans discussed with individual landowners.

hunterwater.com.au     

The overall consultation and engagement outcomes indicated that:

- **78% were positive or neutral towards the Plan, with:**
 - **45.6% of respondents positive**
 - **32.4% of respondents neutral**
- **22% opposed the draft Plan**

While the overall sentiment towards the draft Plan and proposed actions in the plan was mixed:

- 86% of respondents agreed that erosion on the riverbank was a concern and supported actions to address erosion
 - 71% supported the actions outlined in the draft Plan
 - An additional 15% agreed that erosion management was required but were not supportive of all actions in the draft Plan
- 35% of respondents highlighted the need to improve boating compliance on the river
- 26% noted that they would like to see the existing boating management plan retained
- 25% called for a ban on high speed/wake generating boating on the river
- 25% of respondents requested further investigations on their property to inform the erosion management masterplan and proposed remediation works not currently captured in the draft Plan
- 16% of respondents noted concerns regarding water quality in the river, with limited confidence that the proposed actions and investment in the delivery if remediation actions would be effective in addressing water quality in the Seaham Weir Pool.

This report provides a summary of the feedback received during the public exhibition period and recommendations for the Inter agency working group consideration, to balance the long-term viability of this important drinking water source with recreational and landholder use so everyone can enjoy the river for years to come in a sustainable and responsible manner.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Williams River is the primary drinking water source for the population of the Lower Hunter region. Hunter Water harvests raw water from the river at Seaham Weir and is required to manage the water supply system in accordance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The ability to safely and reliably harvest water from the river is highly dependent on the water quality, which is directly related to the management of the river itself and land use activities in its catchment.

Erosion of riverbanks is recognised as a key factor contributing to poor water quality in waterways, resulting from elevated concentrations of soil particles and associated factors, such as nutrients, in the water. Erosion of riverbanks along the reaches of the Williams River has long been recognised as a management issue for the health of the river and, consequently, is a major factor contributing to degraded water quality in Seaham Weir Pool that influences Hunter Water's ability to harvest drinking water for supply to the Lower Hunter population.

There are a range of factors that contribute to riverbank erosion on the Upper Williams River (the Seaham Weir Pool) such as wake generating boating activity, land management practices, wind waves, loss of vegetation, livestock access to the river, introduced fish species and flooding. Erosion management on the Williams River requires a multi-faceted approach that considers each of these causes.

An inter-agency working group was established in October 2016 to oversee the development of the Upper Williams River Erosion Management Plan, which was planned to be released for community consultation in 2017, then again in 2019.

The revised, Seaham Weir Pool draft Erosion Management Plan (the draft Plan) was completed in October 2022 and endorsed for public exhibition by the Inter Agency working group, which includes representatives from Hunter Water Corporation, Transport for NSW, Hunter Local Land Services NSW, Port Stephens Council and Dungog Shire Council.

The draft Plan was placed on public exhibition from 25 October 2022 to 22 November 2022 with a proactive community and stakeholder engagement process adopted throughout the exhibition period to capture feedback on the Plan from riverfront landowners, key stakeholders and the broader community.

3. PUBLIC EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

The draft Plan was placed on public exhibition from 25 October 2022 to 22 November 2022 inclusive.

The aim of the consultation and engagement undertaken during the exhibition period was to proactively inform landowners, community members and stakeholders of activities proposed in the draft Plan and provide opportunities to communicate issues or concerns regarding the proposed actions in the plan. Specifically, the consultation and engagement objectives sought to:

- give the community and key stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Erosion Management Plan before its adoption and implementation
- inform the community and key stakeholders of the purpose of the Erosion Management Plan
- inform eligible landowners of the opportunity to undertake funded works to stabilise eroded river frontages
- create a trusting relationship with landowners and address concerns where feasible and within each agency's control
- collaborate with individual landowners to implement work on their property or adjacent Crown land
- inform all stakeholders of each agency's role in the management of the weir pool and management activities within its control
- reassure the community there are no immediate public health or drinking water quality implications for customers when water is harvested from the weir pool
- inform all users of the weir pool that additional temporary boating restrictions during construction of stabilisation work will be needed.

Hunter Water also used this opportunity to liaise with affected landholders about the planned remediation of floodgates on private property and about other Hunter Water projects in the area.

Key stakeholder groups included:

- Directly affected Landowners
- Peak bodies and associations representing landowners, businesses and community
- Local Government
- NSW Government agencies
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Community.

4. METHODOLOGY

In addition to the Williams River being a primary drinking water source for the population of the Lower Hunter region, the river provides significant benefits to the community and is highly valued by local residents, landholders, visiting tourists and boaters and local businesses that benefit from visitors to the waterway.

A range of methods were used throughout the exhibition period to ensure that the diverse range of stakeholders and river users were provided the opportunity to give their feedback on the draft Plan.

