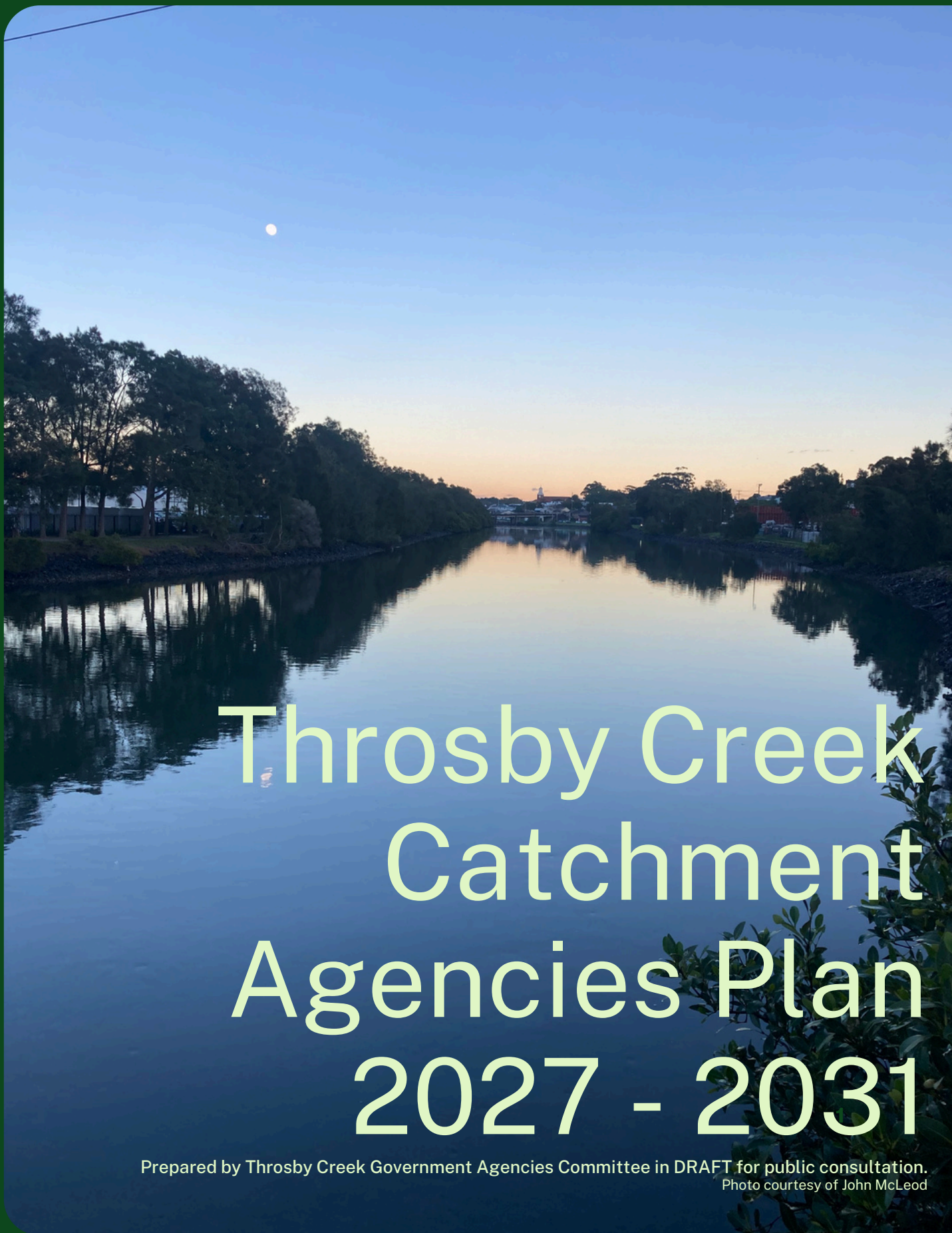
A project of the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee



Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2027 - 2031

Prepared by Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee in DRAFT for public consultation.

Photo courtesy of John McLeod

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and Ancestors of the Country and waterways that we gather upon and care for.

I pay my respects to our Ancestors who walked this Country before us, to our Elders who have carried our knowledge forward, and to our children and next generations who will continue the responsibility of caring for Country.

Throsby Creek and its surrounding waterways are not separate from Country. The water, mangroves, mudflats, animals, plants, tides and people are connected. For our people, these waterways hold memory, story, cultural knowledge and spiritual connection that have continued across generations.

Caring for this waterway therefore means more than managing an environmental asset. It means listening to Country, respecting the natural movement of water and tides, protecting the life that depends upon these systems, and recognising the cultural responsibilities held by Traditional Custodians.

As we work together through the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee, we acknowledge that government, community and Traditional Custodians each have responsibilities in protecting this place.

Our responsibility is to ensure that the decisions we make today leave Country stronger, healthier and culturally connected for the generations who come after us. When we care for Country, Country cares for us.

Aunty Theresa Dargin
Traditional Custodian



Image courtesy of Joseph Lycett

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Chair's Foreword



Photo courtesy of Tim Crakanthorp.

Welcome to the Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2027–2031!

The Plan aims to improve the health, amenity and safety of Throsby Creek and its catchment. Initiated by local community members concerned about the health of the creek, it builds on the three previous Throsby Creek Total Catchment Management Plans, published in 1989, 2001 and 2019.

The 2019–2024 Plan delivered strong results across the catchment, with around 80% of planned actions completed and embedded into everyday agency operations to improve water quality, ecosystem health, and sediment management.

These outcomes lay important groundwork for the goals in the updated Plan and reflect the strong partnerships between the City of Newcastle, Hunter Water, Hunter Local Land Services, Lake Macquarie City Council, Transport for NSW, TAFE NSW and the broader community.

Crucially, Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee (TCGAC) is addressing a significant gap in previous plans by formally acknowledging the deep cultural and spiritual connection the Traditional Custodians hold with Throsby Creek. This updated Plan will embed cultural connection into future planning and on-ground work, recognising local Elders including Aunty Theresa Dargin, whose knowledge and connection to Country guides our care for this waterway.

