

APPENDIX N: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN (HCRCMA, 2004)

HEXHAM SWAMP

REHABILITATION

PROJECT

Community Consultation and Communication Plan

June 2004



HUNTER-CENTRAL RIVERS

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

SUMMARY

The Hexham Swamp Rehabilitation Project (HSRP) is a bold community initiative aiming to restore tidal flushing to the degraded Hexham Swamp.

This Communication Plan is designed to address objectives 20 and 21 in the HSRP Plan of Management:

- 20 To encourage and maintain community interest in the Project through education and public awareness activities**
- 21 To involve the community in day-to-day and strategic management for the benefit of both the community and the Project.**

The plan will also provide a framework for community consultation during preparation and exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement, which will be submitted with a Development Application for approval under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The HSRP Committee will assist the Hunter- Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to oversee the implementation of this plan by assessing its success and recommending corrective actions should an action not fully achieve its predicted outcome. CMA staff will be responsible for executing individual actions.

Following is a table outlining communication objectives at various stages of the project.

Project Milestone	Communication Objective
Completion of the MP and Draft EIS	To give residents who live near the swamp information about the project and consult with them about their concerns and to provide access to personnel involved for questions
Finalisation of property acquisitions and easements	Inform the community about the Project and next steps
Completion of the EIS and submission of the DA	Inform stakeholders and the broader community that the project is now being assessed and obtain feedback on the process during the DA exhibition period.
Yearly monitoring results	To inform stakeholders and the community of monitoring results and general developments with the HSRP. Also to obtain feedback on the project.
Approvals gained, construction of levee and other pre gate opening works. First gate opening	To inform stakeholders that the project is under-way.
Special events (planting days, monitoring projects, etc) ^(5.11)	To inform stakeholders and the community about events and activities undertaken as part of the project.
Ongoing	Engage education institutions to conduct research into the effects of opening the floodgates ^(5.6)

It is proposed that this plan have a two-year life, before it is reviewed. At this time, it will be necessary to plan for educational and recreational facilities as well as including an access plan.



Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority

Hexham Swamp Rehabilitation Project: Community Consultation and Communication Plan, June 2004

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I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 BACKGROUND

The Hexham Swamp Rehabilitation Project (HSRP) is a bold community initiative aiming to restore tidal flushing to the degraded Hexham Swamp.

For over thirty years, floodgates at the mouth of Ironbark Creek have prevented normal tidal flushing of the Swamp and have badly degraded the Swamp's estuarine ecosystems. This has resulted in the death of large areas of mangroves and saltmarsh, greatly reducing the Swamp's potential as a fishery habitat.

The HSRP will gradually reduce tidal flushing to the system through the staged opening of the eight floodgates at the mouth of Ironbark Creek. However, before this is done, it is necessary to purchase all land in the swamp that will potentially be inundated; to model the system for potential flooding impacts; and to produce a Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project.

The Hunter- Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) administers the HSRP and is responsible for ensuring effective communication and consultation with all stakeholders and the broader Hunter community, both for the development of the Project and during its implementation.

This plan will guide CMA communication and community involvement activities for the HSRP.

I.2 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This Communication Plan is designed to address objectives 20 and 21 in the HSRP Plan of Management:

- 22 To encourage and maintain community interest in the Project through education and public awareness activities**
- 23 To involve the community in day-to-day and strategic management for the benefit of both the community and the Project.**

This plan has the following objectives:

- Raising stakeholder and broader community awareness and understanding of why and how the HSRP is being developed and implemented
- Identifying all stakeholders and their communication needs as well as the communication roles of the CMA, its board members, the HSRP Sub-Committee and its Staff in addressing these needs
- Involving and consulting with all stakeholders and the broader community in the development and management of the HSRP

The plan will also provide a framework for community consultation during preparation and exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement, which will be submitted with a Development Application for approval under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

I.3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

This Communication Plan has been developed by Hunter- Central Rivers CMA staff and is consistent with the objectives of the HSRP Plan of Management, the Hunter Catchment Blueprint, the NSW Government's Wetland Management Policy and the Hunter Ramsar

Communication Strategy. The plan will also be considered as part of the development of the Hunter Blueprint Community Education and Awareness Strategy due to be finalised in 2004.

