

Coastal management

Creating culturally safe opportunities
when engaging First Nations people





Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

The Aboriginal cultural illustrations and graphics shared throughout this document are developed and designed by Yirra Miya First Nations Creative Agency. These significant designs promote the importance of cultural knowledge sharing as a way to maintain our coastal songlines. You can learn more about the designer, cultural illustrations and stories on page 33.

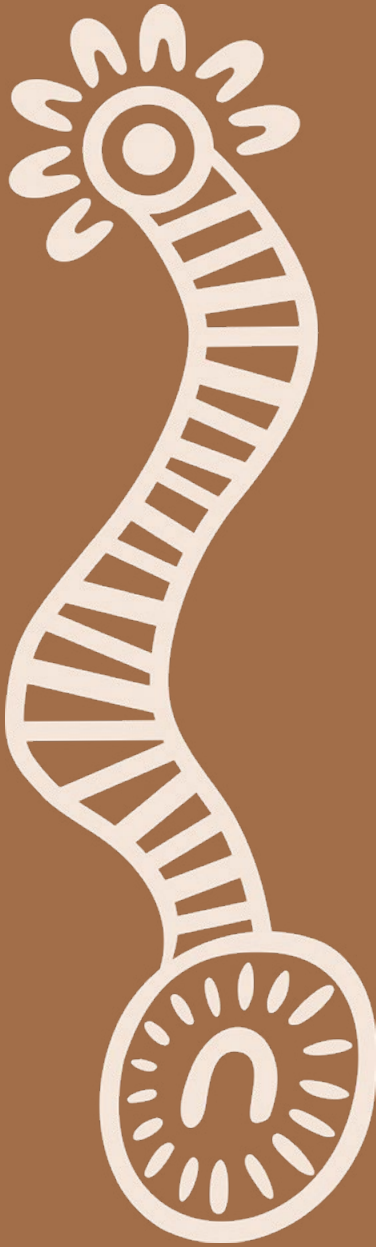


Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	2
1. About these guidelines	4
2. Coastal management in NSW	7
3. Engaging with First Nations people	9
3.1 Cultural safety and responsibility	13
3.2 Engagement skills and expertise	14
3.3 Resources and support	16
3.4 Identifying stakeholders and engagement opportunities	18
3.5 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property	21
4. What to consider for your coastal management program	22
Stage 1 – Identify the scope of a coastal management program	24
Stage 2 – Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities	26
Stage 3 – Identify and evaluate options	27
Stage 4 – Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the coastal management program	29
Stage 5 – Implement, monitor, evaluate and report	31
More information	32
About the cultural illustrations and stories	33

1. About these guidelines





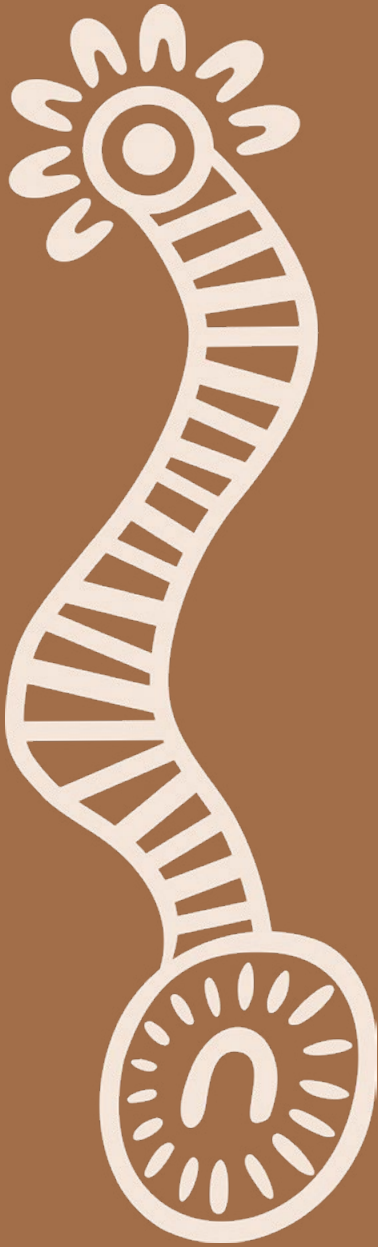
1. About these guidelines

These guidelines provide an overview of the considerations for engaging Aboriginal communities, knowledge holders and Aboriginal-led organisations when preparing coastal management programs (CMPs). The information and guidance are intended to support coastal councils and the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water (the department) to engage First Nations people through approaches that are culturally safe, respectful and reciprocal.

