



# NSW OCEAN AND RIVER ENTRANCE TIDAL LEVELS ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017–2018

Report MHL2618  
December 2018

Prepared for:

Office of Environment and Heritage

Cover Photograph: South Curl Curl ocean pool during the Blood moon high tide,  
South Curl Curl, Sydney, 1 February 2018  
Photo courtesy Sam Maddox

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# Foreword

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) is a business group within the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation which operates and maintains a number of ocean and river entrance tidal recording stations along the NSW coast under contract with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

The NSW ocean tide database has been developed by MHL to support a number of OEH programs associated with coastal, floodplain and estuary management. These include the operations of ports and marine facilities, water level forecasts, fisheries management, determining property boundaries and developing a detailed understanding of oceanic processes. The monitoring service is available to local government and other organisations, both in Australia and overseas.

This annual summary presents ocean and river entrance tidal data captured by the automatic tide level recording stations along the coastline of NSW over the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, and catalogues all ocean and river entrance tidal data collected in NSW by MHL for OEH.

This summary has been prepared as a guide to enable ready access to the ocean tide database and the data analysis capabilities of MHL.

The standards adopted for the program are those specified by the National Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level hosted by the Australian Hydrographic Office.

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<http://www.mhl.nsw.gov.au> under the 'Publications' menu.

# Summary

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This report contains:

- a brief description of the ocean and river entrance tidal measurement program
- guidelines on how to use this report
- information on how to access the database
- a description of significant events which occurred in 2017–2018
- [Appendix A](#), the annual data summaries for each site (see [Figure 1.1](#) for site locations)
- [Appendix B](#), detailing the tidal data available on line
- [Appendix C](#), detailing the historical tidal data available
- [Appendix D](#), which shows data output formats available from MHL
- [Appendix E](#), a glossary of terms
- [Appendix F](#), a list of other publications which may be of interest.

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# 1. Tidal network measurement program

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This report presents the thirty-second year of data collected by automatic ocean tide level recorders for the State of NSW. MHL provides tide data through a network of recorders and an efficient service of associated analysis routines.

The present program is based on a network of automatic ocean tide level recording stations installed at eighteen coastal and four offshore sites, and one open ocean site located on Lord Howe Island. Additional data for Norfolk Island is provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's National Tidal Unit (NTU) ([Figure 1.1](#)). The ocean tide monitoring network features distinctive systems for data capture: radar, electromagnetic tide pole, solid state floatwell, vented pressure sensor and submersed water level pressure recorder. Each system functions as follows:

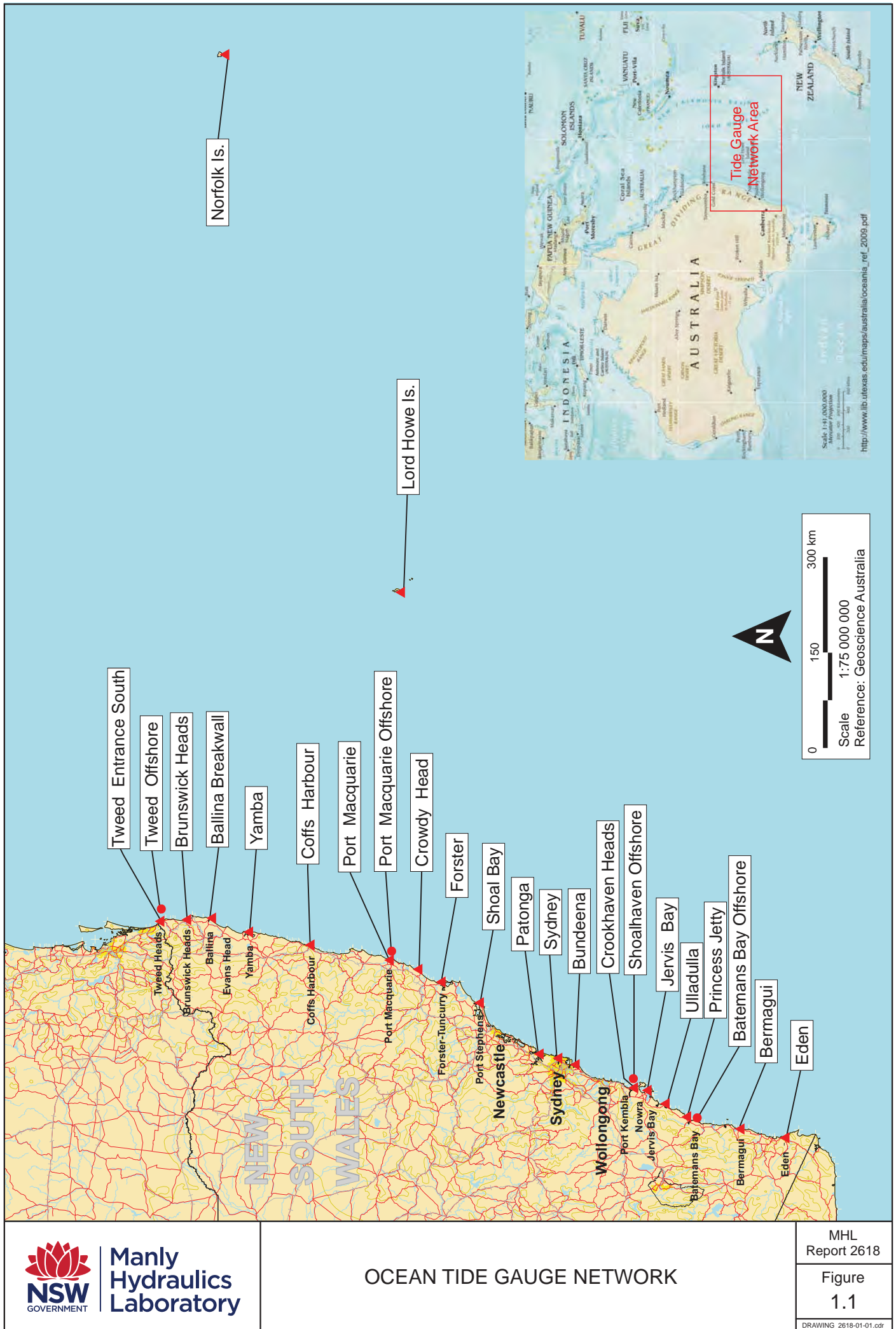
- Radar sensors: the water level is detected by radio detection and ranging technology. The data recorded is then transferred via an Internet Protocol (IP) link through a modem between the data logger and the data server. As the data is a direct measurement of the water surface, it requires no correction for barometric pressure. The system is shown in [Figure 1.2](#).
- Vented pressure sensors: the water level is determined by a vented pressure sensor and recorded on a data logger. The sensor is vented to atmospheric pressure and therefore requires no correction for barometric pressure changes. The data recorded is then transferred via an IP link through a modem between the data logger and the data server. The system is shown in [Figure 1.3](#).
- Solid state floatwell: the level is sensed by a float connected to a shaft encoder. The data recorded is then transferred via an IP link through a modem between the data logger and the data server. As the data is a direct measurement of the water surface, it requires no correction for barometric pressure. The system is shown in [Figure 1.4](#).
- Submersed water level recorder: the water level is determined by an absolute pressure sensor sealed in a waterproof housing and mounted on the ocean bed. The data requires post-recording correction for water density and barometric pressure changes. The data is downloaded manually from the recorder to MHL's data server after recovery from the ocean bed by divers. The system is shown in [Figure 1.5](#).

Tidal data is transferred to MHL's data server and is then available to external users to view. A backup copy is also transferred to the NSW Government Data Centre. The 15-minute tide data is available on line in tables or as plots. One-minute and some one-second data is also available on request (see [Table 4.2](#) and Appendix D, [Figure D1](#)). All data presented in this report are in Australian Eastern Standard Time (EST). Allowance for daylight saving time needs to be made by the user of the data if required.

The data is stored in a database and subjected to a quality assurance process which involves several control steps to ensure data quality is maintained. Computer programs are used to further format and analyse data. The database is backed up daily and data archived to magnetic tape as a security measure at regular intervals at the NSW Government Data Centre.

The station locations and data summaries for 2017–2018 are presented in [Appendix A](#).

Details of current sites available in a digital format are catalogued in [Appendix B](#). [Appendix C](#) contains a list of historical data available in various formats and locations.



**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

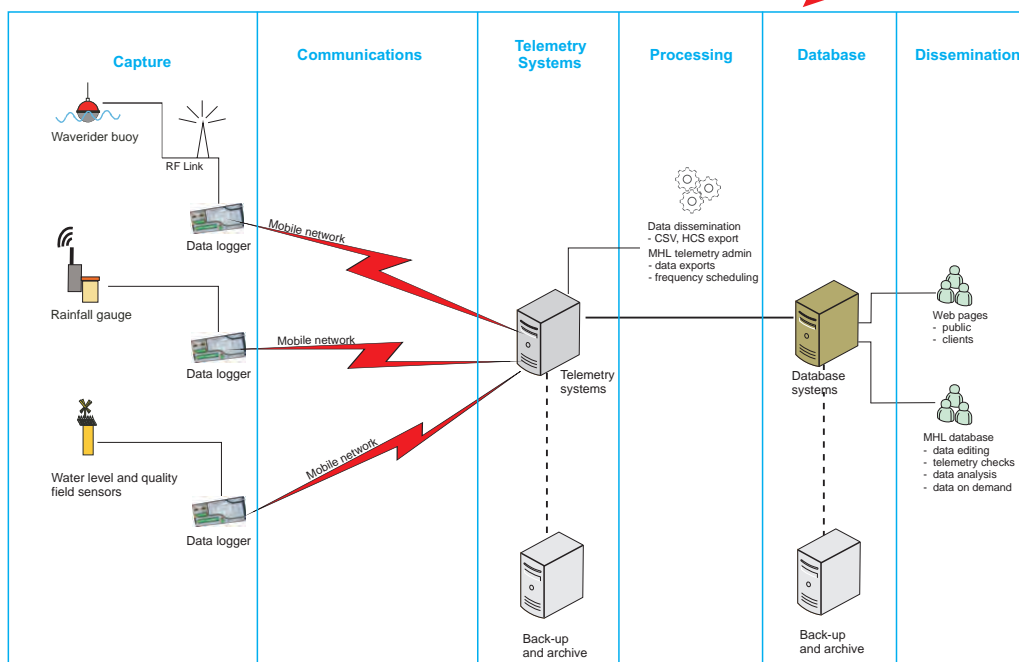
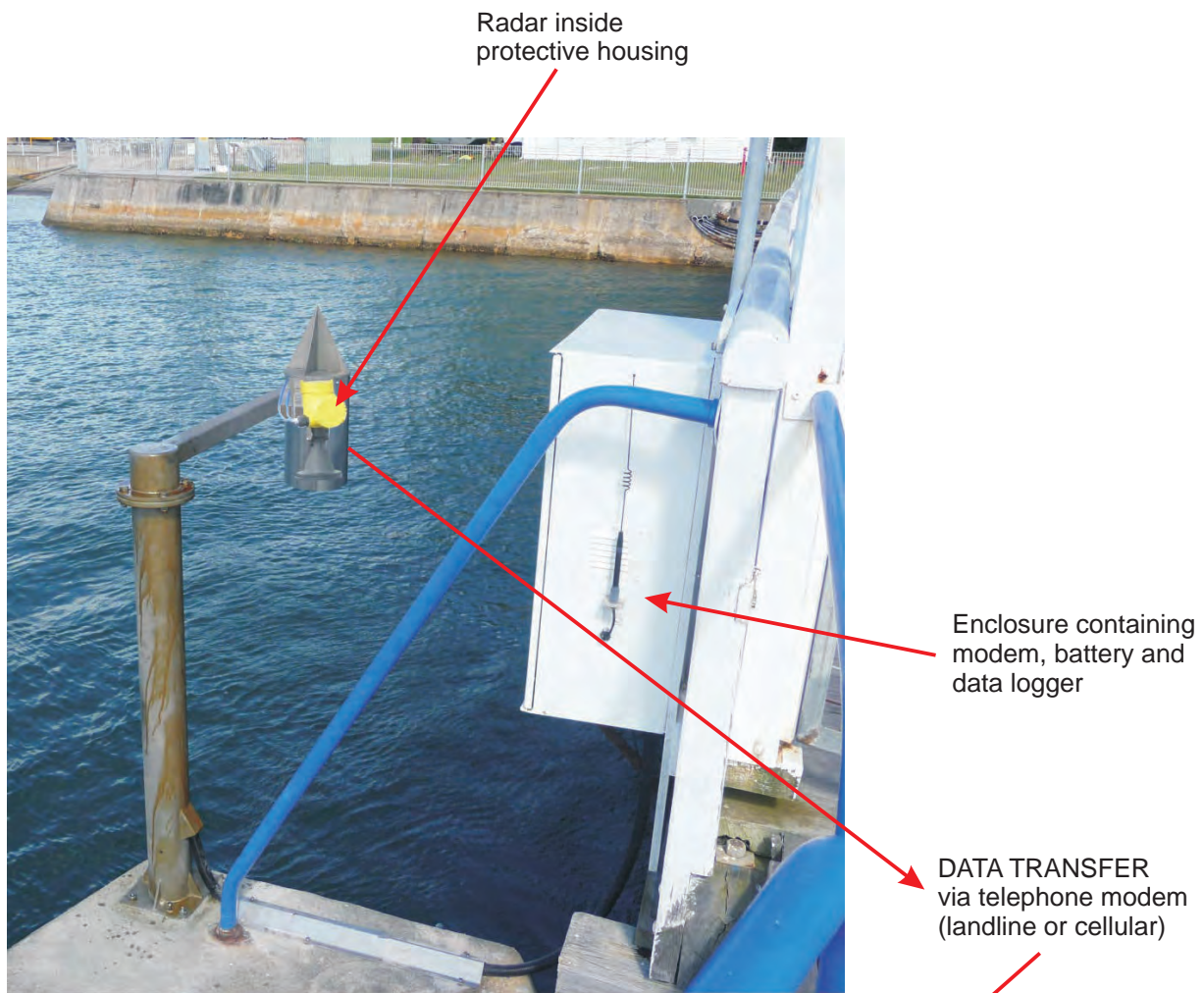
## OCEAN TIDE GAUGE NETWORK