Throsby Creek remains a vibrant waterway enjoyed by boaters, fishers, wildlife enthusiasts, and the wider Newcastle community. This Plan establishes strategic priorities to build on the work of previous Plans and continue improving water quality, biodiversity, and flood management for the benefit of residents, visitors and commercial users alike.

Thank you to involved government agencies, community members, and the local Aboriginal community who helped shape this Plan to keep our beloved Throsby Creek catchment healthy, clean and safe.

TIM CRAKANTHORP MP
Chair, Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee
Member for Newcastle

Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee Overview

The Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee, chaired by the Member for Newcastle, Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP, seeks to deliver cooperative leadership from numerous government agencies with a role in supporting the health and resilience of the Lower Throsby Creek catchment.

The Committee is seeking to further improve the environment of the Throsby Creek catchment, waterway and its surrounds, and the amenity of the area for the community, residents, visitors and commercial users.

Chair:

- Member for Newcastle,
  Mr Tim Crakanthorp MP

Government agencies:

- City of Newcastle (CN)
- Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS)
- Hunter Water (Committee Secretariat) (HW)
- Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC)
- Transport for NSW (TNSW)

Business, community & stakeholder representatives:

- Community representative,
  Mr John McLeod,
  (Newcastle Rowing Club)
- Community representative,
  Mr John Sutton,
  (Tighes Hill Community Group)
- Traditional Custodian and Cultural representative,
  Worimi Country (Dates Mob),
  Aunty Theresa Dargin,
  (Spiritual Water Ways Indigenous Corporation)

About the Plan and Current Context

Initiated by local community members, The Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee established the Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2019-2024 that built on the two-preceeding Total Catchment Management (TCM) strategies (1989 and 2001) and is now overseeing the delivery of the 2027-2031 Plan to guide ongoing, collaborative catchment improvements.

Building on the foundations of previous plans and delivery programs, this Plan acknowledges the lessons learnt through earlier efforts and responds to emerging opportunities, challenges and community expectations. Population growth, urban renewal, changing environmental conditions, climate-related challenges and increasing community use of the waterway continue to shape how the catchment is managed and cared for.

The Plan provides a coordination framework for agencies involved, building on the Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2019-2024, incorporating agreed outstanding and ongoing actions. Community aspirations for the catchment remain a priority and 2026 community consultation outcomes were essential in informing this Plan (see page 18-19).

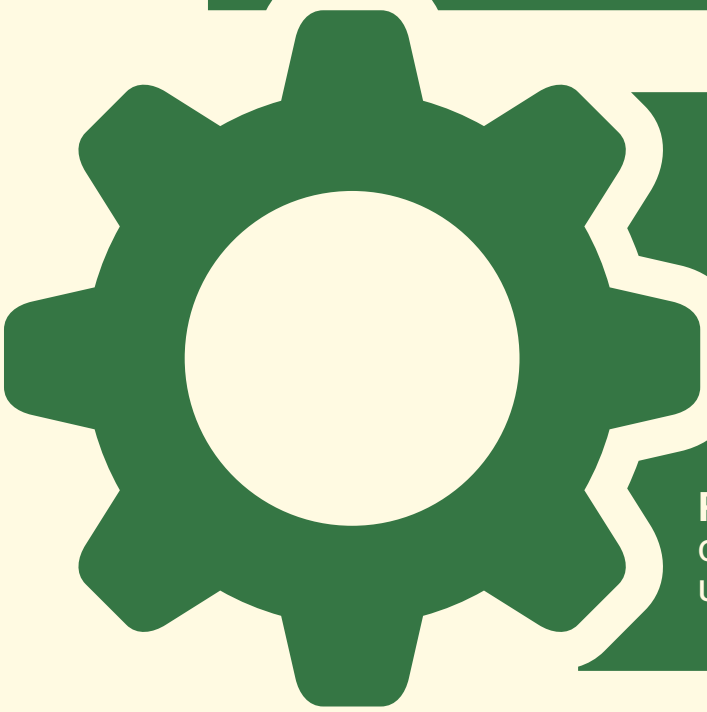


Lower Throsby Creek, under Cowper St. bridge. Photo courtesy of City of Newcastle.

About the Plan and Current Context *continued*

The Plan sets out the strategic direction including objectives, framework and community priorities. Community consultation 2026. Published online late 2026/early 2027.

The **Priority Works Plan** provides a further level of details to the priority actions. Available in 2027.



Actions are undertaken that contribute to the strategic direction and priority actions. 2027 - 2031

Reporting back to community on actions undertaken. Ongoing.

On Total Catchment Management

"....is not legally binding upon persons, companies or government agencies. Instead, its role is to promote cooperation and coordination. It aims to encourage a common purpose between all relevant agencies and groups so that they may carry out their respective activities in a complementary manner, directed towards coherent objectives that have received community endorsement.
By presenting an 'integrated approach', the Strategy has the potential to enable access to funding sources not available to projects in which catchment issues are addressed separately.
...a practical framework within which relevant agencies can prepare detailed annual programs for their activities."

Page 3. Throsby Total Catchment Management Strategy 2001

In the mid-nineteenth century, Throsby Creek was still a sinuous, tidal waterway fringed by mangroves and white sand foreshores, and connected to broad alluvial flats and islands at the head of Newcastle Harbour.

These lands and waters had long supported the Traditional custodians' way of life, while European clearing and cultivation increasingly disturbed the catchment.

From the 1870s, slaughterhouses, a brewery and other industries established along the banks accelerated erosion, siltation and pollution; from the 1930's urbanisation and drainage work progressively transformed much of the lower creek system into an engineered stormwater network, with fishing banned in the 1960's because of pollution levels.



Photo courtesy of City of Newcastle.

On Total Catchment Management *continued*

In the late 1980s community concern about the creek's condition ultimately drove a new, coordinated approach to restoration, leading to the 1989 Throsby Creek Total Catchment Management Strategy (TCM Strategy). It is described as Australia's first plan developed under a Total Catchment Management approach, bringing residents, businesses, elected representatives and government agencies together around shared, catchment-wide objectives.