2. WHAT WILL THE PLAN ACHIEVE?

2.1 COMMUNICATION GOALS

The broad aim of this Communication Plan is to raise the awareness of stakeholders and the broader community about the HSRP and of how individuals and groups can contribute to, and benefit from, the development and implementation of the HSRP

2.2 COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

The above goal will be accomplished through realising the following objectives:

1. Educating and informing stakeholders and the broader community about the development and implementation of the HSRP, specifically:
 - the need for wetland preservation and rehabilitation
 - the functions of wetland ecosystems
 - the reasons for developing the HSRP
 - the progress of the Project
 - how the Project fits into the broader natural resource management framework for the Hunter Region
2. Consulting with stakeholders and the broader community about the Project and its implementation, including seeking comment on documents, plans and publications wherever appropriate
3. Involve stakeholders and the broader community at relevant stages of the Project's implementation through development of targets and protocols for introducing and managing volunteers
4. Developing a research program and protocols for approaching education institutions for proposals as well as for an ongoing working relationship with these institutions

3. IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

3.1 IMPLEMENTATION

The HSRP Committee (a sub-committee of the CMA) will assist the CMA to oversee the implementation of this plan by assessing its success and recommending corrective actions should an action not fully achieve its predicted outcome.

The actions outlined in this plan will be implemented by CMA staff and other personnel, as required. Where possible, opportunities will be taken to integrate identified actions with existing CMA and other organisations' projects and activities.

Opportunities will also be taken to involve the HSRP Committee, CMA board members, Project Stakeholders and interested members of the broader community in the "hands on" delivery of actions outlined in this plan.

Communications activities generally generate much more community interest when they have a local perspective (eg localising the messages by mentioning local places and drawing on the history of the area). Material prepared under this plan should therefore have a local focus.

It should be noted that while this plan aims to guide HSRP communication and consultation activities, an adaptive approach will be adopted to ensure that the most appropriate messages are being delivered at the right time. Additionally, this plan will undergo continual evaluation and review.

3.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluating will be a vital component of this plan. Monitoring and evaluation will allow the committee to track the progress and judge the success of the plan as it is implemented. It will allow the success of the plan in achieving the stated objectives to be measured, and provide vital information for ongoing review and adaptation of strategies and actions.

A Monitoring Plan will be developed and implemented before implementation of the plan begins. It will identify objectives, performance measures, monitoring and recording requirements, benchmarks for assessing performance and short and long-term evaluation targets.

3.3 COMMUNICATION ROLES

All members of the HSRP Committee are important conduits between the HSRP and the interest groups that they represent. Following are specific responsibilities of Project Committee members in relation to communication and consultation.

- Alert the HSRP to the broad range of interests in their membership category
- Make available to the Project all data and information of which they are aware that is relevant to the HSRP's tasks, excepting privileged and "commercial in confidence" information.
- Spread the news about what the HSRP is doing, and encourage broad community input to its processes. (It is expected all members will have their own contact networks and style of communicating).
- When appropriate, present the views and expertise of the interest groups from which their nomination arose.
- Regularly communicate with their interest groups. For example, attend gatherings or face-to-face meetings.

CMA staff will carry out actions from this plan as well as undertake communications activities (similar to the Project Committee) with the broader community.

3.4 FUTURE PLANNING

This Communication Plan outlines the communication needs of the HSRP up to and including the opening of the second floodgate (approximately two years).

Due to the irregular nature of property acquisition/settlements and the unpredictable assessment period for the Development Approval stage of this project, dates given as triggers for most actions should only be used as a rough guide and the realisation of certain Project milestones should be used to prompt consultation and communication activities.

The plan will be reviewed and new directions for education/communication for the project set after the second floodgate is opened and before the opening of the third.

4. COMMUNICATING

4.1 OVERVIEW

Communication and consultation activities should be triggered by Project milestones. Using milestones rather than set dates gives the plan a flexibility to work around highly unpredictable Project actions such as property settlements and development approval. Key milestones are listed in 4.2. Dates for realising these milestones are also given, however, these are only provided as a guide.

Section 4.3 provides a list of stakeholders and key audiences for communication and consultation activities. Section 4.4 provides key messages.

4.2 TIMEFRAME

The timeframe for communication is guided by the realisation of the following milestones.

