



**MIDCOAST**  
council



**MANNING  
RIVER  
ESTUARY &  
CATCHMENT**



## **COMMUNITY VALUES REPORT 2020**

Annexure E

# Executive Summary

***“Everything is about the river. Without the river, without water, we’re gone.”***

(Community member)

The Manning River Catchment on the mid-coast of NSW is a significant natural asset for the regional community. It is vital to the local economy, providing social and cultural values that benefit the people that live, visit and work in the region. Approximately 50,000 people live in the catchment, of which around 34,000 reside in coastal and estuarine landscapes.

MidCoast Council is preparing a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for the Manning under the NSW Coastal Management Act 2016. The Manning River Estuary CMP will set the strategic direction to help manage risks to the environmental, social and economic values of the estuary. It will take a whole-of-catchment approach. A second CMP is being developed for sections of the Manning’s coastal zone.

Council is committed to engaging with our community throughout the planning process, to ensure the CMP is inclusive and meaningful, captures local knowledge, and is supported by the community and stakeholders.

This report presents the results of a participatory research project conducted by MidCoast Council to engage the community in the Manning River Estuary CMP and identify priority community values for the catchment. Participants were invited to articulate, prioritise and map a selection of locally relevant values from the NSW Government’s Water Quality and River Flow Objectives

The consultation project used both quantitative and qualitative methods. In all, nine consultation events were held from the top to the bottom of the catchment, attracting 251 participants. A values survey was also available on-line, receiving 122 valid responses. The values presented are the subjective perceptions of a representative sample of the Manning catchment community, not necessarily scientific fact.

In the qualitative component of the research, thematic analysis found the following key themes:

- **Environmental Values**

- River Health – healthy aquatic and riparian ecosystems and good water quality underpin all other uses.
- Plants and wildlife – biodiverse habitats for the full suite of flora and fauna communities.

- **Social Values**

- Sensory Experience – connecting to nature in wild spaces. Sanctuary and peace.
- Stories and History – cultural connections to the river and estuary for the Aboriginal community and settlers across multiple generations.
- Great Outdoors – recreational use for fun, fitness and well-being.

- **Economic Values**

- Livelihoods: primary production – oysters, dairy and beef

In the quantitative component, the top three values identified were:

- Aquatic Ecosystems
- Visual Amenity
- Cultural and Spiritual value

There was consistency between the two research components:

- *Plants and Wildlife* and *Healthy River* (qualitative data) match *Aquatic Ecosystems* in the quantitative survey
- *Sensory Experience* (qualitative) aligns with *Visual Amenity* and *Spiritual Value* (quantitative)
- *Stories and History*, and *Great Outdoors* (qualitative data) align with *Cultural Value*

In the mapping exercise, the full set of nine values were identified for the Barrington River and the Barrington Estuary.

A strength of the project was the extent and diversity of consultation opportunities, which engaged a broad range of stakeholders. Participation was enthusiastic, with people bringing along photos to share.

Limitations include a need for more detailed consultation with the Aboriginal community, and the small sample size in some rural communities.

The results will be used to inform the ECMP and design community programs to protect the catchment. This report will also be contributed to a broader study of catchment values and uses being conducted by the NSW Government's Department of Primary Industry and Environment (DPIE).

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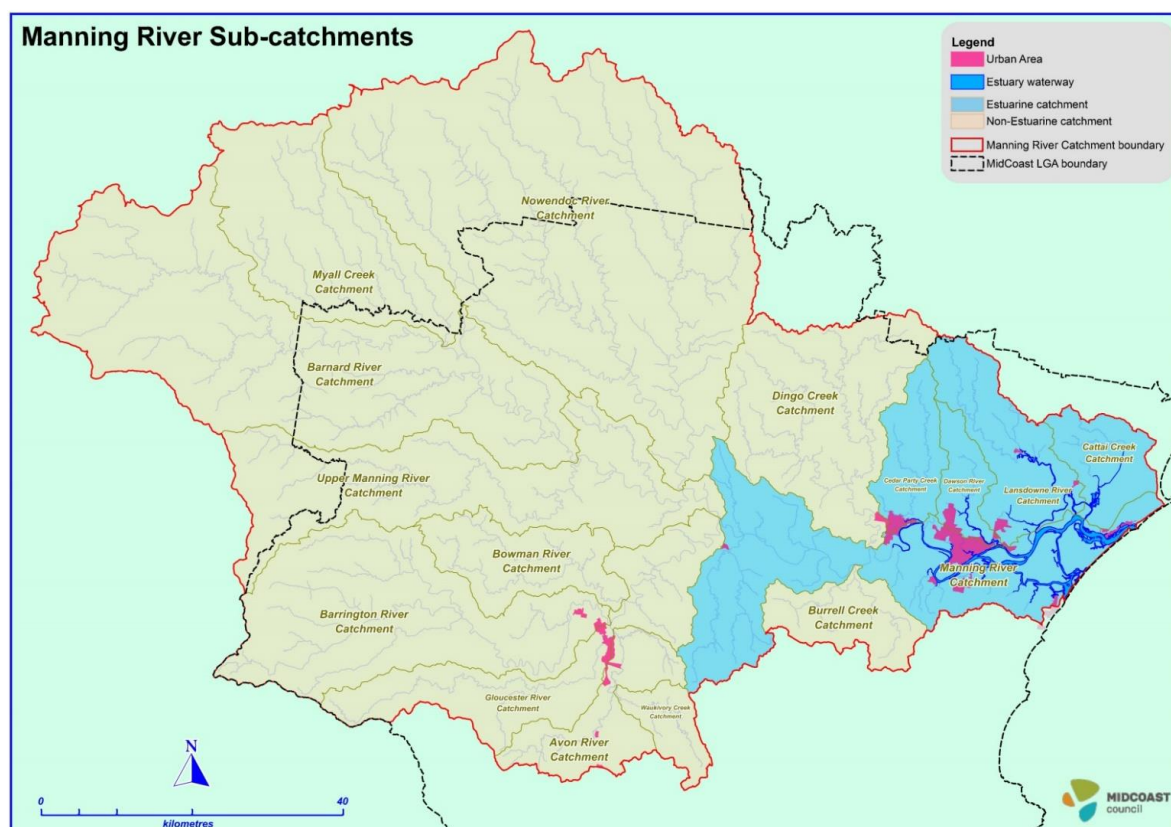
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*Map 1: The Manning River Catchment and its Estuary*

## Introduction

Values can be defined as the importance, worth, or usefulness of something. They may have environmental, social or economic dimensions, and may integrate more than one of these. For example, recreational activities contribute to both social well-being and the economy through consumer spending. Our values are the things we believe are important in the way we live and work. People make decisions and act based on values. We want to capitalise on positive values, use them to underpin the Manning River ECMP, and convert values into action.