MHL  
Report 2618

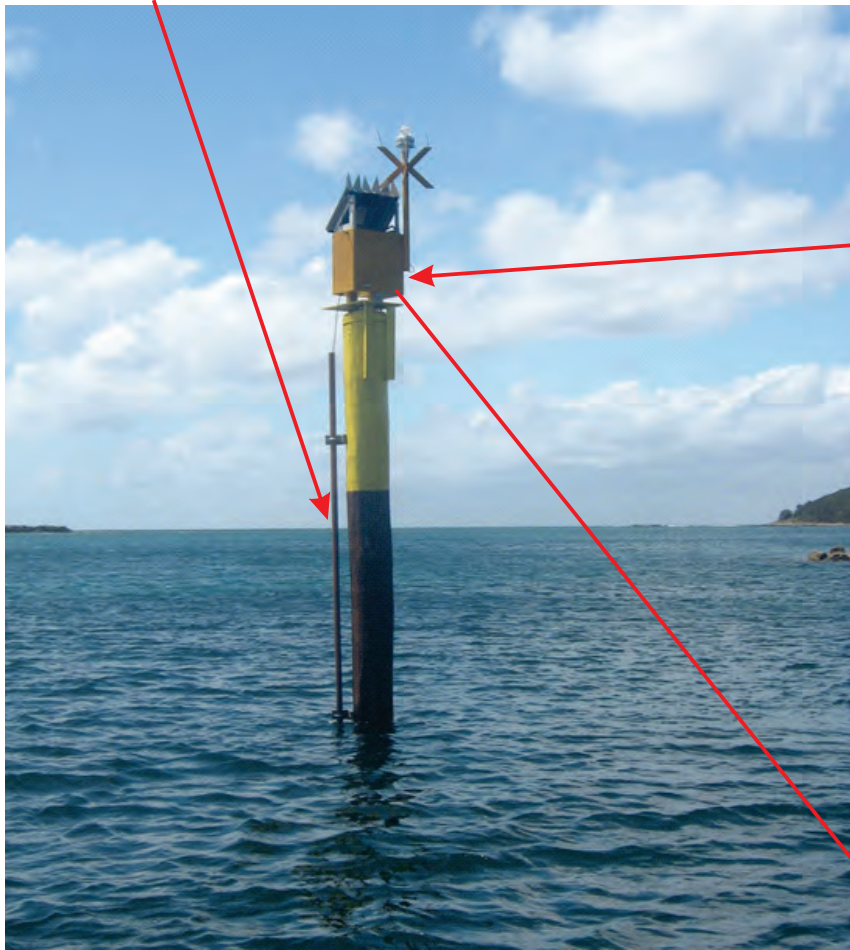
Figure  
1.1

DRAWING 2618-01-01.cdr



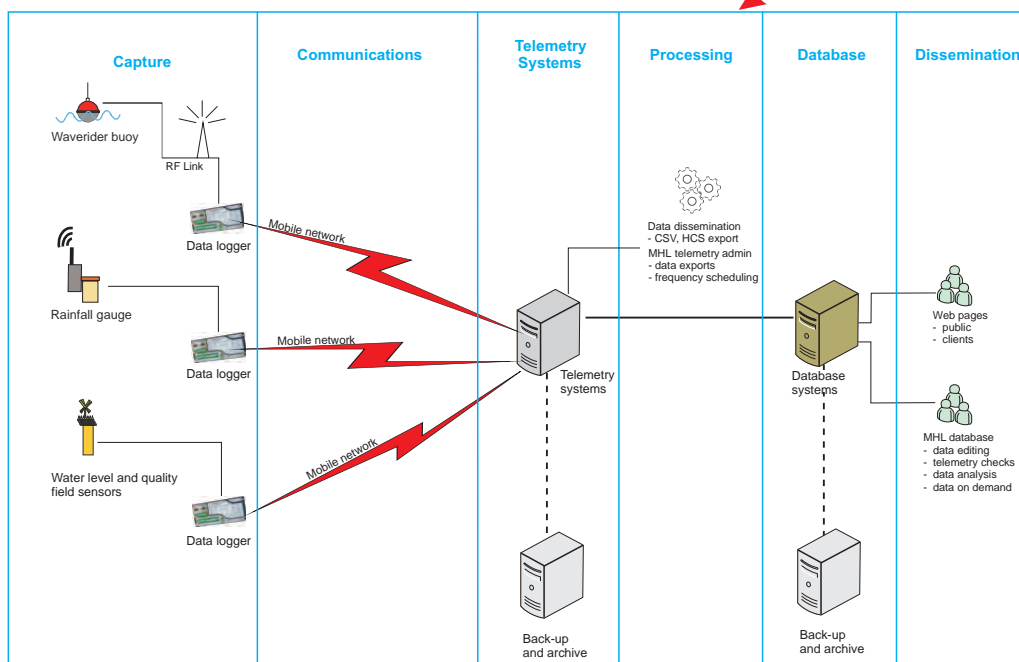


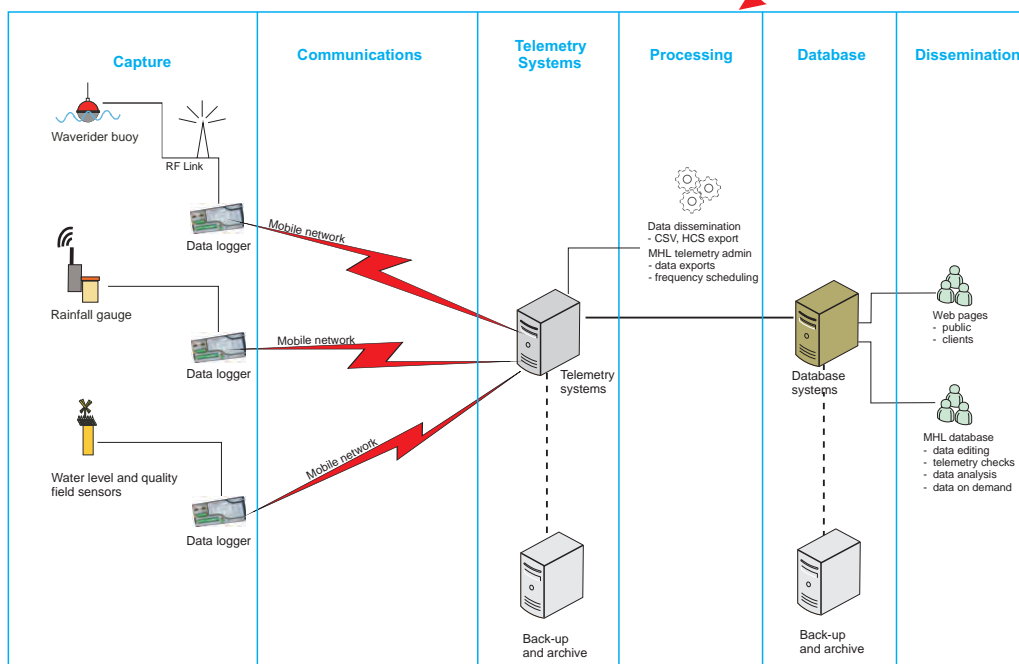
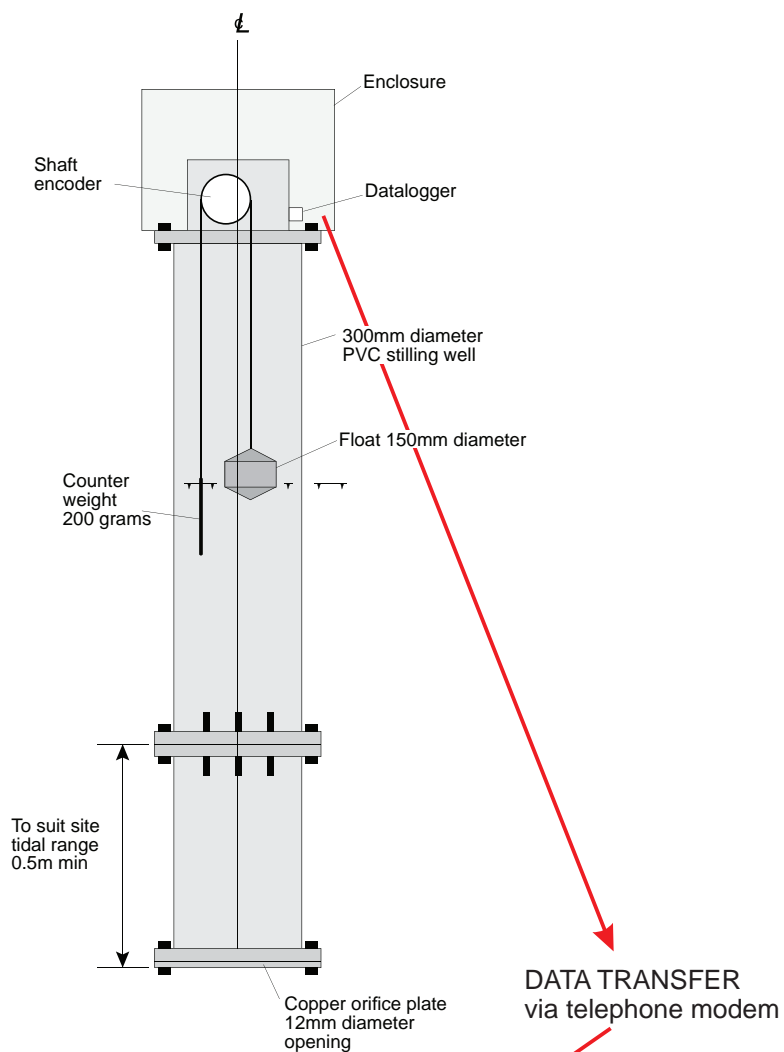
Pressure sensor submerged inside copper tube

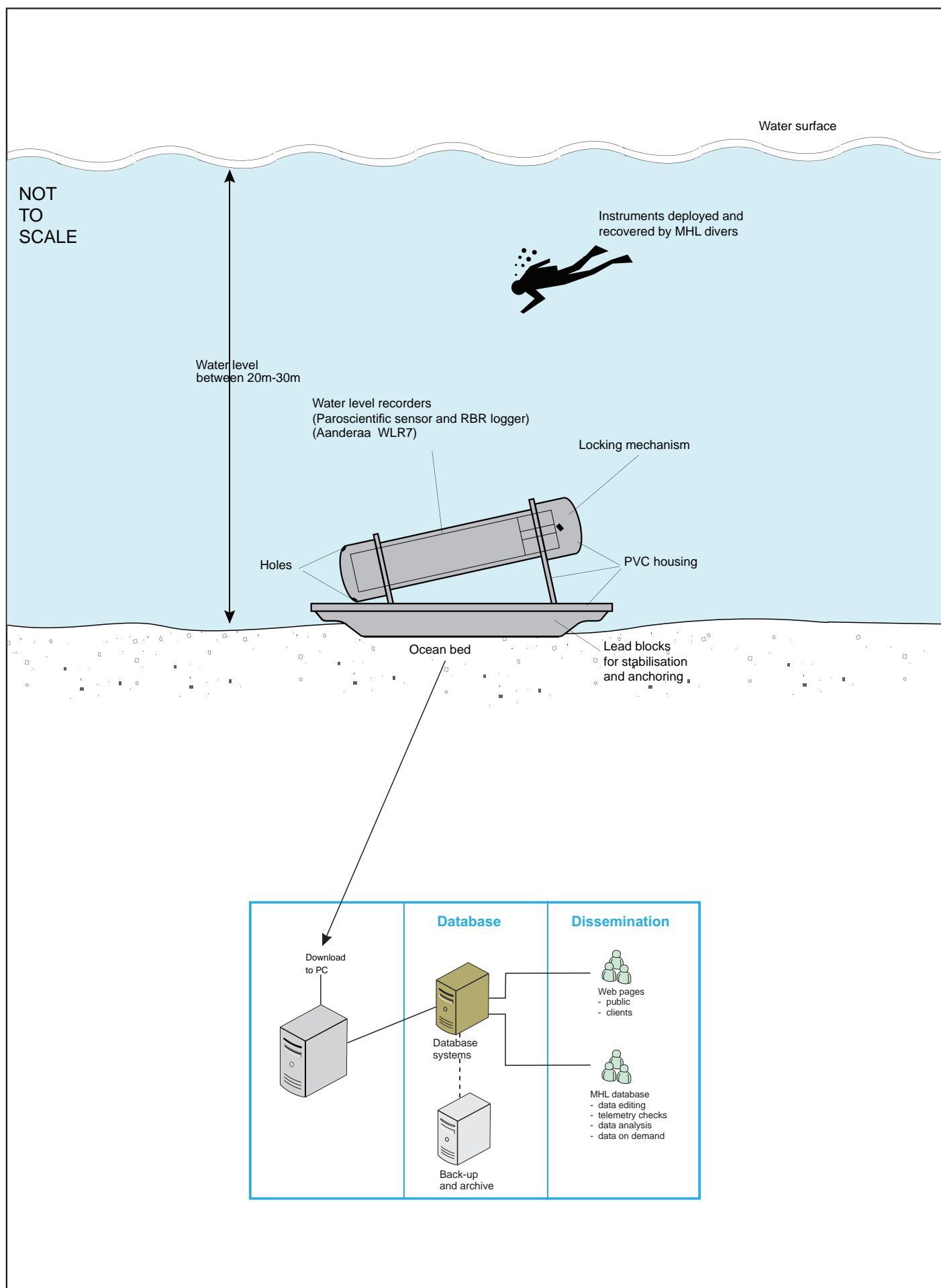


Enclosure containing modem, battery and data logger

DATA TRANSFER  
via telephone modem







## 2. How to use this report

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### 2.1 Using and accessing the data

This annual summary presents ocean and river entrance tidal data captured by the automatic tide level recording stations along the coastline of NSW over the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. The stations are located offshore, in bays, harbours and the entrances of major rivers.

To establish if data is available, first identify the relevant station on the ocean tide gauge network map ([Figure 1.1](#)), then refer to the relevant figure for that station. A location map of each station and a plot of the data from that station are provided in [Appendix A](#). The plot confirms the availability of data for the fiscal year 2017–2018. For the availability of historical data which has been collected, refer to [Appendices B and C](#).

Once a selection of data has been made the analysis and/or presentation can be obtained in a variety of formats. [Appendix D](#) shows samples of the following options – graphical plots ([Figure D1](#)), time series data ([Figure D2](#)), tidal analyses ([Figure D3](#)), tidal level ranking ([Figure D4](#)) and tidal predictions ([Figure D5](#)).

MHL provides a full on-line data access service via the Internet for its clients, and a restricted service for the general public at <http://www.mhl.nsw.gov.au>

Typically, the last seven days of data are available on line in a non-quality controlled form to aid quick access to raw data records. The on-line service for clients can provide access to all data catalogued in [Appendices B and C](#), including tidal predictions. This data consists of tide levels and can be reviewed in graphical or numerical format shown in [Appendix D](#).

Quality controlled data may be ordered via the MHL web page (<http://www.mhl.nsw.gov.au>), by emailing [data-request@mhl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:data-request@mhl.nsw.gov.au), or via customised decision support tools that can be provided on request.

### 2.2 Station location terminology

Tidal station locations can be referred to in several ways. As described in [Appendix B](#), each station has a regional context (NSW coastal region), a catchment or port context (river catchment or port), a site context (specific locality, river port, harbour) and a specific location context (absolute location, e.g. on a specific jetty, bank of one side of the river, on a breakwater). Each context description of the location may be useful at different times, depending on what aspect of the data is being discussed. The specific latitude and longitude details of stations are distributed as part of the metadata on request. In this report, the station name, as shown in [Table B1](#), has been used throughout the report to avoid any naming convention confusion. The only exception is where references to other work are made, in which case the naming convention of the original author(s) is retained.

## 2.3 Datums

Most ocean tide water levels are recorded in the local port datum which generally equates to Indian Spring Low Water (ISLW). An indicative adjustment of each station from Australian Height Datum (AHD) to local port datum is shown in [Table 2.1](#). AHD levels were calculated circa 1990 for MHL by NSW Public Works Survey, using range ratio method and tidal harmonic analysis over varying time periods. These values should be used with caution, as AHD levels are revised from time to time and improvements to surveying techniques may provide additional refinement.

Offshore sites are not related to a datum, but are adjusted by harmonic analysis to the Mean Sea Level (MSL) of each instrument deployment. They provide valuable astronomical constituent and anomaly information. There is no AHD survey information available for Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island. The survey information for these two stations relates to the local datum.

**Table 2.1 Summary of adjustment from AHD to local port datum**

Station	Station datum (SD)	Adjustment (SD = AHD + Adjustment)
Tweed Entrance South	Tweed River Hydro Datum	0.893
Tweed Offshore	Mean Sea Level	N/A
Brunswick Heads	Brunswick River Flood Mitigation Datum	0.024
Ballina Breakwall	Richmond River Valley Datum	0.860
Yamba	Iluka Port Datum	0.895
Coffs Harbour	Coffs Port Datum	0.882
Port Macquarie	Australian Height Datum	0.000
Port Macquarie Offshore	Mean Sea Level	N/A
Crowdy Head	Crowdy Head Datum	0.911
Forster	Forster Hydro Datum	1.061
Shoal Bay	Port Stephens Hydro Datum	0.944
Patonga	Australian Height Datum	0.000
Sydney	Zero Fort Denison	0.925
Fort Denison (Sydney Ports)	Zero Fort Denison	0.925
Bundeena	Zero Fort Denison	0.925
Crookhaven Heads	Australian Height Datum	0.000
Shoalhaven Offshore	Mean Sea Level	N/A
Jervis Bay	Chart Datum	1.070
Ulladulla	Australian Height Datum	0.000
Princess Jetty	Australian Height Datum	0.000
Batemans Bay Offshore	Mean Sea Level	N/A
Bermagui	Bermagui Local Hydro Datum	0.714
Eden	Twofold Bay Hydro Datum	0.924
Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island Hydro Datum	Not available
Norfolk Island	Lowest Astronomical Tide	Not available

Data for Norfolk Island since 2015 provided by Bureau of Meteorology's National Tidal Unit (NTU).



## 2.4 Tidal planes

MHL uses the Foreman (1977) method to calculate the significant tidal constituents and tidal planes from data recorded at the ocean tide sites. From these tidal planes, MHL investigated the tidal ranges at NSW ocean tide sites (MHL 2005) and concluded that there is a general trend of increasing tidal range from south to north, however, there may be local variations to this trend. Nearshore sites located in river entrances displayed total ranges lower than the closest offshore sites, suggesting that the river entrances attenuate the tide as it progresses into the estuaries. [Figure 2.1](#) shows this variation in graphical form by grouping the yearly mean ranges in geographical regions.

In 2012, a further comprehensive analysis of tidal planes was completed for 188 MHL water level stations including the ocean tide stations (MHL 2012).

It is important to recognise such tidal plane and constituent variations when applying data from these ocean tide sites. Variations between sites may significantly influence investigation outcomes. For example, the difference between the sites when used as the boundary conditions for numerical hydrodynamic models may significantly influence the model results. Such variations between sites reinforce the importance of the data being used in a manner which is fit for the purpose it is intended.

A long-term forecast was produced in 2015 for each ocean tide site for the full data range of historical data and predicted to 2020. The methodology determined the average of the yearly constituent values then converted them to a single average phase and amplitude value (including  $Z_0$  or MSL). From these values a new constituent file was used to predict tidal forecasts up to 2020 (using Foreman analysis). From these forecasts the Highest Astronomical Tide and Lowest Astronomical Tide were determined for the epoch of most recent data (1995 to 2014). The values of highest astronomical tide (HAT), lowest astronomical tide (LAT) and mean sea level (MSL) were calculated to local low water datums as well as to AHD and are shown in [Table 2.2](#).

**Table 2.2 Ocean and river entrance tide HAT and LAT values**

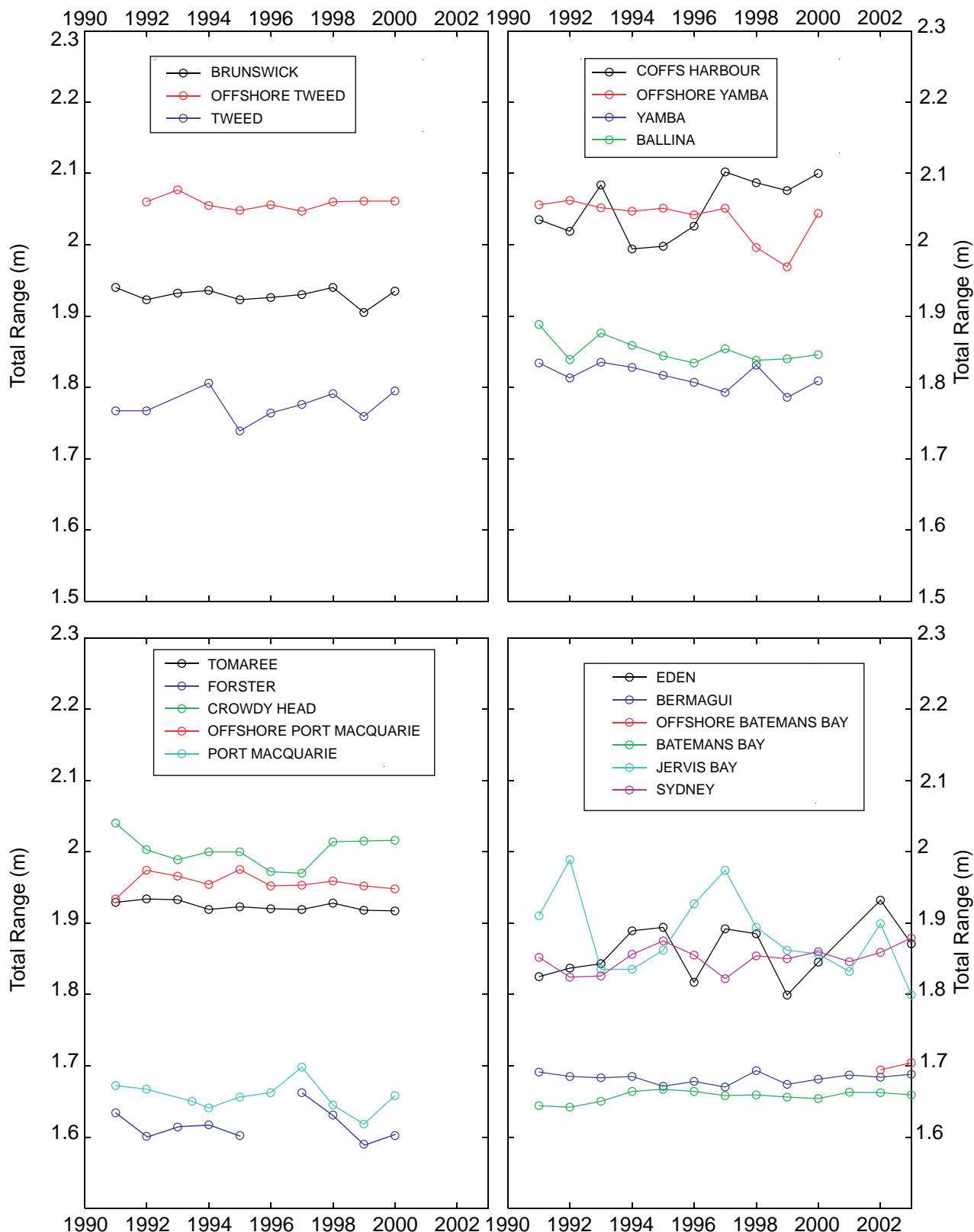
Site	Period 1995–2014				Range (HAT-LAT)	Period 1995–2014	
	HAT <sup>^</sup>	LAT <sup>^</sup>	HAT (AHD)*	LAT (AHD)*		MSL	MSL (AHD)*
Tweed Heads	1.99	0.02	1.10	-0.87	1.97	0.93	0.04
Brunswick Heads	1.22	-0.85	1.17	-0.90	2.07	0.07	0.02
Ballina Breakwall	2.02	0.04	1.16	-0.82	1.98	0.89	0.03
Yamba	2.01	0.07	1.12	-0.83	1.94	0.95	0.05
Coffs Harbour	2.12	-0.11	1.24	-0.99	2.23	0.9	0.02
Port Macquarie	1.04	-0.74	1.04	-0.74	1.78	0.02	0.02
Crowdy Head	2.1	-0.09	1.19	-1.00	2.19	0.88	-0.03
Forster	1.93	0.17	0.87	-0.89	1.76	1.03	-0.03
Tomaree (Port Stephens)	2.08	-0.03	1.14	-0.97	2.11	0.92	-0.02
Patonga	1.16	-0.88	1.16	-0.88	2.04	0.06	0.06
Sydney	2.07	0.03	1.15	-0.90	2.04	0.96	0.03
Port Hacking	2.11	0.09	1.19	-0.84	2.02	1.00	0.08
Crookhaven Heads	1.01	-0.08	1.01	-0.08	1.09	0.03	0.03
Jervis Bay	2.19	0.10	1.12	-0.97	2.09	1.09	0.02
Ulladulla	1.20	-0.90	1.20	-0.90	2.10	0.05	0.05
Princess Jetty	1.06	-0.79	1.06	-0.79	1.85	0.06	0.06
Bermagui	1.72	-0.18	1.01	-0.89	1.90	0.69	-0.02
Eden	1.92	-0.11	1.00	-1.03	2.03	0.84	-0.08
Lord Howe Island	2.35	-0.06	n/a	n/a	2.41	1.10	n/a
Norfolk Island	1.97	0.03	n/a	n/a	1.94	0.97	n/a

\* Conversion from AHD to local port datum given in [Table 2.1](#)

<sup>^</sup> Local port datum

Data for Norfolk Island since 2015 provided by Bureau of Meteorology's National Tidal Unit (NTU).





Notes: Each offshore gauge has been grouped with the closest nearshore gauges for comparison  
 Total range defined by: tidal plane formula =  $HHWSS - ISLW$   
 or by: tidal constituent formula =  $2(M_2 + S_2 + 1.2K_1 + 1.2O_1)$   
 Forster 1996 tidal range value is not calculated due to a high proportion of poor data during that financial year.