- Finalisation of property acquisitions and easements
- Completion of the MP
- Completion of the EIS
- Submission of the DA
- Approvals gained
- Yearly monitoring results
- Construction of levee and other pre gate-opening works
- First gate opening
- Monitoring results after opening
- Second gate opening
- Special events (planting days, workshops, etc)

Actions to be taken at each of these steps are identified in **Section 4.6**. Description of the items listed in this section is found in **Section 5 - Toolbox**.

4.3 STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder groups representing particular interests or roles have been identified to allow for targeted communication and consultation throughout the process. These include:

- Newcastle Catchment Management Forum
- Elected government representatives (local councillors, MPs)
 - *Councillors of Newcastle City Council*
 - *State Member for Wallsend*
 - *State Member for Port Stephens*
 - *Federal Member for Newcastle*
 - *Federal Member for Charlton*
- Government agencies (local, state, federal)
 - *Newcastle City Council*
 - *Cessnock City Council*
 - *Lake Macquarie City Council*
 - *Hunter Water Corporation*
 - *Hunter Councils*
 - *Lower Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy*
 - *Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources*
 - *NSW Fisheries*
 - *NSW Department of Environment and Conservation*
 - *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service*
 - *Department of Commerce*
 - *Environment Australia*
 - *Natural Heritage Trust*
- The Aboriginal community
 - *Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council*
- Elected government representatives (local councillors, MPs)

- *Councillors of Newcastle City Council*
- *State Member for Wallsend*
- *State Member for Port Stephens*
- *Special interests groups*
 - *Birds Australia*
 - *Local “Care” Groups (Landcare, Bushcare, etc)*
 - *Greening Australia*
 - *Hunter Bird Observers Club*
 - *Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project*
 - *Parks and Playgrounds Movement*
- *Resident groups*
 - *Maryland Progress Association*
 - *Minmi Progress Association*
 - *Shortland Birmingham Gardens Community Forum*
 - *Warabrook Community Forum*
 - *Beresfield Tarro Hexham Community Forum*
- *Federal Member for Newcastle*
- *Federal Member for Charlton*
- *Society of Frogs and Reptiles*
- *The Wetlands Centre*
- *The Wetlands Alliance*
- *The Wetlands Education Centre*
- *Waterwatch*
- *Recreational Fishing Clubs*
- *Commercial Fishing Interests*

- Schools groups
 - *Black Hill Public School*
 - *Minmi Public School*
 - *Bishop Tyrell Anglican College*
 - *Glendore PS*
 - *Maryland PS*
 - *St Patrick's Primary School Wallsend*
 - *Wallsend PS*
 - *Plattsburg PS*
 - *Callaghan College, Wallsend campus*
 - *Shortland PS*
 - *Our Lady of Victories primary School*
- Surrounding business, business organisations (eg chambers of commerce) and industry
- Residents of surrounding suburbs
 - *Black Hill*
 - *Minmi*
 - *Fletcher*
 - *Blue Gum Hills*
 - *Maryland*
 - *Wallsend*
 - *Birmingham Gardens*
 - *Shortland*
 - *Sandgate*
 - *Hexham*
- The broader Hunter community, especially in the Newcastle Catchments

It should be noted that while the above list attempts to note all groups that consultation and communication activities should target, it may not be exhaustive and there are potentially many other groups that should be targeted during the implementation of this plan. This plan is flexible enough to enable any groups that are identified during implementation to be consulted in the most appropriate manner (again this plan is a guide and an adaptive management approach should be taken in its implementation).

Additionally, many of the stakeholders listed have direct representation in the planning process through the HSRP Committee.

The HSRP should aim to prioritise communication and consultation activities in the following order.

- Government agencies and elected government representatives.
- Environmental interest groups and the Aboriginal community
- Residents groups, surrounding businesses; and schools
- General public

The range of communication activities outlined in **Section 4.6** provides opportunities to involve and communicate with all stakeholder groups throughout the planning process.

4.4 KEY MESSAGES

The development of key communication messages is vital to ensure consistent and effective communication in all instances. These messages will be simple and take account of the information needs of key stakeholders. Following are the key points that the HSRP will communicate to stakeholders and the broader community. It is important to keep message content local (eg by siting local places, history, etc) to ensure that the messages are interesting to the Lower Hunter Community.