Furthermore, local residents formed Throsby Landcare in 1990 as one of the first urban Landcare groups in Australia, leading to the commencement of mangrove replanting along the lower reaches from 1992 onwards.

A revised TCM strategy followed in 2001, which focused on water quality, habitat, flood management and public amenity. The resulting works program included pollution controls, channel and foreshore works and revegetation helped turn a creek, at one time treated as a polluted drain, into a valued ecological and recreational corridor.

Although the catchment remains highly modified and continues to face stormwater, water-quality and habitat pressures, its transformation to date demonstrates the enduring value of coordinated planning and long-term community stewardship still operating today.



Photo courtesy of Phoebe Sanders.

Embedding Catchment Health in Our Everyday

The agencies represented on the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee undertake a wide range of programs, services and regulatory functions that contribute to the health, resilience and amenity of the Throsby Creek catchment as part of their core business responsibilities. These include strategic planning, environmental management, waterway and stormwater management, infrastructure maintenance, biodiversity conservation, flood risk management, community engagement, monitoring and education.

The Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee acknowledges the important role that Traditional Custodians, community groups, volunteers and local organisations play in caring for the catchment and delivering long-term environmental outcomes.

Examples include the monthly Community Mangrove Clean Up Days coordinated by Spiritual Water Ways Indigenous Corporation (see spotlight, next page), along with the revegetation, bush regeneration, restoration and stewardship activities undertaken by Landcare, community groups and volunteers across the upper catchment.

Together, these everyday activities provide an important foundation for improving catchment outcomes and contribute directly to community aspirations for cleaner water, healthier ecosystems, improved recreation opportunities and a more resilient catchment.



Hunter Water and Hunter Local Land Services collaborate on Science Week schools activities on catchment and water health initiatives. Photo courtesy of Hunter Local Land Services.

The Priority Works Plan will build on this foundation by identifying shared priorities and opportunities for agencies, community organisations and stakeholders to work together to achieve outcomes that are often beyond the capacity of any single organisation.

Community Spotlight



Spiritual Water Ways Indigenous Corporation facilitates monthly community mangrove clean-up days at the Carrington (Onebygamba) mangroves, bringing Traditional Custodians, families, young people, community members and volunteers together to care for Country and support the health of the Throsby Creek waterway.

The gatherings are organised by Aunty Theresa Dargin and held on the last Sunday of each month, with times guided by the low tide to allow safe access to the mangrove areas.

Participants remove litter and debris while learning about the cultural and environmental importance of the mangroves, waterways and caring for Country.

The clean-ups strengthen community participation, environmental stewardship and ongoing connection to Country through practical, community-led action.

Location: Carrington Mangroves, Elizabeth Street Boardwalk

When: Last Sunday of each month, times vary according to low tide

Updates: Follow Spiritual Water Ways on Facebook for clean-up times and community updates.



Community mangrove clean up.
Photo courtesy of Spiritual Water Ways Indigenous Corportation.

Understanding the Catchment

The history of Throsby Creek, and the community driven campaign for its protection and improvement, is comprehensively told in Turning the tide: the Throsby Creek campaign (1993) available from the Newcastle Regional Library.

Figure 1. Throsby Creek catchment map

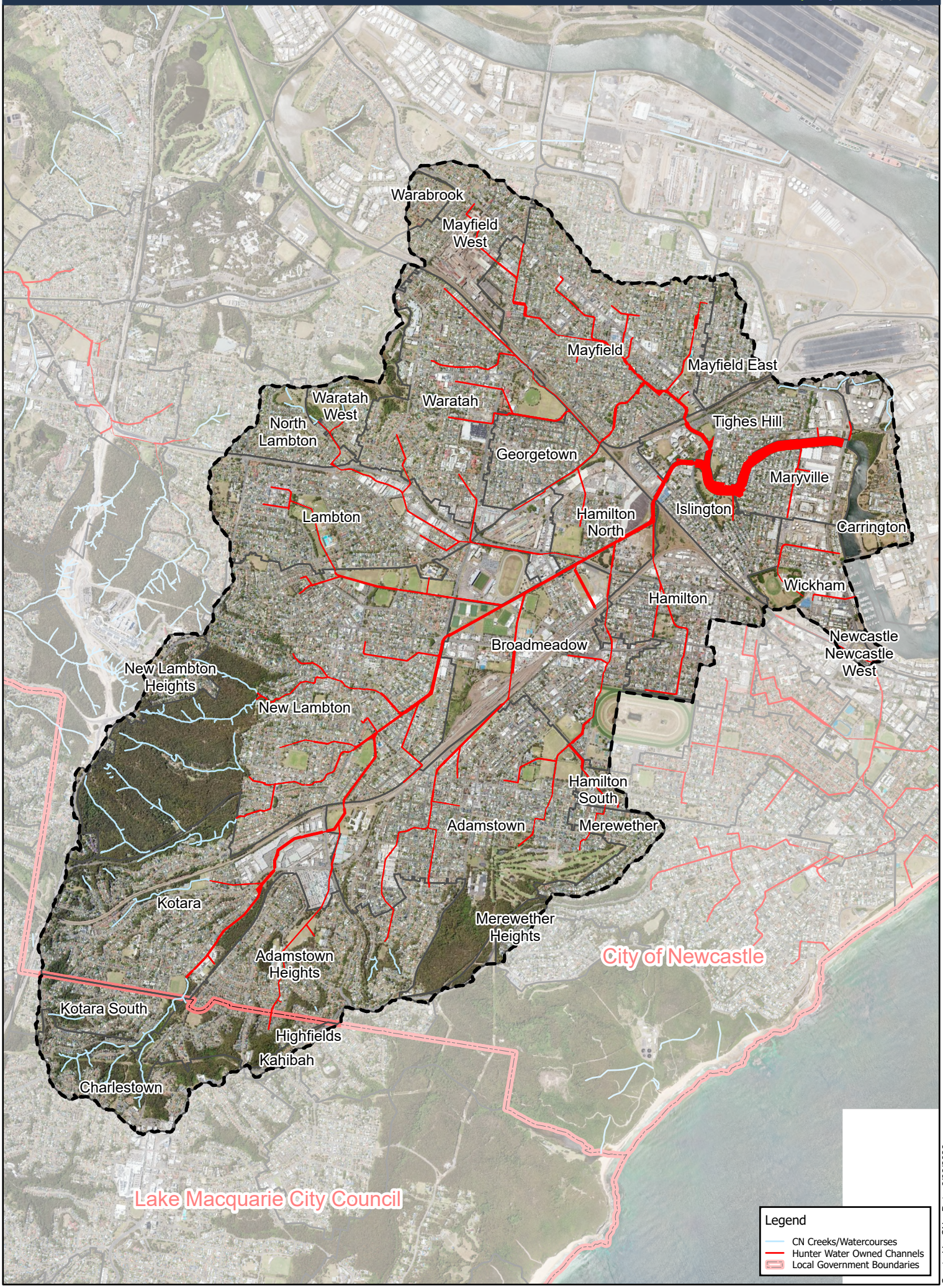
The majority of the Throsby Creek catchment network was modified in the 1990's into concrete, channelised drainage lines, with approx. 52.75 km of stormwater infrastructure in the network under Hunter Water (HW) control (indicated by red lines in Figure 1). The remainder of the creek network within the Newcastle LGA (indicated by the blue line in Figure 1) is under the care and control of the City of Newcastle (CN). The unchanneled headwaters of Styx Creek lies within the Lake Macquarie LGA.



