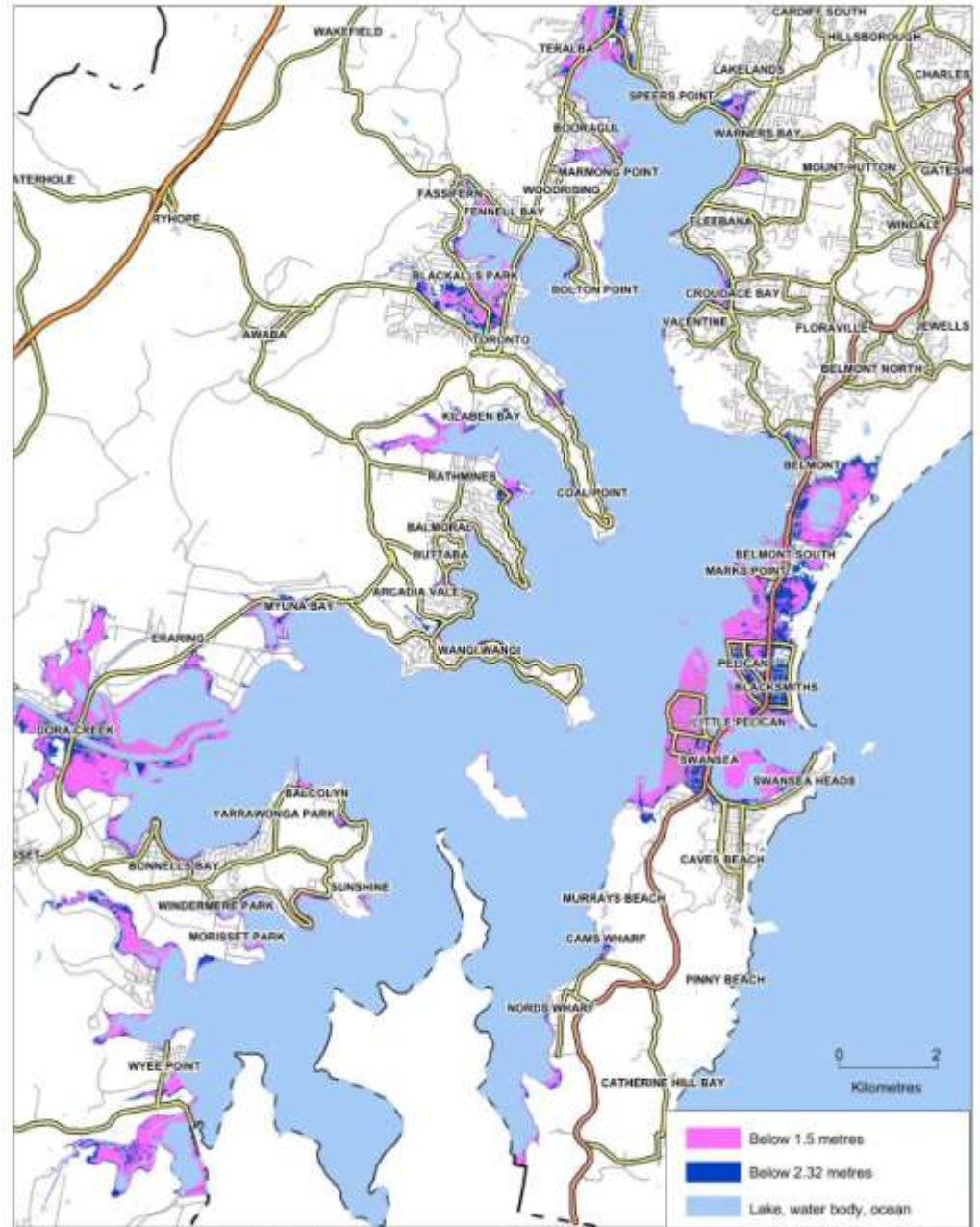


# Planning for Future Flood Risks

Asia-Pacific CC Adaptation Forum  
October 2014

# Lake flooding now and with sea level rise



Produced by Integrated Planning Project: A11/1818, 30/01/2012

# Marks Point & Belmont South Adaptation Plan



# What would an Adaptation Plan do?

- Identify how and when decisions will be made, and who will make them
- Identify appropriate triggers and thresholds to ensure that actions are taken only when needed
- Identify who is responsible for specific actions



**Planning for Future Flood Risks**  
Information for residents

Lake Macquarie City Council is committed to providing a safe community and addressing future flood risks. This information outlines how the community and Council can collaborate to develop local adaptation plans for areas of the City with water flooding issues or flood risks to protect buildings and infrastructure. These adaptation plans will guide future planning and development projects in these areas to ensure flood risk is managed in the future. A consultation approach to develop the adaptation plan is in progress in the development of the plan, ensuring that residents have input in the plan and that it meets the needs of Lake Macquarie City.

**Why is Council and the community planning for future flood risks?**  
Water flooding issues are a significant risk to the community and Council. In 2013, Council adopted the Lake Macquarie Flood Risk Management Strategy for the City. This strategy outlines the development of local adaptation plans to address flood risks. Visit [www.lakemac.gov.au/infocentre](http://www.lakemac.gov.au/infocentre) for more information.

Expert panels including the Council of Waterways, the NSW Government agencies and other agencies that are active in the area of flood risk management have been established. Lake Macquarie is a flood-prone area. Residents who live in areas of flood risk should be aware of the risks to their property and the environment. The extent of flooding is variable, and the prediction can usually be improved by Council. The flood-prone areas require Council to consider the future of flood risk management, and the best way to manage flood risk.