- The HSRP

- HSRP is a community driven project that has received support from all levels of government
 - HSRP has received \$5.4 million in funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments to assist with land acquisition and rehabilitation activities
 - HSRP aims to restore tidal flushing to Hexham Swamp in order to rehabilitate the wetlands. This will be achieved through staged opening of the Ironbark Creek Floodgates
 - An important component of the HSRP is monitoring to ensure that there are no adverse impacts arising from the project that will affect surrounding suburbs of Minmi, Maryland, Shortland and Hexham or infrastructure within the Swamp.
- **Benefits of HSRP**
- Will replace the vast common reed community that has little habitat value with a mosaic of open water, saltmarsh and mangrove communities in the area between Hexham, Beresfield, Maryland and Shortland.
 - Will provide habitat for fish and birds in the lower Hunter
 - Will improve the Hunter fishing industry by approximately \$1.6 million per year

4.5 SUB- MESSAGES

- **Destruction of Wetlands**
- Most of the Hunter's (Australia's) Wetlands have (are) been destroyed through reclamation or inappropriate development at their margins
- **Benefits of Wetlands**
- Wetlands support a variety of life including fish and crustaceans, birds, reptiles and mammals
 - Wetlands act as carbon sinks and balance development
 - Wetlands are useful in flood mitigation
 - Healthy wetlands act as filters and improve water quality
 - Healthy estuarine wetlands have many benefits for fisheries supporting numerous commercially important species at various stages of their lives
- **Impacts of the HSRP**
- Modelling indicates that the Project will have no or insignificant affects on flooding in surrounding areas
 - There may be a change in mosquito species as a result of the project - monitoring will continue and management actions taken as appropriate
 - Monitoring will ensure that any adverse impacts are picked up early and efforts will be made to rectify the problem
- **Flora and Fauna and HSRP**
- Mosquitoes are a natural part of the ecosystem
 - HSRP will replace vast reed community that has little habitat value with a mosaic of open water, saltmarsh and mangrove communities.
 - Rehabilitation will provide habitat for fish and birds
- **Participation**
- Opportunities for research
 - Opportunities for recreation
 - Opportunities to assist in management
 - Volunteer work opportunities (planting, monitoring, etc)

4.6 COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

The table contained in this section outlines a schedule of communication activities as they relate to the major stages of the development of the HSRP. Superscript numbers in brackets indicate the corresponding section in PART 5 that contains notes on that action or item.

Project Milestone	Communication Objective	Outcomes required	Proposed Activity
Completion of the MP and Draft EIS	To give residents who live near the swamp information about the project and consult with them about their concerns and to provide access to personnel involved for questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community surrounding the swamp more informed on Project objectives and aware of impacts Further develop contacts in the community to forward documents and other information to Further develop volunteer base for future activities Feedback on EIS and Management Plan Find out what information the community needs about the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a series of workshops ^(5.2) Multimedia advertising ^(5.3) Media releases ^(5.4) Direct invitations to current contacts Request that participants become involved in the future Invite comments on MP and Draft EIS Feedback on reaching community members - update Web Site ^(5.5) A monthly column in the Post ^(5.12) HSRP newsletter ^(5.13)
	Engage education institutions to conduct research into the effects of opening the floodgates ^(5.6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop contacts in academia that could use the HSRP as a demonstration and research site Develop a list of suitable research projects that can be undertaken by students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write letters to major institutions Meet with representatives from these institutions
Finalisation of property acquisitions and easements	Inform the community about the Project and next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broader community informed about this stage of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media release ^(5.4)
Completion of the EIS and submission of the DA	Inform stakeholders and the broader community that the project is now being assessed and obtain feedback on the process during the DA exhibition period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders and broader community informed that the project is now being assessed Community Informed about the project aims, etc Further consultation with the community on the development proposal and the project MPs informed that the project now being assessed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases ^(5.4) Workshops during exhibition period ^(5.10) Invite comments on EIS + Project letters to MP's ^(5.7) Community displays ^(5.15) Notification and consultation during DA exhibition period ^(5.16)
Yearly	To inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broader community and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimedia advertising

monitoring results	stakeholders and the community of monitoring results and general developments with the HSRP. Also to obtain feedback on the project.	stakeholders informed about monitoring results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and stakeholders consulted about project progress 	^(5.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media releases ^(5.4) • Annual Forum ^(5.8) • Direct invitation to contacts
Approvals gained, construction of levee and other pre gate opening works. First gate opening	To inform stakeholders that the project is under-way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders and general community informed that the first floodgate is being opened • Stakeholders and broader community invited to celebrate the opening of the floodgates @ launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia advertising ^(5.3) • Media releases ^(5.4) • Official launch ^(5.9) • Direct invitation to contacts
Special events (planting days, monitoring projects, etc) ^(5.11)	To inform stakeholders and the community about events and activities undertaken as part of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders and broader community informed about and invited to participate in various project activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia advertising ^(5.3) • Media releases ^(5.4) • Direct invitation to contacts

