

The Report Part 2 ...

Vol 1 No 2 - 2025



1974



1974



1976

Section 2

Restoration Project 1a.

'On examination of historical photographs, the channel originally had a wide sandy meandering entrance on the coast.' Cr David Warth 2025

***Project prepared by
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Environmental Film Maker, Byron Bay NSW.***

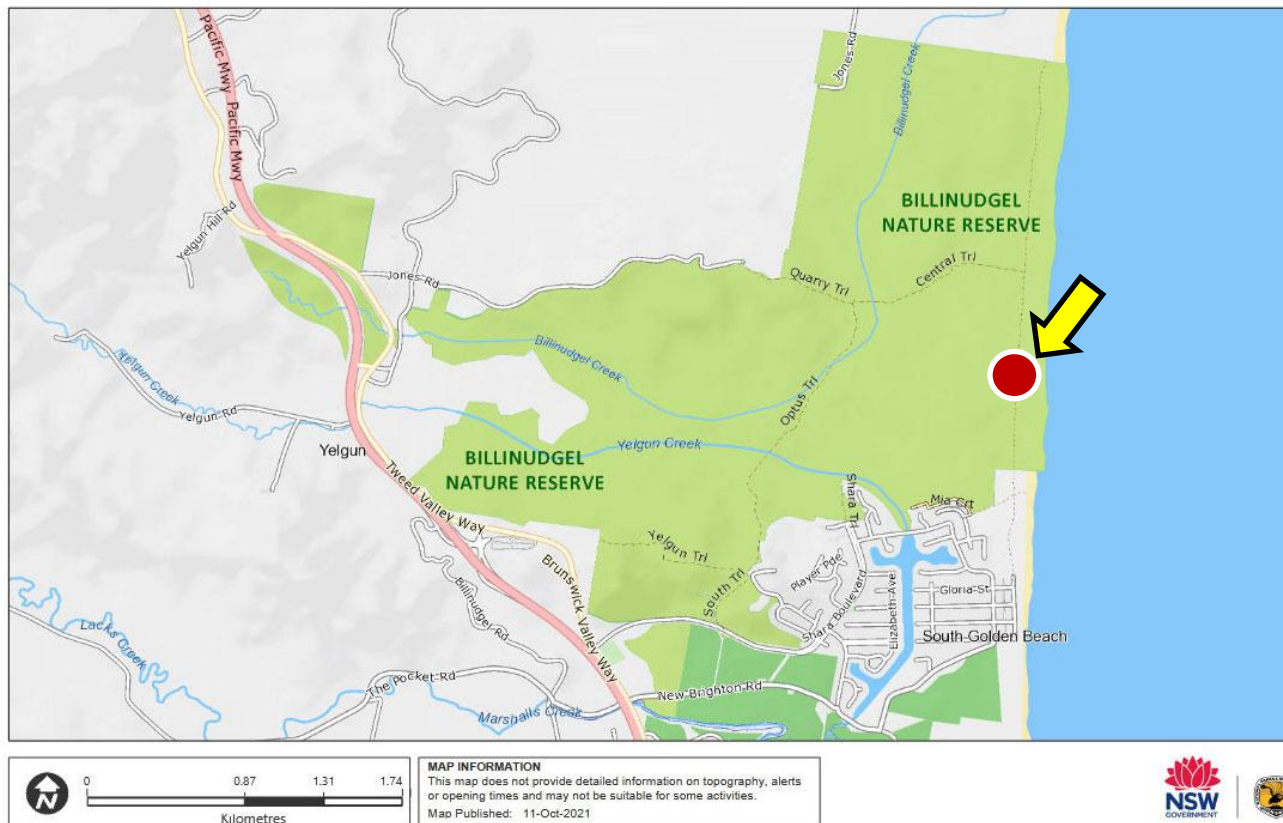
The Report - Introduction

The **Billinudgel Nature Reserve** (light green) created in **April 1996**, forms a natural drainage basin covering an area of **789 ha**. It is the main destination for water flowing from the north and north/west. A central and functioning water course is still plainly evident from aerial observation.

(Map taken from National Parks NSW website)



Outlet open prior to 1976



Overflow outlet closed in 1976

1987 - The remaining central and functioning water course in Billinudgel Nature Reserve with mouth blocked to the ocean. The entrance to the channel was closed in to become part of the coastal track to Wooyung. **This track is no longer in existence.**



Outlet open prior to 1976



The Report – Drone Footage

The remaining **central** and **functioning water course** is still plainly evident from aerial observation.