Source: MHL 2005

### 3. Significant events 2017–2018

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The 2017–2018 data recovery rate for the 15-minute ocean tide data achieved 99.2%, which is higher than the KPI target of 95%. The data recovery statistics are shown in [Table 3.1](#).

**Table 3.1 Data recovery July 2017 to June 2018**

Data stream	Data recovery (%)	Comments
15-minute ocean tide data	99.2	Ballina Breakwall – Pressure sensor conduit corroded and broke off leaving the sensors loose and exposed. Continuing poor conditions through May and June halted dive repairs. 1-minute data could not be salvaged. Forster – 1-minute HTTP data transfer issues, small gaps.
1-minute ocean tide data	98.5	
5-minute offshore data	93.4	Shoalhaven – loss of data from 2016/17 deployment when RBR sensor failed and there was no backup sensor deployed at that location during that time.

The 2019 NSW Tide Prediction Charts are available free of charge via download from the MHL public web page. The charts remain an authoritative reference for tides of the NSW coast ([Figure 3.1](#)). As for previous tide prediction publications, MHL has adopted the Sydney tide gauge as the primary reference station, and the ocean tide predictions for NSW are based on an analysis of 15-minute tide levels recorded by this primary gauge. The time difference between the primary and secondary locations in NSW was obtained when an analysis of the tide levels recorded at gauges at each of the secondary locations was conducted.

#### 3.1 Tidal anomalies

The main drivers of anomalies are barometric pressure, wind setup and coastally trapped waves, and the influence of the East Australian Current (EAC). The NSW Ocean Water Levels report (MHL 2011) investigated anomalies recorded on the NSW coast and considered their occurrence and forcing mechanisms. Storms are usually associated with large barometric pressure changes and wind setup. The types of large scale storms affecting NSW include East Coast Lows (ECL) and the effects of tropical cyclones off the Queensland coast.

Tidal anomalies in this report are calculated as the difference between the recorded data and the long-term epoch forecasts discussed in [Section 2.4](#). Generally, tidal anomalies are caused by a range of oceanographic, meteorological and bathymetric effects. However, for ocean tide gauges located in river entrances hydrological anomalies such as floods can also occur. Furthermore, tsunamis can cause waves that show up on the ocean tide gauges as tidal anomalies.

The anomalies recorded across the NSW coast during the reporting period are compared for a selected group of stations in [Figure 3.2](#). The major anomalies are identified on [Figure 3.2](#) and documented in more detail in [Figures 3.3](#) and [3.4](#). Most are driven by ECLs or large high pressure systems. In addition, a coastal trapped wave was recorded between 17 August and

22 August 2017. Figures 3.5–3.8 show the tidal anomalies recorded at each station during the reporting period. Figure 3.9 shows the anomalies for the four offshore tide stations.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) recorded two cyclones in North Queensland during the 2016–2017 reporting period:

- 13 to 16 March 2018, Tropical Cyclone Linda – Category 1 – formed over the Solomon Islands before tracking directly south through New Caledonia before dissipating far off the coast of south-east Queensland. No damage was recorded.
- 24 March to 13 April 2018, Tropical Cyclone Iris – Category 2 – formed over the Solomon Islands before tracking towards offshore north-east Queensland. It remained well offshore but was noticed to redevelop slightly as it began to track back into the Pacific before dissipating.

## 3.2 Tsunami events

Table 3.2 lists the tsunami events in the Pacific Region for the period of time corresponding to the 2017–2018 data in this report.

**Table 3.2 Recorded earthquake events July 2017 to June 2018**

Date	Earthquake magnitude (M <sub>w</sub> )	Location	Observable on NSW tide recordings
31/10/2017	6.8	New Caledonia	No
01/11/2017	6.6	New Caledonia	No
19/11/2017	7.0	New Caledonia	No
14/01/2018	7.1	Peru	No
23/01/2018	7.9	USA – Kodiak Island, AK	No
05/15/2018	6.9	USA – Hawaii	No

Source: NOAA National Geophysical Data Centre Tsunami Database <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/hazard/tsu.shtml>

The Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia host the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (JATWC). No tsunami warnings were issued by JATWC from July 2017 to June 2018. The Bureau of Meteorology collects specific tsunami data for issuing warnings, and the data can be requested from BoM for further use.

## 3.3 King tide events

King tides occurred around 23 July 2017, 3 January 2018 and 15 June 2018. Several occurrences of lunar events during the 2017–2018 year brought about large high tides resulting in localised flooding and inundation along the NSW coastline. Figure 3.10 shows news excerpts relating to inundation in Sydney Harbour and Ballina due to the high tides on 6 December 2017. The Sydney gauge recorded a water level of 1.33 m AHD at 10am (EST) on 6 December 2017 – this was 0.29 m higher than the predicted high. If this level is correlated to the Fort Denison gauge measurement of 1.36 m AHD the event ranked inside the five highest levels recorded at Fort Denison since 1915.

The 15 June 2018 King tide was the highest predicted King tide, but the highest recorded tide occurred during the 3 January 2018 King tide with a level of 1.35 m AHD. [Figure 3.10](#) contains a plot of the Sydney gauge between 1 December 2017 and 7 January 2018 which encapsulates the two highest level events of the year. Both events had similar anomalies exceeding 0.25 m that cause inundation effects. Photos captured during the January King tide from around the Northern Beaches of Sydney and the Hunter region are shown in [Figure 3.11](#).

### 3.4 Coastal Trapped Wave event

A significant coastal trapped wave (CTW) impacted on the coast of NSW in August 2017.

#### 3.4.1 Background

CTWs are a hybrid form of wave between barotropic shelf waves and internal Kelvin<sup>1</sup> waves (Woodham 2013). Consistent wind stress in the alongshore direction is the primary force causing these disturbances which then propagate along the coast as a boundary trapped wave (B Wang 2015). CTWs typically have phase speed of around 2–4 m/s; a period of around 10 days; a Sea Surface Height (SSH) amplitude of around 5–10 cm; and a wavelength of around 2500 km (Freeland et al. 1986). A defining characteristic of CTWs is they always travel with the coast on their left which in Australia is from south-west of the country to the north-east. The propagation length and amplitude modulation of these CTWs greatly depend on the coastline bathymetry before eventually decaying through bottom friction (Woodham 2013). Maiwa et al. (2010) found CTWs to have an annual pattern, with amplitudes distinctly larger in winter than in summer and a range of propagation speeds as: 4.5 m/s ‘or faster’ on the western and southern coasts, and 2.1–3.6 m/s on the east coast, with a typical period of 1 to 2 weeks. They found that reinforcement of the CTWs by the wind forcing in the southern part of the eastern coast is necessary to obtain larger amplitudes of CTWs on the eastern coast.

#### 3.4.2 August 2017 Coastal Trapped Wave event

On 15 August 2017, multiple strong low pressure systems moved from off south-western Australia into the Great Australian Bight. This brought about consistent, strong alongshore wind stress over a sustained 48-hour period. The initial energy provided by the low pressure fronts in conjunction with the direction they travelled created a CTW anomaly which propagated along Australia’s southern coastline. As the anomaly reached Bass Strait on 17 August it was met with conditions that intensified the wave as it began to refract up the south-eastern coast. Aligning winds produced from the passing low pressure system and an overland high pressure system amplified the anomaly as it moved up the NSW coastline. The synoptic charts shown in [Figure 3.12](#) track the event through this process.

The anomaly is recorded earliest at the Eden gauge on 17 August with an initial residual greater than 0.35 m as it first moves up the NSW coast. Due to the particular refractive conditions of this CTW the anomaly largely misses the Wollongong, Sydney and Hunter coastlines. The largest anomaly is felt from the Coffs region to the Tweed coast with the CTW producing an anomaly exceeding 0.5 m at Coffs Harbour. A Hovmöller diagram, also known as the trough-ridge diagram, plots the time evolution of vertical profiles of scalar

---

<sup>1</sup> A travelling disturbance that requires the support of a lateral boundary

quantities over a spatial area. [Figure 3.13](#) is a Hovmöller contour plot of residual water levels, i.e. the difference between predicted and actual, at particular gauges along the NSW coast highlighting the initial effects of the anomaly at Eden and then the amplification on the northern coast.

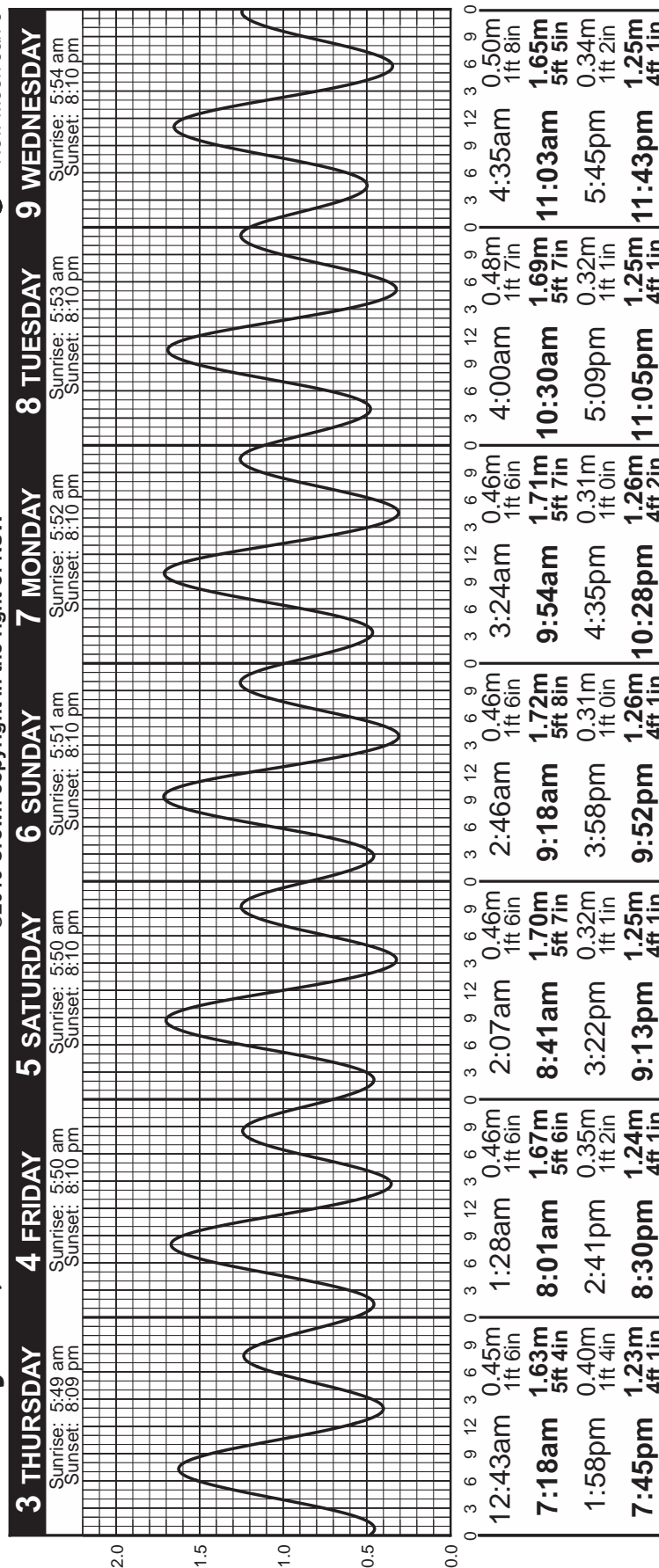
The effects of the CTW anomaly were felt in the estuarine zone of the upper Tweed River. The junction of the freshwater catchment and the tidal reach of the Tweed River occurs at Bray Park Weir near Murwillumbah which is approximately 35 km upstream of the Tweed ocean entrance. This weir sits at 1 m AHD and is subject to overtopping into the region's water supply storage on large predicted King tides. [Figure 3.14](#) plots the water level traces at Tweed Entrance, Tumbulgum and the non-tidal Bray Park Weir upstream. The rises in level behind the weir at Bray Park coincide with each highest tide of the day. The Hovmöller contour also in [Figure 3.14](#) shows the anomaly of pushing up the river on the high tides to a height of 0.3 m at the weir location.

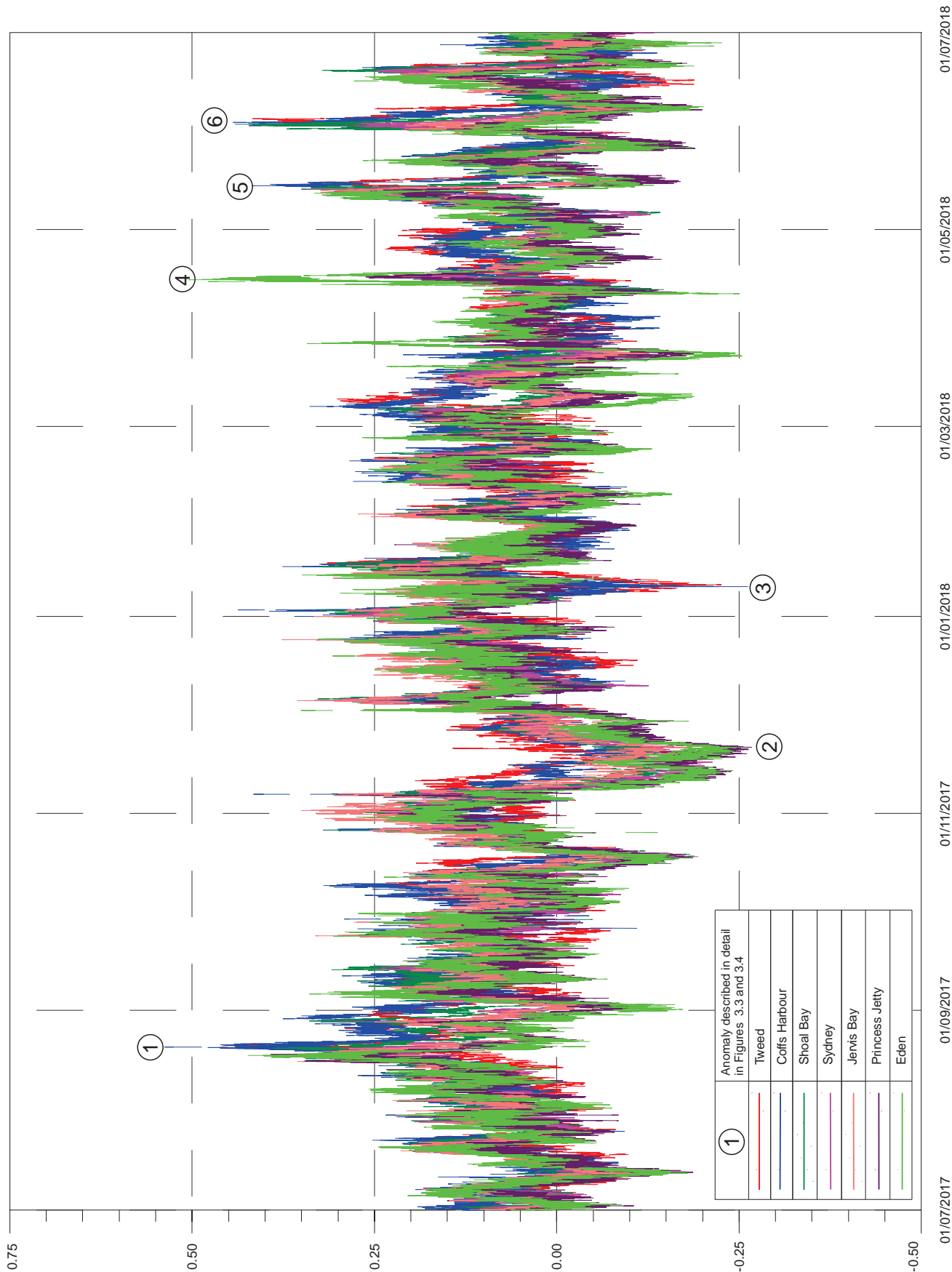
The subsequent result of the weir overtopping and significant amount of saline intrusion to water supply forced the local council to shut down the water treatment plant and hold potable water production for the region. The anomaly produced by the CTW was unexpected and council was not able to enact their weir overtopping procedure; this led to a review of current procedures and the development of a new online prediction tool at the weir. The tool uses aggregate sea level predictions calculated by the BoM (Taylor 2017) in combination with astronomical forecasts at Tweed River Entrance and Murwillumbah Bridge. In addition, analytical methods are used to calculate the predicted anomaly height at Bray Park Weir.

# January 3-9, 2019

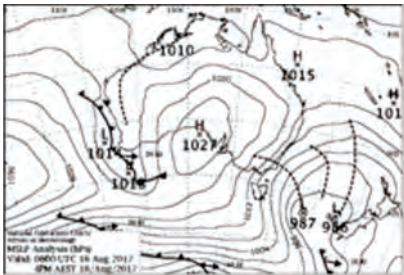
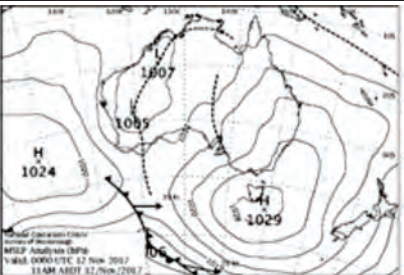
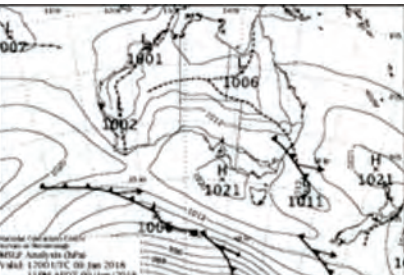
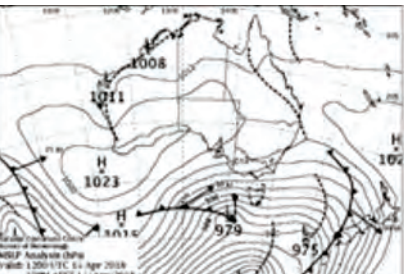
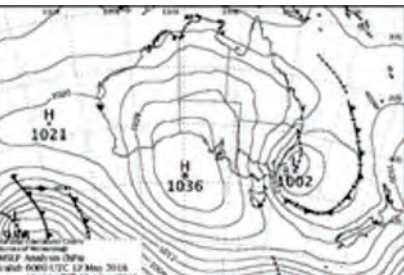
Daylight Saving Time  
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● New Moon Jan 6