Throsby foreshore Carrington reclamation in the 1990's at the current site where the boardwalk moves from Carrington foreshore into the mangroves. Photo courtesy of City of Newcastle.

Throsby Creek Catchment Map

City of Newcastle



Created by CN - Date: 3/09/2026

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0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

Scale: 1:40,000 at A4

Understanding the Catchment *continued*

Figure 2. Throsby Creek Catchment, Land use

Few places within Throsby Creek catchment remain in a relatively natural state with the majority of the drainage network being channellised in concrete stormwater drains and the landuse predominantly residential (refer Table 1).

One exception to this is Blackbutt Reserve, which constitutes one of the largest remaining natural bushland pockets in the City, under the City of Newcastle's care and control. Blackbutt Reserve holds the headwaters of five tributaries of Styx Creek including Rainforest, Black Duck, Coalmine, Echidna and Bower Bird Creeks. The defence land around the Army reserve, east of Brunker Road, Adamstown is the other area in a relatively natural state.

There are active Landcare and community groups in the catchment (see green in Figure 2), the most recently formed being the Lambton Ker-rai Creek Landcare group in 2026, who work towards achieving protection of the natural values of the catchment. Although the catchment landuse is predominantly residential, the industrial and commercial areas play significant roles in the stormwater issues due to their increased areas of hard surfaces; eg car parks, roof tops and storage yards which provide little infiltration for stormwater.

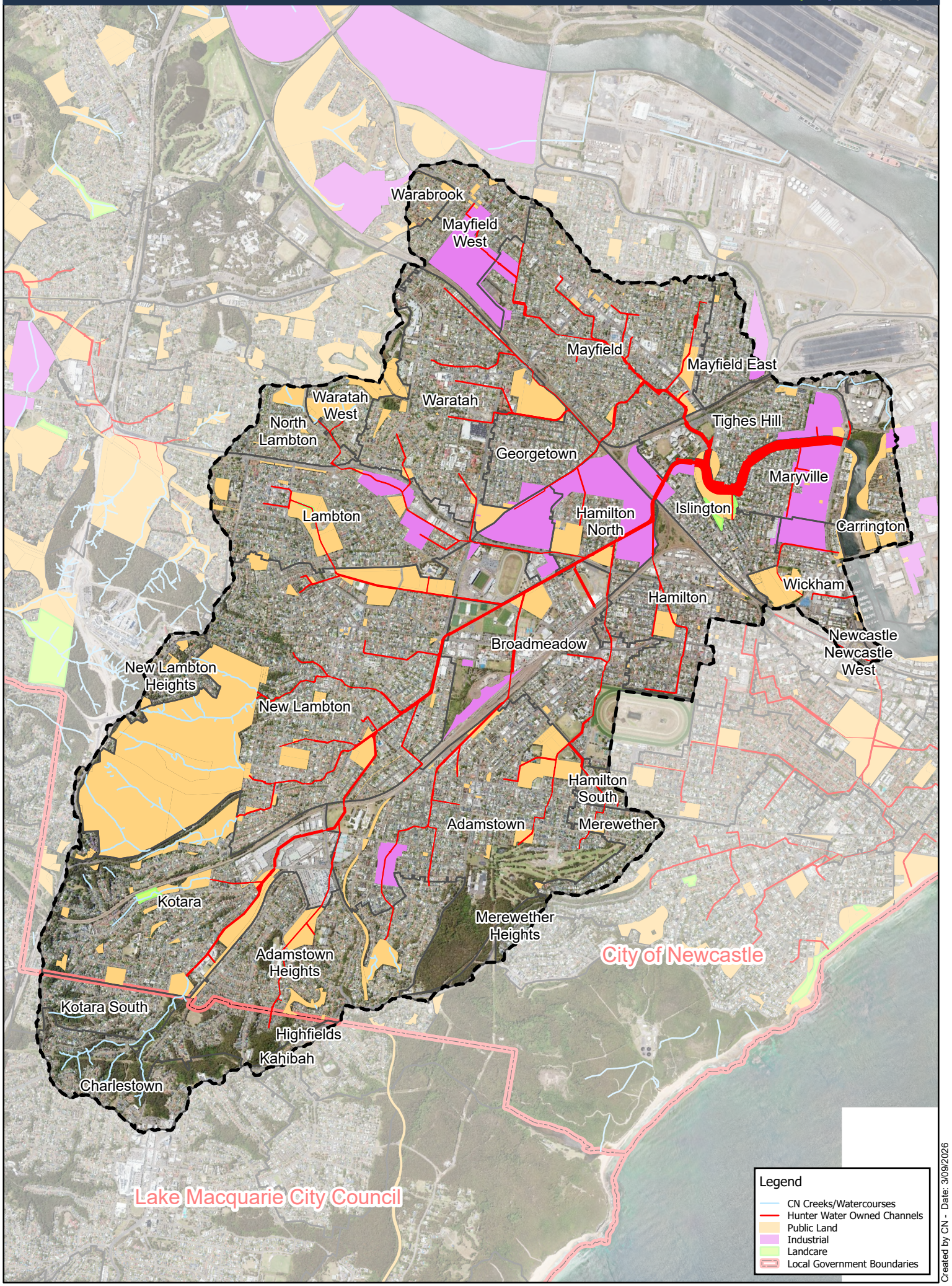


Lambton Ker-rai Creek Landcare Group, 2026.
Photo courtesy of City of Newcastle.

