

DPE PS coastal Mailbox

From: Santina Camroux
Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2017 4:32 PM
To: Emma Vlatko
Subject: FW: LLS comment on the Coastal SEPP
Attachments: Coastal SEPP Brian Hughes.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Callaghan Cotter [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2017 4:29 PM
To: Santina Camroux < >
Subject: LLS comment on the Coastal SEPP

Hi Santina,

We have reviewed the information and tools that support the Coastal SEPP.

There are many positives with the Coastal SEPP which the LLS broadly supports. Integrating the information will provide more consistency in decision making across the coast and allow councils and communities to manage the coastal area better.

We provide a few comments below outlining both general and specific issues and a separate document (attached) that illustrates some of the key points. We would like to discuss these issues with the Department of Planning and Environment to help identify any solutions that may improve the SEPP.

The mapping contains inconsistencies between the Coastal Environment Zone and the Coastal Use Area. This was noted around the Hunter Estuary where like areas seem to be treated as different zones. For example, the Coastal Environment Zone does not contain some areas that are outside of the Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation System, but below High tides and contain significant estuary potential habitat (check the Fullerton area). The zoning falsely assumes that the areas can be protected from sea level rise. This could lead to perverse outcomes for estuary management.

There are clear gaps in the Wetland and Littoral Rainforest mapping. It appears that local information of better accuracy and quality was not used in the mapping products. A mechanism to provide better information would assist or another mechanism to allow for inclusion of local information at a suitable time in decision making would be appropriate. (I attach information from and LLS staff member that illustrates the issue).

The SEPP is silent on sea level rise. It is therefore unclear how estuary inundation will be accounted for over time within the context of the SEPP. Estuary inundation could have a positive or negative affect. The layout of development is critical. If the SEPP remains silent on sea level rise then a separate process should be flagged that accounts for the change in landuse required over time as land becomes unviable for current use and more suitable as estuarine habitat.

Clause 11: An improvement would be to not require development consent for wetland rehabilitation works such as revegetation in line with LLS guidelines or weed management consistent with the Regional Strategic Weeds Management Plans or Biosecurity Act and Regulations or General Biosecurity Duty.

Clause 15: The consent considerations fall short of what is required for this area to protect Water Quality in the Marine Estate. Clause 15 requires similar consent considerations as 14(1)(a), 14(1)(c) and 14(1)(f)

The mapping tool is useful but some improvement could be made to include an aerial photo on exporting, some property boundaries are out of alignment, the zoom function can't get close enough for property level information and it would be useful if maps were available as downloadable shape files.

I am available to discuss the issues over the phone up to the 20 Jan then I'll be away for a week and back on the 30 Jan. I look forward to working with you.