5. EXPLANATORY NOTES (TOOLBOX)

5.1 OVERVIEW

This section provides further information on actions and strategies listed in the table in section 4.5. The section number corresponds to each item's superscript number in the table in the previous section.

5.2 INFORMAITON WORKSHOPS

This series of workshops is designed to provide information to the broader community in the Newcastle catchments area. They are especially designed for residents who live nearby the Swamp in the suburbs of Hexham, Sandgate, Shortland, Maryland and Wallsend.

The workshops will deal with various issues that community members raised as being important to them and that they wanted to know more about at a previous workshop dealing with the Maryland Revegetation Project.

It is expected that at least two workshops will be run, one focussing on flooding and the hydrology of the project, the other focusing on the biology of the project (including information on mosquitoes and their management). A workshop will be run in Maryland, and the other in Shortland as these are the two main population centres bordering the Swamp.

The workshops format will allow sufficient information to be provided to the participants as well as include a facilitated session that aims to draw information from the participants. Information to be gathered will include:

- Further information that the community requires about the project
- Information on community issues of concern about the project
- Strategies for addressing issues raised by the community

The workshops also provide a good opportunity to recruit volunteers for future planting projects, monitoring, etc. A register will be provided at each of the workshops to facilitate recruitment.

All participants at the workshops will be included on the Project's mailing list for invitation to future events, for newsletter distribution and for consultation on various documents and developments that come out of the project.

5.3 ADVERTISING

Advertising should target a various range of media.

At the Maryland Revegetation workshop, participants indicated that the CMA would get more participants at meetings if, as well as using standard publications such as 'The Post', advertisements were also placed in local publications (such as "Maryland Matters") and school newsletters in areas that we are targeting. Posters could also be left in shop windows and notice boards.

The Maryland Revegetation workshop was advertised via a flyer that was distributed to all Maryland households by Australia Post. While this was successful, many participants noted that they did not recall receiving the flyer and that they saw the advertisement or were informed by a neighbour about the workshop.

For important events, such as future workshops, it is proposed that a combination of advertisements in various publications, flyers distributed to all households and direct invitations to contacts be used to ensure maximum attendance.

5.4 MEDIA RELEASES

Media releases will be consistent with this plan and with CMA guidelines for their production.

5.5 WEB SITE

A separate section of the CMA internet site is to be produced. This site will provide all information about the HSRP, links to documents and other relevant information, as well as providing opportunity for people accessing the site to submit information, questions, etc.

This site should be updated at quarterly intervals, consistent with the newsletter at section 5.13.

5.6 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Educational institutions will be contacted and invited to use the area for research.

The manipulation of the floodgates and subsequent tidal inundation of the Swamp presents an excellent opportunity for various experimental studies that is not usually available. However, there is a need to begin studies soon so that pre floodgate opening data is collected on whatever subject is to be studied.

Following are examples of institutions to contact:

- Uni of Newcastle
- Macquarie Uni
- Uni of New England
- Australian Catholic University
- UTS
- Charles Sturt Uni
- Centre for Research on Ecological Impacts of Coastal Cities (University of Sydney)
- Centre for Coastal Management (Southern Cross University)
- Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (University of NSW)

- CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterways Management (based in QLD)
- CSIRO
- NSW Fisheries
- DIPNR
- Geological Survey

The initial contact with these organisations could be a letter detailing the project, opportunities for research and an estimate of timing for the project. This letter should be followed up with an invitation to meet with representatives from the organisation in order to brief them on the Project and research requirements as well as to inspect the site.

Ideally a partnership will be formed with a number of research institutions to compliment CMA monitoring that would fully document the changes in the Swamp. Such a partnership would also ensure a constant availability of students and researchers to work on various aspects of the project.