This report summarises the outcomes of a participatory research program to identify community values for the Manning River Estuary and its catchment. The project was undertaken by the MidCoast Council Natural Systems team as part of the Manning River Estuary Coastal Management Program (ECMP).

## Objectives

This project has the following main objectives:

- Engage community in the planning process of the Manning ECMP
- Identify community values for the Manning River, estuary and sub-catchments
- Locate values spatially
- Contribute to values assessment being conducted by DPIE

## Background

The Manning River Estuary on the mid-north coast of NSW is fed by a vast catchment covering 8,420 km<sup>2</sup> from the mountains to the sea (Map 1 above). There are sixteen sub-catchments and almost 29,000 km of waterways converging to exit at two ocean mouths (depending on conditions): Harrington and Farquhar Inlets. The ecological health of the Manning River Estuary is under pressure as a result of past and present land management practices and the impacts of climate change including prolonged drought, more extreme flood events and rising sea level.

MidCoast Council is developing the Manning River Estuary Coastal Management Program (Manning River ECMP) under the Coastal Management Act 2016. Because healthy water quality is fundamental to support aquatic life and human usage, MCC is taking a whole-of-catchment approach.

Community engagement is critical in this process for the completed plan to represent shared values and aspirations for the river.

The purpose of the CMP is to set the long-term strategic direction for the co-ordinated management of the Manning River Estuary and Catchment. To provide a framework to measure success.

The vision underpinning the CMP for the Manning River Catchment and Estuary to be a healthy system supporting the social, economic, cultural and environmental values of its people.

## Why identify community values?

The Manning River ECMP will help achieve holistic management of the marine estate as a continuous system, as set out in the *NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) 2018-2028*. An underlying principle is that our waterways should be managed according to the community's environmental values and uses. These are defined as what the community believes is important for a healthy ecosystem, for public benefit, welfare, safety and health.

These community values inform water quality standards adopted by the NSW Government. Put simply, if we value a river as a source of drinking water, swimming or oyster harvest, we need to achieve suitable water quality with regard to pollutants such as nutrients, sediments and pathogens.

Development of the Manning River ECMP is being undertaken in stages. Stage 1 was completed in 2018 and involved development of a Scoping Study, which included a gap analysis. In collaboration with the Technical Working Group, the need for a community values research project was identified and subsequently funded by the NSW Government's Coastal Management Program. This is a reflection of MidCoast Council's understanding that environmental problems are people problems – if we want to engage our community in catchment management we need to start with their values and develop initiatives that are meaningful.

Along with guiding development of the Manning River Estuary CMP, the results of the community values project will contribute to a complementary study being conducted by the NSW Government in 2020. The primary purpose of the NSW Government project is to determine/understand community environmental values and uses of the state's waterways now and in the future, assess if they align with those specified in the NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives developed in 1999, and if not, update them as needed.



*A Values Workshop was held with the Community Reference Group, which will meet throughout the planning process*

## Method

This research project took a participatory approach across a range of locations and events to engage community stakeholders. Between 29 August and 11 December 2019, MidCoast Council ran four consultation workshops, two pop-up surveys and delivered briefings and a survey at three workshops hosted by Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS). A mix of qualitative and quantitative consultation methods allowed for wide ranging discussions and opportunities to share values and aspirations.

Two of the events, 'Tales of the River' at the Manning Regional Art Gallery and 'Our Manning River' Photography Exhibition at Wingham Library, were created to attract a wide public audience. Other events engaged specific target groups such as Women in Dairy primary producers and the CMP Community Reference Group.

Pop-up survey activities were held at the Taree river foreshore on World Rivers Day in September 2019 and the Harrington Break-wall during the October school holidays.

Consultation opportunities were promoted via fliers, media release, Council's web site and social media.

### Locations and Stakeholder Groups

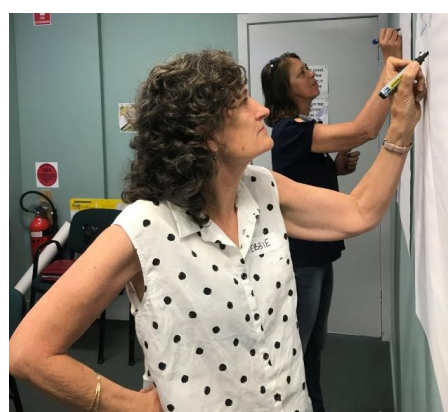
The range of locations and stakeholder groups engaged is shown in Table 1. Engagement events are listed in Table 2.

*Table 1: Locations and Stakeholder groups engaged in the research project*

Locations	Stakeholder groups
Gloucester	Residents
Barrington	Recreational users
Bobin	Environmental interest groups
Wingham	Landcare
Taree	Primary producers
Harrington	Landholders



*World Rivers Day Pop-up Survey*



*Women in Dairy Focus Group*

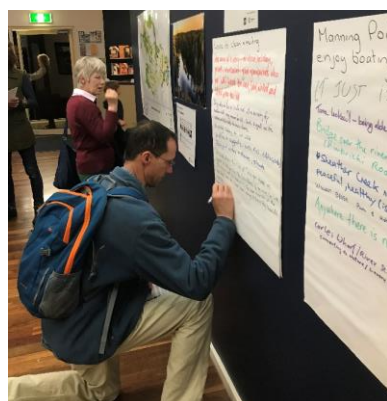


## Engagement Activities

The engagement activities are shown in Table 2 below.

*Table 2: List of consultation events and participant numbers.*

Date	Location	Host	Type	Event	Participants
<b>29/08/2019</b>	Taree	MCC	Workshop	Tales of the River	23
<b>20/09/2019</b>	Taree	MCC	Pop-Up survey	World Rivers Day	25
<b>9/10/2019</b>	Barrington	HLLS	Briefing	Waterway management workshop	30
<b>10/10/2019</b>	Harrington	MCC	Pop-up Survey	School holidays	11
<b>14/10/2019</b>	Bobin	HLLS	Briefing	Waterway management workshop	44
<b>26/10/2019</b>	Wingham	MCC	Workshop	Our Manning River Photography Prize	42
<b>28/10/2019</b>	Gloucester	HLLS	Briefing	HLLS bird presentation	45
<b>1/11/2019</b>	Taree	MCC	Workshop	Women In Dairy Focus Group	7
<b>11/12/2019</b>	Taree	MCC	Workshop	Manning River ECMP Reference Group meeting	24
				<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>251</b>



*Gallery Exhibition Workshop*



*Photo Exhibition Workshop*

## Data Collection Instruments

Three main instruments were used to identify community values:

- key questions
- values survey
- values map.