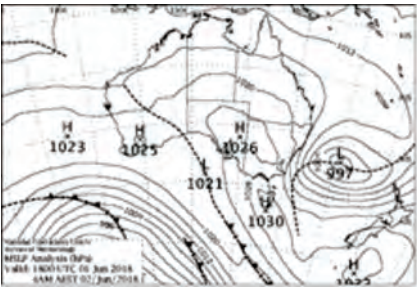




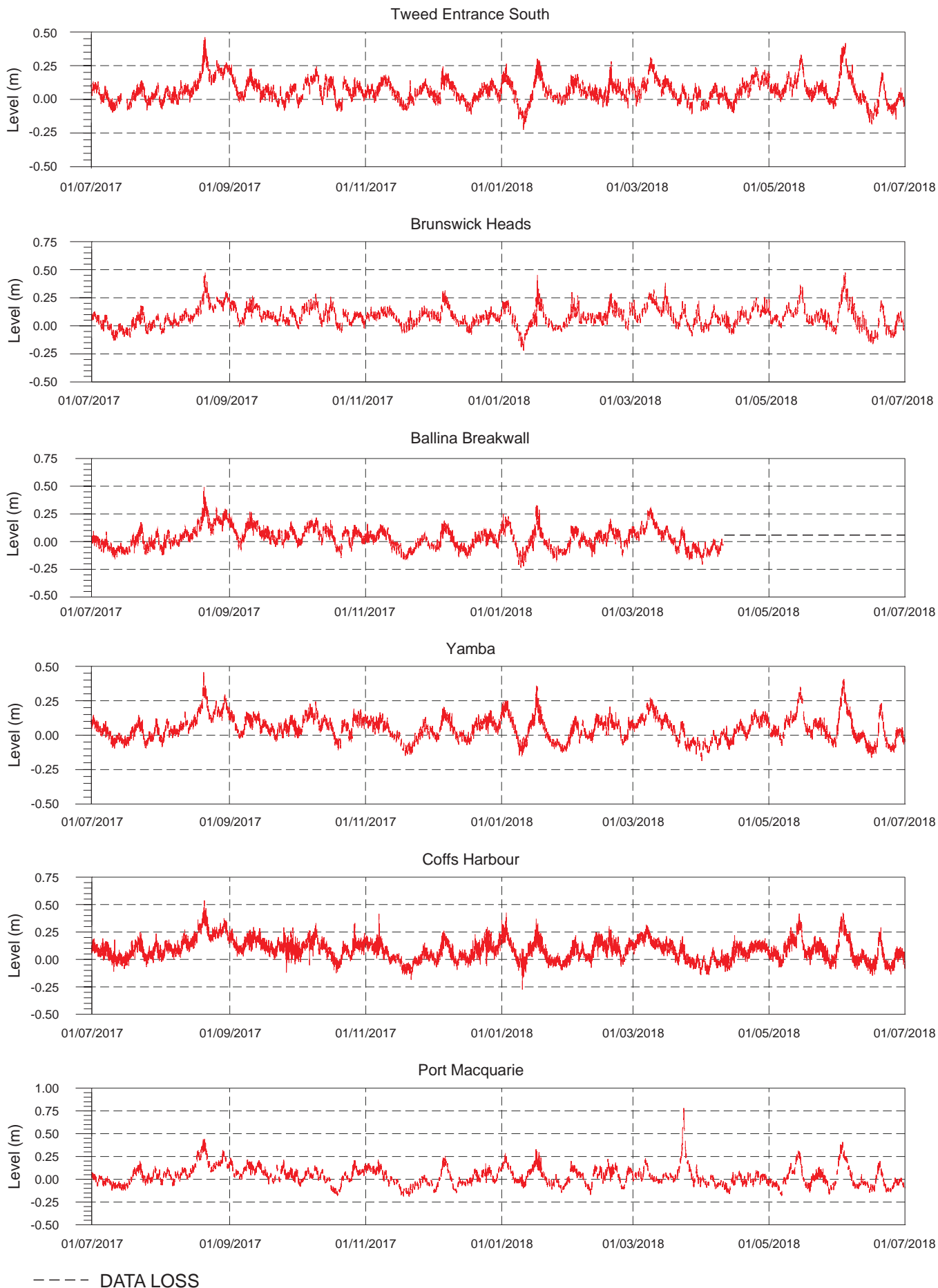


Event Number (see Figure 3.2)	Event Period	BoM Weather Map*	Peak Anomaly	Sites where Anomaly > +/- 0.2m
1	17–22 August 2017	 <p>Coastally trapped wave</p>	Site Coffs Harbur Date 20/8/2017 Time 1200 Peak Value 0.54	Tweed, Brunswick, Ballina, Yamba, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Crowdy Head, Forster, Shoal Bay, Patonga, Sydney, Bundeena, Crookhaven Heads, Jervis Bay, Ulladulla, Princess Jetty, Bermagui, Eden
2	19–22 November 2017	 <p>Large high pressure system</p>	Site Ulladulla Date 21/11/2017 Time 1100 Peak Value -0.28	Ulladulla, Princess Jetty, Bermagui, Eden
3	9–11 January 2018	 <p>North coast high pressure system</p>	Site Coffs Harbour Date 10/1/2018 Time 0615 Peak Value -0.28	Tweed, Brunswick, Ballina, Yamba, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Crowdy Head, Forster, Shoal Bay, Patonga, Sydney
4	15–17 April 2018	 <p>South Coast Low</p>	Site Eden Date 15/4/2018 Time 1100 Peak Value 0.51	Crookhaven Heads, Jervis Bay, Ulladulla, Bermagui, Eden
5	12–16 May 2018	 <p>East Coast Low</p>	Site Crowdy Head Date 13/5/2018 Time 2330 Peak Value 0.43	Tweed, Brunswick, Ballina, Yamba, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Crowdy Head, Forster, Shoal Bay, Patonga, Sydney, Bundeena, Crookhaven Heads, Jervis Bay, Ulladulla, Princess Jetty, Bermagui, Eden



Event Number (see Figure 3.2)	Event Period	BoM Weather Map*	Peak Anomaly	Sites where Anomaly > +/- 0.2m
6	2–6 June 2018	 <p>East Coast Low</p>	Site Coffs Harbour Date 2/6/2018 Time 1500 Peak Value 0.50	Tweed, Brunswick, Ballina, Yamba, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Crowdy Head, Forster, Shoal Bay, Patonga, Sydney

\* Weather map images courtesy BOM © [Copyright](#) Commonwealth of Australia, Bureau of Meteorology



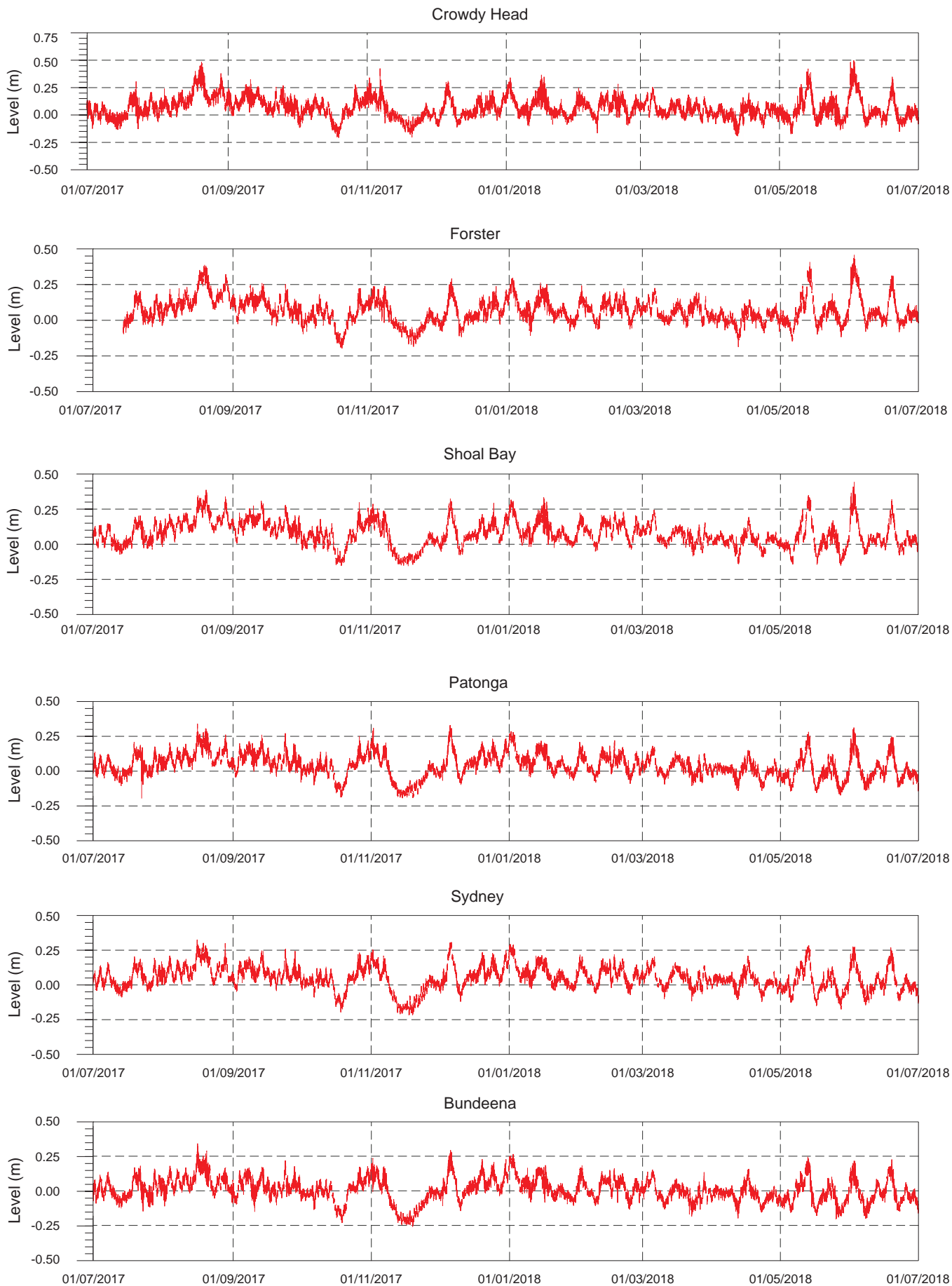
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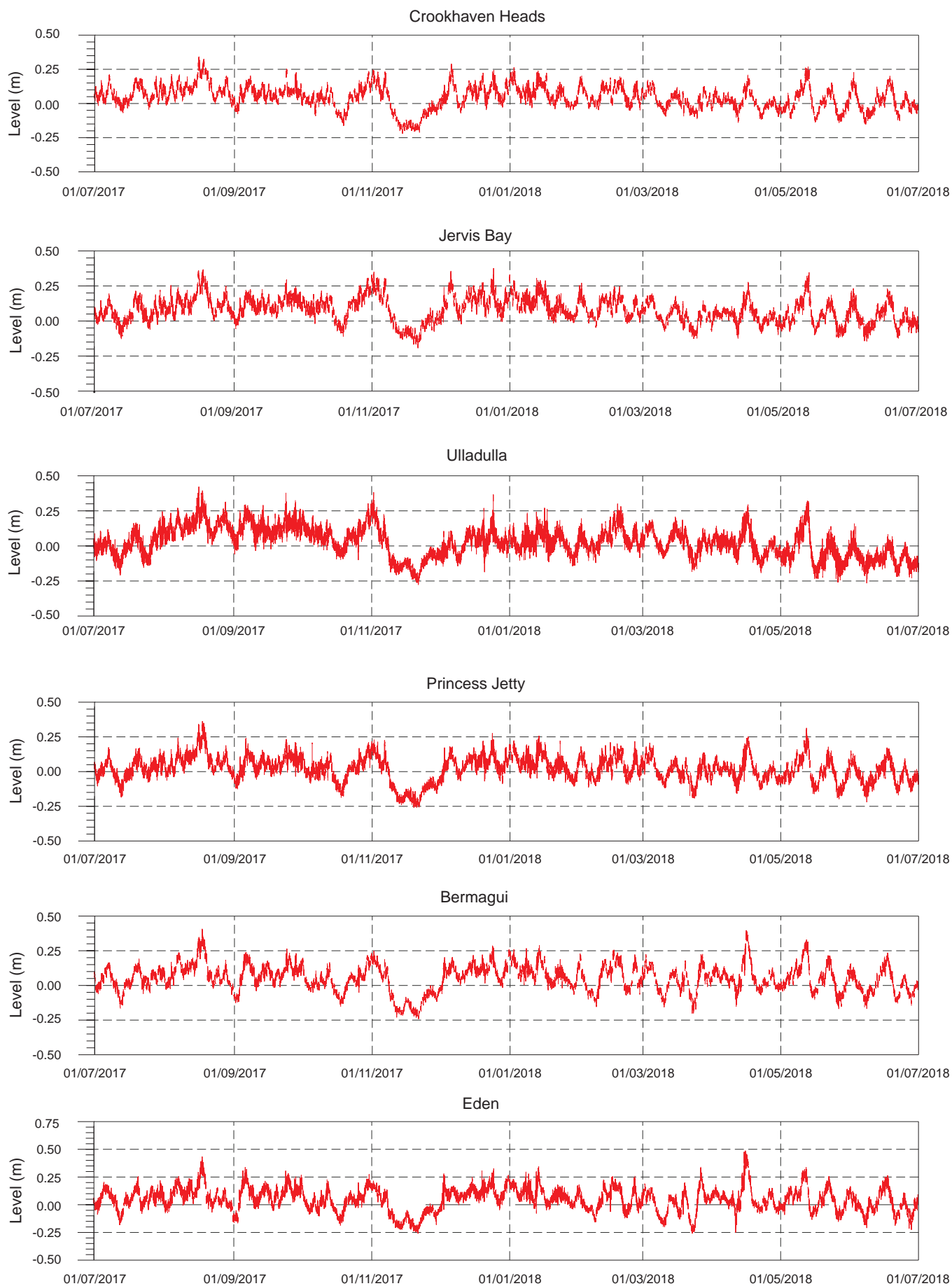
## TIDAL ANOMALIES 2017–2018 TWEED ENTRANCE SOUTH TO PORT MACQUARIE

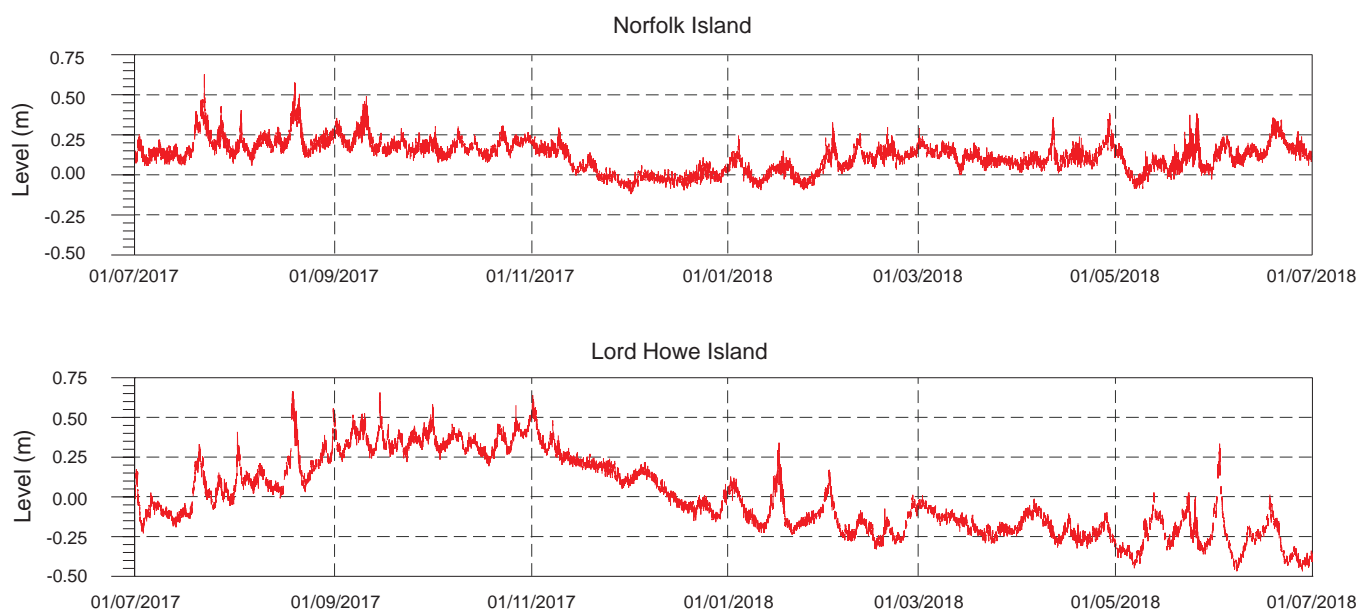
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Figure  
3.5

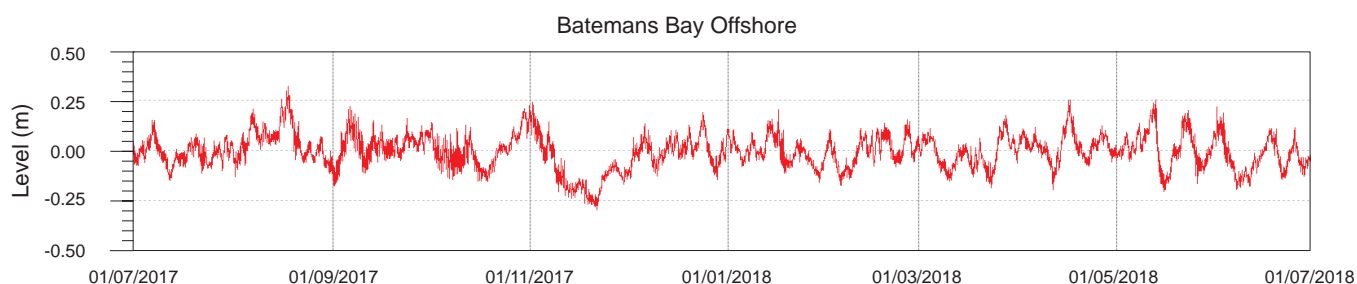
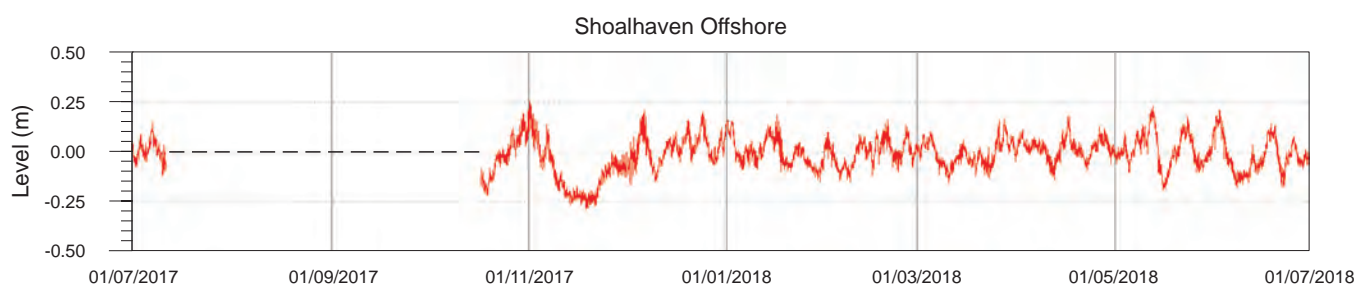
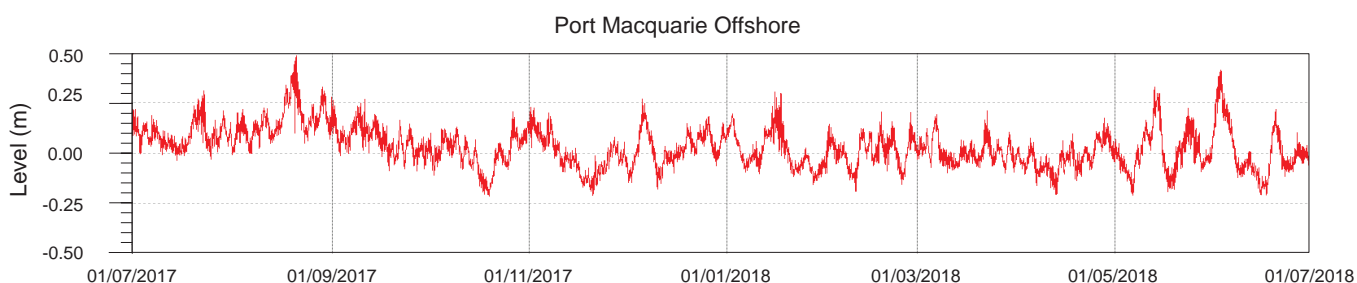
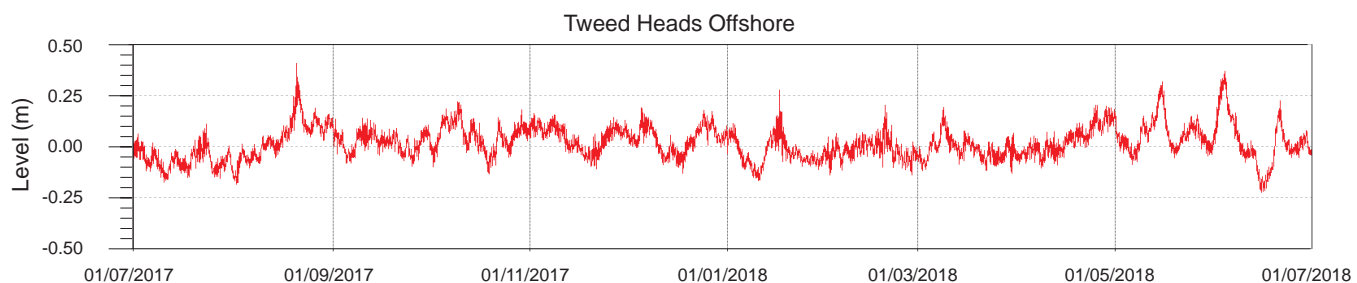
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Data for Norfolk Island provided by Bureau of Meteorology's National Tidal Unit (NTU)