It is not the intention of these guidelines to provide a step-by-step guide or duplicate existing literature and guidance material. The purpose of the guidelines is to promote the importance of specific engagement considerations, to facilitate culturally safe and equitable engagement opportunities for First Nations people's involvement in coastal management.

The guidelines are consistent with the vision, goals and principles of the *2022-2024 NSW implementation plan for Closing the Gap*. This plan outlines the approach New South Wales is taking to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. CMPs can contribute towards achieving Closing the Gap outcomes through equitably and responsibly engaging First Nations people in coastal management.





Throughout this document the term ‘First Nations people’ refers, collectively, to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including the broader community, Aboriginal-led organisations, Traditional Owners, native title holders and claimants and knowledge holders. Where appropriate, a reference that identifies specific First Nations peoples or groups has been used. For example, to differentiate between an Aboriginal-led organisation such as a local Aboriginal land council (LALC) and native title holders or claimants.

Coastal councils may be guided by their own requirements for engaging First Nations people and this information is supplementary to those requirements, the NSW Government *Guidelines for community and stakeholder engagement in coastal management* and other available resources.



2. Coastal management in NSW



2. Coastal management in NSW

The NSW Government's coastal management framework includes:

- [Coastal Management Act 2016 \(CM Act\)](#)
- [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Resilience and Hazards\) 2021](#)
- [NSW Coastal management manual](#)
- [NSW Coastal Council](#)

Under this framework, the CM Act establishes the overarching objects for coastal management in New South Wales and the statutory requirements for CMPs. CMPs are prepared to align with the NSW Coastal management manual and set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the coast, with a focus on achieving the objects of the CM Act.

In recognition of the importance of First Nations people's values and perspectives related to the NSW coastal zone, the CM Act includes specific objects to promote the acknowledgement of Indigenous values and perspectives.

These are:

- to support the social and cultural values of the coastal zone and maintain public access, amenity, use and safety
- to acknowledge Aboriginal peoples' spiritual, social, customary and economic use of the coastal zone.

CMPs are prepared by local councils in partnership with the department and in consultation with relevant public authorities and their communities, including First Nations people.

3. Engaging with First Nations people





3. Engaging with First Nations people

As custodians, First Nations people maintain a unique cultural and spiritual relationship with the coastal landscape and have done so for more than 60,000 years. It is the responsibility of coastal councils and public authorities to work with First Nations people to acknowledge, understand, and where appropriate apply cultural values and perspectives to guide the preparation of CMPs.

Culturally safe engagement approaches will help with identifying how a CMP may support the aspirations and cultural practices of First Nations people and enhance community leadership for caring for Country.



During the planning phase of a CMP, it is essential to consider how First Nations people will be offered culturally safe engagement opportunities.

The following 5 themes provide a useful platform when planning engagement activities:

- cultural safety and responsibility
- engagement skills and expertise
- resources and support
- identifying stakeholders and engagement opportunities
- Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).

It is important to consider each of these themes when scoping engagement activities and their purpose, and when planning resources and identifying appropriate stakeholders, including Aboriginal community representatives, knowledge holders and Aboriginal-led organisations. Addressing specific considerations under each of these key themes will enable the development of respectful partnerships with First Nations people, enhance respect and value of cultural protocols and practice, and facilitate engagement approaches centred on cultural safety.





It is also essential to acknowledge that Aboriginal culture is centred on trust, respect, reciprocity and enduring relationships. During the planning phase of a CMP, engagement should begin as early as possible so that respectful relationships can be developed and built. These can then be strengthened and maintained during the preparation and implementation of a CMP.

Country is an expression that refers to all aspects of First Nations peoples' cultural values, practices and protocols and all living and non-living things. Country may encompass landscape, waters, sky, plants, animals, people, song, medicine and places of ceremonial significance. Country is ecocentric and all elements are inextricably linked.



Building partnerships throughout the CMP process



This illustration, in consultation with Yirra Miya, captures the key themes for planning engagement and their relationship to building partnerships throughout the CMP process. Each meeting circle holds a layer of meaning significant to the storytelling of the themes listed below. Cultural safety and responsibility sits at the core of this design and reflects its connectedness to all the themes as an overarching representation.