These were complemented by:

- a yarnning circle recording oral histories and stories about the river, which will be published on MidCoast Stories
- a photography competition for images depicting what people love about the river
- a social science research project consulting farmers on land and catchment management.

### Key Questions

At each of the engagement events, participants were invited to respond to three key questions by writing their responses on butchers' paper:

1. *What do you love most about the Manning River, its waterways and the estuary?*
2. *What is it important to protect?*
3. *Where are your favourite places and why?*

The responses from all events were collated. Qualitative analysis and key words were used to group common responses into themes.

### Values Survey

A survey was developed by MCC using values relevant to the Manning Catchment identified in the *NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives* (1999). The icons (symbols) for two values (aquatic ecosystems and aquatic foods) were adapted to make them more readily identifiable by the community. The survey instrument was reviewed by the Environment, Energy and Science Group at NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Survey forms were available in both paper and online formats at the engagement events and through the MCC website. Participation was promoted in mainstream media, Council newsletters and Council's website.

The survey asked three key questions:

1. *What do you value most about the Manning River, its waterways and estuary?*
2. *For the river you know best, tick the three things you value the most.*
3. *What three elements of a healthy ecosystem are most important to you?*

*Question 1* was a general question in which respondents were asked to rank nine factors with 1 = most important and 9 = least important. The responses for this question were collated into a table and ranked 1 to 9 based on the total scores.

In *Question 2* respondents were asked to identify their top three values for one of eight major sub-catchments: the Avon, Barrington, Bowman, Dawson, Gloucester, Lansdowne, Manning Estuary and Manning River. All sub-catchments were not included because in the

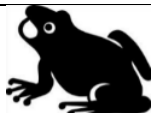




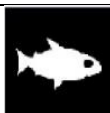
settings used, attempting to capture data for 16 sub-catchments would have made the survey too lengthy and complex, detracting from participation rates.

In *Question 3* participants were given 10 features of a healthy ecosystem and asked to choose which they thought were most important.

See *Appendix 2* for a copy of the Values Survey.

### Values Map

The purpose of this activity was to map values spatially by sub-catchment. Workshop participants were invited to post their values onto a map using icons from the 6 categories listed below. The icons were colour-coded 'blue' to identify what respondents valued now and 'orange' to indicate what they desired for the future.

Healthy aquatic ecosystem	Cultural and spiritual values	Primary Contact Recreation (in the water)	Secondary Contact Recreation (on the water)	Visual amenity	Aquaculture and seafood
					

*Figure 1: values and icons posted on the Values Map*










Data sets were created by tallying the blue and orange icons for each sub-catchment from all of the events and creating a map.



*Community representatives posting values on the catchment map and completing the survey.*

## Results: Values at a Glance

An overview of values identified for each sub-catchment is shown in Table 3 below. This table collates data from the Values Survey (Question 2) and the Values Map (current values).

									
	Aquatic ecosystems	Visual Amenity	Cutlrua/spritual value	Primary contact recreation	Secondary contact recreation	Livestock water supply	Irrigation water supply	Homestead water supply	Aquaculture and Seafood
Avon River	✓	✓		✓					
Barnard River		✓		✓					✓
Barrington River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bowman River						✓	✓	✓	✓
Cattai Creek	✓	✓							
Cedar Party Creek				✓					
Dawson River	✓								












									
Dingo Creek		✓	✓	✓					
Gloucester River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Lansdowne River	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Manning Estuary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manning River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myall Creek	✓			✓					
Nowendoc River	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Upper Manning River	✓	✓			✓				
Waukivory Creek									

Table 3: overview of values identified for the Manning Catchment. NB. Manning River refers to the catchment as a whole.

## Results: Key Questions

### **Question 1 Results: What do you love most about the Manning River, its waterways and the estuary?**

A thematic analysis of responses to this question found five key themes shown in Figure 2. Quotations and key words recorded for each theme are described below.



Figure 2: themes that synthesize what participants value most about the river

#### **1. Plants and Wildlife (environmental value)**

*"I love the wildlife it supports – birds, fish, dolphins, crabs, islands..."*

**Key words:** ecosystems, birds, shore birds, migratory waders, waterbirds, fish, dolphins, crabs, microbes, giant river oaks, orchids, ferns, casuarinas, habitat, pelicans, biodiversity

#### **2. River health (environmental value)**

*"Water is life...we share the river as a central part of the wild ecosystem that provides habitat for us and all wildlife from iconic animals to tiniest microbes."*

*"The river is the lifeblood of the community."*

**Key words:** clean, clear, able to drink, life, vibrant green riverbanks, diversity, cool water, water is life, alive, headwaters, sea, oysters.

### 3. Sensory Experience (social value)

*“Connecting to nature and myself, watching and experiencing animal and plant life, amazing sunsets, moon-rises and skies!”*

*“The sound of the wind through the casuarinas, the exhalation of dolphins as they pass.”*

Key words: inviting, sanctuary, sitting, watching, stillness, immensity, alive, connecting to nature and self, experiencing amazing sunsets, moonrises, skies, peaceful, soothes, tranquillity, beauty, relax, quiet corners and spaces, wild spaces.

### 4. Stories/histories (social value)

*“Deep sense of history – childhood days, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents who have farmed this land, lived, worked and relaxed along the river.”*

Key words: deep sense of history, belonging, family histories, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, living, working, farming and relaxing along the river, Aboriginal history and stories, leaving a legacy for our children.

### 5. Great Outdoors (social value)

*“Being able to swim in the river at a variety of locations with easy access for all.”*

*“It’s my happy place – water and boats.”*

Key words: holidaying, swimming, boating, picnicking, jet skis, kayaking, fishing.



*Recreation using various types of boats is popular throughout the catchment. The river is a place for enjoyment across the generations.*

## Question 2 Results: What is it important to protect?

Three themes shown in Figure 3 were determined for Question 2.