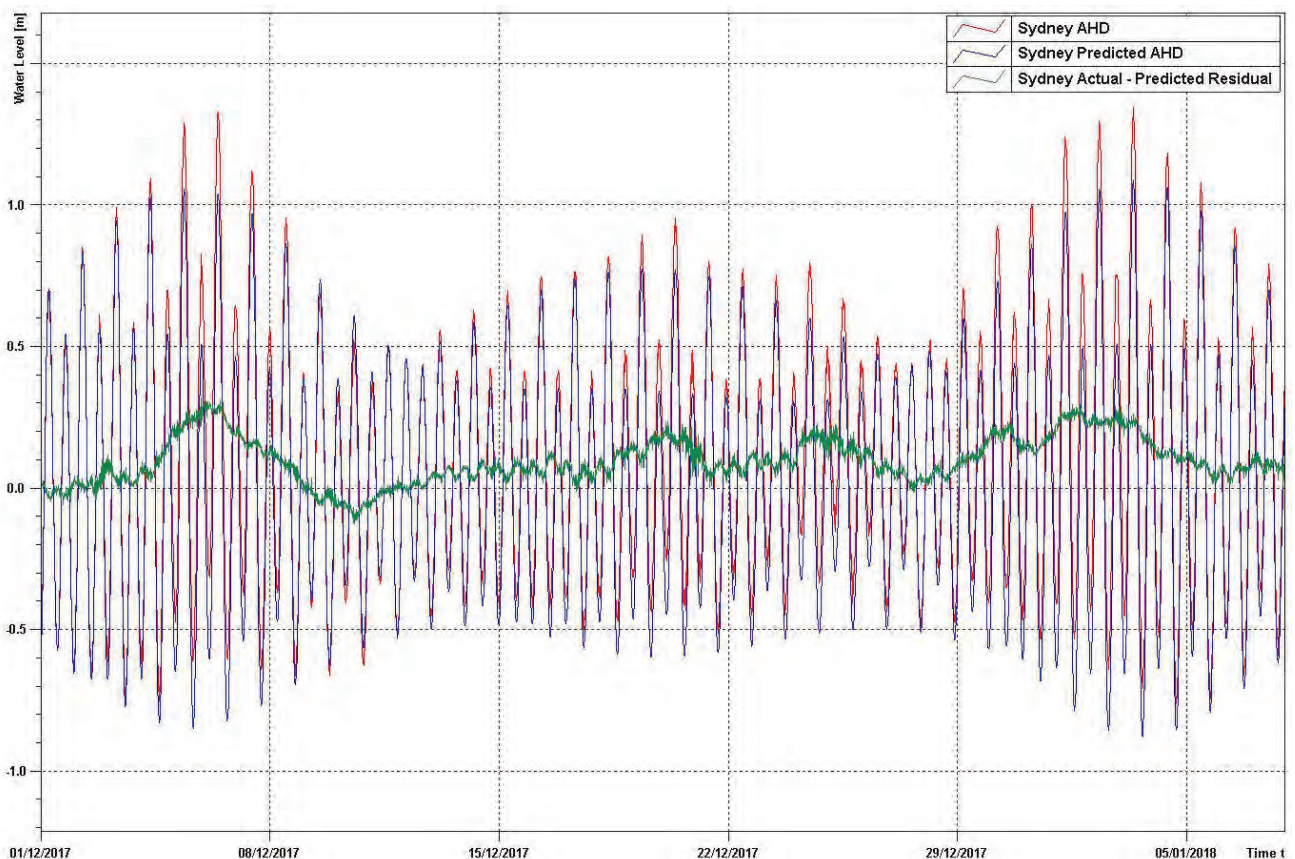
--- DATA LOSS





Central Ballina flooding on road  
Source: Byron Shire News, 6/12/2017

Inundation on surrounding Sydney Harbour infrastructure  
Source: Joe O'Brien, ABC News, 6/12/2017



Sydney tide gauge data plotted over the period containing the 6 December 2017 tide and the predicted highest King tide of the financial year on 3 January 2018





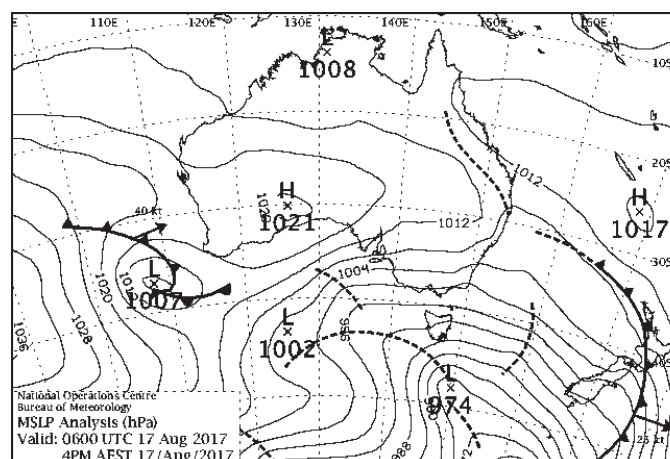
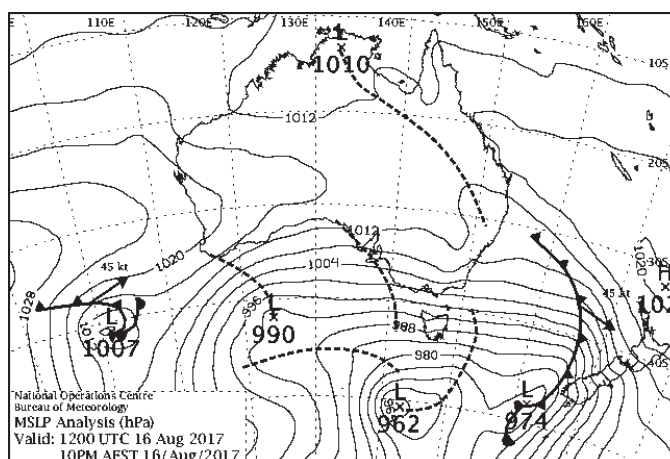
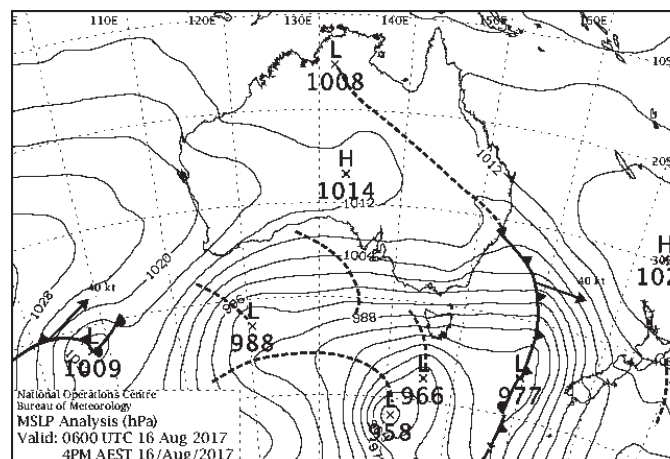
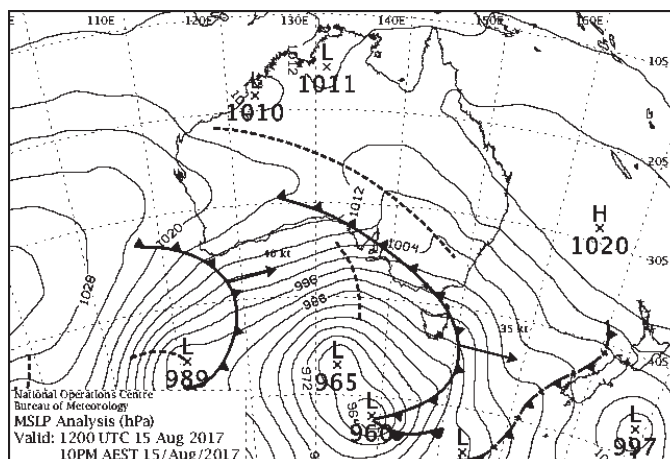
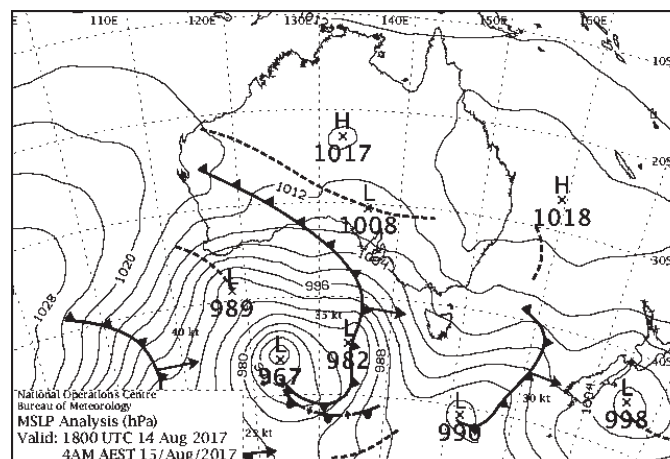
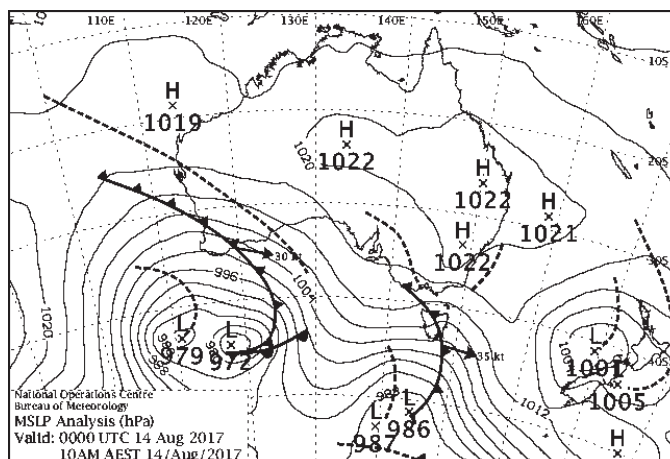
King tide at Bobbin Head  
Photo courtesy Will Campbell,  
3/1/2018



King tide at Woy Woy  
Photo courtesy Dave Hanslow, OEH,  
3/1/2018

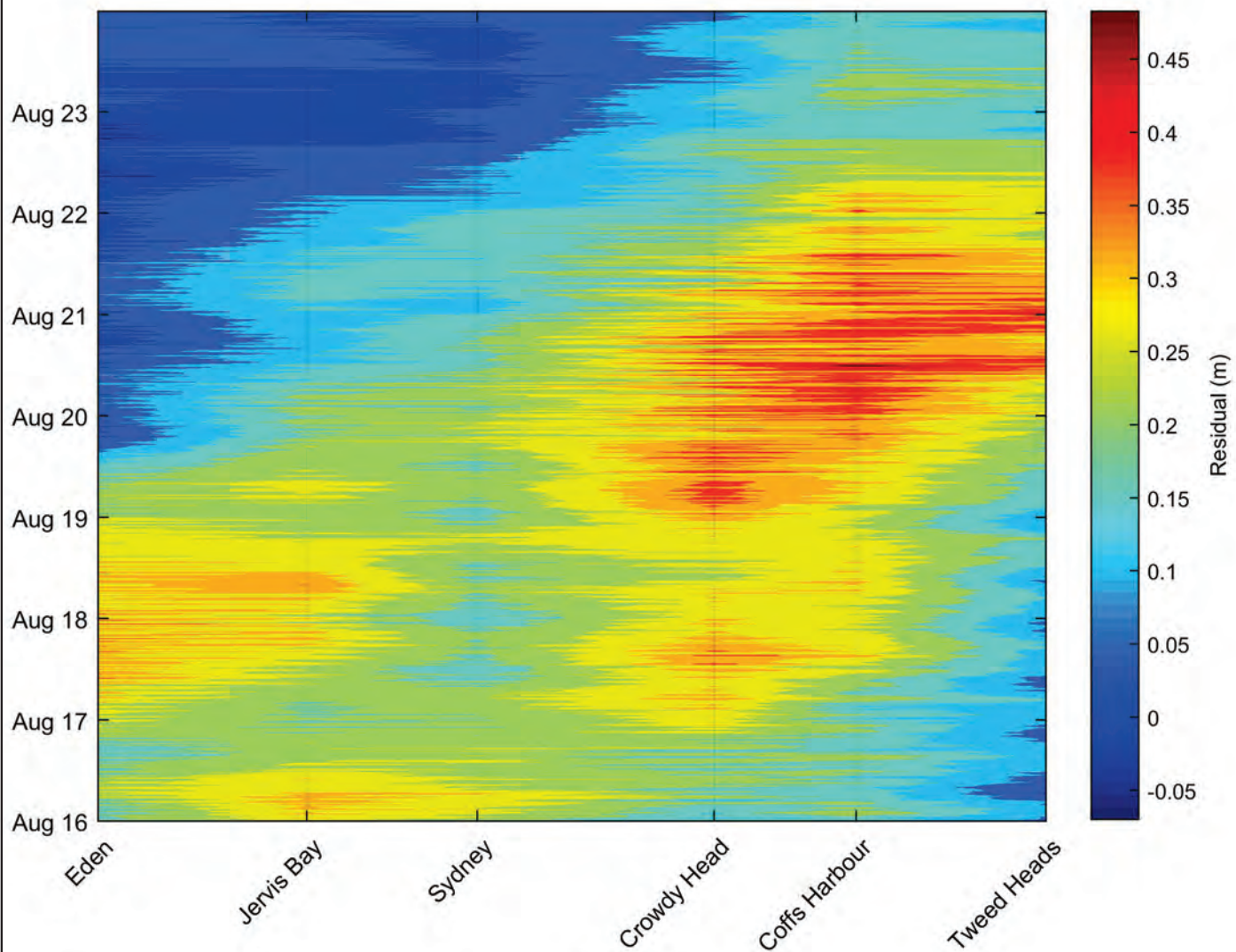


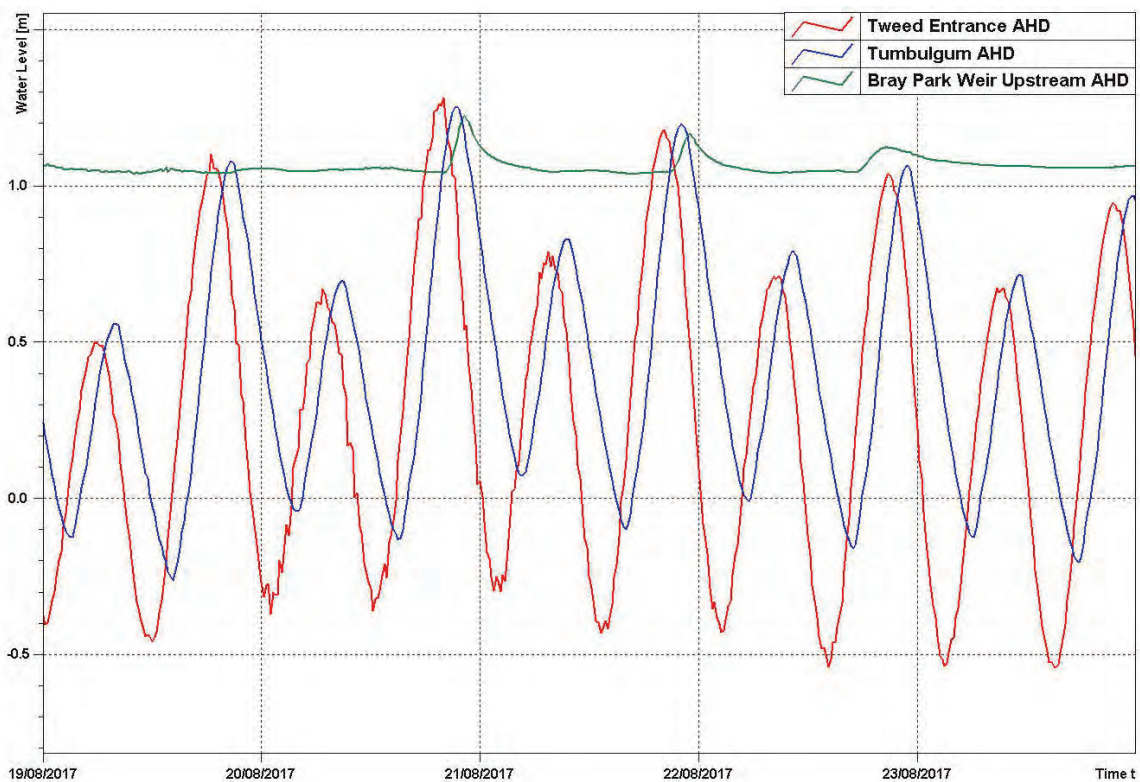
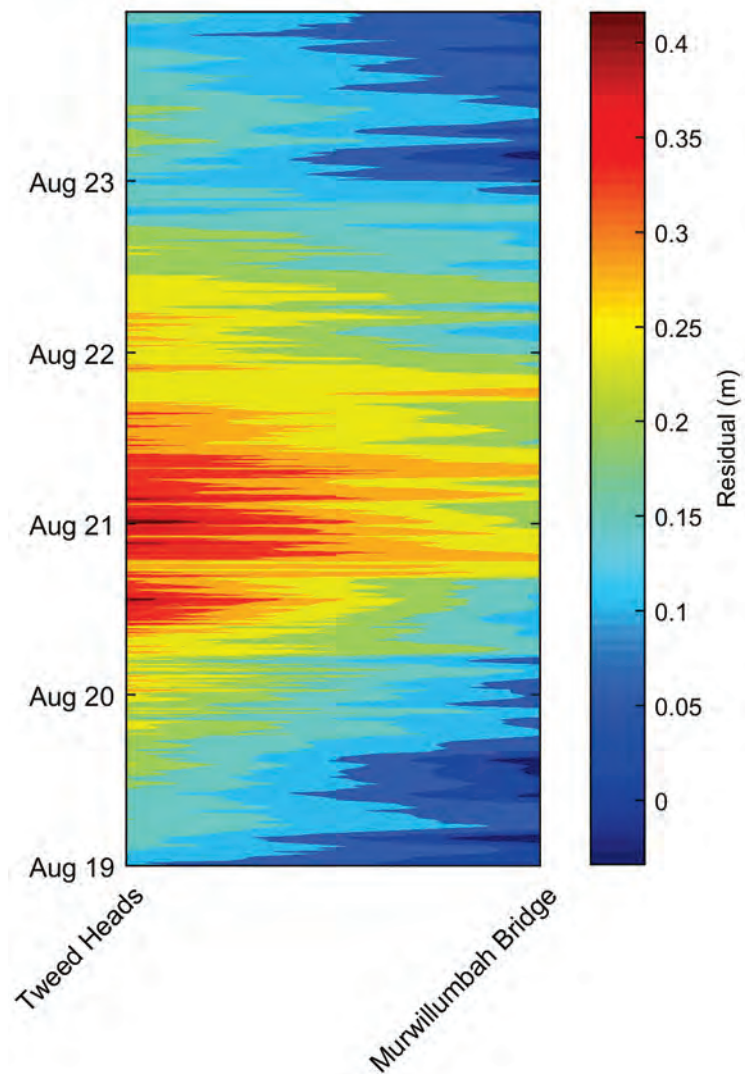
King tide at Botany Bay  
Photo courtesy Martin Fitzhenry, OEH,  
7/12/2017



Source: Weather map images courtesy BoM © Commonwealth of Australia, Bureau of Meteorology)







## 4. Program developments 2017–2018

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### 4.1 Classification of stations

An increasing interest in sea level rise, tsunami and storm surge data has led to the adoption of a classification of each of the stations based on the type of data they represent from their recording location. As the ocean tide and river entrance program collects data from a variety of recording locations, from offshore sites to sites inside the entrances of rivers and inside ports, this classification of sites highlights to users of the data possible variability of data, based on recording location.

