

## GET INVOLVED!

We are interested in hearing from the community about their views on the North Creek catchment. Your knowledge and feedback can help shape the future management of North Creek.

We would like you to spend 5-10 mins and take part in a survey. Please visit Ballina Shire Council homepage for details of the survey - [www.ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au)

If you would like to discuss the North Creek scoping study further Please contact Misko Ivezich on 0401 048 241 or [misko.ivezich@alluvium.com.au](mailto:misko.ivezich@alluvium.com.au) for more information.

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# NORTH CREEK COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM SCOPING STUDY

## PURPOSE

**The North Creek Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study (Stage 1)** aims to work with the community to understand the issues and values within the North Creek catchment. This understanding will help target additional investigations and studies in later stages of the North Creek CMP process.



Oyster farming is an important industry in the North Creek estuary



# CMP FRAMEWORK

Council has been talking with landholders, farmers and oyster growers about water quality and other issues affecting the North Creek catchment.

It is working within the new NSW Government Coastal Management Framework to deliver a plan to improve the health of the creek and its catchment. The recently released Coastal Management Manual sets out mandatory requirements and essential elements for a Coastal Management Program.

Council is talking directly to landholders and interest groups as part of the process. But we would also like to hear from the broader community about how they see North Creek.

Note that dredging is being investigated in the lower reaches as part of a separate process (although the processes are talking to each other). The Coastal Management Program is considering the catchment as a whole.

## ABOUT THE CATCHMENT

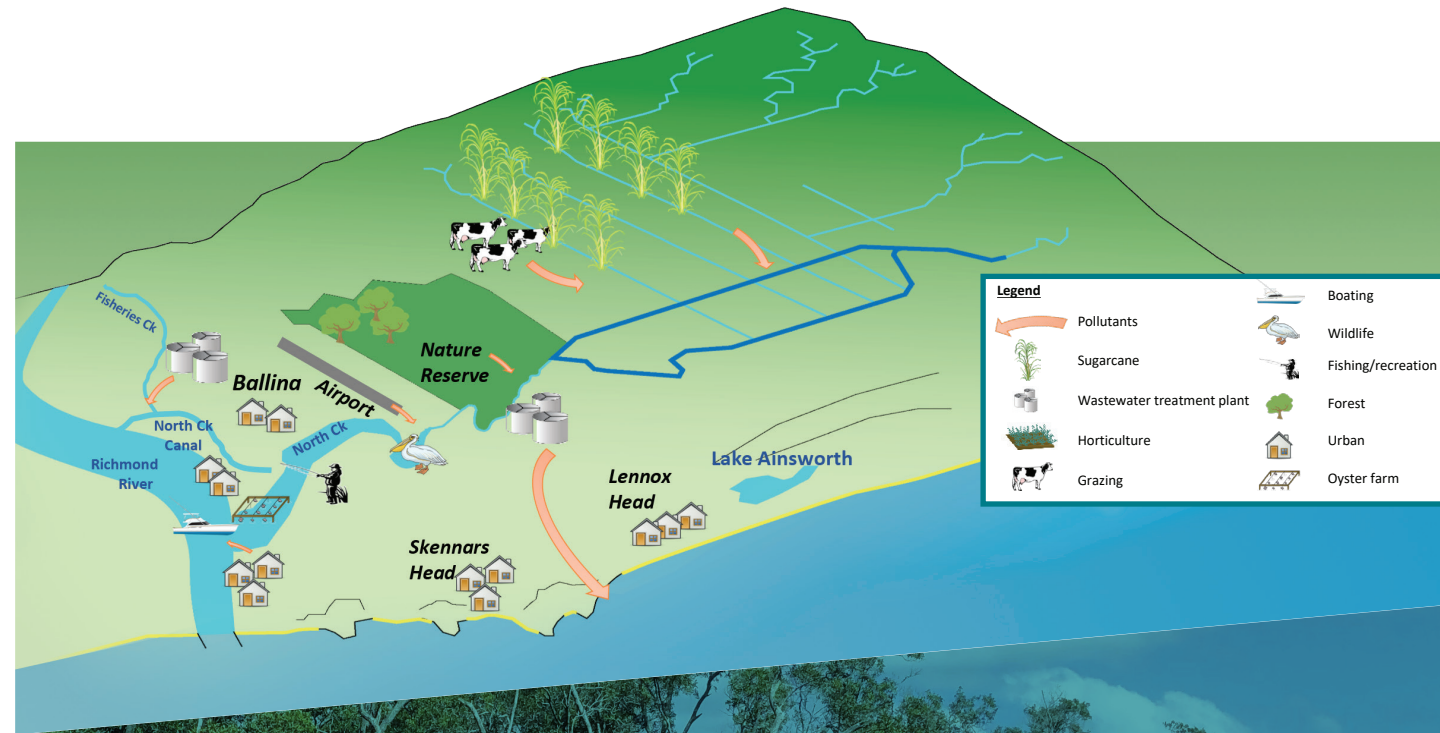
North Creek is vital part of the Ballina region helping contribute to the economic, recreational and environmental values of the area.

Increasing land use pressure in the North Creek catchment is believed to have compromised the ability of North Creek and its receiving waters to support a functioning ecosystem. Urban development in the mid-catchment and drainage from agricultural areas in the upper and mid-catchment is contributing to high nutrient and sediment loads, and modified catchment hydrology.

These catchment pressures are believed to impact on estuary health. The estuary supports a range of important services including fish habitat, oyster production and recreation for Ballina's residents.

The social, environmental and economic impacts of poor water quality in the catchment are not currently well understood. Evidence of pressure due to poor water quality has already been identified in the Ballina

Nature Reserve, by local volunteers and commercial oyster farmers. Over the years, a complex drainage network through the Nature Reserve has been constructed to manage drainage from surrounding grazing and horticultural areas, which has altered the area's natural ability to process floodwaters and pollutant loads.



Riparian habitat is important for estuary health and provides critical habitat for juvenile fish species