Table 1 List of consultation and engagement methods

| Method | Details | Output / Outcome |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Landowner meetings | Door knock was conducted to meet with all landowners on the river that are in the project area. Feedback was sought on the draft Plan and interest registered for remediation works. If landowners were not available, information packs were left with the offer of a follow up meeting. | 69 Properties identified/visited 45 Landowner meetings 14 Information packs left (some Landowners own multiple properties) |
| Media release | Media release to announce the opening of the exhibition period. | Issued on 25 October 2022 to Hunter media and published on Hunter Water's website |
| 'Have Your Say' project page | Project page created on Hunter Water's 'Have Your Say' webpage. The project page included a copy of the draft Plan, FAQs, key consultation dates, project timelines and information on how to lodge a submission. | Project page live from 25 October 2022 16 unique user page views |
| Stakeholder briefing | Meetings and project briefings were offered to key stakeholders including, Local Councils, Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Government agencies and interested community groups and associations. | 10 briefing offers made 2 briefings requested/completed |
| Social media | Social media posts were issued via Facebook at the beginning of the exhibition period and again in the final week to remind the community that the exhibition period was coming to an end. | 1 November 2022 – Post reached 465 people with 28 engagements (likes, shares, comments) 18 November 2022 - Post reached 316 people with 27 engagements (likes, shares, comments) |

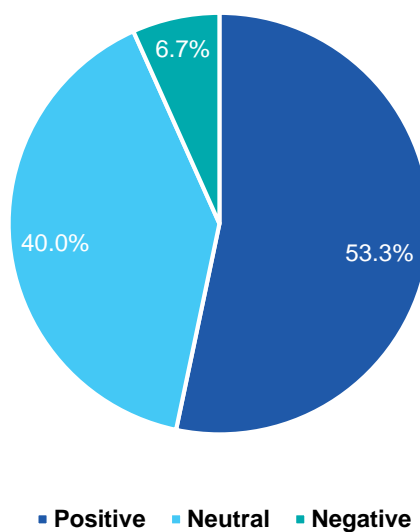
| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Local letter box drop | A letterbox drop was completed to inform the community of the draft Plan exhibition period, ways to engage, provide feedback and drop in information session dates. | Letters delivered to all properties in Clarence Town, Seaham, East Seaham, Balickera and Glen Oak. |
| Signage | Signage placed in local shopping precincts to inform the community of the draft Plan exhibition period, ways to engage or provide feedback and drop in session dates. | Signage placed at Clarence Town IGA and Post Office and Seaham General Store notice boards. |
| Drop in information sessions | Drop in Information sessions held on 2 November 2022 at Clarence Town School of Arts and 12 November at Seaham School of Arts to provide the community the opportunity to learn more about the draft Plan, ask questions and provide feedback. | 29 attendees at Clarence Town 5 attendees at Seaham |
| Submissions | Written submissions were received via online or hard copy form or letter via email or mail. | 9 Online forms 1 Hard copy form 13 Emailed letters |

5. CONSULTATION FINDINGS

5.1 Landowner meetings

A total of 45 meetings and discussions took place with directly affected landowners in the project area from 24 October 2022 to 22 November 2022. Meetings took place on landowner properties with follow up meetings scheduled at the request of landowners that were missed during the initial door knock consultation. Discussions also took place with interested landowners that attended one of the two drop-in information sessions.

Landowner sentiment towards the draft Plan



Positive or neutral landowner feedback

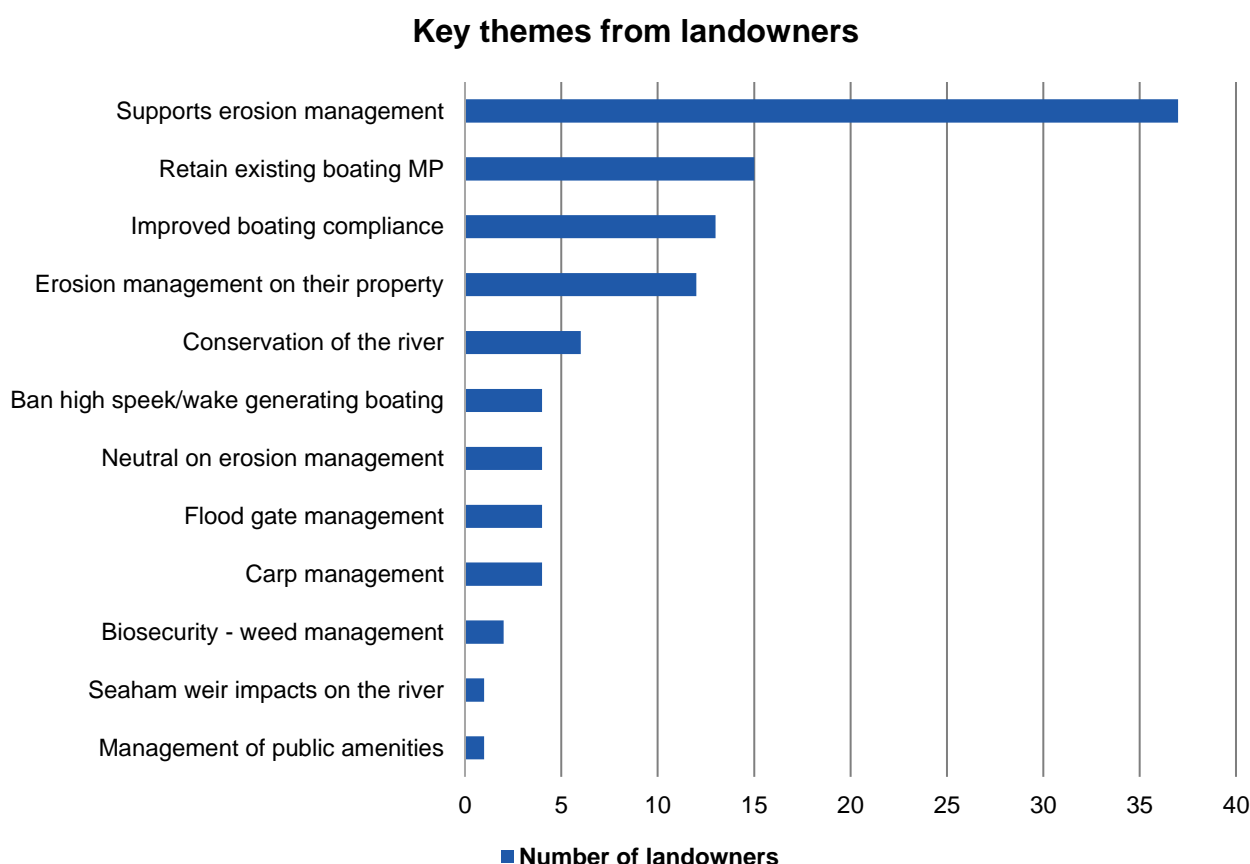
A total of 93.3% of landowner feedback was positive or neutral towards the draft Plan.

