

Who looks after our waterways?

The Maritime Management Centre (MMC) – a branch of Transport for NSW (TfNSW) leads the strategic policy direction for maritime issues in NSW and directs initiatives that support the Government’s objectives for boating safety, maritime property and waterways management.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is responsible for policy implementation, delivery and compliance on our waterways.

Who do we work with?

MMC and RMS have made a genuine commitment to consultation to help inform decisions regarding the management of boating in areas where the riverbanks are sensitive to erosion.

Other agencies and stakeholders play their part in contributing to the health of the rivers by addressing issues, including:

- Department of Primary Industries
- Local government
- Boaters
- Crown Lands
- Local Land Services
- Land owners



Regional Boating Plan feedback themes

When we talked to communities across NSW about the RBPs, we received feedback and submissions focused on some related themes:



Health and environment



**Property location and
length at residence**



**Water and
boating activities**



**Contribution to
local economy**



and riverbank erosion

What we've done already

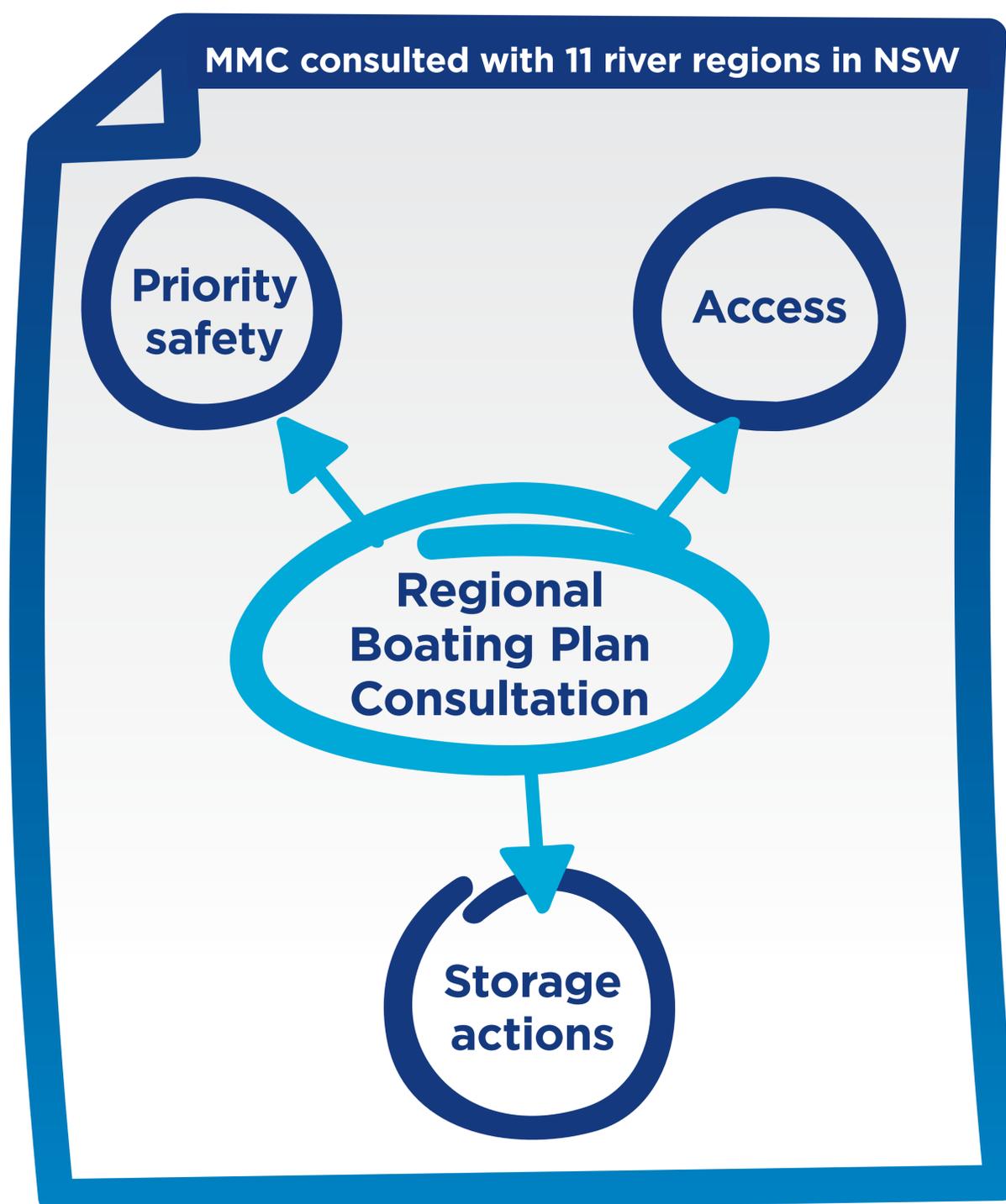
Riverbank erosion management is a significant issue for the future health and stability of our river systems. A pilot program of engagement is taking place in the Clarence, Tweed and Williams river regions to inform a draft management plan.

Local knowledge from communities in each of the river regions will be vital in helping us develop a state-wide policy for managing boating-related erosion issues.

The Regional Boating Plans

MMC recently spoke with communities across 11 river regions in NSW to inform Regional Boating Plans (RBPs). The purpose of the consultation was to identify **priority safety, access** and **storage** actions for improving the boating experience.