Five themes for planning and understanding engagement activities

- A** Cultural safety and responsibility
- B** Engagement skills and expertise
- C** Resources and support
- D** Identifying stakeholders and engagement opportunities
- E** Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)

3.1 Cultural safety and responsibility



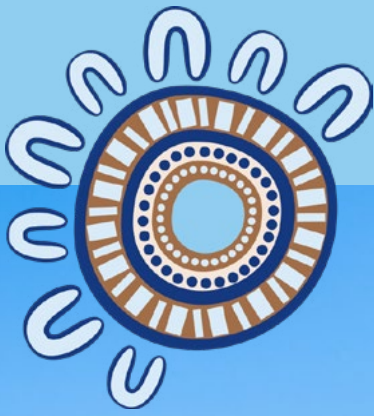
All engagement activities should be founded on the principles of cultural safety. Engaging with First Nations people on this basis will smooth the integration of cultural values and perspectives in CMPs in a way that represents the aspirations of local Aboriginal communities and respects their cultural protocols.

Cultural safety means an environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people. It is an environment where there is no assault, challenge or denial of people's identity, of who they are and what they need.

Aboriginal cultural safety involves providing Aboriginal people with a safe, supportive and positive environment where they are comfortable to be themselves and to express their culture and spiritual beliefs.



When planning the resources necessary to prepare a CMP, consider whether your organisation has an appropriate knowledge base about Aboriginal cultural safety that will enable equitable, respectful and reciprocal engagement opportunities to be provided. Where necessary, consider undertaking relevant cultural safety training for those involved in coastal management prior to commencing your CMP.



3.2 Engagement skills and expertise

To meaningfully engage with First Nations people during the preparation of a CMP, it is important to identify experienced personnel and employees to assist, plan, facilitate and lead engagement activities.

The skills and expertise needed to engage with First Nations people differ from those used when consulting with the wider community. It is essential that those engaging with First Nations people have the relevant practical experience, cultural awareness and knowledge of approaches that enable cultural protocols to be acknowledged and respected in planning and undertaking engagement activities. This extends to acknowledging and respecting the importance that is held by First Nations people in the expression of Country.

Coastal councils may have the relevant capacity and capabilities to undertake engagement, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to seek the expertise of those who specialise in engaging First Nations people on natural resource management and planning related disciplines.

In deciding if you need additional support in undertaking engagement activities, check your council's resources.

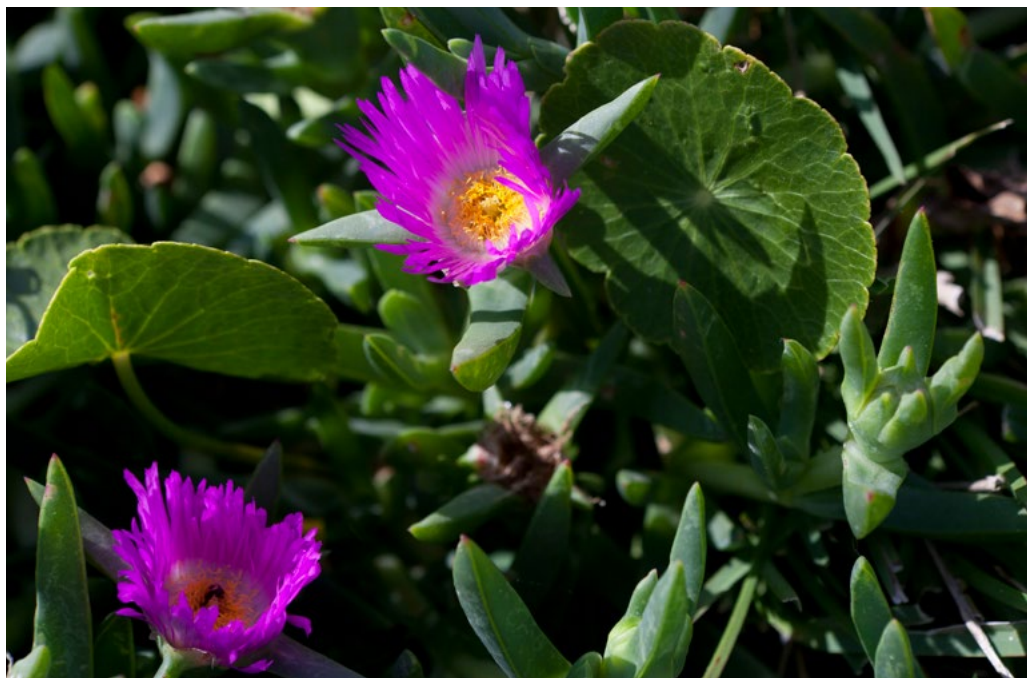
Do you have access to an Aboriginal liaison officer, communications expert or equivalent, who could ably support the necessary engagement activities with First Nations people for your CMP? It is often beneficial for engagement activities to be facilitated by a First Nations representative who has existing relationships and knowledge of local First Nations communities.



