

NSW coastal zone management

No reference to Durras Lake on the south coast of NSW could be found in the Coastal Planning and Marine Reforms.

Our family are the owners of 6 Lakeside Drive, South Durras and have been in excess of 60 years. Accordingly we have an innate knowledge of Durras Lake.

Eurobodala Shire Council have a proposal for the reconstruction of the existing boat ramp and car park at South Durras including a toilet block with ancillary works open for public comment.

Whilst we are not objecting to the proposed upgrade, included among our concerns forwarded to council is excessive bank erosion. The erosion has resulted from the lake being closed for extended periods of time and boat wash.

Over the years the bank from the boat ramp downstream of the lake has severely eroded and collapsed into the lake including large trees. Tree roots from large trees are also exposed along the edge. The bank immediately adjacent to the ramp (down stream) has eroded back approximately 6 metres exposing an aboriginal midden of which a significant amount has been lost.

If this persists and is not addressed, there is the real possibility of the proposed toilet block slipping into the lake.

Strongly recommend that the bank erosion be inspected, preferably from the waters edge at low tide or from a boat.

When the lake is closed, it is considered that the height of flood (1.8m) before the lake entrance is artificially opened is too high which is considered the main contributing factor of the erosion.

There is clear evidence of the drowning of native trees surrounding the lake due to the height of flood and salt water.

Also when the lake entrance is opened the result is similar to the plug being pulled from a bath tub. The sheer volume of water and speed of travel sucks the topsoil and silt from the low areas surrounding the lake which raises the level of the lake bed and alters the direction of the channel/s leading to the entrance.

This also contributes to changes to fish habitat and natural feeding areas.

Under the NSW marine estate which includes: estuaries, coastal wetlands (saltmarsh, mangroves, seagrass) and coastal lakes and lagoons connected to the ocean, which includes all marine waters and marine parks and reserves and actions to rehabilitate coastal habitats and address coastal inundation and erosion. **Will Durras Lake be included in the management plan?**

Note: The coastal zone

Coastal reform process and coastal reform question and answer pages were not found or have been taken down.