Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study

We're asking for community input to guide the future management of the Lake Illawarra Entrance while best supporting its use and values.

Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council are working with the NSW Government to consider long-term management options to manage erosion in the Lake Illawarra Entrance Channel and surrounding areas.

The study and options

We have a long-term strategy for the lake that sets out actions for the next 10 years. This is called the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program.

We know that erosion is an issue. We are investigating options to manage erosion and changes that have occurred since the lake was permanently opened.

The Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study is being undertaken by the University of NSW Water Research Laboratory in collaboration with a team of experts.

A list of more than 50 possible management options were initially considered. We narrowed this down to a shortlist of 5 for detailed assessment and modelling. These are summarised on the next page.



Above: The Lake Illawarra entrance channel.



Above: Weirs, like this in the UK, are a potential management option.

Have your say

We need input from a wide range of residents, visitors, lake users and stakeholders to find an option that best balances the future uses and value of the lake.

To get involved, take the time to understand the impacts of each option and provide your feedback by 20 December 2024.

1. Attend a drop-in session and chat with the project team:
   - Friday, 29 Nov 2024
     Warilla Barrack Point Surf Club,
     1 – 3pm
   - Saturday, 30 Nov 2024
     Windang Senior Citizens Centre,
     10.30am – 12.30pm
   - Wednesday, 4 Dec 2024
     Online, 1pm and 5pm
2. To read the Stage 1 and 2 reports and supporting documents, and find answers to some frequently asked questions, visit:

our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au or **letschatshellharbour.com**

Shortlisted options

While each of these options will reduce erosion and tidal currents, each will have other environmental impacts on the lake, entrance channel and surrounding areas, along with impacts on recreational safety, fish passage, flooding, cultural values and heritage, and boating. See these trade-offs in the table below.

Under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*, we need to consider social, environmental, cultural and economic values when making decisions to manage our coast.

All options have been compared against a base case scenario of taking no additional long-term action to manage the entrance. If we do nothing, erosion and tidal change will continue to worsen over time.



Above: Shortlisted options for Stage 2 Entrance Options assessment. Indicative only.

	Foreshore erosion & tidal range	Water quality	Recreational safety	Flooding from catchment rainfall*	Flooding from coastal storms*	Fish passage	Flora & fauna	Cultural values & heritage	Boating access
Option 1									
Option 2									
Option 3									
Option 4									
Option 5									

Improvement
Likely improvement
Deterioration
Likely deterioration
Further study or consultation required
* Presently being assessed through the Review of Lake Illawarra Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

Above: Summary table showing impacts of Stage 2 options on social, environmental, cultural and economic values.

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Shellharbour CITY COUNCIL
NSW GOVERNMENT

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