

DREDGING POLICY

November 2023

PREPARED BY:

**ASSETS STRATEGY &
DELIVERY UNIT**



4-20 Eton Street,
Sutherland NSW 2232
T 02 9710 0333
sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

SUTHERLANDSHIRE

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the principles and responsibilities for dredging of estuarine waterways within the Sutherland Shire.

2. APPLICATION

The Policy applies to dredging of estuarine waterways within the Sutherland Shire. Waterways include navigation channels, bays and heads of bays but exclude tidal or freshwater creeks draining to bays. Dredging may be for navigation, sand extraction, land reclamation or for the installation or maintenance of maritime infrastructure.

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1 Application of Principles

No one principle should be applied to the detriment of another. Principles must be collectively considered and applied to the extent that is reasonable and practicable in the circumstances.

3.2 Responsibilities for Dredging

Financial responsibility for dredging of navigation channels where the bed of the waterway is owned by the NSW Government, rests fully with the NSW Government given it has the administrative responsibility for safe navigation and receives all revenue from the use of the waterways.

Financial responsibility for dredging of bays or heads of bay where the bed of the waterway is owned by the NSW Government, rests with the NSW Government and/or residents who benefit directly from the use of the waterway.

Council will take responsibility for dredging where it has a legal or emergency service obligation to do so, or for dredging at maritime infrastructure installed and managed by Council.

Council is available to manage dredging projects on behalf of the NSW Government and/or residents, subject to the full funding of pre-dredging investigations and dredging works by the NSW Government and/or residents.

3.3 Catchment and Waterway Management

Dredging must be considered in the broader context of catchment and waterway management. Hydro-environmental processes that lead to waterway sedimentation and shoaling, or which are influenced by dredging, must be understood. Alternative or complementary measures to dredging to achieve a desired outcome, for example, navigability, should be considered.

3.4 Coastal and Marine Estate Management

Dredging should be consistent with the aims of the NSW coastal management framework, NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy and any relevant estuary management plan, coastal zone management plan or coastal management program.

3.5 Asset Management

Estuarine waterways are important natural assets that provide services of value to the community. Asset management principles such as level of service, asset degradation, life-cycle costing and risk should be applied to help determine the need for waterway dredging and to optimise dredging works.

3.6 Environmental Assessment

Estuarine waterways are part of an important natural ecosystem that provides habitat for flora and fauna. Dredging proposals must assess the environmental impacts, identify and implement appropriate mitigation strategies and comply with regulatory requirements.

3.7 Assessment of Applications for Dredging

Council will assess requests for dredging against the above principles and in accordance with the normal statutory planning process.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 Responsible Officer

The Senior Manager Asset Strategy and Delivery is the Responsible Officer for this Policy and is responsible for this Policy, including reporting on the application of the Policy.

4.2 Council

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is responsible for the application of this Policy consistent with the guiding principles for councils and Council's integrated planning and reporting framework as outlined in the act.

4.3 Chief Executive Officer

Council has delegated the Chief Executive Officer the authority to exercise the responsibilities detailed in this Policy.

4.4 Directors

Directors are responsible for ensuring their directorate adheres to the requirements of this Policy and providing guidance in respect of the strategic objectives of the Dredging Policy within their directorate and the organisation.

4.5 Employees

Employees must adhere to the requirements of this Policy and operate within its authorities.



5. POLICY COMPLIANCE

Application of the Policy will be monitored during the assessment of requests for dredging or as dredging is considered during the preparation and implementation of coastal management programs. The Policy will be reviewed in accordance with Council's normal policy review process or as required in response to such items as legislative changes, Council resolutions and the preparation of coastal management programs.

6. RECORD KEEPING, CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

Council adheres to and complies with the NSW State Records Act 1998 and Privacy and *Personal Information Protection Act 1998* through its Access to Information Policy and Privacy Management Plan.

7. BREACHES OF POLICY

Breaches of this Policy will be dealt with in accordance with normal disciplinary procedures and will be advised to the Chief Executive Officer and / or Director Shire Infrastructure and Operations, via the Senior Manager Asset Strategy and Delivery where appropriate.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Stormwater and Waterways Asset Management Plan
- Bate Bay Coastal Management Program
- Estuary studies and management plans

9. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *State Records Act 1998*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*
- *Crown Lands Act 1989*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- *Coastal Management Act 2016*
- *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

End of Document

UNCONTROLLED COPY WHEN PRINTED - For up to date copy please refer to Sutherland Shire Council Intranet / Website			
Document Name: Dredging Policy		Policy Accountability: Senior Manager Asset Strategy and Delivery	
Version: # 4	Approved by: Council (INF012-23)	Minute No: 241	Date approved: 6 November 2023
Original: February 2016	Last Revision: July 2020	Next Revision: October 2026	