One of the key actions arising from the RBP process was the need to develop a state-wide policy for managing and mitigating boating-related erosion issues, including using infrastructure options where appropriate.



The future health of our rivers



There are a range of reasons for riverbank erosion. We need to work together to find the right options to treat the problem so we can all continue to enjoy the river in the future.

Some things that can cause riverbank erosion are:

- High wash boating activities and wake boarding
- Stock access along the riverbank
- Wind waves
- Loss of vegetation
- Flooding
- Sea level rise
- Resource extraction
- Natural environment changes



Riverbank management

A state-wide policy for riverbank management is being developed to ensure riverbanks are managed consistently and maintained for future users.

The state-wide policy will provide a framework to consistently consider:

- the condition of riverbanks and any potential options that may be required to manage unwanted effects of erosion
- whether infrastructure spend such as armouring is needed to secure the riverbanks
- alternative locations where water activities could take place that are deemed less vulnerable and
- potential regulatory change requirements to manage the impacts of erosion.

The policy framework will be used to develop local management plans in the three pilot areas.

What does the framework look like?

Step 1 Scientific Overview

Step 2 Assess Current Boating Activity

Step 3 Identify Management Options

Step 4 Draft Management Plan

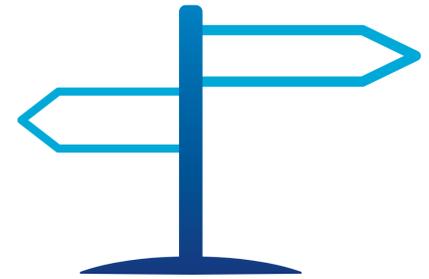
Step 5 Public Consultation

Step 6 Implement Management Plan

Step 7 Monitor and Review

WE
ARE
HERE

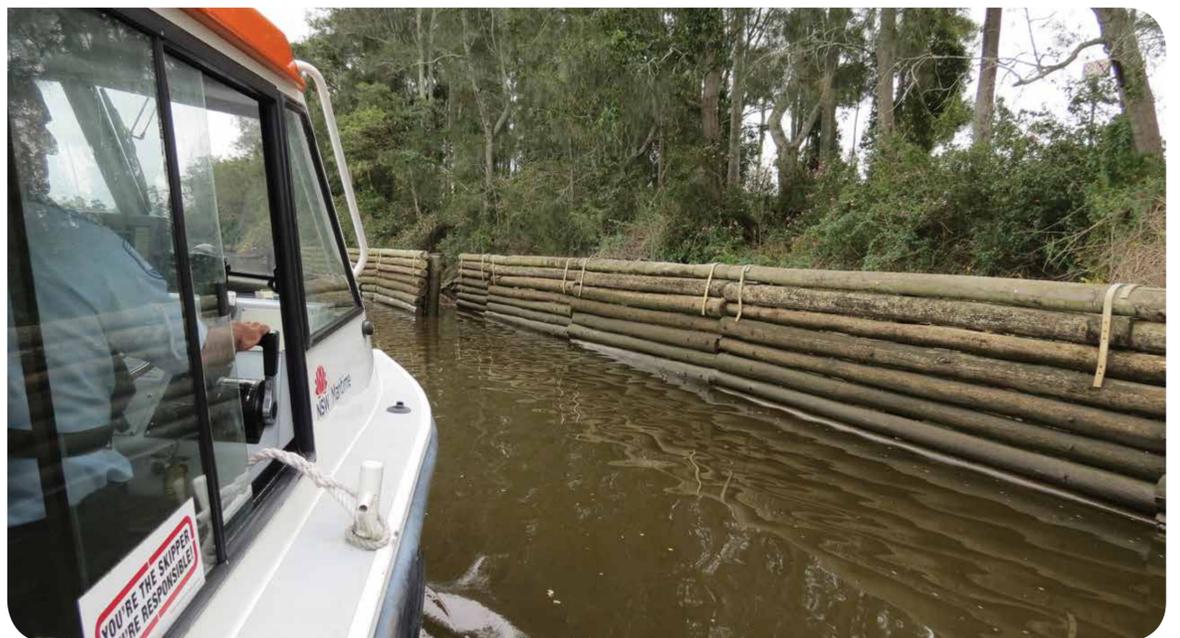
Riverbank erosion management options



There are a few ways to secure a riverbank. The techniques we'll use will depend on how severely the bank has eroded and what activities take place there. For example, something like concrete armouring would not be used where a riverbank is mildly degraded. We would look for other solutions that fit in better with the natural aesthetics and ecological factors of the river.

When we held key stakeholder workshops last month, we discussed six riverbank management options, and asked those in attendance for their thoughts and opinions on each of them. They are:

- **rock armouring**
- **bio-engineering techniques**
- **restricting cattle access to riverbank**
- **natural revegetation**
- **concrete armouring**
- **restriction on boating**
- **natural erosion/ no mitigation**



As erosion can also be naturally occurring, management options would only be used in specific areas that require mitigation.

We want to hear from you!

If you would like to provide feedback on the information we have gathered so far, this will be considered when developing the draft management plans.



You can get involved by:



Completing a feedback form



Emailing us at maritime@transport.nsw.gov.au



We asked...