When consultants are appointed to help with facilitating engagement activities, councils should work in close partnership with them to build and strengthen trust, respect and reciprocal partnerships with communities.

If a CMP is to help with empowering First Nations people to contribute towards managing the coastal landscape of New South Wales, it will be necessary to maintain respectful relationships with Aboriginal communities, knowledge holders and organisations for the duration of preparing and implementing a CMP and beyond.

Alternatives to appointing an engagement specialist include coastal managers undertaking tailored training to raise awareness about culturally safe engagement practices before commencing a CMP. Where appropriate, it may be relevant to invite Aboriginal community and organisation representatives to training opportunities, to share preferences about engagement. Such an approach would help align engagement activities with co-design principles.



3.3 Resources and support



Before beginning your CMP, it will be essential to identify the appropriate resources needed to plan and complete targeted and culturally safe engagement activities with First Nations people.

To successfully facilitate productive and meaningful engagement opportunities, the resources and availability of Aboriginal organisations and community representatives should be acknowledged and considered. The competing priorities and resources of Aboriginal organisations and communities are variable and can influence the capacity of First Nations people to effectively engage in the development of CMPs.

During the project planning phase of a CMP, and when preparing a stakeholder and community engagement strategy during Stage 1, identify and document the resourcing requirements needed to engage First Nations people.



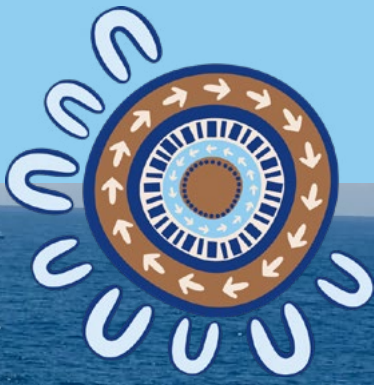


The following are key resourcing and support considerations:

- Engage personnel and employees who have the appropriate skills and capabilities to scope, plan and undertake agile engagement activities.
- Plan and undertake appropriate place-based cultural awareness and capability training for those involved in preparing and implementing CMPs and delivering engagement activities with First Nations people.
- Identify relevant First Nations community representatives including Aboriginal organisations, groups, knowledge holders and native title claimants and/or holders and any resource constraints of those who will be involved throughout the CMP process.
- Consider how the CMP consultation process will support the social and cultural aspirations and cultural practices and protocols of First Nations people by applying co-design engagement principles. The application of co-design principles is essential and will facilitate culturally safe engagement and enable the relevant exchange of information about preferred engagement approaches.

The outcome of these considerations will:

- inform the design and efficient planning of resources required for engagement
- recognise any resourcing constraints and how they may be accommodated or addressed for the purpose of the CMP.
- Establish a budget allocation that will provide for inclusive, respectful and recurring engagement opportunities to be pursued, aligning with both co-design principles and preferred First Nations approaches. This may include a fee-for-service model when engaging First Nations community representatives and knowledge holders.



3.4 Identifying stakeholders and engagement opportunities

3.4.1 Identifying stakeholders

When planning consultation with First Nations people about your CMP it's important to consider who should be engaged and how specific opportunities will be offered.

To promote inclusive, equitable and respectful engagement, all relevant Aboriginal-led organisations, groups, knowledge holders and native title holders and/or claimants associated with a CMP study area should be consulted.



To determine who should be specifically consulted requires some understanding of local First Nations communities. It will be necessary to draw on the collective knowledge held by your council, external Aboriginal-led organisations such as LALCs and other NSW Government agencies experienced in collaborating with First Nations people. This approach will help with stakeholder mapping.

To develop an understanding of who should be consulted, it is first essential to identify any relevant native title holders or claimants relevant to the CMP study area.

Native title holders and claim groups have specific legal rights and interests in relation to their traditional land and waters. Therefore, specific consultation processes should be planned and undertaken with any native title holders and claim groups.

It is also necessary to establish whether a CMP involves any 'future act', which is a proposed act on land or waters that affects native title rights or interests. Depending on the proposed future act, native title claim groups have the legal right to comment, be consulted, object or negotiate.

Where a native title determination has been made, native title holders are required to establish a Prescribed Body Corporate, which becomes known as a Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC). Where native title has been determined to exist by law, the RNTBC should be specifically consulted.