Table 1. Landuse in the Throsby Creek Catchment (Newcastle Stormwater Management Plan 2005)

Landuse	Area (ha)	Percentage of the Catchment
Bushland	280	9
Parks and recreational areas	420	14
Built environment (residential, commercial and light industrial)	2,450	77
TOTAL	**3,150**	**100**

Throsby Creek Catchment, Land Use



Created by CN - Date: 3/09/2026

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Scale: 1:40,000 at A4

Understanding the Catchment *continued*

Figure 3. Lower Throsby Creek Catchment Land Ownership

Figure 3 indicates that numerous land holders that play vital roles in the necessary collaborative management of the lower reaches of the Throsby Creek catchment. The creek upstream of the Hannell Street Bridge is under HW control, while downstream Transport for NSW (TfNSW) – Maritime is responsible for the waterway. Whilst the foreshore is under various ownership including CN, HW, Hunter Development Corporation, NSW Crown Lands and some private holdings.

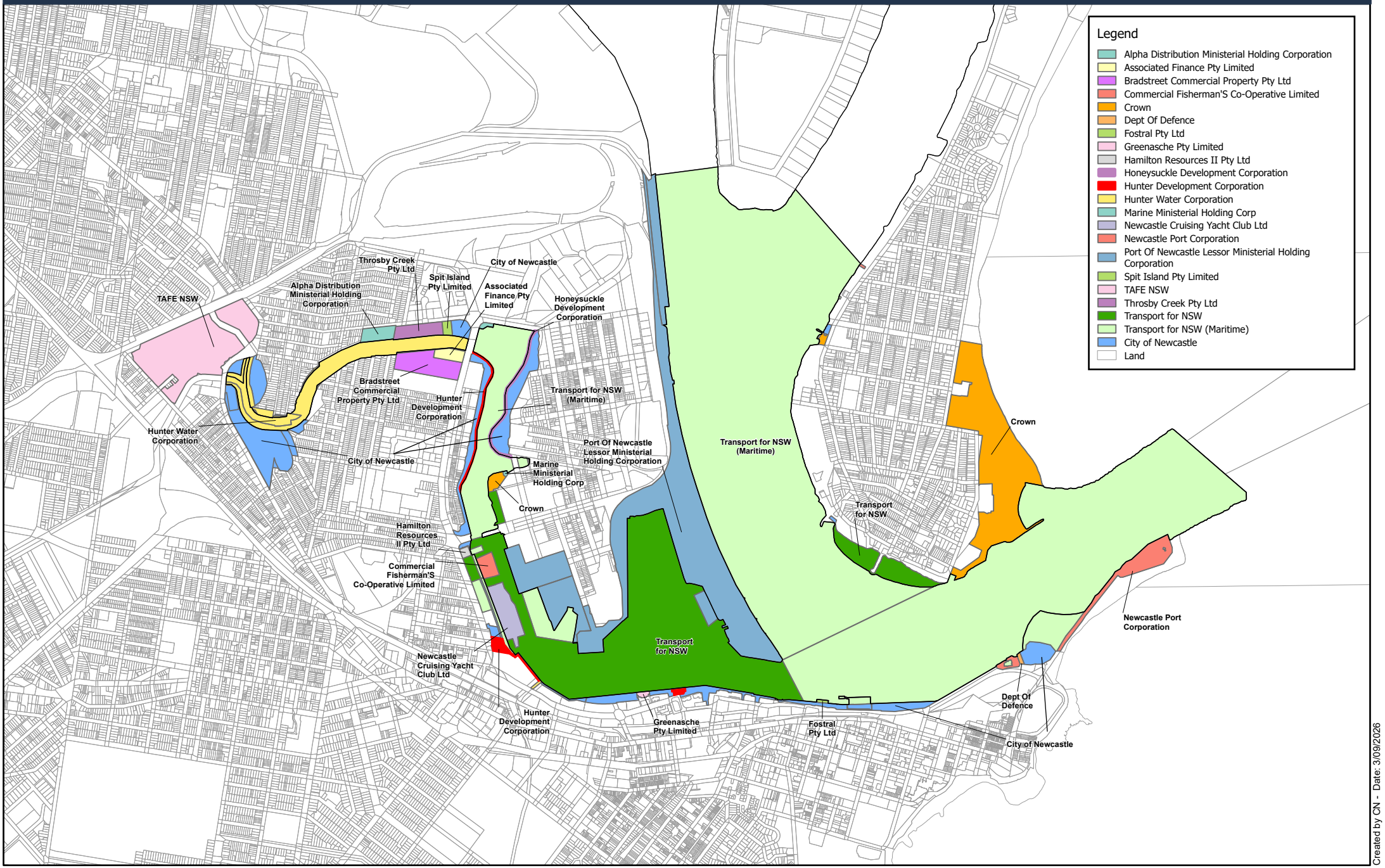


Throsby Creek - Lower reaches, 2025. Photo courtesy of City of Newcastle.

For Traditional Custodians, waterways are more than physical features in the landscape. They are living cultural places that connect people, Country, culture and community. The Throsby Creek catchment forms part of a broader network of waterways, wetlands and estuarine environments that have long provided places for travel, gathering, teaching, caring for Country and sustaining life. Today, these connections continue through cultural practice, education, environmental stewardship and community-led activities. Understanding the catchment through this lens highlights the importance of protecting the health of waterways, recognising cultural values, and strengthening relationships between people and Country for future generations.