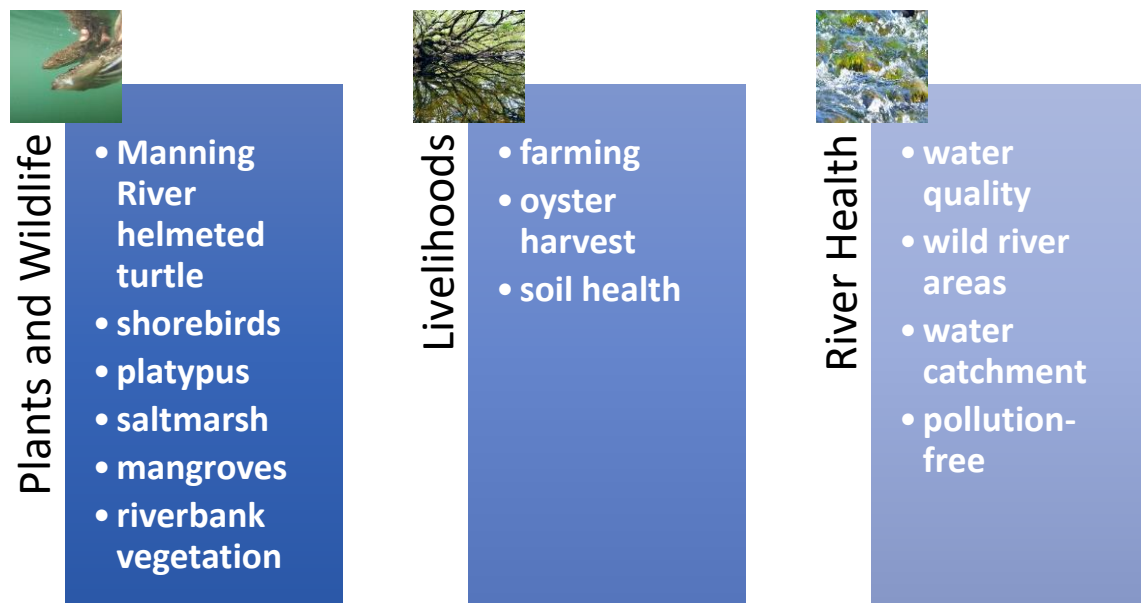


Figure 3: three themes for what it is important to protect

### 1. Plants and Wildlife (Environmental Value)

*"Birdlife at the river mouth in the estuary."*

*"We need to protect the saltmarsh, mangroves, seagrass...."*

Key words - wildlife: Manning River Helmeted Turtle, migratory shorebirds, birds, coastal migratory birds, woodland birds, platypus, aquatic life, insects, ecosystems, wildlife corridors

Key words - plant life: saltmarsh, mangroves, seagrass, riverbanks vegetation, Wingham Brush, littoral rainforests, dune erosion, wetlands, floodplain ecological communities.

### 2. River Health (Environmental Value)

*"Water quality as chemical-free as it can be."*

*"The capacity of the soil and the whole landscape to hold water."*

Key words: water quality for all uses, chemical-free, wild areas of the river, water catchment, no pollution, river entrances, whole systems.

### 3. Livelihoods (Economic Value)

*"It's ability to provide."*

Key words - livelihood: farming, it's a working river, provides a living, viable and growing oyster industry, healthy soil, the food it produces.



### Question 3 Results: Where are your favourite places and why?

The following results were recorded for Question 3:

- Carle's Wharf, Cundletown – connecting to nature, scenery, weather observation
- Cattai Creek and wetland
- Cedar Party – purity of water
- Charity Creek, Kimbriki Road – bridge over river
- Croki – safety of netted swimming area, scenic outlook, great place to relax and swim, mangroves – so much ecology.
- Crowdy Head beaches – clean, beautiful, lots of places for picnics
- Ellenborough Falls – absolutely beautiful catchment and single drop flat.
- Farquhar Inlet – feeling of wildness, boating, fishing, swimming
- Manning Point – fishing, birds, wildlife and recreation
- Manning River in Burrell Creek – clean water, beauty, canoeing
- Mid Catchment – kayaking, fishing, wildlife
- Old Bar – beach
- Potaroo Falls – Very lovely walk in the falls and secluded.
- Saltwater – national park, surf, picnic areas, wildness
- Sheather Creek near Manning Point – birdlife, peaceful, healthy
- Southern entrance – beauty and feeling of wildness
- Taree Lookout – admire, sit, relax, look at river
- Taree Riverbank
- Tinonee – beauty of silky oaks, flame trees, flowering plants
- The Dingo – in good season, swimming, birdlife, platypus
- Upper catchment forests
- Wingham Brush – picnic, historical, recreational, natural beauty



*Our Manning River photography exhibition entry "Rolling Clouds, Taree" by Christine Price*










## Results: Values Survey

One hundred and twenty-two valid surveys were received both on-line and at community events from a total population of approximately 50,000 people. This gives the data a confidence level of 90% and an error margin of 7.44%.

### Question 1 Results: What do you value most about the Manning, its waterways and the estuary?

For Question 1, results ranking values from 1-9 are shown in Table 3, where 1 is the most important and 9 the least important.

*Table 4: Community values for the Manning catchment ranked 1-9.*

Value	Icon	Rank
Aquatic ecosystems		1
Visual amenity		2
Cultural and spiritual value		3
Homestead Water Supply		4
Primary contact recreation		5
Livestock water supply		6
Irrigation water supply		7
Secondary contact recreation		8
Fishing and seafood		9

### Question 2 Results: Select the river you use the most.

For Question 2, respondents were asked to select the river they knew best from 8 major sub-catchments and the estuary. The Manning River (55) and Manning Estuary (39) received by far the most responses, as shown in Figure 4.

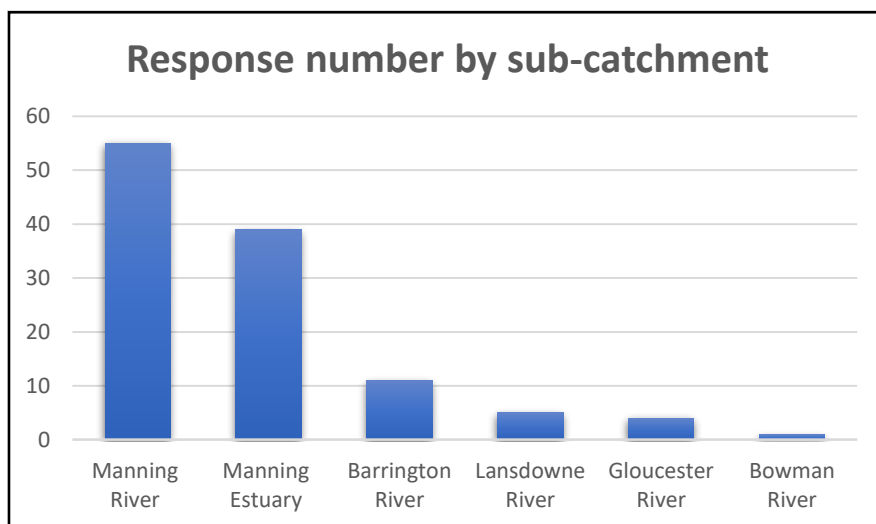


Figure 4: The number of responses received for each sub-catchment

### Question 2 Results – For the river you selected, tick the 3 things you value the most.

As shown in Figures 5 and 6, Aquatic Ecosystems, Visual Amenity and Cultural/Spiritual value were the top three values selected for both the Manning Estuary Manning River. These results align with the rankings in Question 1