53.3% of the landowners advised that they were supportive of the draft Plan and the proposed actions in the plan and were satisfied that erosion management was being addressed on the riverbanks. A further 40.0% reported that they had neutral views towards the Plan.

Negative landowner feedback

Amongst a small number of landowners 6.7% (three landowners), that were negative towards the draft Plan, there was a general consensus that erosion was a concern on the riverbank, however differing views on methods to address erosion.

Key themes from landowner feedback:



As outlined in the graph above, boating management was raised by many landowners. Landowners raised differing views regarding the current Boating Management Plan with:

- 33% of landowners pleased to see that the existing Boating Management Plan remaining unchanged
- 29% of landowners noting that while they would like recreation boating to remain, significant improvement in boating compliance, specifically from wake generating boats was required
- 9% noted that they felt strongly that wake generating boats should be banned from the river due to non-compliance with the existing Boating Management Plan and erosion impacts on the river.

At the time of the meetings, 12 of the 45 landowners requested further investigations to determine how their property can be considered as part of the draft Plan's proposed remediation masterplan and works.

In addition, 9% of landowners also noted concerns regarding the impacts of European Carp in relation to erosion on the riverbanks and felt that this issue warranted further investigation.

Other key themes noted included:

- a general interest in how landowners can be better educated and play a role in conservation of the river
- feedback regarding floodgate management on private properties
- biosecurity and weed management specifically relating to Paramatta Grass and Cat's Claw Vine.

- impacts of Seaham weir on the health of the river
- better management of public amenities, specifically at Wharf Reserve Camping area.

5.2 Drop-in information sessions

Two community drop-in information sessions were held during the public exhibition period to provide landowners and the community the opportunity to learn more about the draft Plan, ask questions and provide feedback. Representatives from Hunter Water, Transport for NSW and Hunter Local Land Services were available to speak with those that attended and answer any questions raised regarding the draft Plan and other projects in the area. The sessions were held on:

- 2 November 2022 from 1pm to 6pm at Clarence Town School of Arts
- 12 November 2022 from 9am to 12pm at Seaham School of Arts.



HUNTER WATER love water

Have your say on the Seaham Weir Pool

We're seeking feedback on the draft Erosion Management Plan for the Williams River (Seaham Weir Pool).

The final plan will be a product of expert studies, government agency expertise and feedback from the local community, landholders, boaters and other waterway users.

The plan seeks to balance the long-term viability of this drinking water source with ecological values, and community and landholder use so everyone can enjoy the waterway for years to come.

We are welcoming feedback on the draft Erosion Management Plan until Tuesday 22 November 2022.

Community drop in sessions

Wednesday 2 November 2022
1pm to 6pm
Clarence Town School of Arts Hall

Saturday 12 November 2022
9am to 12pm
Seaham School of Arts and Community Hall

Find out more and have your say at hunterwater.com.au/erosionplan

hunterwater.com.au

- 29 attendees at Clarence Town Drop in information session
- 5 attendees at Seaham Drop in information session



The majority of the drop-in information session attendees were local landowners that had been engaged or had information left at their properties during the door knock activities. Their feedback is captured under section 5.1 of this report. Other attendees were residents that had received a project notification in their letterbox and were interested in learning more about the draft Plan.