Lower Throsby Creek Catchment Land Ownership

City of Newcastle



Created by CN - Date: 3/09/2026

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Scale: 1:25,000 at A4

Community Consultation

The Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2027–2031 builds on the previous plan through a two-stage community consultation process designed to capture community aspirations, local knowledge and feedback.

Initial engagement was undertaken through a four-question survey exploring community aspirations for the catchment. 255 community members and stakeholder responses were recorded, providing valuable feedback with a high degree of consistency. This feedback informed this document.

Further feedback is being sort on this draft Plan via formal public consultation. Community members, stakeholders, user groups and partner organisations are invited to review and comment on the proposed scope, objectives and actions.

A pop-up community engagement session led by TCGAC Chair Tim Crakanthorp MP at Islington Reserve in October 2026 will provide further insights into community priorities for Throsby Creek catchment and promotes engagement with the formal consultation process.

Feedback from all engagements will be considered by the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee and will be used to refine the final Plan, ensuring it reflects community values and supports shared ownership of catchment outcomes with the final plan due for publication prior to the end of 2026.



Former community consultation in April 2017. Photo courtesy of Tim Crakanthorp.

Quotes from Community

“The creek already attracts walkers, cyclists, paddlers, families and people fishing. With better habitat restoration, improved maintenance, safer infrastructure and genuine long-term investment, it could become an outstanding example of urban waterway restoration."

What do you want Throsby Creek to look like in 2050?

"A ‘naturalised’ creek, free of concrete, to remove the ‘drain’ look and instead provide habitat for flora and fauna and provide lovely social amenity."

“Healthy, fish jumping, birdlife, native fauna. Clean mangroves acting as effective filter.”

"A vibrant and clean waterway - one which attracts members of water based club size paddlers, rowers, outriggers, to make use of all it offers."

“Clean, clear, with community enjoying the area on & off the water.”

What should agencies work together on to improve Throsby Creek?

"Installing continuous lighting along the shared pathway. Regular maintenance of vegetation to keep paths clear and safe."

"Reducing pollution inflows. Rehabilitation of riparian areas."

“The current concrete channel has significantly reduced the environmental value of the creek.... should prioritise restoring natural habitat and supporting the expansion of mangroves, which have largely been planted by volunteers rather than government agencies.”

“Improving habitat, removing concrete, cats, increasing biodiversity.”

What matters most to you about the future of Throsby Creek?

"Water quality - ability to fish, swim and recreate in the creek, particularly at Carrington."

"It’s health and well being as an ecosystem and water body."

“Walking footpath quality and accesss maintenance and the maintenance of vegetation along the creek. That it continues to be well maintained and protected from a flooding and drainage perspective without restriction of public access or use.

"A beautiful space for walking, cycling, fishing or just observing the local ecology."

Anything else relevant you would like to share in relation to the Throsby Creek catchment?

"It's such a lovely area and one we should be proud of. We live beside it and I pick up rubbish near our place."

"I hope this consultation leads to measurable action rather than another strategy without meaningful on-ground improvements."

“I have lived in Tighes Hill for 43 years and have seen Throsby Creek go from a muddy, smelly storm water drain to a thriving waterway with a developing ecosystem. There are now lots of fish in the creek in various stages of development. I have seen mustard rays from the William St Bridge once.
This should be something that we celebrate and protect. It is a fantastic asset and amenity for the city. From early skepticism about having a cycleway along Throsby Creek, it has become a major commuter cycleway and one of the most beautiful cycleways in the city.”

Direct quotes from community consultation undertaken July/August 2026

The Evolving Face of Throsby Creek Catchment

The Throsby Creek catchment continues to evolve in response to changing environmental, social and community influences.
In developing this Plan, the Committee considered emerging challenges and opportunities including climate variability and extreme weather, urban development pressures, the Blue-Green Grid approach to connected and resilient landscapes, Aboriginal cultural values and connections to Country, emerging contaminants such as microplastics, and growing community interest in healthy, active lifestyles.

These considerations have helped shape the priorities and actions of the Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2027–2031.



Photo courtesy of John McLeod

Climate variability and extreme weather events

Urban development pressures

Blue Green Grid strategy

Water Sensitive Cities Action Plan

Aboriginal cultural values, custodianship and connection to Country

Microplastics

Emerging contaminants

Healthy lifestyle

Scope

This Plan provides a structured framework to guide coordinated planning, advocacy and implementation by the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee over the period 2027 – 2031 for overall catchment health and vibrancy.

The scope of the Plan includes:

- Providing a framework for partners to collaborate on and deliver community-led priorities across the Throsby Creek catchment, as depicted in Figure 1.
- Guiding coordinated action across research, policy, on-ground works, land management and education.
- Alignment to individual agency strategic plans.
- Identifying aspirational projects through the Priority Works Plan to maximise opportunities to advocate for and secure additional funding and delivery pathways.

Out of Scope:

- Committing agencies to unfunded works without governance approval
- Single-agency operational programs (captured only where they contribute to shared outcomes)



Newcastle Rowing Club.
Photo courtesy of John McLeod

Objectives

The overarching objective of the Plan is to improve the health, amenity, cultural connectivity and safety of Throsby Creek catchment. There are ten NSW Water Quality Objectives (WQO). Below indicates the relevant objectives to this Plan and are based on current and future community uses and aspirations for Throsby Creek.

Current

- Protection of Aquatic ecosystems
- Incidental contact
- Cultural and spiritual values
- Visual amenity

Future Aspirational

- Aquatic foods
- Whole-body contact



Photo courtesy of John McLeod

We acknowledge the fundamental cultural connection to fishing and Caring for Country in Throsby Creek. NSW DPIRD and NSW Fisheries should be contacted for the latest advice regarding fishing closures, restrictions and permits, or go to https://www.dpird.nsw.gov.au/fishing/closures/location-closures/hunter-river-and-tributaries
Water quality in Throsby Creek is variable and may be unsuitable for swimming. Water quality can change rapidly, especially during and after significant rainfall, and may pose health risks.