Further information about native title is available through:

- NTSCORP, the Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory
- the National Native Title Tribunal, which administers the national register for native title and Indigenous Land Use Agreements
- the Prescribed Body Corporate, which provides information about RNTBCs.

Engaging with relevant LALCs is also essential when preparing and implementing a CMP. LALCs are established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) and represent and protect the interests of Aboriginal communities across New South Wales. Engaging with LALCs will help to align the strategic intent of a CMP with the social, cultural and economic priorities of First Nations people.

As well as identifying native title holders or claim groups and consulting with relevant LALCs and other Aboriginal-led organisations, it is also essential to identify and engage with individuals or groups who may have a cultural relationship with the CMP study area. This will facilitate a higher level of equitable and inclusive engagement.

When other specific groups or individuals are consulted, it is essential to determine their affiliation with the CMP study area. Where an individual or group does not represent Traditional Owners, any insights raised should be qualified with stakeholders who represent traditional rights and interests.





3.4.2 Engagement opportunities

Once appropriate stakeholders and representatives have been identified, liaise with those to be consulted to understand the preferred methods of engagement. This will vary for each CMP and may require a range of techniques for specific groups, organisations or individuals within a CMP study area.

Workshops held on Country during CMP Stage 1, to co-design a consultation program, can help to identify the most appropriate engagement techniques. This provides an opportunity to discuss appropriate approaches, locations and relevant cultural practices and protocols. It may also reveal the most appropriate people to be consulted on specific considerations relating to the coastal landscape and CMP.

Early engagement also provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships and raise awareness of the NSW coastal management framework and the purpose and process of a CMP.

Where possible, align CMP engagement activities with other relevant consultation opportunities to avoid the duplication of effort by those involved in preparing a CMP, and by First Nations people. For example, consultation may have occurred or be planned that relates to specific council projects within the coastal zone or Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) initiatives (such as, Initiative 4. Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate). Where appropriate and culturally safe, apply the findings from other engagement activities to help with preparing your CMP.

A place-based approach to engagement may also be suitable where multiple CMPs are being prepared and the same community representatives and stakeholders are involved. Where feasible, such an approach would avoid duplication of effort and facilitate the integration of engagement outcomes across multiple CMPs.

Information about specific approaches for engaging with First Nations people is outlined in:

D. Hromek 2020, *Aboriginal cultural values: an approach for engaging with Country*

Practice note: engaging with Aboriginal communities



3.5 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) refers to all aspects of Indigenous people's cultural heritage, including tangible and non-tangible cultural aspects. This includes all traditional and cultural knowledge and cultural property.

ICIP rights aim to protect intangible property and recognise and respect First Nations people's rights to access, maintain, control and benefit from their cultural heritage. Under Indigenous customary law/lore, intellectual property rights are communally owned and handed down from one generation to another.

Unlike non-Indigenous intellectual property rights, which are limited by time, ICIP rights are perpetual and each generation may contribute towards the development of ICIP.

ICIP considerations that relate to preparing a CMP include:

- the integration of ICIP principles in CMP project briefs and specific clauses within contractual documents that protect the ICIP rights of First Nations people involved in the preparation of a CMP
- documenting ICIP requirements and the provision for engagement for ICIP specific consultation in the stakeholder and engagement strategy prepared during Stage 1
- undertaking consultation with all relevant rights holders about how a CMP may propose to reference or apply cultural knowledge to:
 - recognise and promote tangible and non-tangible culture aspects
 - identify threats and risks to cultural values
 - develop management actions to address priority intolerable risks or other actions related to the conservation of cultural values
- establishing a common understanding and agreement about how a CMP may reference and apply cultural knowledge and perspectives, including obtaining written consent for the proposed use of relevant material where an agreement is made
- the inclusion, where relevant, of notices that acknowledge the application of cultural knowledge in a CMP's preparation.

Additional resources to help with understanding ICIP and developing ICIP agreements include:

AIATSIS code of ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research
Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property protocol

4. What to consider for your coastal management program



4. What to consider for your coastal management program





1

Stage 1 – Identify the scope of a coastal management program

Before commencing the CMP process, make sure that your project brief includes the necessary considerations for engaging First Nations people for Stage 1.

This includes identifying where additional specialist resources may be needed to help with the planning and delivery of engagement activities. When developing your project brief and planning project-specific resources, refer to the current *Coastal and estuary grants program guidelines for applicants*, to determine the activities eligible for funding. Engagement activities in support of developing a CMP are eligible for funding assistance.