The classifications in order from river entrance to offshore are:

- Onshore river entrance – stations that are located within a river a short distance upstream of the entrance usually maintained open by training walls. Typically these locations do not provide good representation of ocean water levels because they show a reduction of tidal range between 0.1 and 0.2 m compared to ocean tide, and may be affected by entrance conditions and floods.
- Onshore bay or port – bank or pole-mounted sensor located in an embayment or harbour. Effective at measuring the ocean water levels where there is no influence by floods. Can be influenced by harbour motions (i.e. seiches).
- Onshore open ocean – jetty or bank-mounted sensor located in an open ocean location. Effective at measuring the ocean water levels, but may have problems if located in the surf zone. Lord Howe Island is currently the only operating station in this category.
- Offshore open ocean – bottom-mounted sensors that are located between 2 and 5 km offshore of the coast generally in about 25 m depth of water. Very effective at measuring ocean water level but the datum cannot be accurately determined.

The classification indicates sites that are similar in their location and gives an indication to the end data user to assist selection of the site location type that would be most representative for the required analysis. Table 4.1 lists the classification of each of the stations in the program.

**Table 4.1 Ocean and river entrance tide site classification**

Station	Classification	Classification code
Tweed Entrance South	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Tweed Offshore	Offshore Open Ocean	O
Brunswick Heads	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Ballina Breakwall	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Yamba	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Coffs Harbour	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Port Macquarie	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Port Macquarie Offshore	Offshore Open Ocean	O
Crowdy Head	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Forster	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Shoal Bay	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Patonga	Onshore Bay or Port	OB

Station	Classification	Classification code
Sydney	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Bundeena	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Crookhaven Heads	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Shoalhaven Offshore	Offshore Open Ocean	O
Jervis Bay	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Ulladulla	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Princess Jetty	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Batemans Bay Offshore	Offshore Open Ocean	O
Bermagui	Onshore River Entrance	OR
Eden	Onshore Bay or Port	OB
Norfolk Island	Onshore Open Ocean	OO
Lord Howe Island	Onshore Open Ocean	OO

## 4.2 Program improvements/changes

Further improvements and changes to the network have continued in 2017–2018. Major changes are summarised below.

- A vertical seabed diving marker for the Port Macquarie offshore instrument location was laid. This was the first of three markers to be placed at dive locations (Tweed Offshore already has a fixed vertical marker). The landmarks will be documented with GPS coordinates to facilitate locating the sites in the future by dive teams. Both south coast sites could not be landmarked this financial year due to time constraints.
- The primary Sydney gauge, upgraded IP networks. This improved communications network provides faster data transfer between the logger and MHL's website after each point is logged.
- Ballina sensor conduit was replaced after metal had corroded at join point and sensors were exposed and not fastened. Data was lost from June 2018 to August 2018

Table 4.2 shows the status of the sites as of June 2018.



**Table 4.2 MHL Tidal logging and sensing system status 1/7/2017–30/6/2018**

Station	Latitude	Longitude	Site classification <sup>1</sup>	Primary loggers <sup>2</sup>	Secondary loggers <sup>2</sup>	Primary sensors	Secondary sensors	Station	
								Sampling	Logging
Tweed Entrance South	-28.1706	153.5512	OR	CR1000	-	Radar	Vented pressure	120 samples averaged 1 minute either side of the quarter hour and 60 samples averaged 30 seconds either side of each minute and 9 sites logging at 1 second to onsite data storage card (Tweed Entrance South, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Lord Howe Island, Shoal Bay, Patonga, Sydney, Princess Jetty and Eden)	15 minutes on the quarter hour and 1 minute on the minute
Brunswick Heads	-28.5370	153.5528	OR	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Ballina Breakwall	-28.8754	153.5844	OR	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Yamba	-29.4290	153.3621	OR	CR800	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Coffs Harbour	-30.3029	153.1461	OB	CR800	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Port Macquarie	-31.4268	152.9111	OR	CR1000	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Crowdy Head	-31.8387	152.7500	OB	CR800	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Forster	-32.1740	152.5082	OR	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Shoal Bay	-32.7197	152.1757	OB	CR1000	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Patonga	-33.5510	151.2746	OB	CR1000	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Sydney	-33.8255	151.2585	OB	CR800	-	Radar	n/a		
Sydney Backup	-33.8263	151.2572	OB	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Bundeena	-34.0827	151.1509	OB	CR800	-	Radar	n/a		
Crookhaven Heads	-34.9053	150.7594	OR	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Jervis Bay	-35.1220	150.7074	OB	CR800	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Ulladulla	-35.3577	150.4765	OB	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Princess Jetty	-35.7038	150.1778	OR	CR1000	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Bermagui	-36.4263	150.0715	OR	CR800	-	Vented pressure	Vented pressure		
Eden	-37.0712	149.9083	OB	CR1000n	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Lord Howe Island	-31.5236	159.0581	OO	CR1000	-	Radar	Vented pressure		
Tweed Offshore	-28.1811	153.5940	O	RBR Virtuoso	WLR7	Submersible Paroscientific Pressure Sensor and RBR Logger	Aanderaa submersible Pressure (only at 2 of the 4 sites per deployment year)	Integrated over 40 seconds	RBR 5 minutes Aanderaa 60 minutes
Port Macquarie Offshore	-31.4519	152.9455	O	RBR Virtuoso	WLR7				
Shoalhaven Offshore	-34.9165	150.7863	O	RBR Virtuoso	WLR7				
Batemans Bay Offshore	-35.7794	150.2533	O	RBR Virtuoso	WLR7				

<sup>1</sup> Classification: OR = Onshore River entrance, OB = Onshore Bay or Port, OO = Onshore Open Ocean, O = Offshore Open Ocean

<sup>2</sup> Loggers: CR800/1000 = Campbell Scientific Loggers (Townsville Australia), RBR Virtuoso = RBR Ltd (Kanata, Canada), WLR7 = Aanderaa Data Instruments (Bergen, Norway)



### **4.3 Program plans 2018–2019**

MHL is continuing to upgrade the ocean tide program to adopt best practice in data collection, maximise the efficiency of maintaining the program, increase data accuracy and capture, improve data resolution and increase the value of the data collected. The planned 2018–2019 program upgrades include:

- recalculation of the new epoch tidal forecasts for future tidal predictions. MHL's current method may improve based on the findings of the not yet released Tidal Methodologies report (MHL2156)
- continued rollout of upgraded IP network communications to enable faster data transfer
- updating surveys for ocean tide sites and inclusion of more reference marks to better align with NTC standards
- relocation of Princess Jetty gauge due to highway bridge upgrade
- an offshore tide metadata and site location report referencing the location landmarks and creating a more transparent contingency plan for future dive teams
- investigation of radar installations at Bermagui, Ulladulla, Crookhaven and Forster.

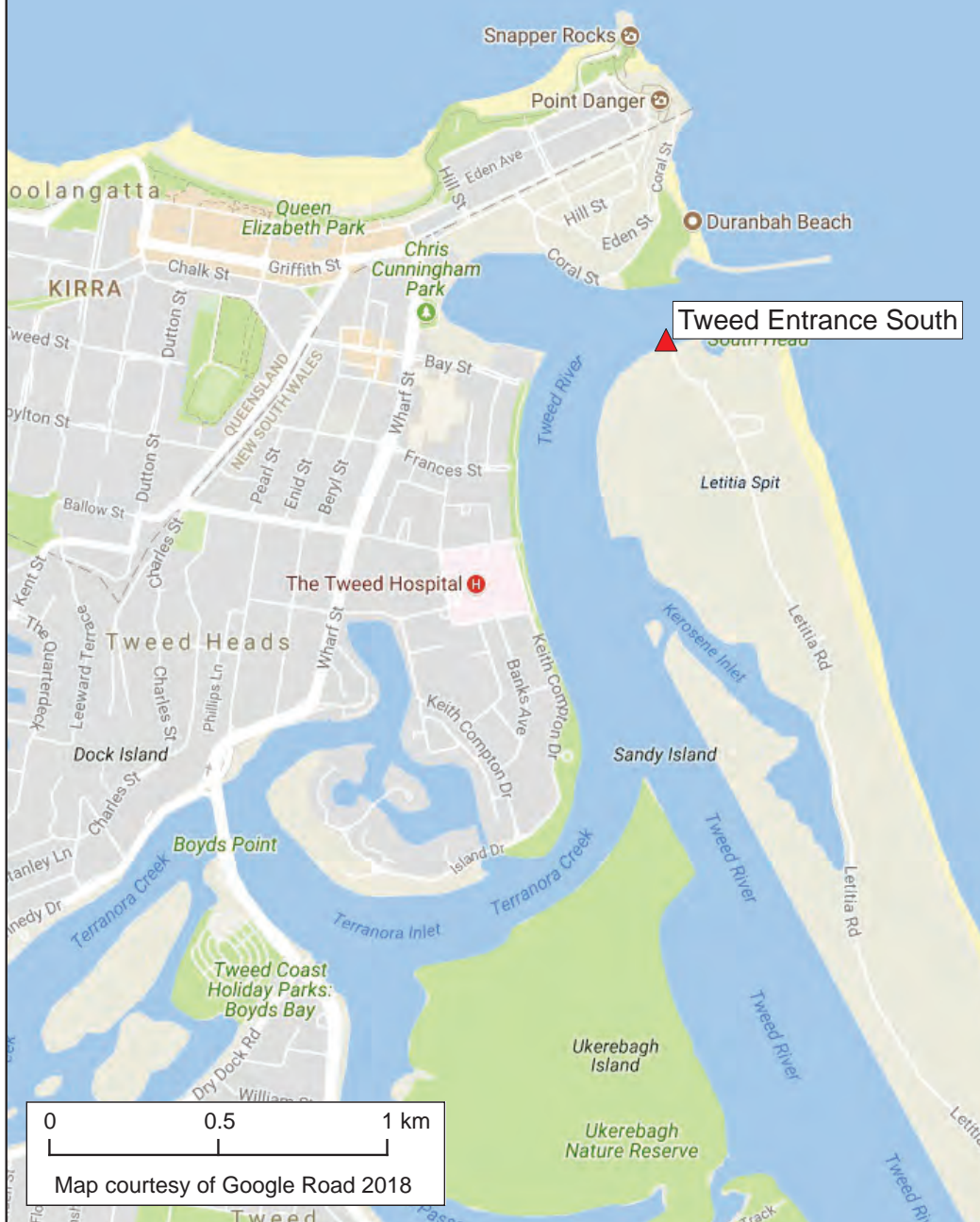
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## Appendix A Annual data site summaries

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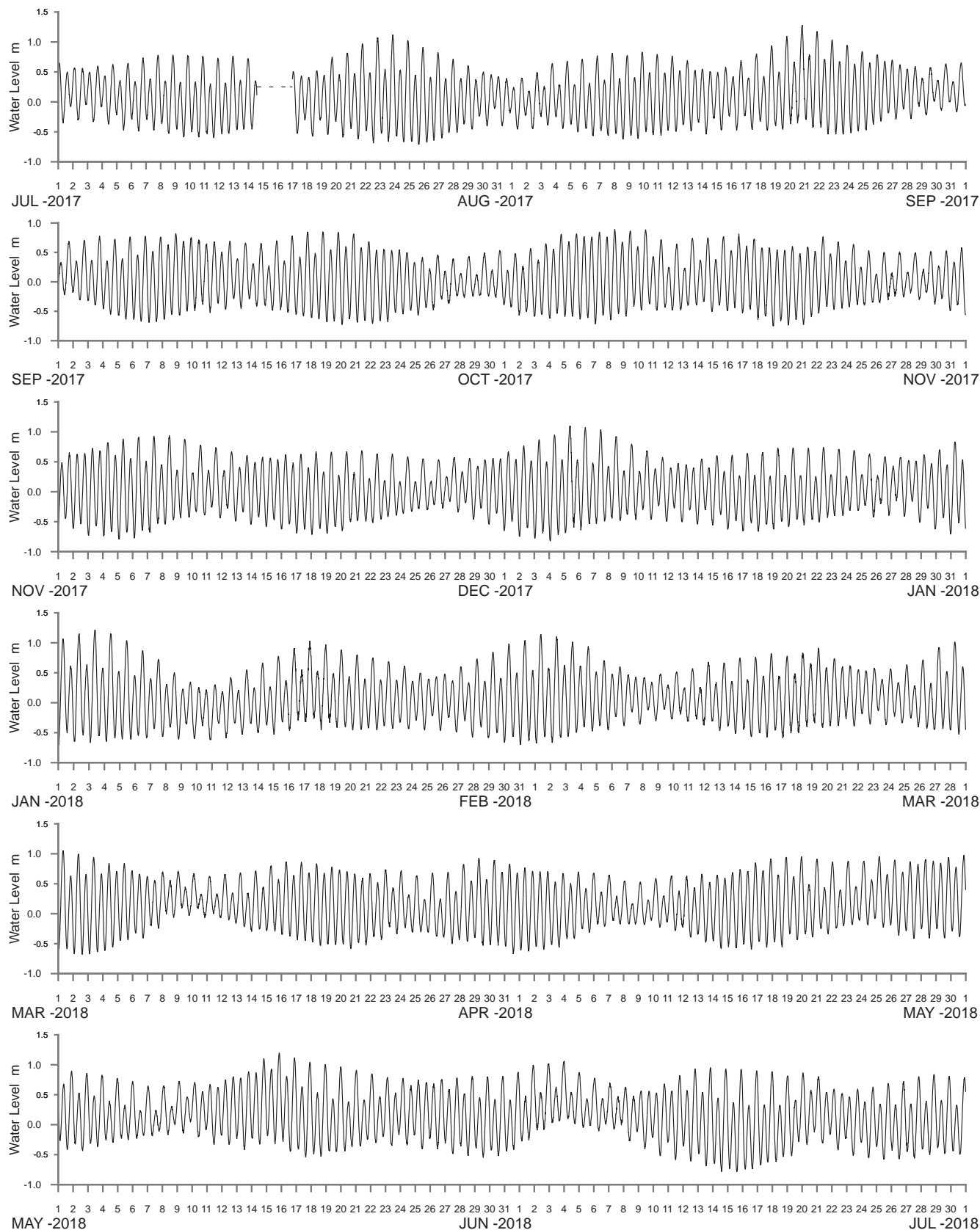
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Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## TWEED ENTRANCE SOUTH STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
**A1**

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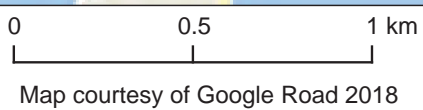




Tweed Heads Offshore ▲

Fingal Head

Fingal Rd



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Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

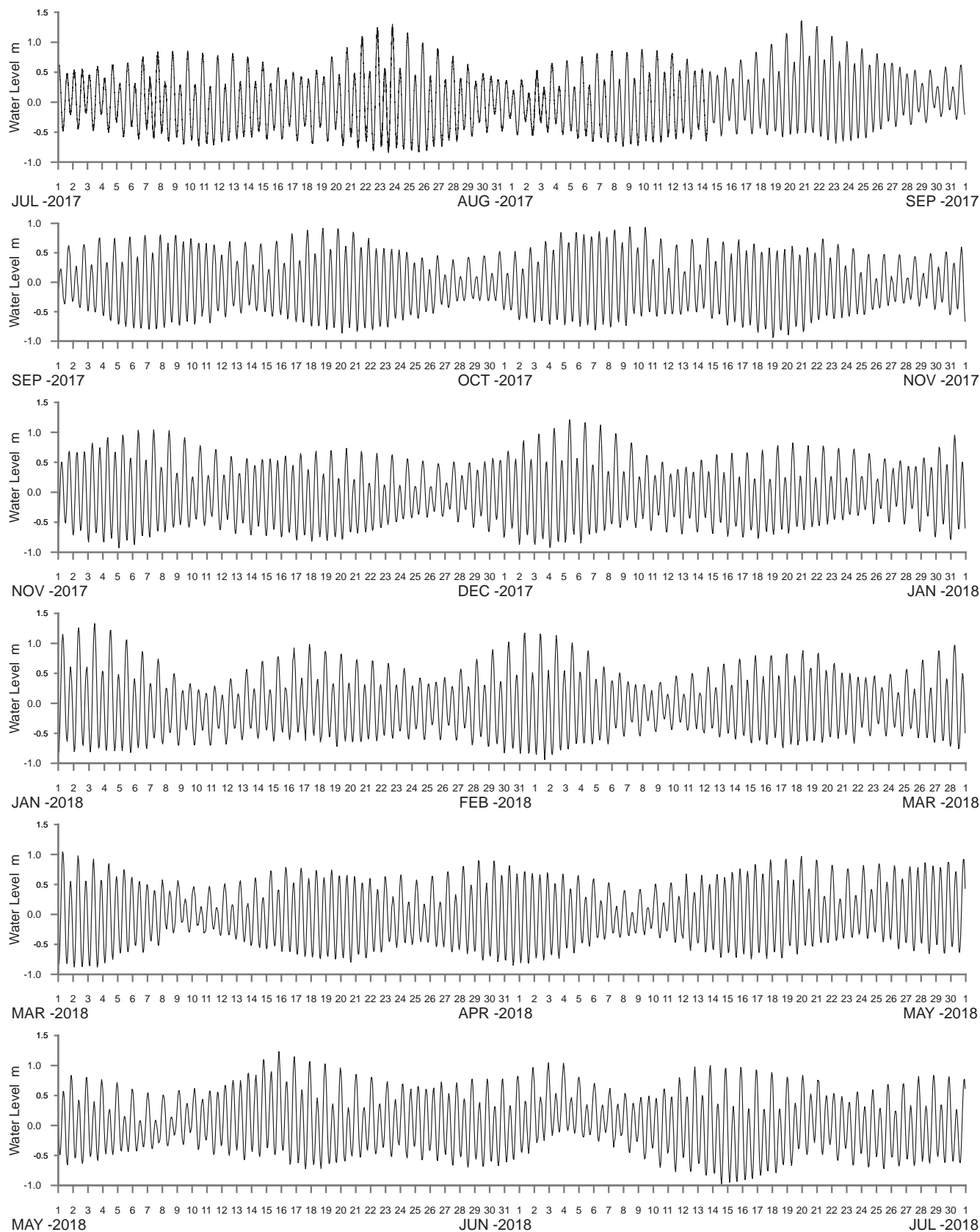
## TWEED HEADS OFFSHORE TIDE GAUGE LOCATION

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Report 2618

Figure  
**A3**

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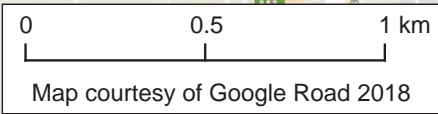
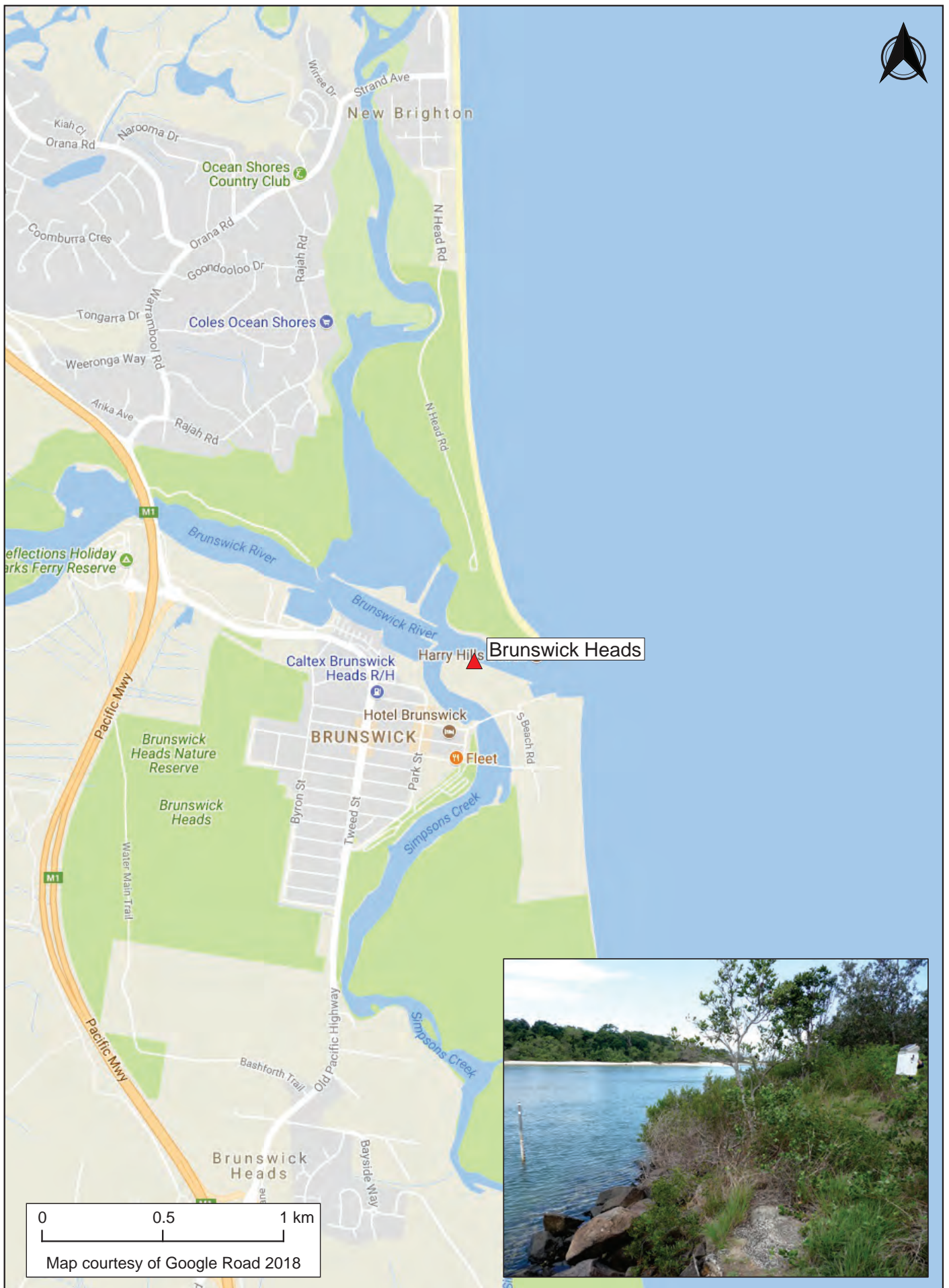




WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO MEAN SEA LEVEL

----- DATA LOSS





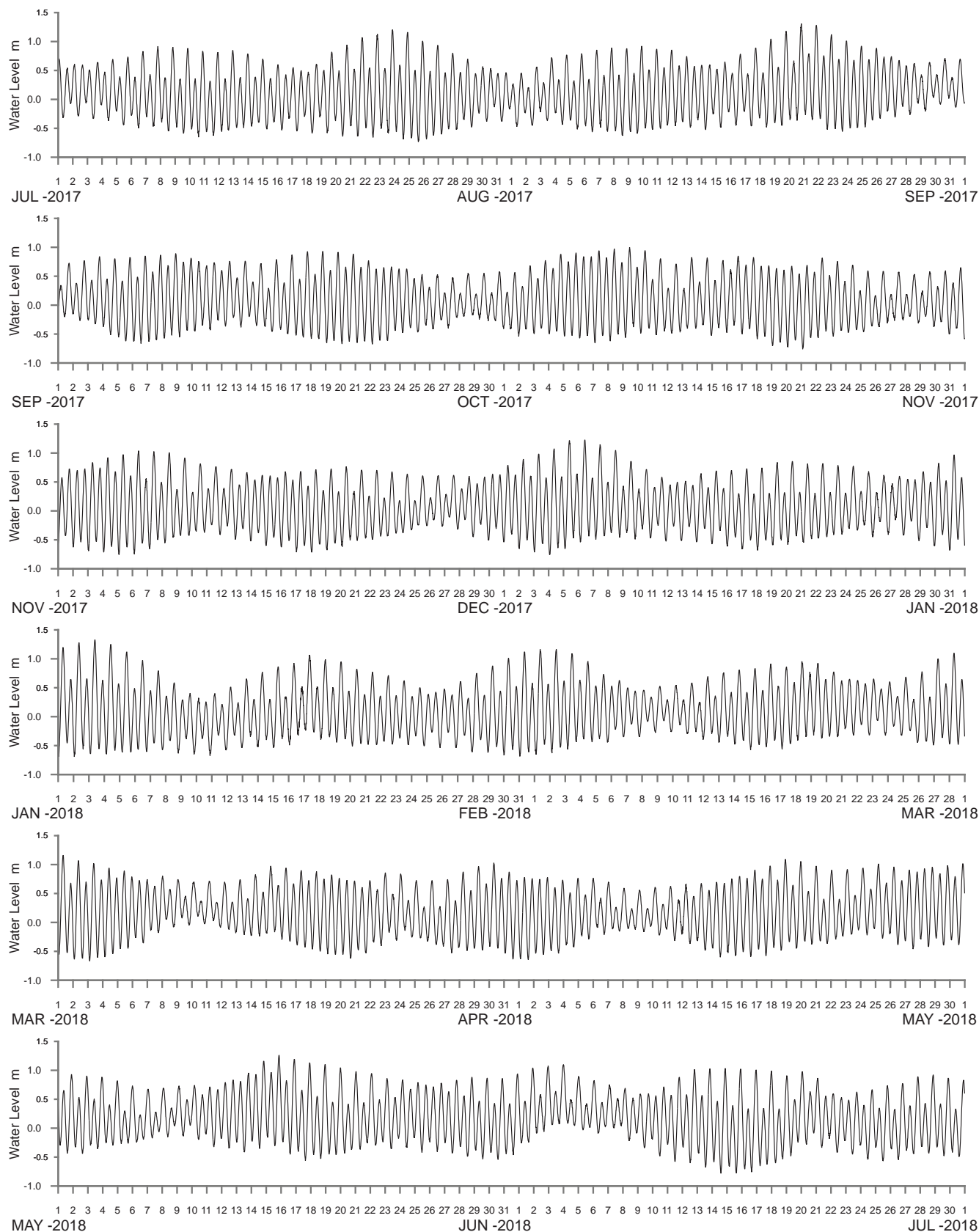
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Laboratory**

## BRUNSWICK HEADS STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

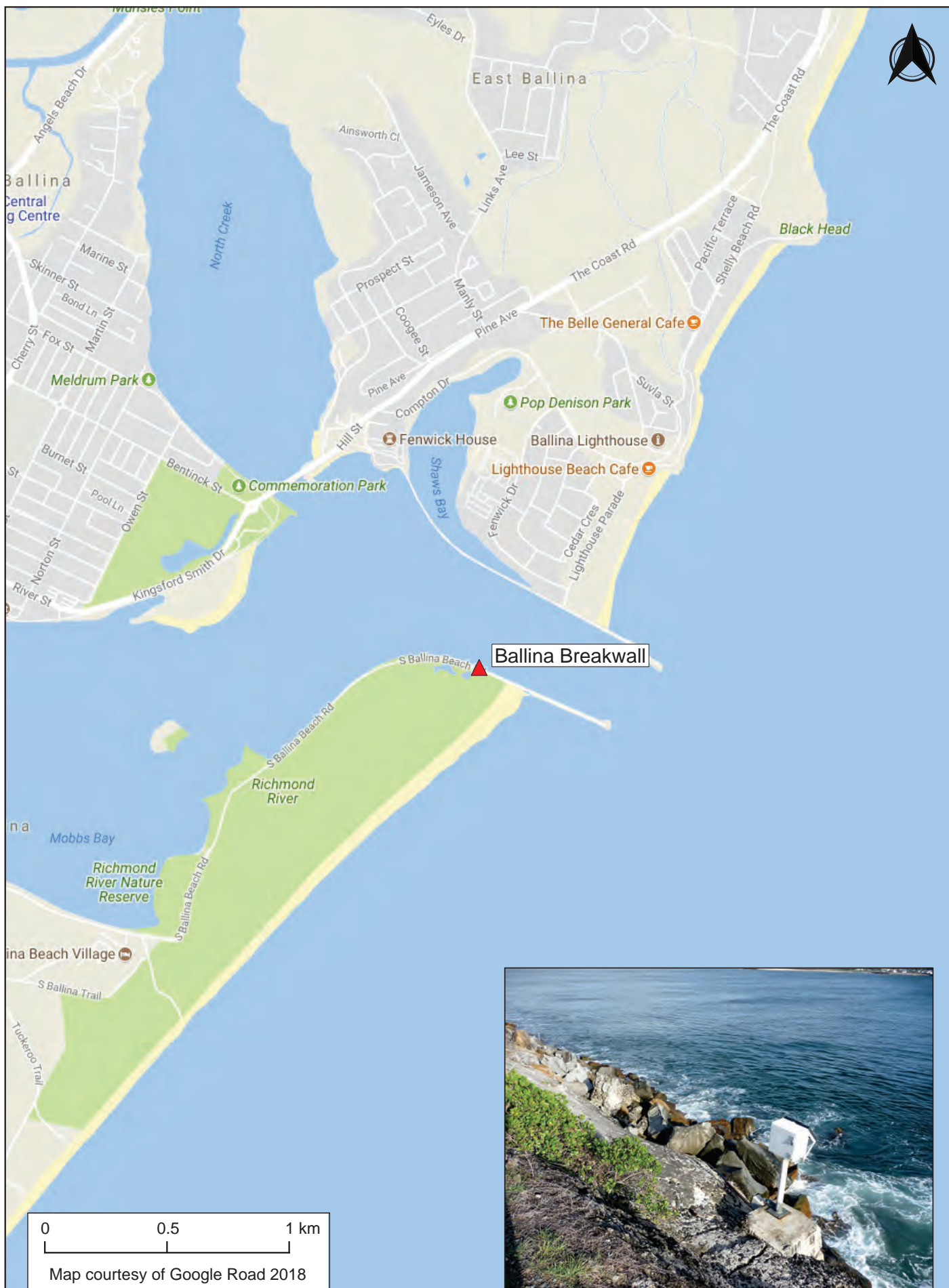
Figure  
A5

DRAWING 2618-A5.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM





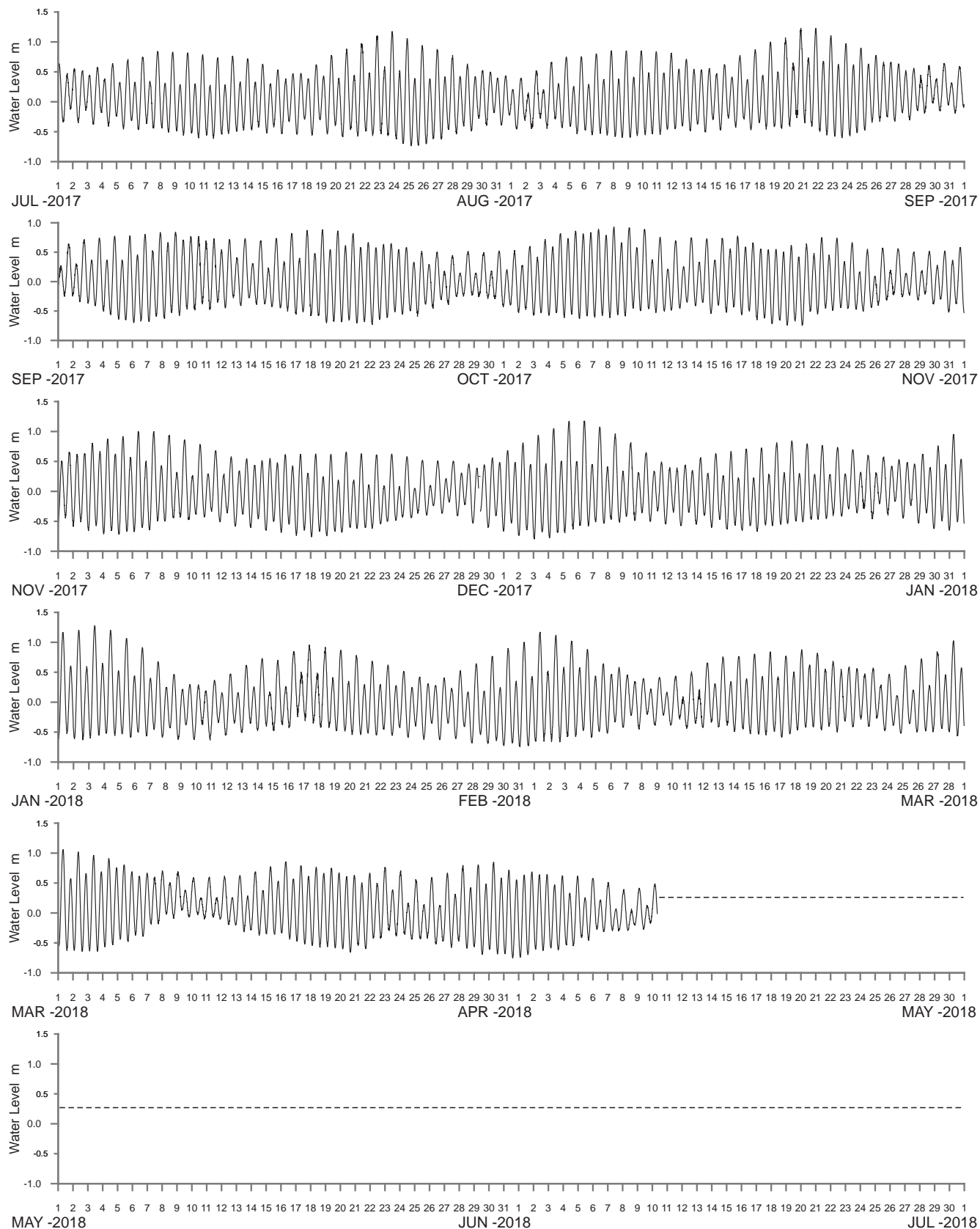
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## BALLINA BREAKWALL STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