Regards,

Callaghan Cotter, Manager Land Services

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



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value of
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resource
management
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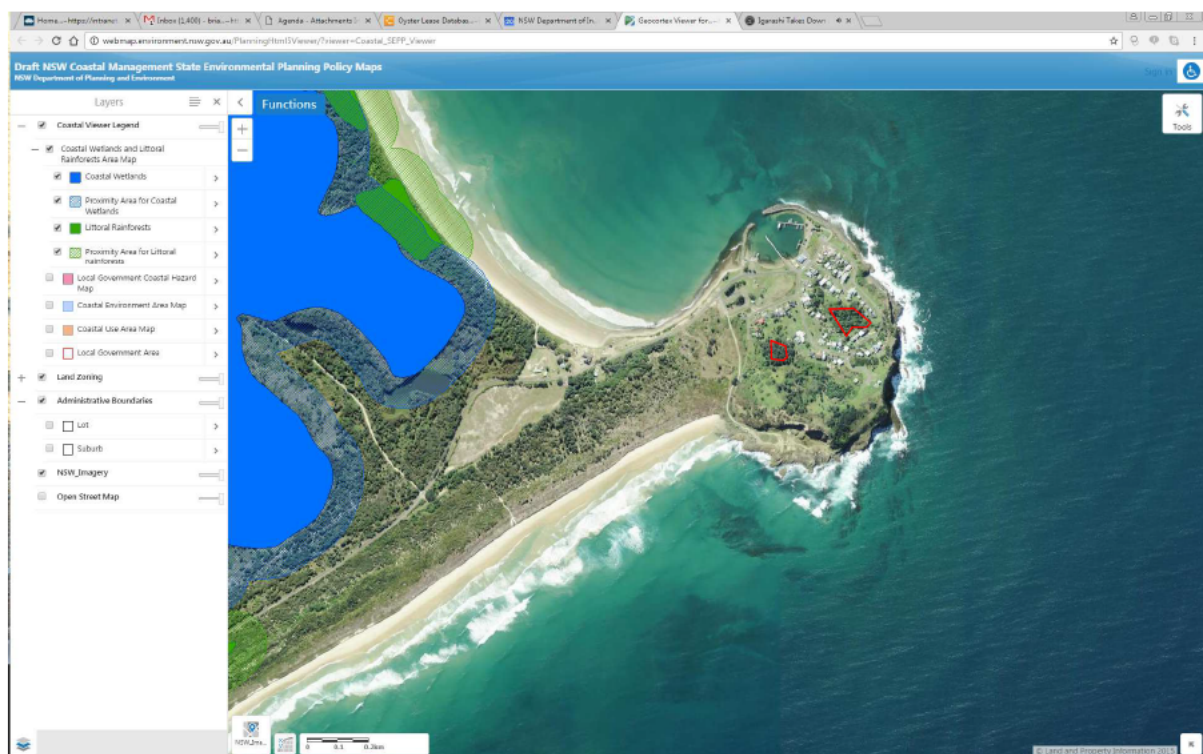
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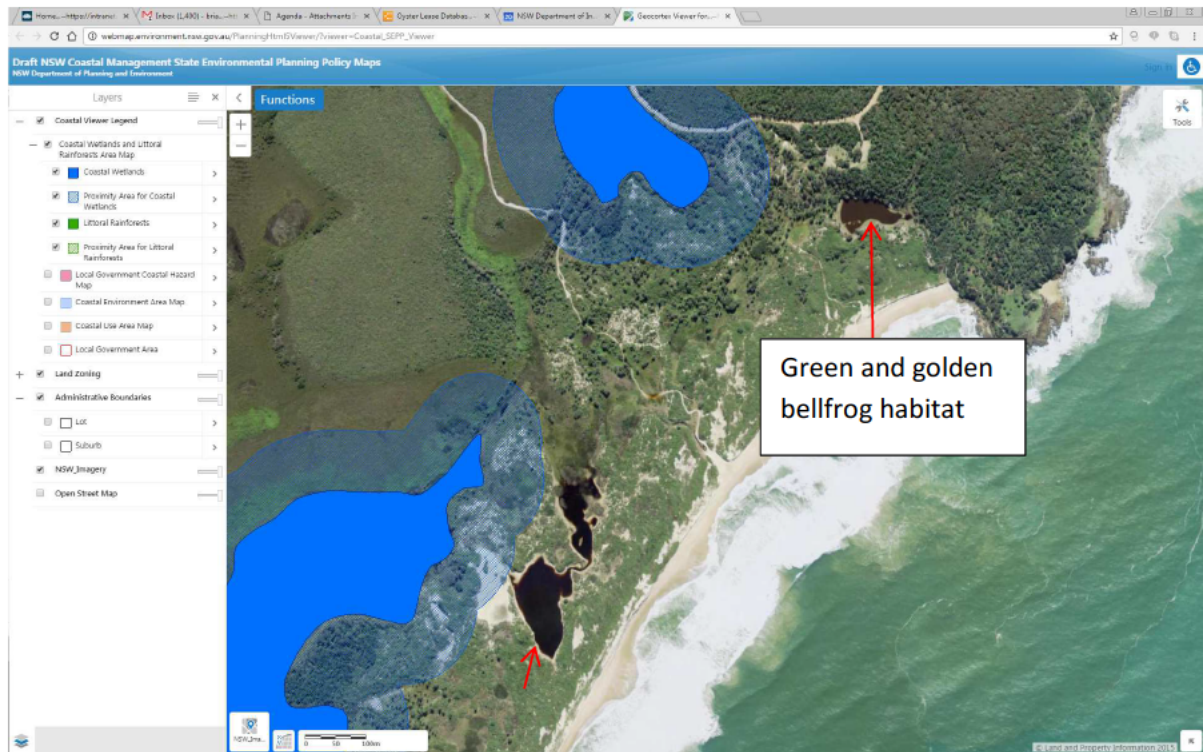
Comments on coastal SEPP mapping for littoral rainforest and coastal wetlands

I am supportive of the additional wetland areas being added to previous SEPP 14 however I recommend that Dept of Planning instigate a better process to utilise local knowledge of wetland locations and boundaries. We have been advised by several Councils that their mapping was provided to Planning but has not been included. There also appears to be inconsistencies in the mapping process and while I have listed some examples below these inconsistencies are not isolated and seem to be statewide. I would recommend that Planning undertake a process to review wetland locations and boundaries on an LGA by LGA basis and consult with key knowledge holders like Councils to fix any omissions or errors in the current mapping.