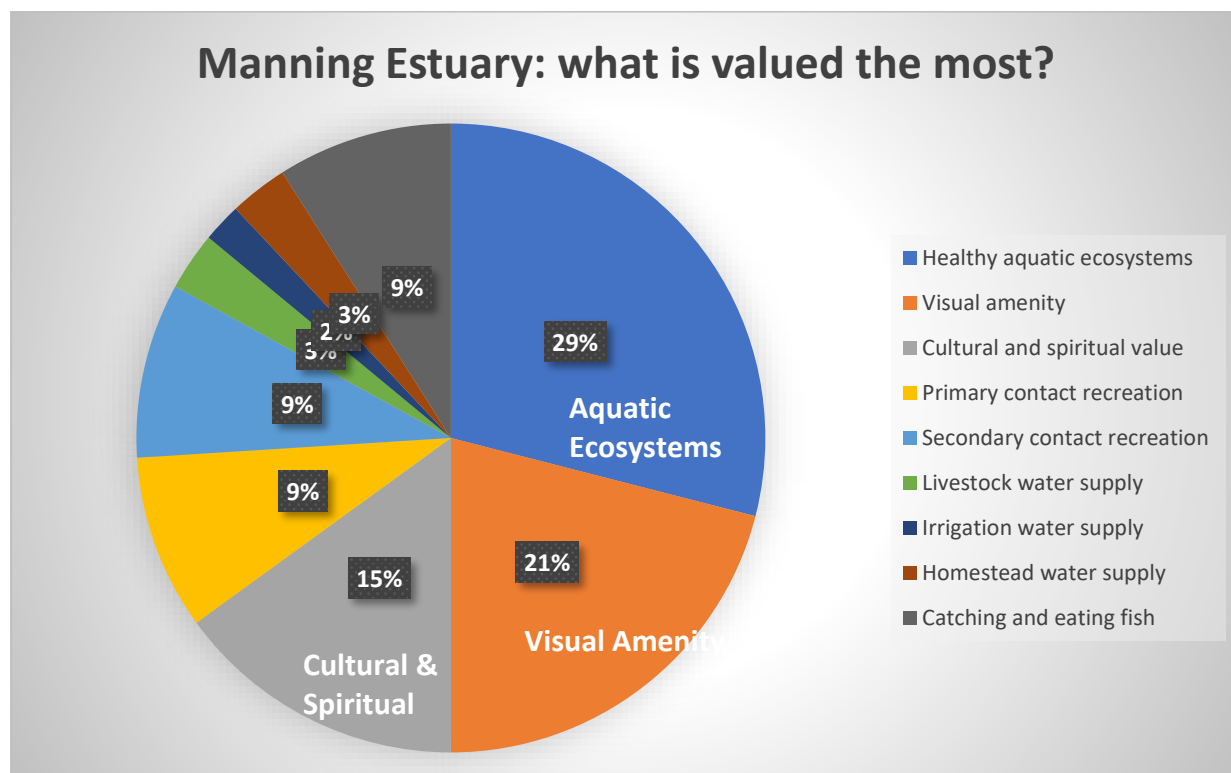


Figure 5: Values identified for the Manning Estuary

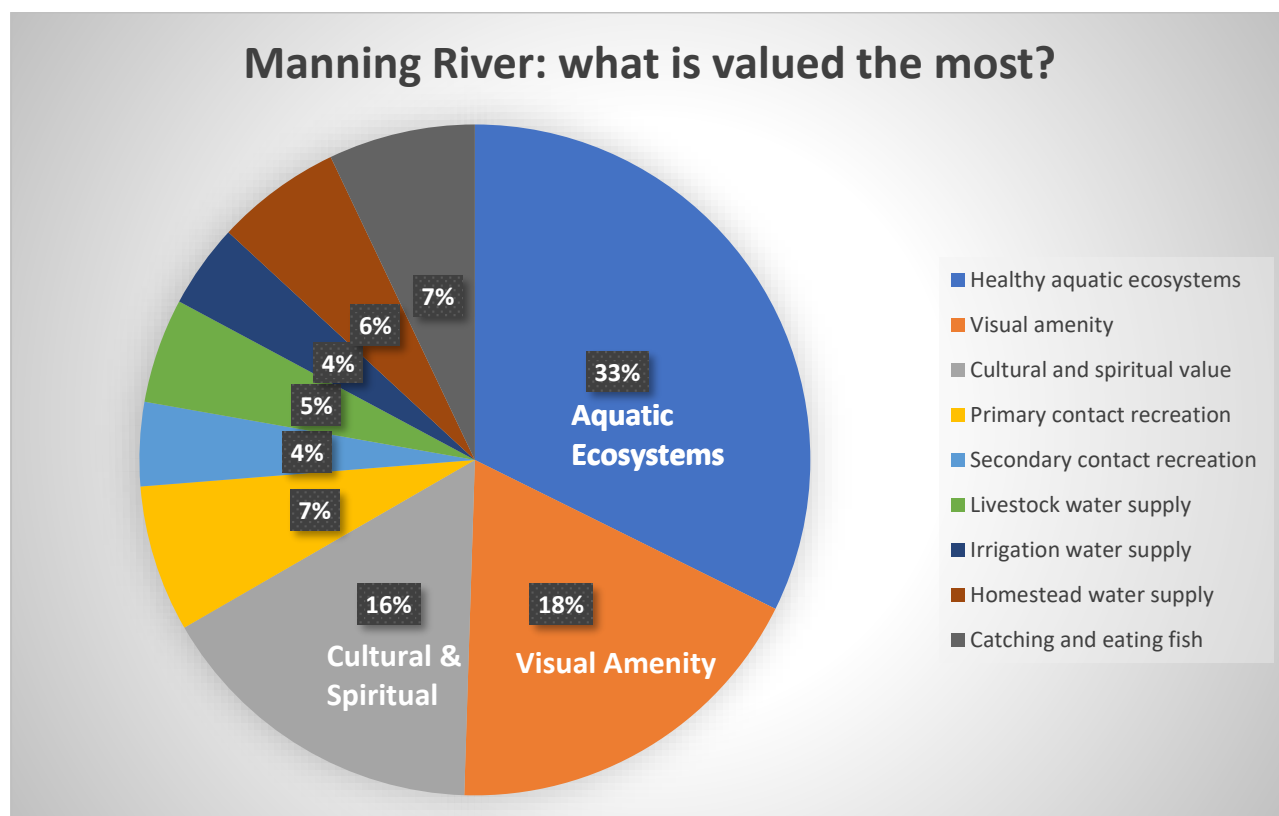


Figure 6: Values identified for the Manning River

### Question 3 Results: Circle the 3 elements of a healthy ecosystem that are most important to you?

Question 3 asked respondents to circle their top three elements of a healthy ecosystem. Riverbank vegetation, water flow and instream habitat received the highest response rates, as shown in Figure 7.