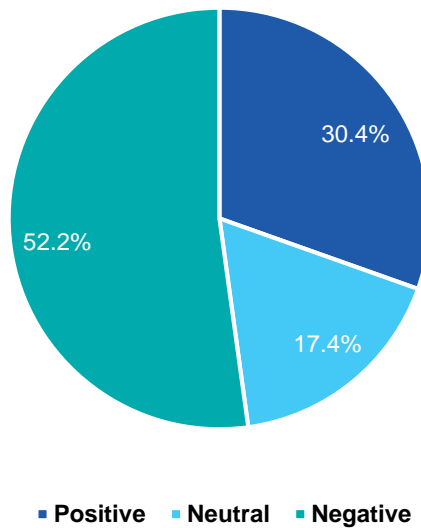
Attendees were able to provide a written submission regarding the draft Plan at the information sessions either via hard copy form or online via the 'Have Your Say' project webpage with iPads provided on the day to assist with online access.

5.3 Written submissions

In addition to the feedback received via landowner engagement and at the drop-in session, a total of 23 written submissions were received during the public exhibition period. Of these:

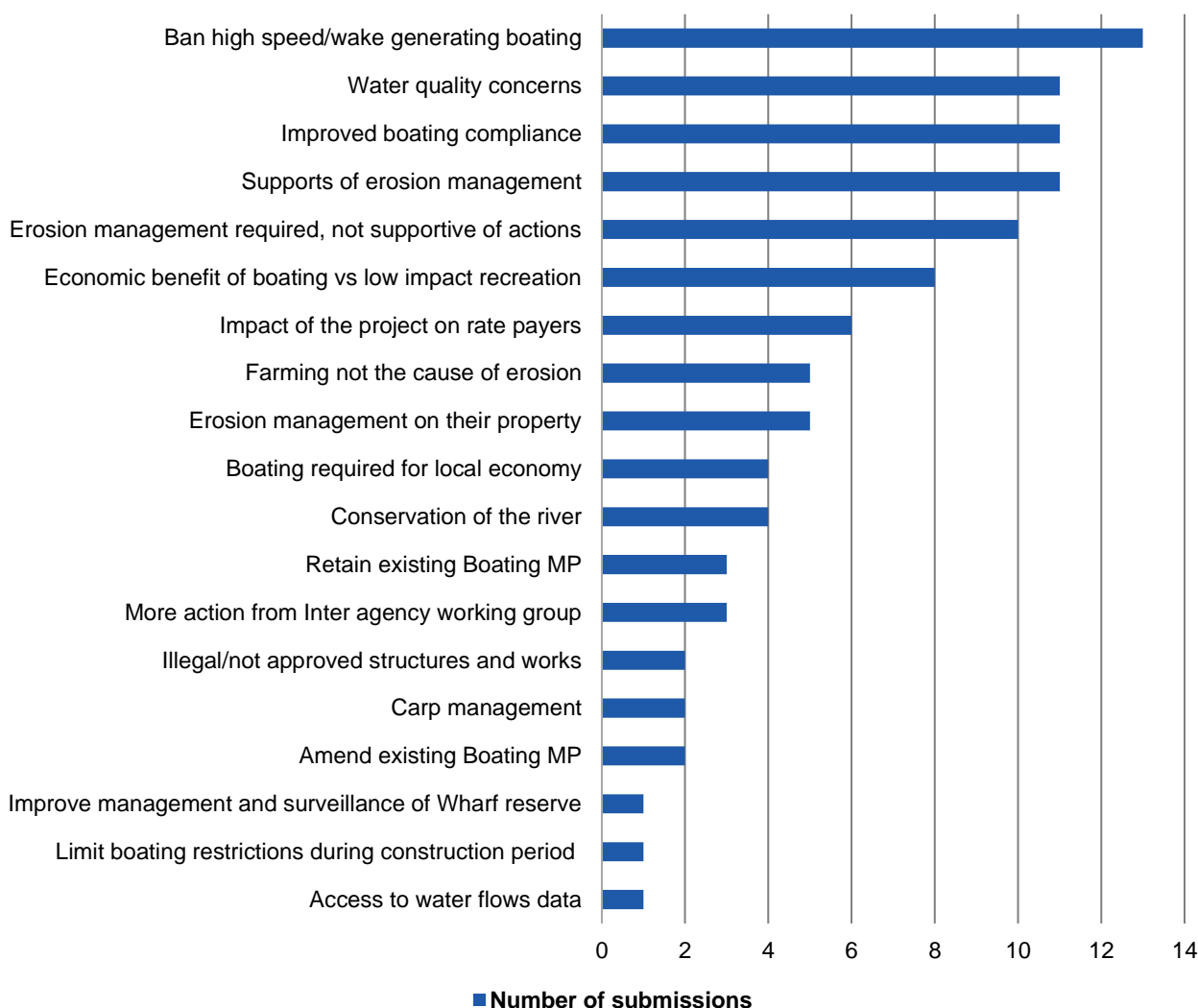
- 9 were submitted via the online form
- 1 was submitted via hard copy form
- 13 were submitted via emailed letter.