Objectives - focus areas

The objectives of this Plan will be achieved through the below interrelated focus areas.

An overarching objective of **waterway health and cleanliness** including water quality, pollution reduction, sediment and stormwater management is considered within all focus areas.

1. Liveability

Protect and enhance the liveability of the Throsby Creek catchment by enhancing a safe, healthy and aesthetically appealing environment that supports community wellbeing and recreational use, while improving resilience, amenity, stormwater management, access to waterways and surrounding natural areas.



2. Biodiversity

Protect and enhance ecosystem health and biodiversity across the catchment by restoring habitats, improving waterway condition and supporting resilient natural systems. Utilising nature-based solutions will help safeguard native species and build climate resilience for the catchments blue and green networks.



3. Stewardship

Foster a strong sense of stewardship by increasing community awareness, appreciation and responsibility for the catchment, driving meaningful behaviour change. Empower individuals, groups and stakeholders to adopt practices that actively protect and enhance the long-term health of Throsby Creek catchment.



4. Collaboration

Enable coordinated, cross-agency and community collaboration to deliver integrated catchment management outcomes. Strengthen partnerships, shared responsibility and alignment of actions across organisations to maximise collective impact and efficient use of resources that are committed to utilisation nature-based solutions to deliver biodiversity corridor resilience.



Priorities

The priorities identified in this Plan have been shaped by extensive community consultation involving more than 250 residents, waterway users, community organisations and stakeholders within the initial community consultation period alone.

Across the consultation opportunities, respondents expressed a clear and consistent vision for the Throsby Creek catchment as a cleaner, healthier and more natural waterway that supports thriving ecosystems, recreational opportunities, cultural values and community wellbeing.

While views differed on some site-specific issues, there was strong agreement that improving water quality, reducing pollution, protecting biodiversity, maintaining public access, and fostering collaboration between agencies and the community should remain the primary focus of future efforts.

The priorities identified in this Plan represent a shared commitment by the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee to address community priorities and contribute to the long-term health, resilience and liveability of the catchment. The committee will prepare a companion Priority Works Plan that provides additional detail on potential implementation actions, lead and supporting agencies, performance measures and opportunities for collaboration. The Priority Works Plan is intended to be adaptive and may evolve over time in response to community priorities, agency programs, funding opportunities and emerging catchment needs. As it evolves, the latest updated version of the Priority Works Plan will be made publicly available on the Hunter Water website.

It should be noted that **waterway health and cleanliness** emerged as the strongest and most consistent theme throughout the community consultation undertaken to inform the Plan and subsequent Priority Works Plan. Water quality, pollution prevention, litter reduction, sediment management, stormwater management and ecosystem health underpin all four objectives of this Plan. Accordingly, actions that improve the overall health and cleanliness of Throsby Creek are embedded across all priority areas and will remain a central focus of coordinated agency efforts over the life of the Plan.

The Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee will regularly review progress on Plan delivery and report significant achievements and developments publicly. The Priority Works Plan is being developed and will be informed by community feedback, agency priorities and funding availability.

Objective 1: Liveability

Priority areas include:
• Improving safe, connected public access to the creek and foreshore.
• Enhancing community amenity and recreation infrastructure such as seating, accessing shade and wayfinding
• Continue to actively manage mangroves to meet stormwater management obligations.

Objective 2: Biodiversity

Priority areas include:
• Improving water quality through pollution prevention, litter reduction and stormwater management.
• Protecting mangroves, riparian vegetation and aquatic habitats.
• Investigating opportunities for naturalisation and nature-based solutions.
• Improving habitat connectivity and climate resilience.
• Monitoring ecosystem health, waterway condition and emerging environmental risks.
• Maintaining management of sediment and channel condition.

Objective 3: Stewardship

Priority areas include:
• Building community awareness of waterway health and catchment impacts.
• Supporting volunteer, restoration and citizen science activities.
• Promoting behaviour change that reduces vandalism, pollution and litter.
• Recognising and celebrating Aboriginal cultural values and connection to Country.
• Sharing progress, outcomes and success stories with the community.

Objective 4: Collaboration

Priority areas include:
• Maintaining embedded community and Traditional Custodian participation in a coordinated multi-agency approach to catchment management.
• Aligning planning, investment and project delivery across organisations.
• Strengthening partnerships with community, industry and recreational user groups.
• Sharing information and improving evidence-based decision making.
• Pursuing joint funding and advocacy opportunities.
• Strengthen accountability, transparency and reporting of outcomes.

Strategic Alignment

Each agency contributes to the Plan through its core roles and responsibilities, ensuring that individual programs, policies and on-ground actions align with the shared objectives of the Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee. This coordinated approach strengthens collective impact, avoids duplication and ensures that agency-led activities contribute to agreed catchment outcomes.