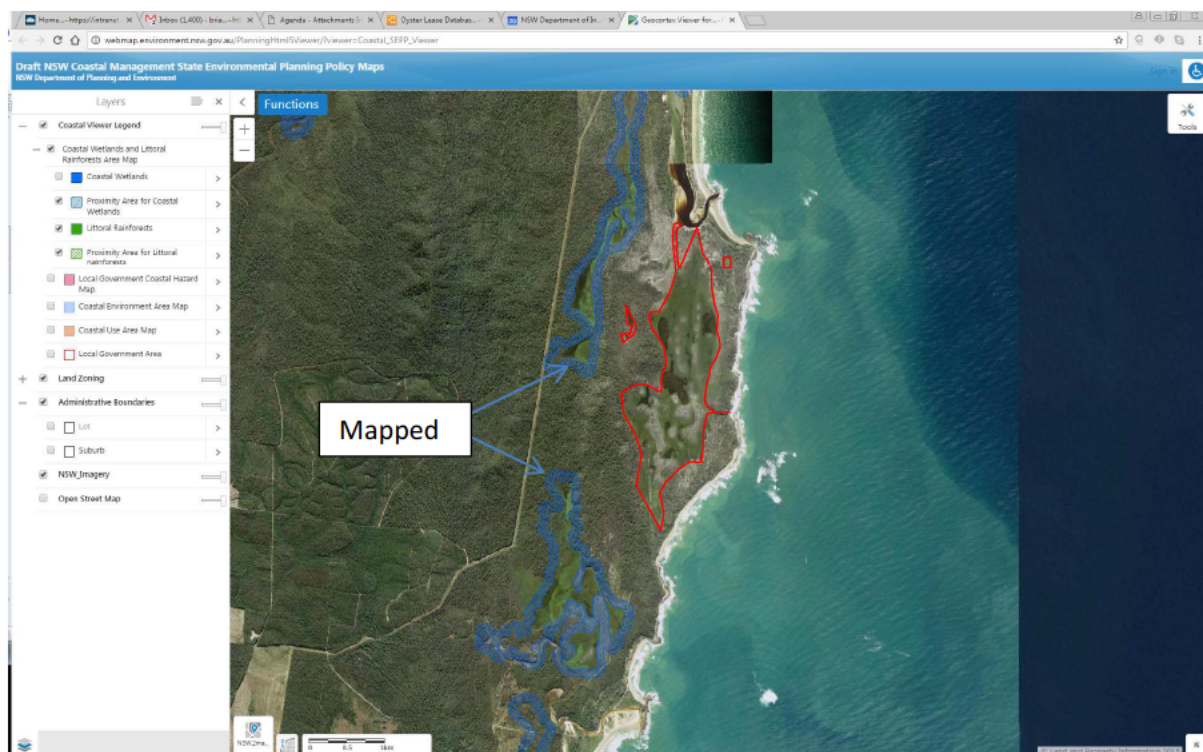
The littoral rainforest mapping has not been updated to the same extent that coastal wetlands have through the revision project by UNSW and review of that work by Neil Santilan. It is my recommendation that littoral rainforest undergo a similar statewide revision and review with funding by Dept. of Planning. Hunter LLS has been canvassing with MidCoast Council about collaboration on a littoral rainforest mapping and modelling project similar to a project done by Terrain NRM in Far North Queensland in recent years. With funding from Dept of Planning Hunter LLS could help facilitate a pilot mapping project in the MidCoast LGA to determine the resources required to adequately revise the mapping across the state.



Unmapped littoral rainforest at Crowdy Head



Unmapped freshwater wetlands near Wilsons Headland, Yuraygir NP



Unmapped freshwater wetlands near Jones Point, Yuraygir NP

These are provided as examples only to indicate that the maps for both wetlands and littoral rainforest appear to be inconsistent and in the case of Crowdy Head rainforest the errors from SEPP26 have been carried over to the new mapping.

Sea level rise impacts on estuaries and floodplain wetlands

Sea level rise is predicted to have a significant impact on the coast and while the vulnerability of the ocean coast has been mapped the estuarine and floodplain impacts have not. The coastal reform and coastal SEPP provides an opportunity to identify future constraints for floodplain landholders and opportunities to create, regenerate and enhance estuarine wetlands. For example increases in height of low tide will eventually make it impossible for some landholders to continue to drain floodplain areas dedicated to agriculture and will likely make these areas marginal or unfeasible for agricultural production. However, such areas could be transformed into estuarine and floodplain wetlands which would enhance fisheries productivity, biodiversity and improve water quality. If these areas are not intended to be mapped as part of the current coastal SEPP it is important to recognise the importance of this issue, instigate a separate process with the potential for this to be integrated with the current mapping in future.