The following are specific considerations for Stage 1:

- Work with relevant stakeholders including council staff, Aboriginal-led organisations and public authorities to identify appropriate stakeholders including native title holders and claimants.
- Identify and determine the relevance of any Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) or Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) for the CMP study area.
- An ILUA is a voluntary agreement between native title holders or claim groups and other parties about the use and management of land and/or waters. Further information is available through the National Native Title Tribunal.
- IPAs are land or sea Country managed by Indigenous groups in a way that reflects the interests of Traditional Owners. Further information about IPAs is available through the National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- Consultation with native title holders and claimants will help to determine the relevance of any ILUA. Similarly, LALCs or Aboriginal corporations will be able to help with information about IPAs.
- Where appropriate, consider undertaking cultural competency training for those involved in developing a CMP, particularly for people likely to be involved in the planning and delivery of consultation activities.



- Complete the research of knowledge gathered and recorded through other government programs to help inform the scope of CMP engagement activities. The suitability of any existing information about cultural values and perspectives, and its inclusion with a CMP, should be confirmed with relevant First Nations people.
- Provide the opportunity for First Nations people, including representatives from Aboriginal-led organisations and communities, to be involved in the governance model of a CMP.
- Plan and undertake co-design workshops on Country, to identify suitable engagement approaches for specific stages of preparing your CMP, including cultural practices and protocols that may influence how specific Aboriginal-led organisations or knowledge holders are engaged. Co-design workshops establish the priorities and available resources of First Nations people. They create a collaborative approach to preparing the community and stakeholder engagement plan, which is prepared for the life of the CMP.
- Where additional resources are needed, and if possible, consider the benefits of appointing an Aboriginal-led organisation to facilitate engagement activities.
- Develop an ICIP agreement for CMP Stages 1–5.
- Give native title holders and claimants formal notification of the CMP.
- Undertake awareness-raising initiatives of the CMP process and purpose with relevant stakeholders.
- Include the assessment of cultural values in the first-pass risk assessment prepared during Stage 1 in consultation with First Nations people.
- Plan resources and finances efficiently to enable culturally safe, inclusive and respectful engagement to occur. It is recommended that stakeholders are remunerated for their time through applying a fee-for-service model.

Stage 2 – Determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities



2

Apply the engagement approaches and principles documented at Stage 1 and in the community and stakeholder engagement plan across the remaining stages.


The following are considerations for Stage 2:

- Apply the consultation outcomes of Stage 1 and the findings of the first-pass risk assessment to help scope the relevant technical studies that will determine how specific threats and risks to the coastal zone may affect cultural values. For example, in consultation with First Nations people it may be appropriate to consider how long-term shoreline recession or coastal and tidal inundation, defined by the CM Act, may impact tangible and non-tangible cultural aspects for the open coast and estuaries.
- Undertake awareness-raising initiatives with First Nations people about:
 - the findings of technical information and scientific studies that relate to a CMP study area (such as, coastal processes and hazards or the physical and biophysical processes of estuaries)
 - how this information is applied to support the development of a CMP.
- Awareness raising through the sharing of information, will enable First Nations people to consider how to apply the outputs of technical studies to inform decisions related to cultural values.
- Collaborate with First Nations people to identify and confirm threats and risks to cultural values and to help prepare and finalise a detailed risk assessment. The CMP ICIP agreement developed during Stage 1 should be referred to when capturing culturally sensitive information.

Stage 3 – Identify and evaluate options



3



When identifying and evaluating management options to address priority threats and risks identified during Stages 1 and 2, set up consultation opportunities to make sure the proposed CMP management actions align with the cultural and social aspirations of First Nations people.

The following are considerations for engagement opportunities during Stage 3:

- Enable First Nations people to be involved in the design of management actions including planning, conservation, adaptation and protection initiatives that address threats and risks to cultural values.
- Promote management actions that align with:
 - relevant Closing the Gap targets including Target 15 – People maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters
 - the vision, goals, principles and priority reforms of the *2022–2024 NSW implementation plan for Closing the Gap*
 - the strategic position of Aboriginal-led organisations and specific plans or policies related to Aboriginal affairs held by local councils and other public authorities.
- Include criteria that reflect relevant cultural principles and considerations when developing and applying the methodology (that is, multi-criteria analysis) to evaluate management actions. For example, apply criteria that align with specific CM Act objects and objectives and develop specific criteria that recognise the regionally specific cultural values and perspectives for a CMP study area. The evaluation of management actions should also consider the legislative requirements in place to protect and conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage.



