



HAWKESBURY SHELF MARINE BIOREGION ASSESSMENT

Initiative 8 – Land use planning for coasts and waterways

Frequently asked questions

Why does this initiative only refer to Sydney and not the other areas in the bioregion?

This initiative has sought to focus on the key State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) which relate to the marine environment in the bioregion. There are other SEPPs which have some relevance to the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion, for example SEPP 62 – Sustainable Aquaculture, and SEPP 50 – Canal Estates, but those SEPPs have a statewide focus and function. The three SEPPs relating to the catchments of Sydney Harbour and the Georges and Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers have a direct relevance to the scope of the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion Assessment and to the priority threats identified by the TARA.

What is a SEPP and what do they usually consider?

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) are a type of environmental planning instrument that can be made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. They guide development and land use, and are prepared for matters where there is regional or State significance.

SEPPs can specify planning controls for certain areas and/or types of development. SEPPs can also identify whether a development is State significant (and needs a special approvals process) or the type of environmental assessment that is required (e.g. whether an environmental impact statement is required).

SEPPs can vary in scope. Some SEPPs address a specific form of development, such as SEPP 50 – Canal Estates. Others can have a catchment focus, such as the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005. Some SEPPs have a focus on a specific environmental circumstance or species, such as SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection.

The SEPPs which will be reviewed as part of the proposed management initiatives are catchment based and will consider environmental, social and economic factors.

How can I find out what SEPPs apply to my land?

A number of SEPPs apply to the whole of NSW so it is likely that most land will have a SEPP applying to it. Sometimes there may be more than one SEPP because they can overlap. The easiest way to find out is to purchase a planning certificate from your local council. A planning certificate (sometimes called a ‘Section 149 Certificate’) will indicate all environmental planning instruments which apply to the land. It is also possible to check the SEPPs themselves as they will indicate by map or by description, the land to which they apply.

Where can I find more information?

More information is available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment: www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment

If you would like to receive updates on the Hawkesbury Shelf assessment or other marine estate initiatives please advise us via contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au and provide your name, email address and postcode.

Feedback requested

We would appreciate feedback on these Frequently Asked Questions: Was it useful information? Was it easy to understand? What other questions would you like answered? Please email your comments to contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au

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