Submissions sentiment towards the draft Plan



Key themes from written submissions:

Key themes from submissions



Positive or neutral written submissions

In written submissions, 48% of respondents were supportive or neutral towards the draft Plan.

Of these, a total of 30.4% of the submissions received were reported as being positive towards the draft Plan. These submissions were supportive of the proposed actions, with some noting they would like their properties to be considered for future works. Others were pleased to see the existing Boating Management Plan retained whilst noting there was opportunity for improved boating compliance.

Of the 17.4% that are reported as neutral, the sentiment regarding the actions of the plan was varied. Key themes include:

- While they were supportive of erosion remediation they were not confident that the remediation actions would be successful in fully addressing the issue

- The economic benefit of high speed/ wake generating boating was raised (both for and against), with some noting that the non-compliance of high speed/ wake generating boating deters other recreational users of the river. Others noted that the local economy relied heavily on boating and tourism and would like to see this remain unchanged.
- Water quality and water flow data was raised, with residents seeking transparency of information in order to build more trust in the community
- The issue of European Carp in relation to erosion on the riverbanks was also noted with further investigation on this matter requested, in addition to the proposed remediation actions in the draft Plan.

Negative submissions

12 negative written submissions were received (52% of written submissions). While these submissions were opposed to the draft Plan, the detail of the submissions confirmed a strong consensus that erosion management was of significant concern and called for a ban on high speed/ wake generating boating on the river to address this.

Boating compliance was also a strong theme, however there was limited to no confidence that an increase in compliance activity and surveillance would be successful. One submission noted that if high speed/ wake generating boating was not banned, at a minimum, the current Boating Management Plan should be amended to minimise impact on the riverbank and private properties.

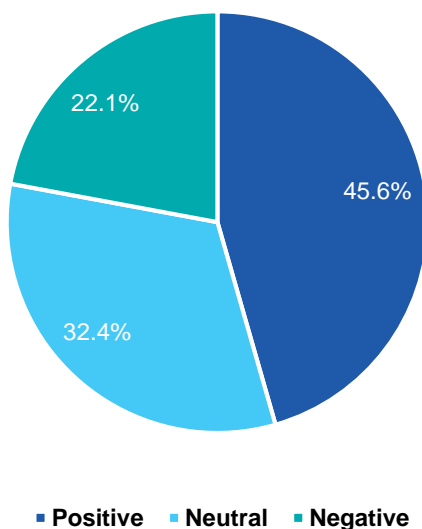
Of the negative submissions received, 11 submissions raised their concerns regarding water quality, specifically noting their concerns regarding high nutrient loads in the weir pool and the need for ongoing monitoring.

Six submissions raised their concerns regarding the cost of the proposed remediation actions and did not support the additional financial burden being placed on rate payers.

6. CONSULTATION OUTCOMES SUMMARY

6.1 Summary of feedback

Overall stakeholder sentiment towards the draft Plan



When considering the collective feedback received from the 45 landowners meetings and 23 written submissions received during the public exhibition period:

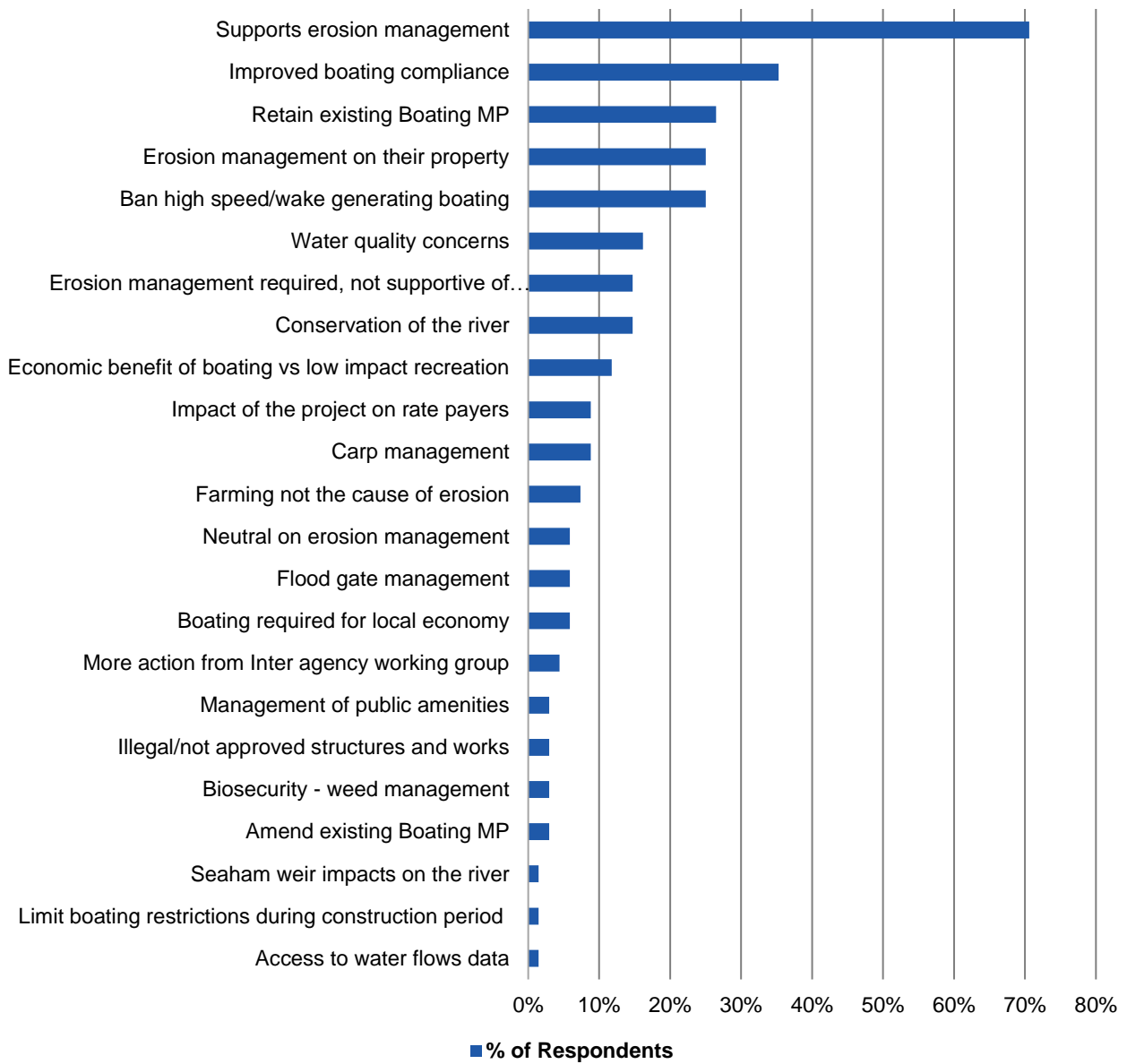
- 78% were positive or neutral towards the Plan, with:
 - 45.6% of respondents were positive towards the draft Plan
 - 32.4% were neutral towards the draft Plan
- 22% opposed the draft Plan.

While the overall sentiment towards the draft Plan and the proposed actions in the plan was mixed:

- 71% of respondents agreed that erosion on the riverbank was a concern and supported the erosion management actions in the plan. An additional 15% agreed that erosion management was required but were not supportive of all actions in the draft Plan
- 35% of respondents highlighted the need to improve boating compliance on the river
- 26% noted that they would like to see the existing boating management plan retained
- 25% called for a ban on high speed/wake generating boating on the river
- 25% of respondents requested further investigations on their property to inform the erosion management masterplan and proposed remediation works not currently captured in the draft Plan
- 16% of respondents noted concerns regarding water quality in the river, with limited confidence that the proposed actions and investment in the delivery if remediation actions would be effective in addressing water quality in the Seaham Weir Pool.

NB: Data analysis is based on the total number of stakeholder interactions and stakeholder sentiment at the time of engagement.

Overall stakeholder key themes



6.2 Summary of key themes

| Theme | Feedback | Response to comments |
|--|--|--|
| Supports erosion management | Supportive of erosion management and the actions proposed in the plan to address erosion on the riverbank. | Noted |
| Improved boating compliance | Boating compliance was raised by stakeholders both for and against the existing Boating Management Plan. Compliance issues included speeding, weighted vessels, significant wave generation, inappropriate ballast discharge and safety. Feedback indicated that landowners were not comfortable reporting non-compliance due to fear of consequences at a local level, or were not confident action would be taken. | Noted. Considered in Recommendation 3 of this report. |
| Retain existing Boating MP | Pleased to see that the existing Boating Management Plan retained as they enjoyed recreation use of the river. Some noted this was also important for the local economy whilst new residents noted this was a key attraction for moving to the area. | Noted |
| Erosion management on their property | Landowners on the riverbank requesting follow up investigations on their property to determine whether erosion concerns on their property can be considered as part of the draft Plan proposed remediation works. | Noted. Considered in Recommendation 2 of this report. |
| Ban high speed/wake generating boating | Would like to see high speed/wake generating boating banned from the river. Those that provided this feedback were happy to see other recreational boating remain such as kayaking, canoeing and fishing, however felt strongly about the impacts of wake and wave generation and their contribution to erosion on the riverbank. | Transport for NSW will prioritise enhanced education and compliance of the Boating Management Plan and any temporary boating restrictions that will be required during the implementation of the Erosion Management Plan. |
| Water quality concerns | Limited confidence that the proposed actions and investment in the delivery of remediation actions would be effective in addressing water quality in the Seaham Weir Pool. Concerns regarding high nutrient loads in the weir pool and the need for ongoing monitoring. | The project has been developed in conjunction with recognised experts in the field, being the University of NSW's Water Research Laboratory and the NSW Soil Conservation Service. Water quality monitoring in the river is undertaken on a weekly |