- Identify opportunities to integrate MEMS initiatives that address threats and risks to cultural values when preparing your CMP.
- Align proposed management actions with the principles of specific MEMS initiatives. For example, consider synergies between relevant CMP objectives and MEMS initiatives such as Initiative 4 – Protecting Aboriginal values of the marine estate. Further information is available about CMP and MEMS integration in *Ideas for integrating the NSW marine estate management strategy with your coastal management program*.
- Identify opportunities for First Nations people to be involved in the implementation of CMP management actions. For example, the delivery of on-ground conservation initiatives such as dune rehabilitation or riparian restoration works could be implemented by Aboriginal-led organisations or community groups independently, or in partnership with a council.
- Provide engagement opportunities that allow First Nations people's perspectives to be identified and considered in determining the acceptability of management actions to be included in a CMP business plan, prior to publicly exhibiting the CMP. This includes resolving any conflicting perspectives that may be held among stakeholder groups or individuals.





4

Stage 4 – Prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the coastal management program

Stage 4 of the CMP process provides an opportunity to confirm the outcomes of previous engagement activities about threats and risks to cultural values, the aspirations and perspectives of First Nations people and the acceptability of proposed management actions.

The following are considerations for engagement activities during Stage 4:

- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to be consulted about:
 - the strategic alignment of the CMP with relevant plans and policies related to Aboriginal affairs held by Aboriginal-led organisations, councils and other public authorities
 - the ‘snapshot of issues’ identified by the CMP to ensure that the threats and risks to cultural values are accurately and appropriately identified in a way that represents the perspectives of First Nations people
 - the proposed coastal management actions including the roles, responsibilities and resourcing considerations, such as funding mechanisms for actions that involve Aboriginal-led organisations and community representatives.
- If a coastal zone emergency action subplan (CZEAS) is being prepared to accompany your CMP, apply the findings of Stages 1 and 2. Also, in consultation with First Nations people, identify locations where emergency works to protect cultural values may be necessary. Refer to the *Guideline for preparing a coastal zone emergency action subplan* when preparing your CZEAS.



- When designing the monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program for your CMP:
 - include specific triggers and thresholds developed in consultation with First Nations people and relevant public authorities for locations where cultural values may be at risk and monitoring is required
 - consider how to integrate additional requirements with existing environmental monitoring programs
 - apply the information gathered under the monitoring program to help with reviewing the CMP
 - include performance indicators to assess how effectively CMP management actions protect and promote cultural values and address the aspirations of First Nations people about caring for Country
 - include criteria to assess how well a CMP integrates the strategic priorities of Aboriginal-led organisations and communities and specific objects of the CM Act including object (b) to support the social and cultural values of the coastal zone and maintain public access, amenity, use and safety, and (c) to acknowledge Aboriginal peoples’ spiritual, social, customary and economic use of the coastal zone.
- Ensure that the requirements of the ICIP agreement developed during Stage 1 are fulfilled when preparing the Stage 4 CMP document.
- Notify any native title claimants or holders through NTSCORP at the time of exhibiting the CMP.





Stage 5 – Implement, monitor, evaluate and report

During the implementation stage of a CMP, monitoring, evaluating and reporting will be guided by the MER program developed during Stage 4.

The implementation of a CMP provides an opportunity to continue to develop, strengthen and maintain collaborative partnerships with First Nations people. When implementing specific management actions, it may be necessary to engage with First Nations people about the specific details of an action that may influence cultural values (for example, the design of coastal protection and dune rehabilitation works or conservation initiatives for coastal wetlands and riparian corridors).

When reviewing a CMP as detailed within the MER program, consider how effective governance and communication arrangements enable Aboriginal-led organisations and community representatives to contribute to decision-making in the coastal zone.

The CMP community and stakeholder engagement plan should be reviewed and adjusted where necessary to guide ongoing culturally safe, equitable and inclusive engagement. A review of your CMP should also consider the performance criteria of the MER program to highlight any changes to the threats and risks to cultural values and any new information that becomes available to inform culturally safe decisions about cultural values.