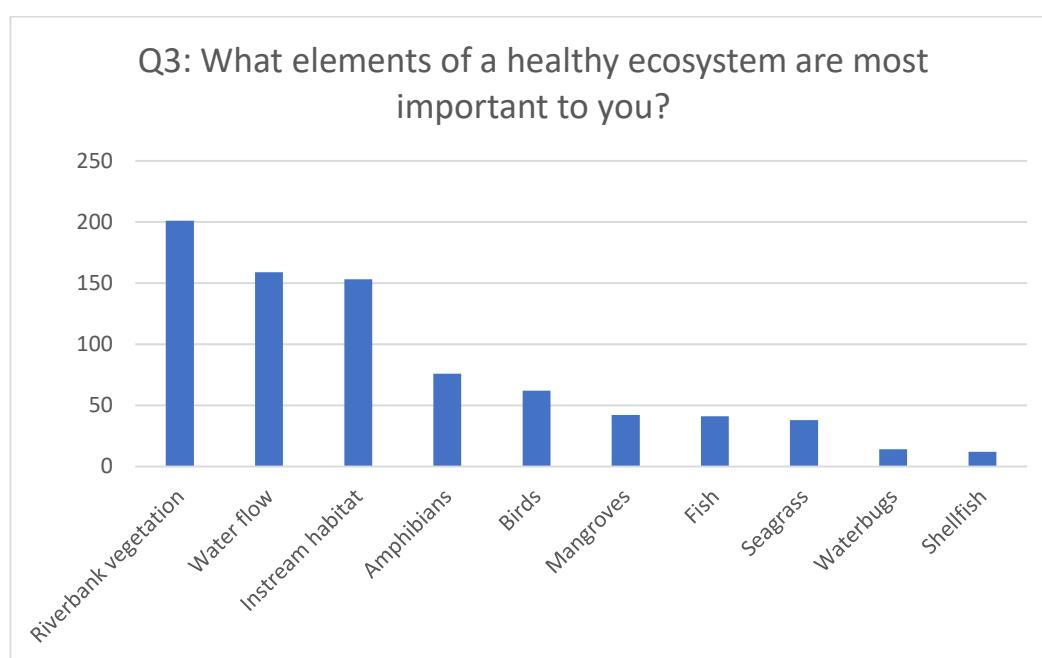
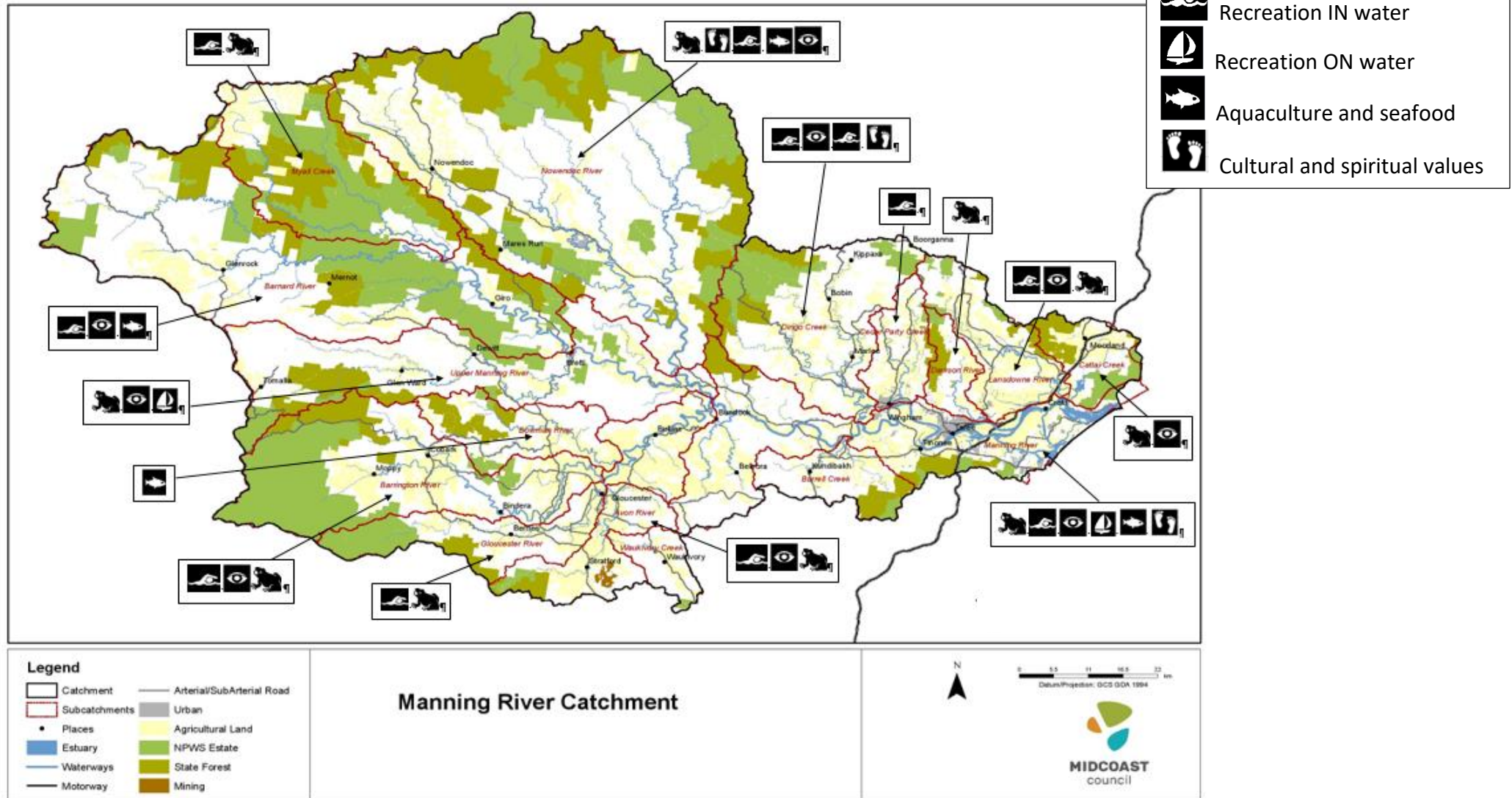