5.7 BRIEFINGS TO MPs

Briefings in the form of letters and emails will be sent to MPs, Councillors and other "VIPs" in order to gain their support and keep them informed of important developments and phases in the implementation of the HSRP.

This could be an especially useful tool when the DA for the project is submitted for approval.

5.8 ANNUAL FORUM

A Forum aimed at briefing stakeholders and general community members on the project should be held each year. This will include guest speakers, for example people doing the monitoring, and aim to get people interested in the project and its various developments. Additionally, the forum will provide an opportunity for community feedback on various issues. The forum should also be used as a platform to thank existing volunteers and to recruit new ones for planting days monitoring etc. There may be opportunities to involve KWRP and TWC and to make the event an annual Hunter Estuary Wetlands Forum.

5.9 OFFICIAL LAUNCH

The launch will be open to interested members of the community as well as all stakeholders, MPs, Councillors, etc. The launch will be designed to celebrate the opening of the floodgates and to attract media attention to the project.

The launch should be advertised as per section 5.4 and media releases and notice of events prepared in line with CMA guidelines. Direct invitations will be sent to all contacts made during the implementation of other actions in this plan.

5.10 WORKSHOPS DURING EXHIBITION PERIOD

Workshops will be designed to consult with members of the broader community about the Development Application and the project. Outcomes of this process will be included in the Development Application.

The workshops will be timed to coincide with the exhibition period of the development assessment process.

Advertising and media release will be prepared as per sections 5.4 and 5.3. All stakeholders and contacts will be directly invited to attend these workshops. Further consultation during this period is covered in section 5.16.

5.11 MANAGING VOLUNTEERS

It is expected that volunteers will be required by the project to implement certain components of the Management Plan, for example, various planting projects. Other opportunities for the community to become involved in the project are through the monitoring program (although we will not actively seek general community members to become involved in the monitoring program).

Volunteers will be recruited at various stages of the implementation of this plan, mainly through workshops and through inquiries about the project. All stakeholders and people on the contacts list will be invited to participate in volunteer programs.

At each volunteer event, an OHS assessment will be required as well as a system to register volunteers (similar to that used for KWRP).

5.12 CATCHMENT COLUMNS

This would be a similar project to the Hexham and Throsby/Ironbark Columns that ran in 'The Post' in previous years. The columns could focus on all CMA issues and projects within the estuary and Newcastle Catchments - ie not just limited to the HSRP.

5.14 HSRP NEWSLETTER

Newsletter sent to all stakeholders and contacts made during workshops, volunteer days, etc. The newsletter will be designed to keep stakeholders and interested community members informed about the Project's progress and any new developments. The newsletter would also provide a platform to demonstrate other relevant CMA programs and to invite comment and participation in all aspects of the Project (again, this could be a joint project with KWRP). Sending the newsletter via email would be most appropriate.

5.15 COMMUNITY DISPLAYS

Displays, including air photos and historical information, should be assembled and displayed at shopping centres and other community centres in the suburbs surrounding the Swamp. Displays should be staffed so that any questions that the public have can be fielded at the displays or noted to be answered at a future time.

Possible locations for the display could include:

- Minmi General Store
- Maryland Multi-Purpose Centre
- Maryland Shopping Centre
- Wallsend Shopping Centre
- Shortland Shops
- Kooragang Rehabilitation Project Office

5.16 DA NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION

Newcastle City Council has produced three documents providing guidelines and requirements for development assessment/approval period notification and consultation. These include:

- DCP 49: Public Notification
- Community Consultation Policy and Guidelines
- Social Impact Assessment for Development Applications

It is recommended that consultation activities associated with the development approval process be consistent with these documents and the DIPNR Director General's requirements for the EIS.

6. FUTURE

As outlined in section 3.4 Future Planning, this document will be reviewed after approximately two years (sometime before the opening of the third floodgate).

In addition to reviewing the plan's current content, it will be necessary to consider the third objective from table 5-10 of the HSRP Management Plan:

Objective 22 *To develop facilities to support educational and recreational uses of the Project area.*

For the purposes of the plan review, this will involve including an educational and recreational facilities plan as well as an access plan (in addition to the reviewed parts of this current plan).

The reviewed plan will then fulfil all community education, involvement, access and research issues that were foreseen in the HSRP Management Plan.