More information

Publications

[AIATSIS code of ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research \[PDF 2.03MB\]](#)

[Coastal and estuary grants program guidelines for applicants \[PDF 2MB\]](#)

[Guideline for preparing a coastal zone emergency action subplan \[PDF 2.1MB\]](#)

[Guidelines for community and stakeholder engagement in coastal management \[PDF 1.5MB\]](#)

[Hromek, D 2020, Aboriginal cultural values: An approach for engaging with Country \[PDF 12.3MB\]](#)

[Ideas for integrating the NSW marine estate management strategy with your coastal management program \[PDF 209KB\]](#)

[Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property protocol \[PDF 3.05MB\]](#)

[2022–2024 NSW implementation plan for Closing the Gap \[PDF 1.48MB\]](#)

[Practice note: engaging with Aboriginal communities \[PDF 1.79MB\]](#)

Web pages

[Aboriginal Affairs NSW](#)

[Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 \(NSW\)](#)

[Closing the Gap](#)

[Coastal management toolkit](#)

[National Indigenous Australians Agency](#)

[National Native Title Tribunal](#)

[NTSCORP](#)

[Prescribed Body Corporate](#)

About the cultural illustrations and stories

We valued the collaborative process to design this document alongside the team at Yirra Miya, a First Nations Creative Agency. The cultural illustrations were developed by First Nations Cultural Designer Lauren Henry, a Wodi Wodi and Walbunja person from the Yuin Nation of the south coast of New South Wales. We have shared the stories to support the understanding and recognition of their significance throughout this document.

Coastal songlines



This illustration represents the east coast of New South Wales. The different layers represent the different songlines that the land holds – designed by creator spirits of the Dreaming. The connected yarning circles on the dark blue represent the different communities across New South Wales and the relationships between them. The connected watering holes along the coastline represent our coastal towns and the important role that First Nations communities hold in cultivating and looking after our coastline, Country and waters. The kangaroo tracks represent the important relationships that our First Nations people have held with the native fauna and how these relationships help First Nations communities to understand the land better. The connected watering holes floating around the coastline represent the sharing of knowledge that would be traded between different community groups.

Cultural safety



This illustration is a representation of cultural safety and the importance that holding culturally safe spaces has in the CMP process. To be culturally safe is to create an environment that is spiritually, socially, physically and emotionally safe. At the centre of these 3 yarning circles are people coming together to meet and share knowledge. The different layers throughout the yarning circles represent the different layers of safety required to hold a space safe enough to empower First Nations people with a supportive and positive environment. The kangaroo tracks represent the notion of moving forward and that through the CMP process, the department is continuously promoting cultural safety.

Relationships



This illustration represents the process of developing, building, strengthening and maintaining relationships. This illustration shows 5 yarning circles that are interconnected to represent the importance of the key themes of rapport-building through the CMP process. These themes include: cultural safety and responsibility, engagement skills and expertise, resources and support, identifying stakeholders and engagement opportunities, as well as Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP). The different symbols used in this illustration represent people, community and connection to Country.



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Aboriginal Cultural Illustrations:

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Photos:

Contents: Page 3: Bare Bluff walk Moonee Beach (Robert Cleary/DCCEEW); Page 4: Bournda Island, Bournda National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 5: Pinnacles lookout, Beowa National Park (John Yurasek/DCCEEW); Page 6: Top: Boardwalk to beach, Tomaree National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Bottom: Eastern blue-tongue lizard in Beowa National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 7: Tomaree National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 8: Bonnie Vale (Andrew Elliot/DCCEEW); Page 9: Yellow Rock Beach, Murramarang National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 10: Eastern grey kangaroo (Nick Cubbin/DCCEEW); Page 11: Top: A shell on the beach in Beowa National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Bottom: Murramarang National Park near Wasp Head (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 13: Myall Lakes National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 14: Bittangabee Bay, Beowa National Park (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 15: Murramarang Aboriginal Area (Lucas Boyd/DCCEEW); Page 18: Kamay Botany Bay National Park (Elinor Sheargold/DCCEEW); Page 19: A person holding screw pine fruit (Nick Cubbin/DCCEEW); Page 21: Bare Bluff walk Moonee Beach (Robert Cleary/DCCEEW); Page 26: Murramarang National Park near Wasp Head (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 27: Glenrock State Conservation Area (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 28: Pigface on sand dunes at Mungo Beach, in Myall Lakes National Park (Elinor Sheargold/DCCEEW); Page 29: Glenrock State Conservation Area (John Spencer/DCCEEW); Page 30: Coastal banksia, Yuraygir National Park (Robert Cleary/DCCEEW); Page 31: Crowdy Bay National Park (Debby McGerty/DCCEEW); Page 32: Coastal banksia, Yuraygir National Park (Robert Cleary/DCCEEW).

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