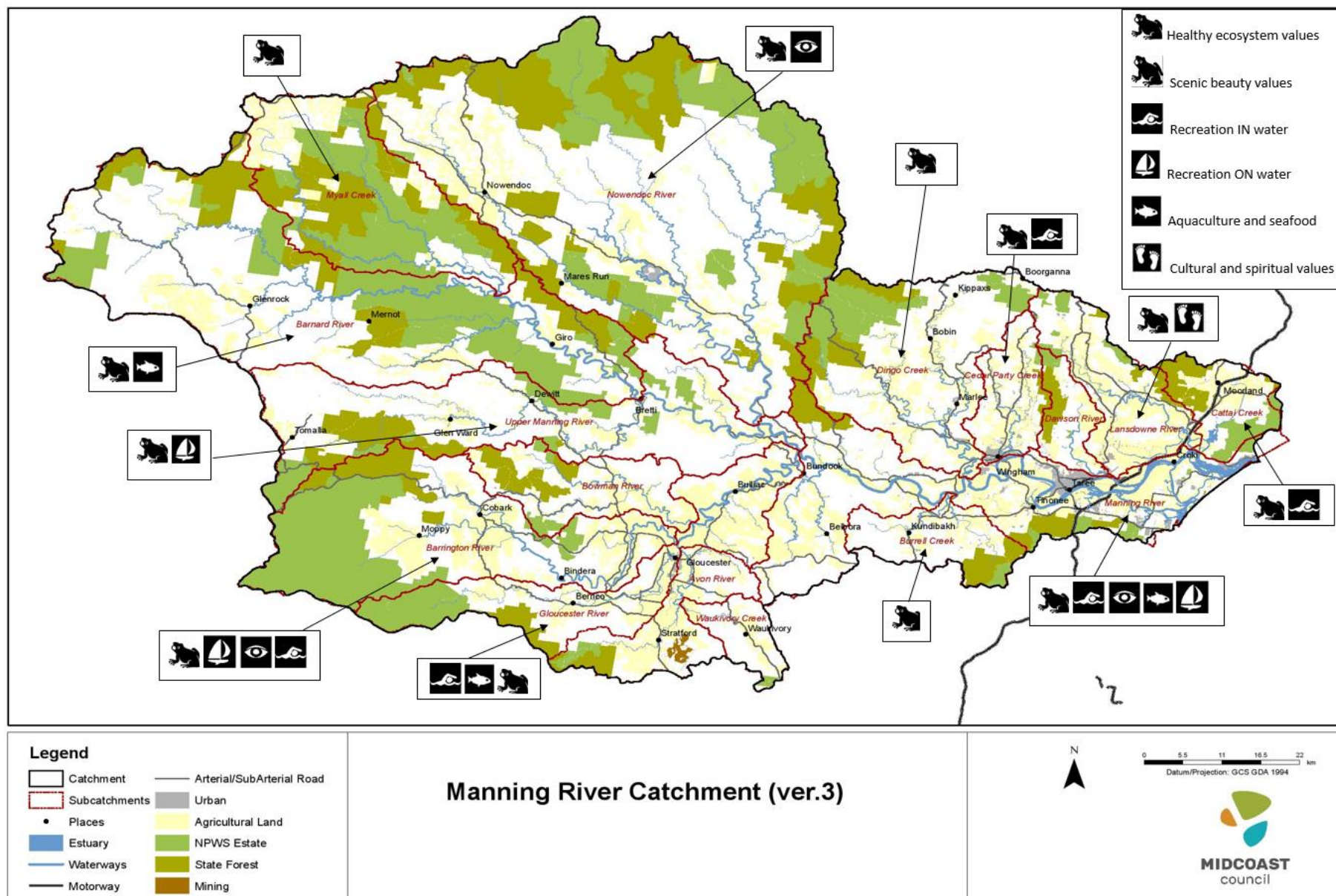
Figure 7: community perceptions of the most important ecosystem elements



## Results: Values Maps



Map 2: Current Values ascribed to each sub-catchment in the mapping activity



Map 3: Aspirational Values for the future

## Discussion

The Manning community love the river, its tributaries and the estuary. This message was loud and clear throughout the consultation. The community participated with enthusiasm, not only completing the consultation activities but bringing in personal photographs and paintings of the river and sharing stories that expressed their deep attachment to the Manning.

The results across the three instruments i.e. key questions, values survey and values map all returned consistent results with healthy aquatic ecosystems, scenic beauty, and cultural and spiritual significance featured at the top of the community's values for the Catchment.

### Environmental Values: water is life

The strongest values have environmental dimensions. Aquatic ecosystems ranked as the highest value, with strong themes including a healthy river, plants and wildlife. When sharing their thoughts about which value to rank first, participants often concluded that ecosystem health is essential for all other values.

### Social Values: my happy place

The other strong dimension was social. This encompassed cultural and spiritual connection to the river, health and well-being. Visual Amenity and Cultural and Spiritual Value ranked second and third in the survey and featured strongly in the thematic analysis.

People experience the river as a beautiful, tranquil place that soothes and restores well-being. They appreciate the river and estuary's contribution to their quality of life and enjoy recreation activities in the great outdoors: swimming, boating, fishing and picnics. There is a sense of history across the generations, all enjoying the river together. The river represents a sense of harmony, with peace and nature intertwined: *"I can connect with nature and myself."*

### Economic Values: its ability to provide

The Manning is viewed as a "working river," a provider that sustains life. The livelihood theme included farming and food production, healthy soils and oyster harvesting, which are valued highly by the primary producers in the region.

Economic values did not feature strongly when consulting the general community, but were significant for farmers participating in the Women in Dairy focus group and the Manning ECMP Community Reference group, which also has strong farmer representation.

### General observations

The coast and estuary are highly valued. During the Values Mapping activity, by far the most icons were posted near the mouth. This matches with the higher population density in the lower catchment. On the other hand, there were no significant differences between values selected for the upper catchment and values for the estuary and coast. People swim and



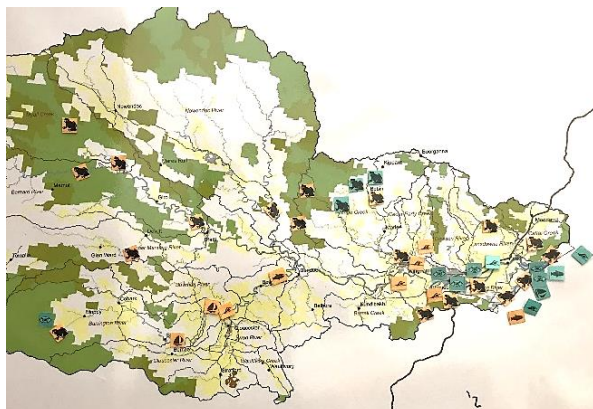
enjoy boating (including kayaking) throughout the catchment. They value the riffles and pools of the headwaters and the sheer immensity of the estuary.