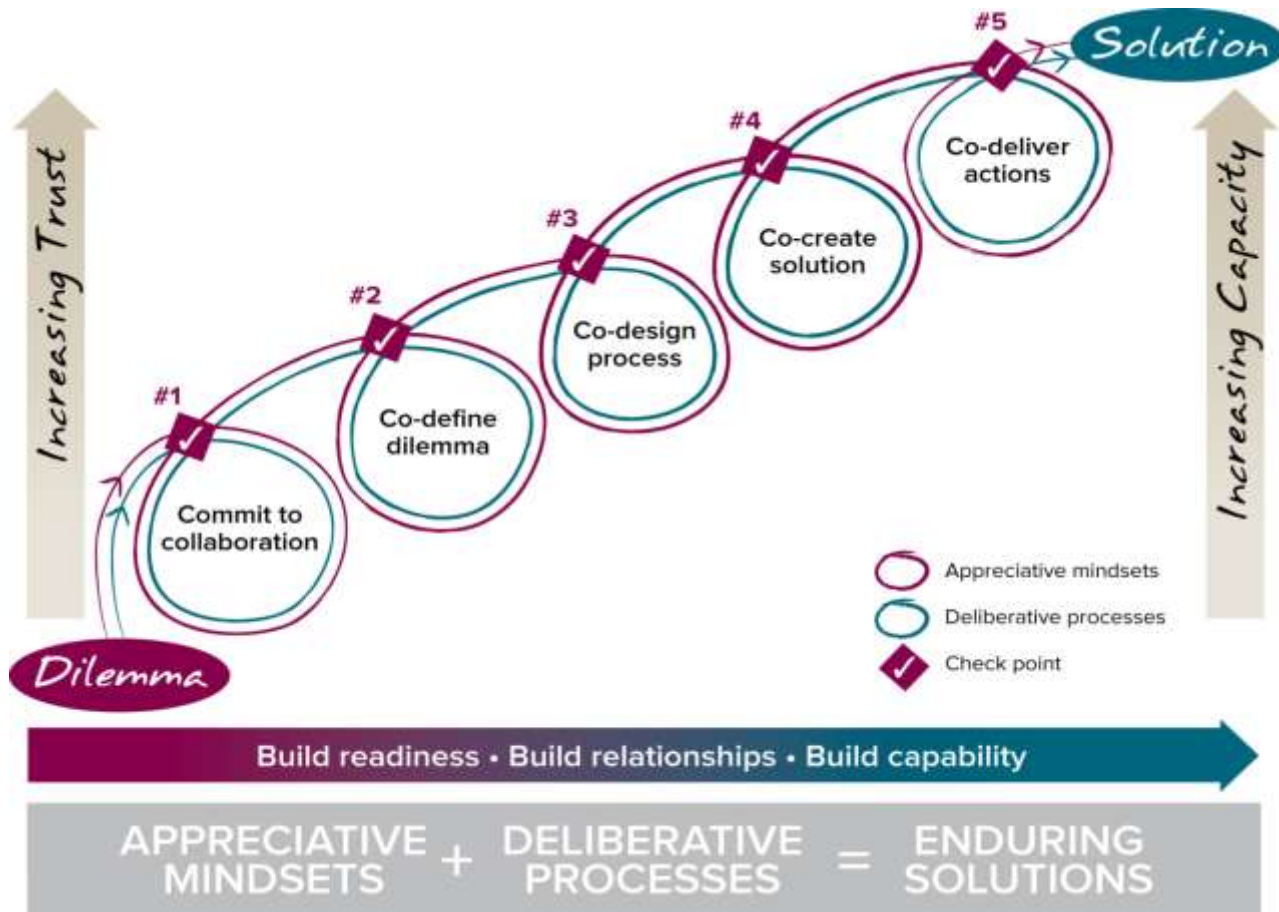
In April 2013, Council sought 18 months from residents of the City to help Council develop local adaptation plans with residents and other agencies in the flood-prone areas of the City. The people involved in the community consultation process are a mix of people with different professions and perspectives including residents, business, community groups, and service providers. This feedback helped shape a strategy for developing local adaptation plans. A summary of these activities is available at <http://www.lakemac.gov.au/infocentre>.

Council is currently planning the adaptation plan for the City. The plan will be developed in consultation with the community and other agencies.

**Get involved! How to have your say**

Area	Time to have your say	Community Group/Agency
Water Management and Infrastructure Water Supply Planning • Lake Macquarie • Flood Risk • Flood Risk • Flood Risk	Building 15 August 10am - 5pm Main Point Public School Building 1 September 10am - 5pm Main Point Public School	Building 17 August 10am - 5pm Main Point Public School Building 17 September 10am - 5pm Main Point Public School

# Our Approach to Adaptation Planning



# Community conversations

In workshops we found that the community were reluctant to engage in conversations about future flooding when they already had problems with nuisance flooding and poor drainage.

Meeting with people gave us an opportunity to talk about their issues and to provide information on how drainage systems work, “so people had a better understanding of the complex relationship between the lake and ocean tides and our drainage system.



# What we've learned so far....

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## The Good

- Support from Council's Mayor, senior management and the elected Council helps the process
- Dedicated staff with passion are persistent
- Ask stakeholders how they want to engage in the conversation
- Key residents become "hubs" advocating for action, explaining the problem, relaying information, calming people.

# What we've learned so far....

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## The Bad

- Action by others can affect trust and effective communication
- Lack of state government support
- We weren't speaking the same language
- Some legitimate concerns from residents about double standards



# What we've learned so far....

## The Ugly

- sensationalist media coverage
- vested interests that want to deny there is any problem at all

# Want more Information

[www.haveyoursaylakemac.com.au/future-flood-planning](http://www.haveyoursaylakemac.com.au/future-flood-planning)

From this site you will find all our newsletters, community feedback results, information on possible management options and our engagement strategy.