Agency	Alignment statement
City of Newcastle	City of Newcastle is a committed to creating a liveable, sustainable, inclusive global city. The Plan aligns with Newcastle 2040 by supporting the coordinated approach of total catchment management that will improve waterway health, biodiversity, urban liveability, climate resilience and community stewardship across the 3,150 ha Throsby Creek catchment. CN will support the delivery of the Plan through the implementation of the Newcastle Environment Strategy and its associated action plans, and regular operational activities as per our annual capital and operational works program.
Hunter Local Land Services	Local Land Services deliver support and services to farmers and land managers to ensure a productive and sustainable future for rural and regional NSW. Hunter Local Land Services supports the delivery of the Plan through its ongoing work in natural resource management, catchment health, community engagement and partnership delivery. The Plan aligns with the priorities of the Hunter Local Strategic Plan, Hunter NRM Plan, Hunter Catchment Contributions program and the broader Hunter Estuary catchment management framework, supporting collaborative action to improve waterway health, biodiversity, resilience and community stewardship across the catchment.
Hunter Water	Hunter Water is a State Owned Corporation (SOC), dedicated to delivering essential services including drinking water, wastewater, recycled water, and some stormwater management to more than 600,000 residents and businesses across the Lower Hunter region. Our vision of 'Water is life' is for everyone. We exist to enhance the lives of our communities, providing safe and reliable services that contribute to the wellbeing of our community and the prosperity of our region. Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee reflects our aspiration to partner with others to achieve a nature positive impact on the environment and our community. As the Secretariat of TCGAC, and a key asset owner of Throsby Creek, Hunter Water is continuing efforts to protect and improve Throsby Creek for our community
Lake Macquarie City Council	Lake Macquarie provides a naturally beautiful, vibrant, progressive environment for families to grow, businesses to thrive and tourists to visit. The Plan aligns with the Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan's healthy waterways community outcome, which recognises the importance of waterway health for the city and the need to protect and enhance our waterways for the benefit of future generations. The upper part of Stix Creek is within the Lake Macquarie local government area. The Plan also assists in the delivery of the Lake Macquarie Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2027 as well as contributing to implementation of Lake Macquarie's Urban Greening and Urban Heat strategies.
Transport for NSW	Transport for NSW lead the development of safe, integrated and efficient transport systems for the people of NSW. Transport for NSW involvement aligns with the Sustainability Plan for protecting biodiversity, water, air quality and natural resources.

References

Reference document/s
Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2019 - 2024
Hunter Water Sustainability Strategy
Newcastle 2040 - Community Strategic Plan
Newcastle Environment Strategy 2023
Newcastle Climate Action Plan 2026 - 2030
Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2025-2035
Lake Macquarie Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2027
Lake Macquarie Urban Greening Strategy 2022
Lake Macquarie Urban Heat Strategy 2022
Hunter Region Natural Resource Management Plan 2023 - 2028
Hunter Local Strategic Plan
Hunter Estuary Catchment Management Plan (CMP) - (Maitland City Council)
Hunter Catchments Contributions
Transport for NSW Sustainability Plan

Appendix 1:

Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan 2019 - 2024 outcome summary document

THROSBY CREEK CATCHMENT

Working Together for a Healthier, More Resilient Catchment 2019–2024 Achievements Summary

The **2019–2024 Throsby Creek Catchment Agencies Plan** has delivered significant environmental, water quality and community outcomes across the catchment, with approximately **80% of planned actions completed** and many **initiatives now embedded into everyday agency operations**.

Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee (TCGAC) is chaired by Tim Crakanthorp MP and with strong partnerships between government agencies, community groups and local stakeholders, Throsby Creek is becoming a healthier, more resilient waterway for current and future generations.

Partners Working Together

TCGAC comprises representatives from City of Newcastle, Hunter Water, Hunter Local Land Services, Lake Macquarie City Council, Transport for NSW and TAFE NSW, supported by other stakeholders and community representatives.



Water Quality Improvements

Key achievements include:

- ✓ Water quality monitoring programs
- ✓ Citizen science initiatives supporting data collection
- ✓ Pollution source control measures implemented
- ✓ Expanded street sweeping programs
- ✓ Business Pollution Prevention Program activities
- ✓ Reduced fertiliser and herbicide use
- ✓ Stronger Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)

Healthy Ecosystems

Key achievements include:

- ✓ Stormwater naturalisation planning across priority locations
- ✓ Mangrove Management Plan completed within ongoing learnings
- ✓ Development of revegetation guides and improved riparian management processes
- ✓ Expansion of native vegetation corridors and ongoign bush regeneration is ongoing
- ✓ Continued rehabilitation of creek and stormwater systems

Gross Pollutants & Sediment Management

Key achievements include:

- ✓ Multi-agency sediment management studies
- ✓ Sediment removal and maintenance of stormwater treatment assets
- ✓ Marine debris monitoring and clean-ups delivered
- ✓ Community awareness and environmental education campaigns delivered
- ✓ New litter trap for Styx Creek procured and ready for 2026 installation



Governance and Community Engagement

Key achievements include:

- ✓ Coordination through TCGAC
- ✓ Catchment objectives integrated into agency operations
- ✓ Annual environmental events and Water Week activities
- ✓ School and community education programs
- ✓ Improved interagency communication and collaboration

Building Resilience

Key achievements include:

- ✓ Maintained flash flood warning system, updated catchment modelling to improve understanding of flash flooding and continued tide gate upgrades
- ✓ Flood-related controls integrated into planning framework and development of strategic position for low-lying suburbs

Key Lessons & Future Priorities

While the plan has achieved strong results, several priority areas require ongoing focus:

- ✓ Advanced catchment modelling to better inform future decisions
- ✓ Clear sediment management frameworks
- ✓ Enhanced interagency communication and coordinated engagement
- ✓ Continued progress towards Newcastle as a Water Sensitive City
- ✓ Long-term planning for climate resilience and flood adaptation
- ✓ Continued agency collaboration and community consultation

Some initiatives, will carry forward into the next planning cycle due to their complexity and multi-year scope.





Community Consultation 2026

Get involved in the future of the catchment

Future planning (2027–2031) will emphasise community involvement, with consultation in 2026.

Informal engagement via events and outreach activities to gather community aspirations occurred from 31 July - 19 August.

Formal consultation through online Have Your Say platform, enabling structured feedback from community and stakeholders in late 2026.



Throsby Creek, Islington Park, 2025. Photo courtesy of City of Newcastle.

Throsby Creek Government Agencies Committee - Contacts Us

City of Newcastle
P: 02 4974 2000
W: newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Hunter Water
P: 1300 657 657
W: hunterwater.com.au

Lake Macquarie City Council
P: 02 4921 0333
W: lakemac.com.au

Spiritual Waterways
P: 0481 799 009
E: spiritualwaterways@gmail.com
W: spiritualwaterways.com.au

Hunter Local Land Services
P: 1300 765 299
E: admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au
W: nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/local-land-services/lls-regions/hunter

Transport for NSW
P: 131 500
W: transport.nsw.gov.au



Tim Crakanthorp MP
State Member for Newcastle
P: (02) 4926 1126
E: newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au
W: timcrakanthorp.com