Note: By blocking this natural water overflow outlet, the water backs up behind the obstruction acting like a dam.



Outlet open prior to 1976



RESEARCH AREA 1:

Creek outlet in natural state in
Billinudgel Nature Reserve north of Fern
Beach (153.5506, -28.4856)

OBSERVATION 6: Creek Outlet 1974



Creek outlet looking north



Creek outlet looking south

RESEARCH FINDINGS: 1974 natural creek outlet open and flowing.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

Natural flood overflow outlet located in **Billinudgel Nature Reserve** north of Fern Beach (GPS - 153.5506, -28.4856).

OBSERVATION NOTE 2: Outlet blocked



RESEARCH FINDINGS: 1976 North Ocean Shores **outlet closed** and **dune stabilisation** undertaken at the outlet mouth.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

Natural flood overflow outlet located in **Billinudgel Nature Reserve** north of Fern Beach (GPS - 153.5506, -28.4856).

OBSERVATION 3: 1987 Mothers Day Flood



RESEARCH AREA 1:

Drone footage by David Warth of existing water course in **Billinudgel Nature Reserve** leading to dammed outlet at beach front.



OBSERVATION 11:

Personal observation video May 18, 2025.



RESEARCH FINDINGS: video showing location of the outlet blocked by an earth wall & sand dunes.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

Position of former creek outlet in 2025.
Billinudgel Nature Reserve north of Fern
Beach (GPS - 153.5506, -28.4856).



OBSERVATION 12:

Personal observation video May 18, 2025.

Drone footage by Cr David Warth of the dammed natural flood overflow outlet at the beach front.



RESEARCH FINDINGS: video showing location of the outlet blocked by an earth wall & sand dunes.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

Position of former creek outlet in 2025.

Billinudgel Nature Reserve north of
Fern Beach (GPS - 153.5506, -28.4856).

OBSERVATION 13:

Personal observation photo - May 18, 2025.



RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Photo by Cr David Warth of the standing water behind the blocked natural flood overflow outlet, close to the beach (May 18, 2025).

RESEARCH AREA 1:

It is unlikely the **Billinudgel Nature Reserve Channel** would contain as much water as these creeks at Belongil (see photo below) and Tallows, however, the entrance would have been a prime coastal habitat.



Belongil Creek outlet operating after a rain event.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Cr David Warth - Environmental Film Maker 2025.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

Bearing in mind habitats such as these are rare. The closing (see photos below) of this particular entrance would have been a considerable loss to the many creatures that thrived in these entrances.



RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Cr David Warth - Environmental Film Maker 2025.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

The list of species that most likely inhabited the entrance area would be extensive.



Examples are;

Ospreys, Brahminy Kites, Beach Stone Curlews, Red Capped Plovers, Masked Lapwings, Rainbow Bee Eaters, Migrating Shore Birds, **Kingfishers**, Terns and Seagulls.

Invertebrates;

Sand Bubbler Crabs, Soldier Crabs, **Ghost Crabs**.

Fish;

Mullet, Bream, Stingrays, Eels, (Many species of juvenile fish that would stock the marine park, whiting and **flathead**).

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Cr David Warth - Environmental Film Maker 2025.

RESEARCH AREA 2:

A point in case is the establishment of a small creek on **Clarkes Beach** in **Byron Bay**. This is from rainwater exiting the storm water pipe opposite Cowper St.



RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Cr David Warth - Environmental Film Maker 2025.

RESEARCH AREA 2:

Even with this small amount of water at Clarkes Beach, this tiny creek has become the site for *nesting* of endangered (1) Pied Oyster Catchers, critically endangered (2) Beach Stone Curlews and (3) Red Capped Plovers.



RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Cr David Warth - Environmental Film Maker – Images from Clarkes Beach Habitat, 2025.

RESEARCH AREA 1:

The loss of biodiversity when the **Billinudgel Nature Reserve channel** was blocked must have been highly significant.



Restoration of the entrance would be a major boost to biodiversity. These entrances are highly sought after wildlife habitats and are rare environments. They attract many species including some that are endangered due to habitat loss.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Cr David Warth - Environmental Film Maker 2025.