## Strengths and limitations

A strength of the project was the extent and diversity of consultation opportunities, which engaged a range of stakeholder groups from top to bottom of the catchment. The engagement raised awareness of the Manning River ECMP, and generated enthusiastic participation. It will be important to continue building on this to identify issues and actions in 2020.

Limitations include:

- Limited consultation with specific user groups, including the Traditional Owner and special interest groups, including Aboriginal community, fishers and boating.
- Survey sample sizes were small in some areas while more responses were received for the Manning River and Manning Estuary, reflecting the larger population in Taree.
- The focus for this project was the river and estuary rather than the coast, which is being dealt with through the Old Bar-Manning Point CMP. A separate values identification project was conducted for the coast.
- The value of the river for potable water was not included in the consultation. The Manning and Barrington Rivers are used to supply drinking water for more than 30,000 customers in the MidCoast region. As drinking water supply is a fundamental service, the project team considered it a given that potable water is a top priority value for the catchment.
- Consultation events were often incorporated into other activities used as a drawcard. These included Kate Dorrough's "Lyrical River" art exhibition at the Manning Regional Art Gallery, the "Our Manning River" photo exhibition launch at the Wingham library, and Hunter LLS workshops on waterway management and birds. While this approach ensured a broad range of stakeholders and strong participation rates, it precluded opportunity to give detailed technical briefings.
- Homestead water received an unusually high ranking in Question 1 at the community events, and did not correlate with the results in Q2. While some rural properties use water pumped directly from the river, given the limitation above, this icon may have been interpreted as potable water.



*An example of a catchment map posted with community values. Blue are current values, orange are aspirations*



## Conclusion and Next Steps

The objectives of this project were to engage community in the planning process for the Manning ECMP to identify and map community values. The project met these objectives, generating strong participation and identifying a range of environmental, social and economic values with healthy aquatic ecosystems being the highest value.

The values identified in this report will be shared with the community and the stakeholder groups assisting with development of the Manning ECMP. They will inform our identification and prioritisation of issues and actions to protect the river, estuary and its catchment in the long term.

The next steps in the process of community engagement for the Manning River Estuary CMP include:

- Engaging the local Indigenous community
- Contributing to the NSW Government's pilot study of values and uses in the Manning.
- Feeding the results of this project back to the community and continuing to engage them on the Manning River Estuary CMP.












*The future of the Manning is in our hands. Photo by Mark Gutterson, winner of the "Our Manning River" photography prize.*

## Appendix 1: Values Survey

### 1. What do you value most about the Manning River the estuary and its waterways?

Please number each box with a ranking from 1 to 9

1=most important, 9=least important

Value	ICON	Rank
Aquatic ecosystems		
Visual amenity		
Cultural and spiritual value		
Primary contact recreation		
Secondary contact recreation		
Livestock water supply		
Irrigation water supply		
Homestead water supply		
Aquatic foods (cooked)		

## 2. What do you value most in your favourite river?

Circle ONE river below that you use the most or know the best

Manning Estuary

Manning River

Dawson River

Avon River










Barrington River

Lansdowne River

Gloucester River

Bowman River

For the river you selected, tick the 3 things you value the most.

Value	ICON	TICK 3
Aquatic ecosystems		
Visual amenity		
Cultural and spiritual value		
Recreation IN the water Swimming, watersports		
Recreation ON the water Boating		
Livestock water supply		
Irrigation water supply		
Homestead water supply		
Catching and eating fish		

### 3. What elements of a healthy ecosystem are most important to you?

Please tell us which of these are most important to you?  
Circle up to 3.

- Seagrass
- Mangroves
- Fish
- Shellfish
- Birds
- Waterbugs
- Riverbank vegetation
- Instream habitat
- Amphibians (frogs, turtles)
- Flow

1. Yes! Please add me to your contact list for Creek to Coast newsletter and Our Manning River mail-outs

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! If you have any other questions or comments please contact  
[louise.duff@midcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:louise.duff@midcoast.nsw.gov.au) or PH: 0436924577

This project is assisted by the NSW Government  
through its Coastal Management Program



## Photos of events

### “Tales of the River” workshop at Manning Regional Art Gallery



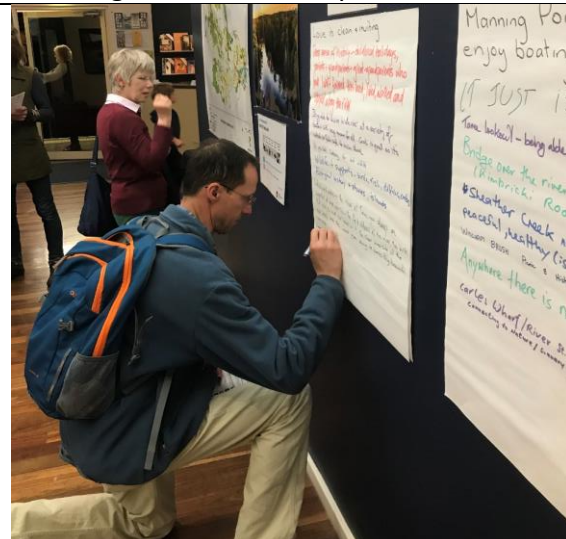
Artist Kate Dorrough.



Participant identifying values for the Manning River on the map.



Yarning Circle.



Participant documenting what he loves most about the Manning River.



## Wingham Photographic Exhibition



Louise Duff with winners of the Wingham Photographic Competition: Sam Lambert (Junior), Christine Price (Runner-up) and Mark Gutterson (Winner).



Participant completing online survey.



Karen Bettink discussing the values map.

## Photo credits

Photographs featured in this report were selected from the “Our Manning River” photography prize:

- Christine Price, Rolling clouds, Taree
- Naomi Clarke, Taking Flight, Harrington
- Terina Wells, Pelican enjoying sunrise Taree
- Daniel Trudgeon, Misty Mountain Meanderings, Junction Pools Barrington Tops
- Alison Robb, Moonlight, South Arm Oxley Island
- Mandy Friedrich, It’s a long paddle, Knorrit Flat
- Cal Dunn, Mirror T-Reflection, Burrell Creek
- Gloria Bale, Rocky Start, Manning River, Bretti
- Jordan Reed, Future of the Manning, Cundletown
- Mark Gutterson, in our hands, Taree