| Theme | Feedback | Response to comments |
|--|---|--|
| | | basis by Hunter Water and will continue. |
| Erosion management required, not supportive of actions | Stakeholders agreed that erosion management was required on the riverbank but were not supportive of the proposed remediation action if high speed/wake generating boating was not banned. Feedback indicated that they did not feel the revegetation remediation works would be successful if boating was to remain and rock revetment may cause secondary wave generation and impact the health of the river. Liability concerns were also raised regarding proposed works on private property. | Remediation works will be designed in conjunction with recognised experts in the field, being the University of NSW's Water Research Laboratory and the NSW Soil Conservation Service, giving appropriate consideration to the river conditions including boating. |
| Conservation of the river | Stakeholders felt strongly about river conservation and the actions of the plan. Some noted interest in landowner education to better understand what they can do to assist with river health on their property. Consideration of river health, habitats and fish stocks were also raised for consideration in the delivery of any works. | DPI Fisheries has been consulted on this aspect during the development of the draft Plan and will continue to be consulted during property planning and the project delivery phase. |
| Economic benefit of power boating vs low impact recreation | Request to see the economic benefit of high speed/wake generating boating compared to other low impact boating and recreation uses of the river such as kayaking, canoeing, fishing and swimming. | Noted |
| Impact of the project on rate payers | Concerns raised regarding the cost of the proposed remediation actions and did not support the additional financial burden being placed on rate payers. | Noted |
| Carp management | The issue of European Carp in relation to erosion on the riverbanks was also raised with further investigation on this matter requested, in addition to the proposed remediation actions in the draft Plan | Noted. Considered in Recommendation 5 of this report |
| Farming not the cause of erosion | Feedback indicated that fencing was in place on many farming properties to prevent livestock access to the river. Did not agree that farming and livestock were a significant cause of erosion impacts on the riverbank. | It is acknowledged that some properties along the weir pool are fenced to restrict stock access to the river, which is commended. It is also recognised that stock access to waterways generally can be a |

| Theme | Feedback | Response to comments |
|---|---|---|
| | | contributing factor to bank instability in some situations. |
| Flood gate management | Landowners with flood gates on their properties raised mixed feedback on their effectiveness due to management and maintenance concerns. | Considered in Recommendation 2 of this report and will be discussed with relevant landowners, although this issue is the subject of a separate Hunter Water project. |
| Boating required for local economy | Feedback indicated that boating was vital for the local economy and were pleased to see the existing Boating Management Plan retained. | The Plan recognises the social and economic values provided by recreational boating on the weir pool. |
| More action from inter agency working group | Feedback indicated that a more proactive approach was required from the inter agency working group, specifically in relation to boating compliance. Suggestion to include a landowner/community representative on the working group. | Considered in Recommendation 3 of this report. Further comment required from TfNSW |
| Management of public amenities | Better management of public amenities was requested, specifically at Wharf Reserve Camping area with concerns raised regarding access to public amenities resulting in human waste issues and antisocial behaviour. | Noted. Outside of the scope of the plan. Referred to Council to address. |
| Illegal/not approved structures and works | Concerns regarding alleged illegal/unapproved structures on the riverbank was raised. This included remediation works and structures that encouraged access to the river. | Noted. Outside of the scope of the plan. Referred to Council to address. |
| Biosecurity - weed management | Biosecurity and weed management specifically relating to Paramatta Grass and Cat's Claw Vine were raised for consideration of the inter agency working group. | While neither of the two species noted are known to be significant weeds in riparian vegetation along the weir pool, the Plan proposes to include weed control at locations where riparian vegetation management is identified. |
| Amend existing Boating MP | If high speed/ wake generating boating was not banned, at a minimum, the current Boating Management Plan should be amended to minimise impact of wave generating boats on the riverbank and private properties. This included changed | Transport for NSW will prioritise enhanced education and compliance of the Boating Management Plan and any temporary boating restrictions that will be |

| Theme | Feedback | Response to comments |
|---|--|--|
| | to permitted wake board and skiing zones and additional speed restrictions in designated areas. | required during the implementation of the Erosion Management Plan. |
| Seaham weir impacts on the river | Feedback indicated that the introduction of the Seaham weir has caused significant impact on the health of the river. | It is acknowledged that construction of Seaham weir (and consequently maintaining a static water level) has significantly impacted the river. However the Williams River is a primary source of drinking water to the Lower Hunter region, and the impacts need to be weighed against the benefits. Extraction of water from the river is undertaken in accordance with licence conditions which aim to minimise impacts on the river. |
| Limit boating restrictions during construction period | Requests to maintain boating restrictions to a minimum during the construction period to minimise impacts on local economy during peak season and minimise impacts on recreational use of the river. | Scheduling the proposed works to the boating off-season will be considered where feasible to minimise impacts on boating activities. Some planned works are outside the boating zones and would not be subject to these constraints. |
| Access to water flows data | Requested public access to water flow data to better understand volumes of water pumped from the Williams River. | Hunter Water will investigate public access to the water extraction data on its web site. |

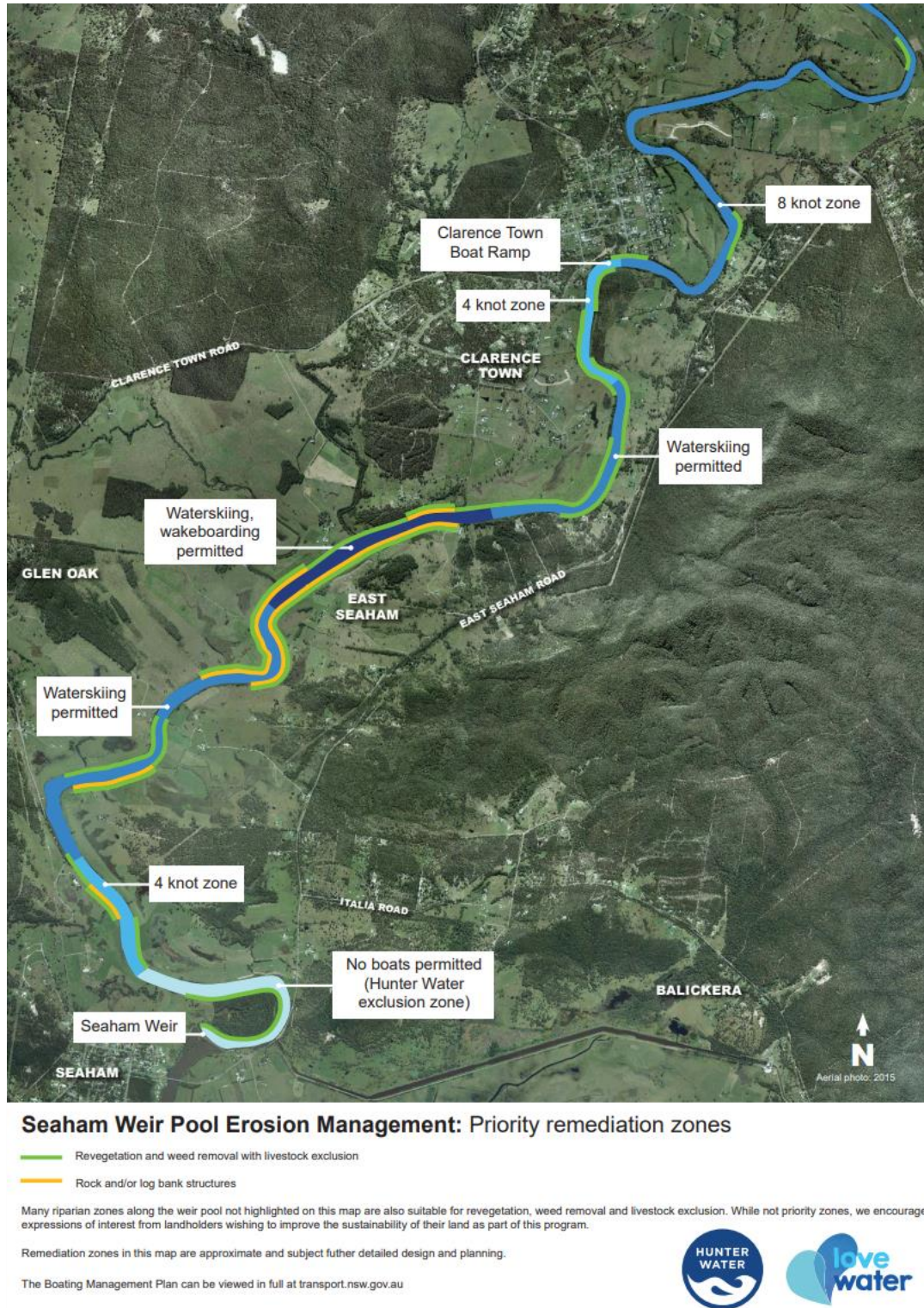
7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the feedback received during the public exhibition period, the following actions are recommended for consideration by the inter agency working group:

1. Endorse the draft Plan for finalisation with the following additions:
2. Add an action clarifying that Hunter Water will proceed with individual landowner meetings in the project area and collaborate with government agencies including NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries), to discuss proposed erosion management remediation works to ensure landowner feedback is considered in the planning of any proposed works on individual properties. Meetings should also address flood gate management, which is the subject of a separate Hunter Water project.
3. Add an action for the inter agency working group members to consider boating compliance and enforcement, specifically Transport for NSW to determine how compliance with the existing Boating Management Plan can be improved.
4. Add an action that supports improved transparency in water quality data, including but not limited to the outcomes of Action 4: Monitoring and assessment of the draft Plan; and water flows data from the Williams River.
5. Add an action for the agencies to consider feedback received in relation to other causes of erosion on the river, specifically relating to the impact of European Carp.

8. APPENDIX 1 – PROJECT AREA

Landowners in the project area with riverbank frontage were engaged as part of the Landowner door knock activity and follow up meetings during the public exhibition period.



| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Version | 1 |
| Date | December 2022 |
| Author | Laurie D'Angelo-Edmonds - Communications and Engagement Contractor |
| Approval | Kirby Morrison - Manager Water Planning |