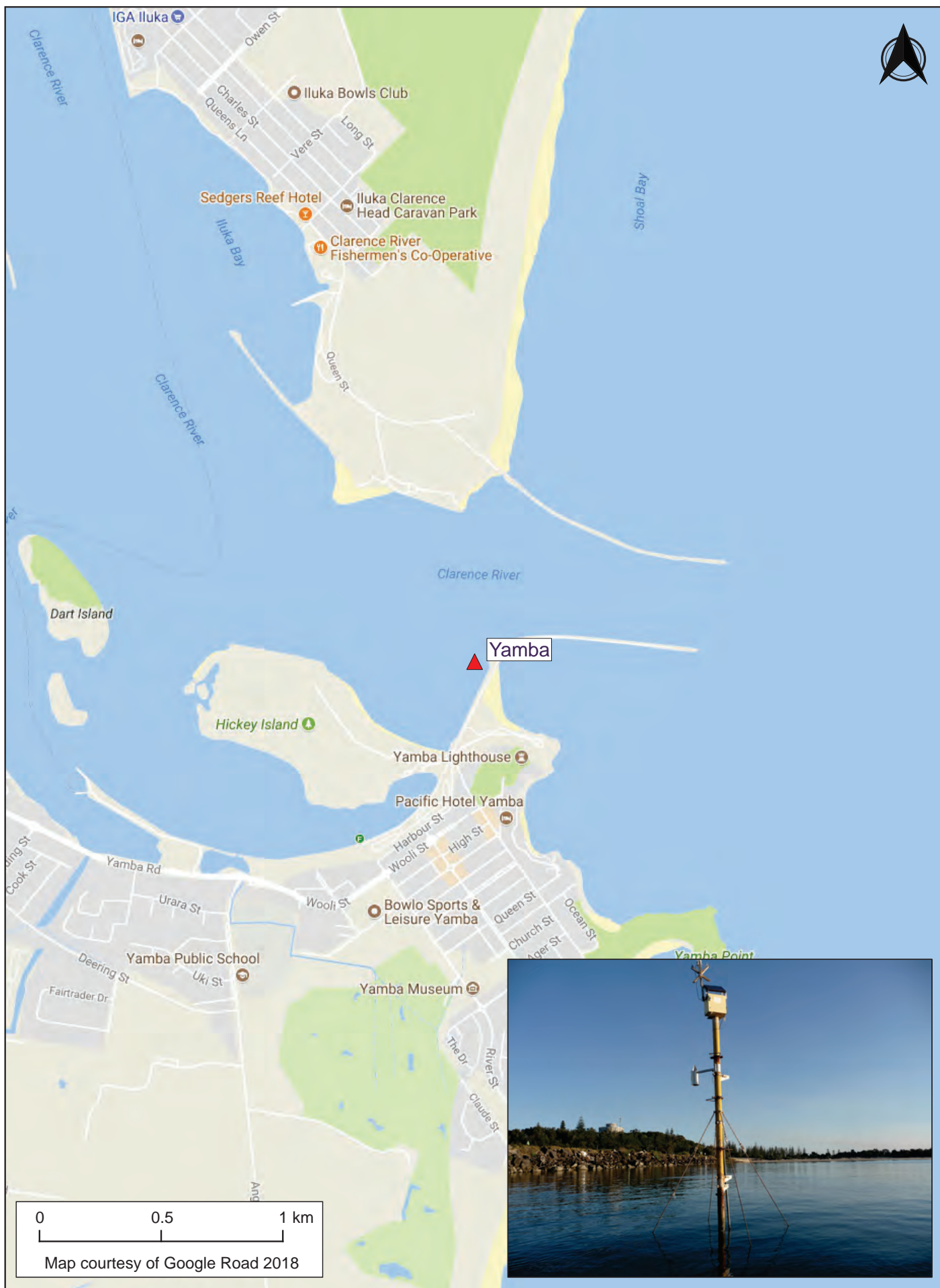
Figure  
A7

DRAWING 2618-A7.cdr

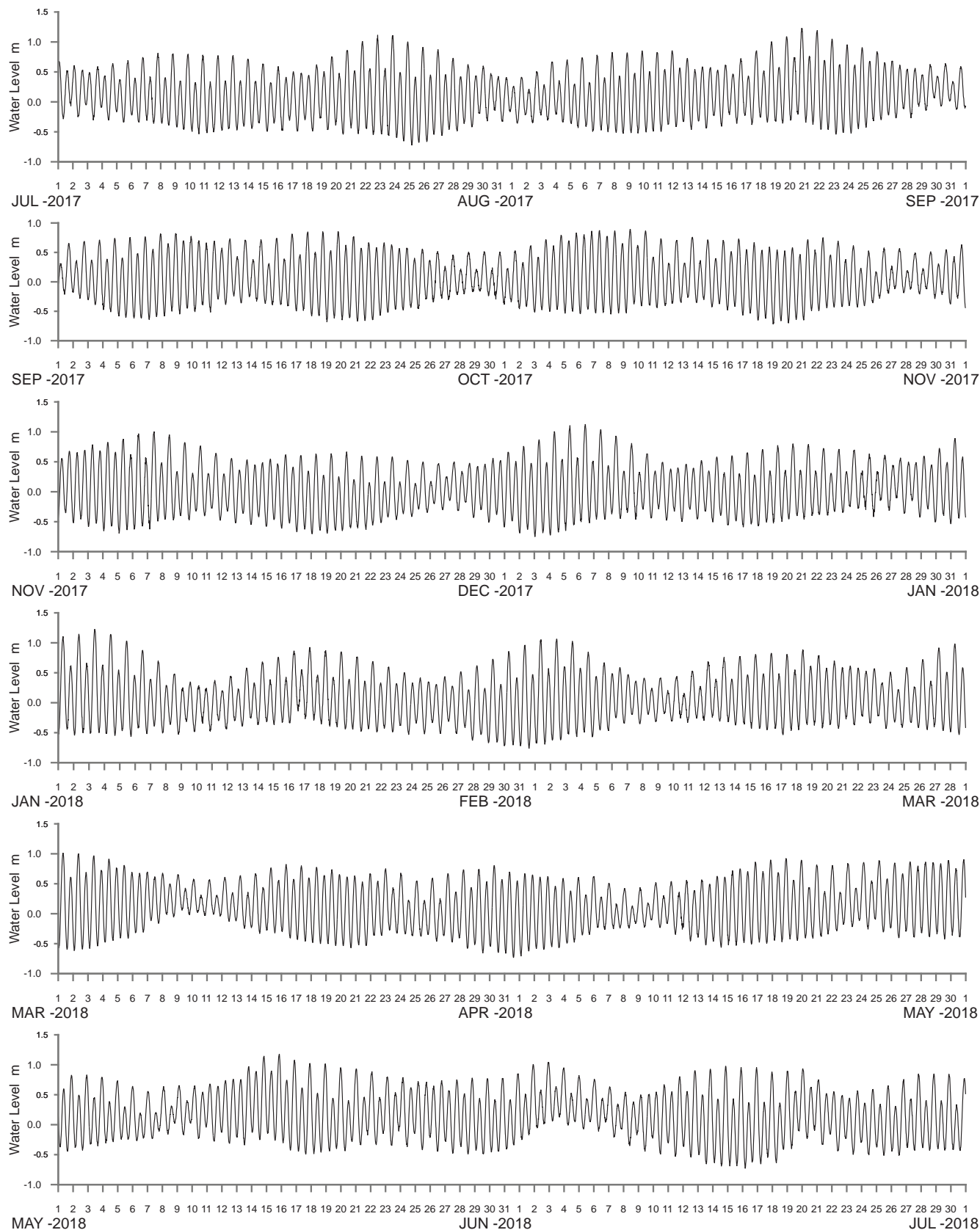


WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS





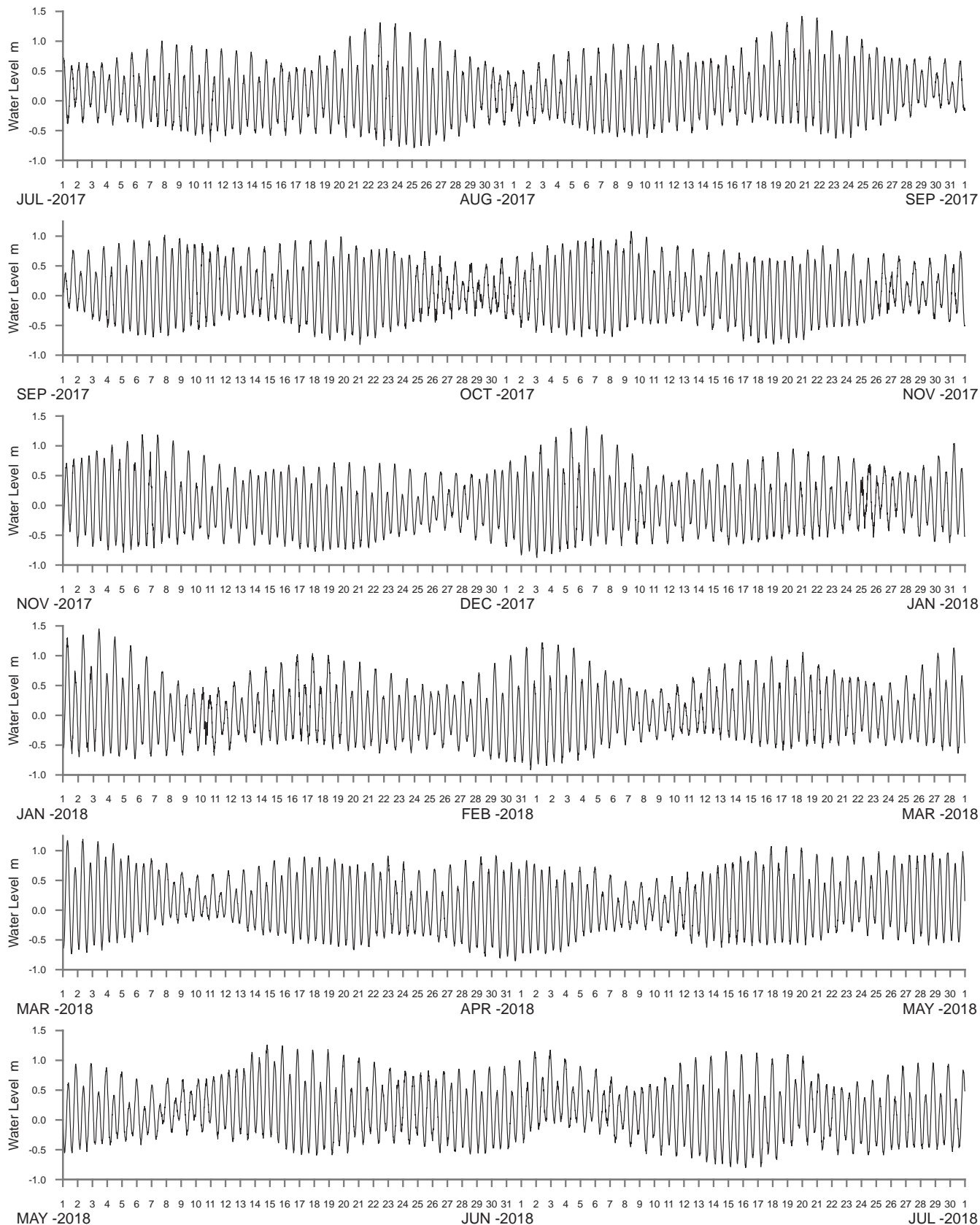


WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS







WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS



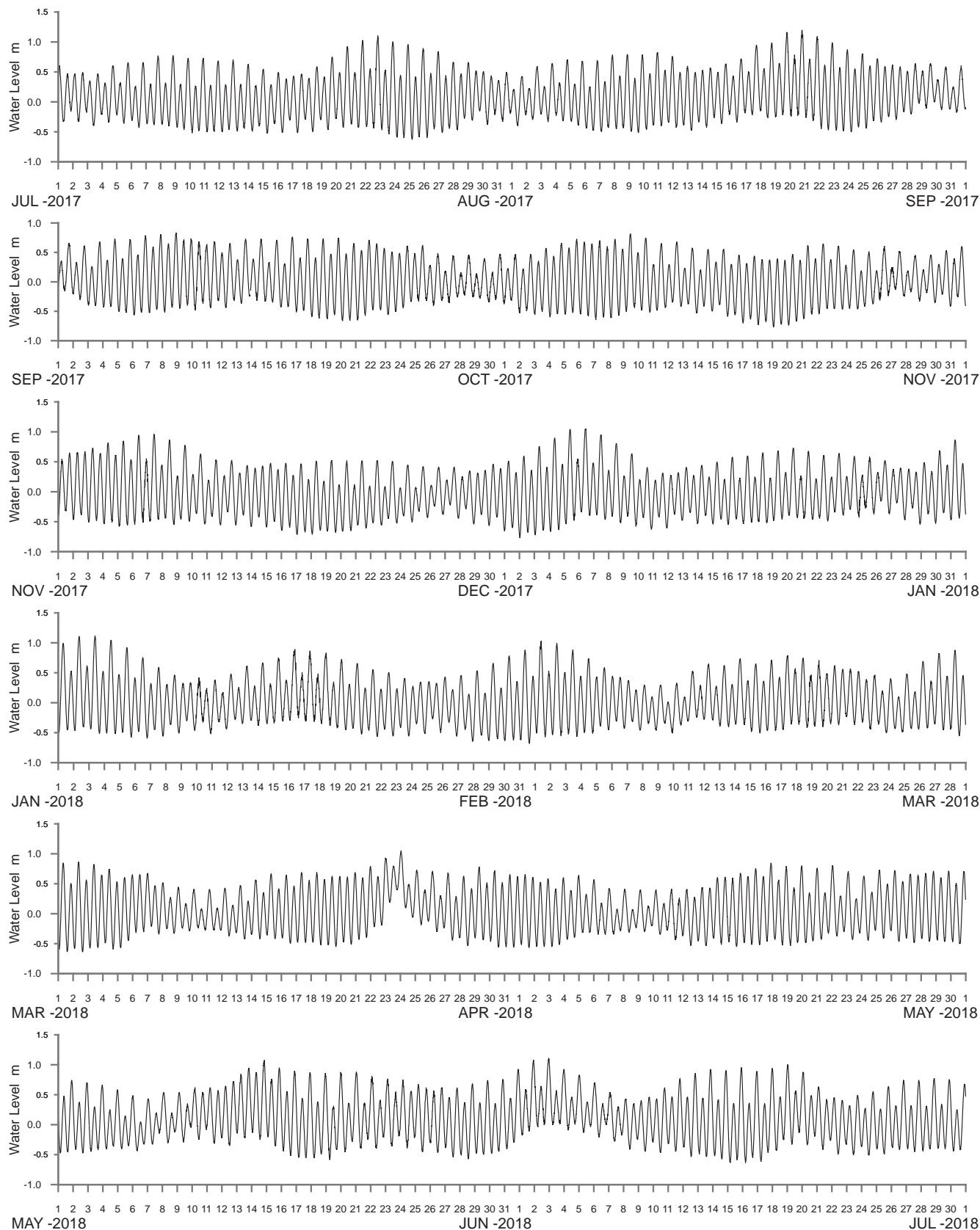
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## PORT MACQUARIE STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

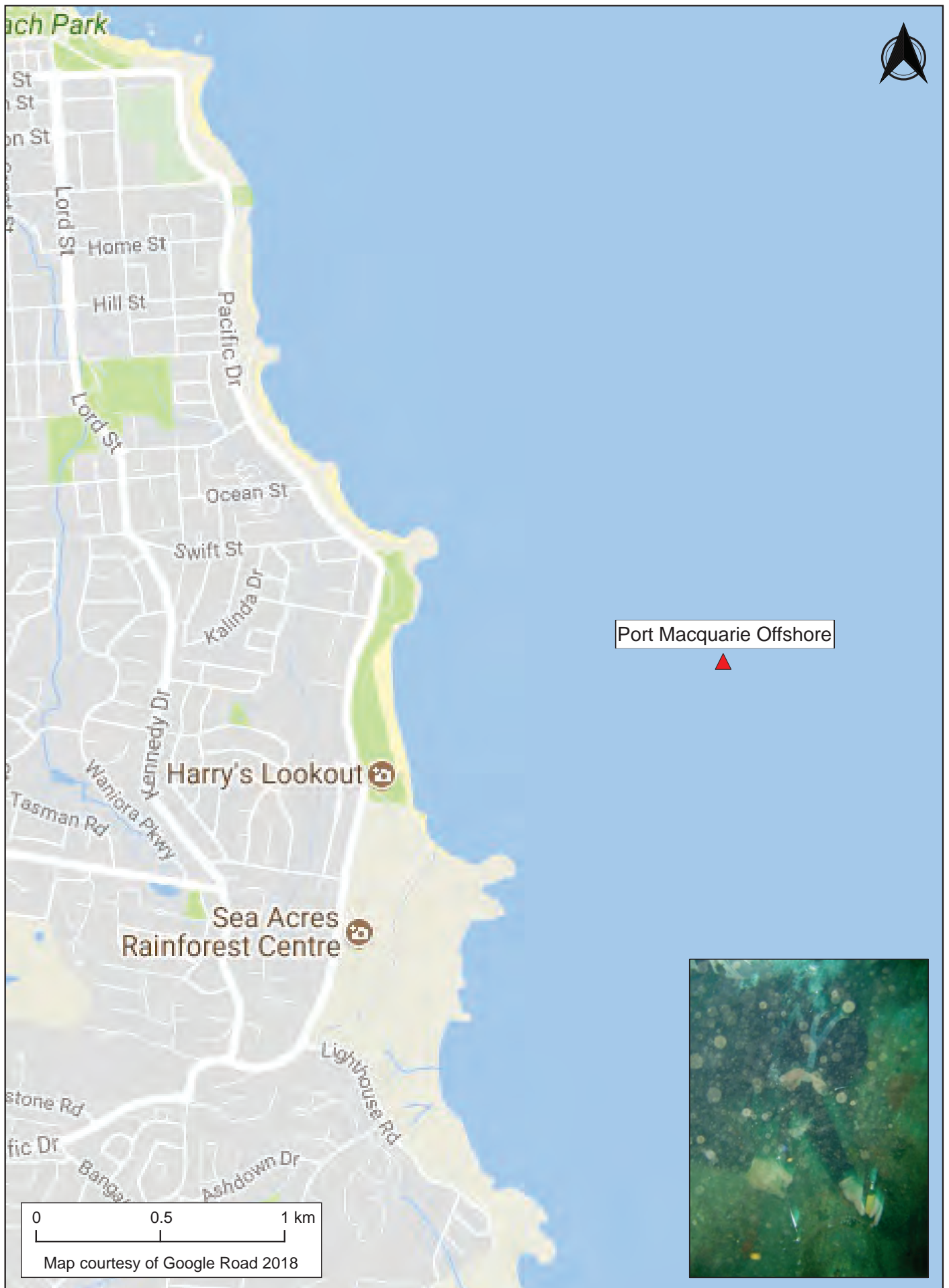
Figure  
A13

DRAWING 2618-A13.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS



**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

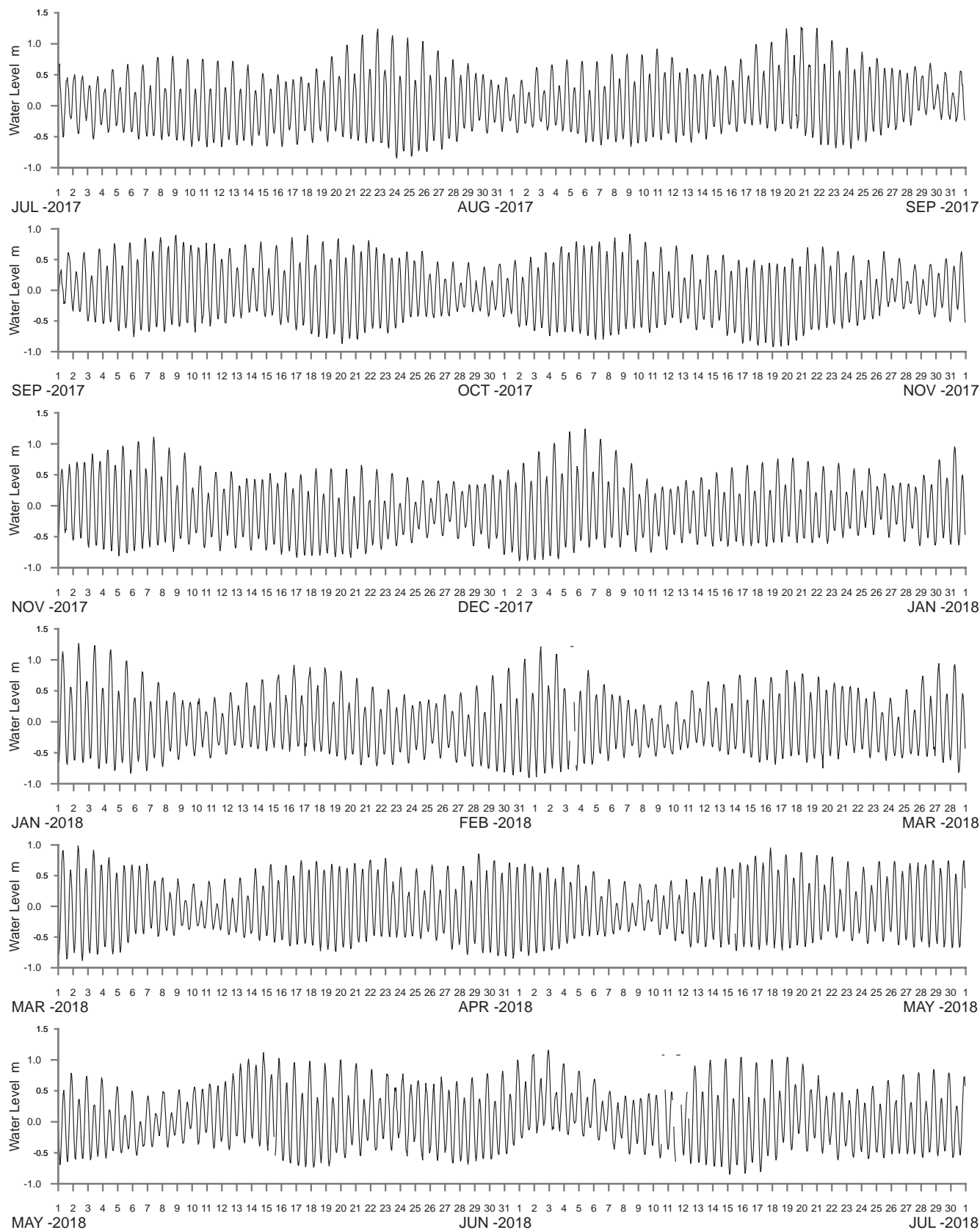
## PORT MACQUARIE OFFSHORE TIDE GAUGE LOCATION

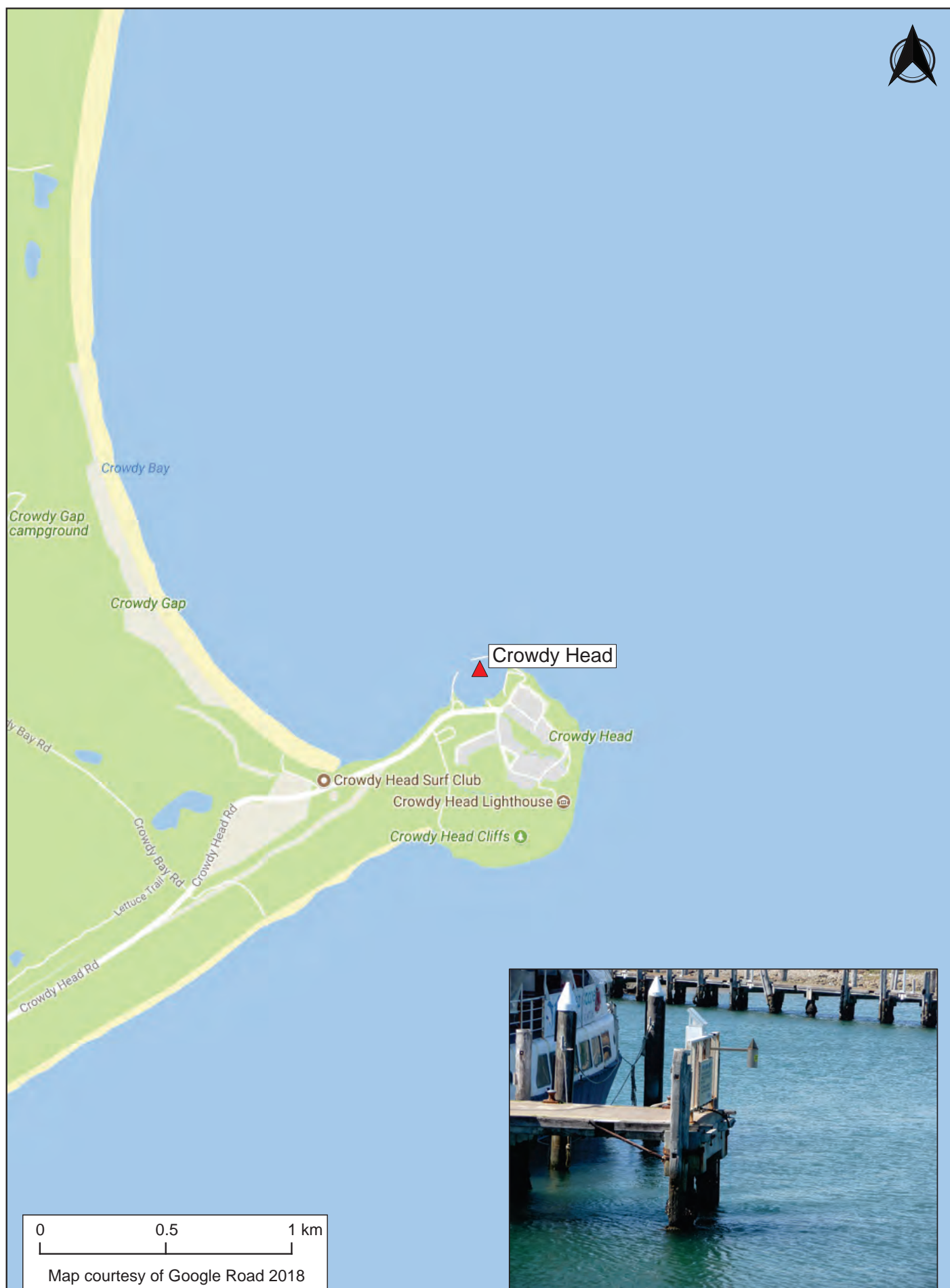
MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
**A15**

DRAWING 2618-A15.cdr







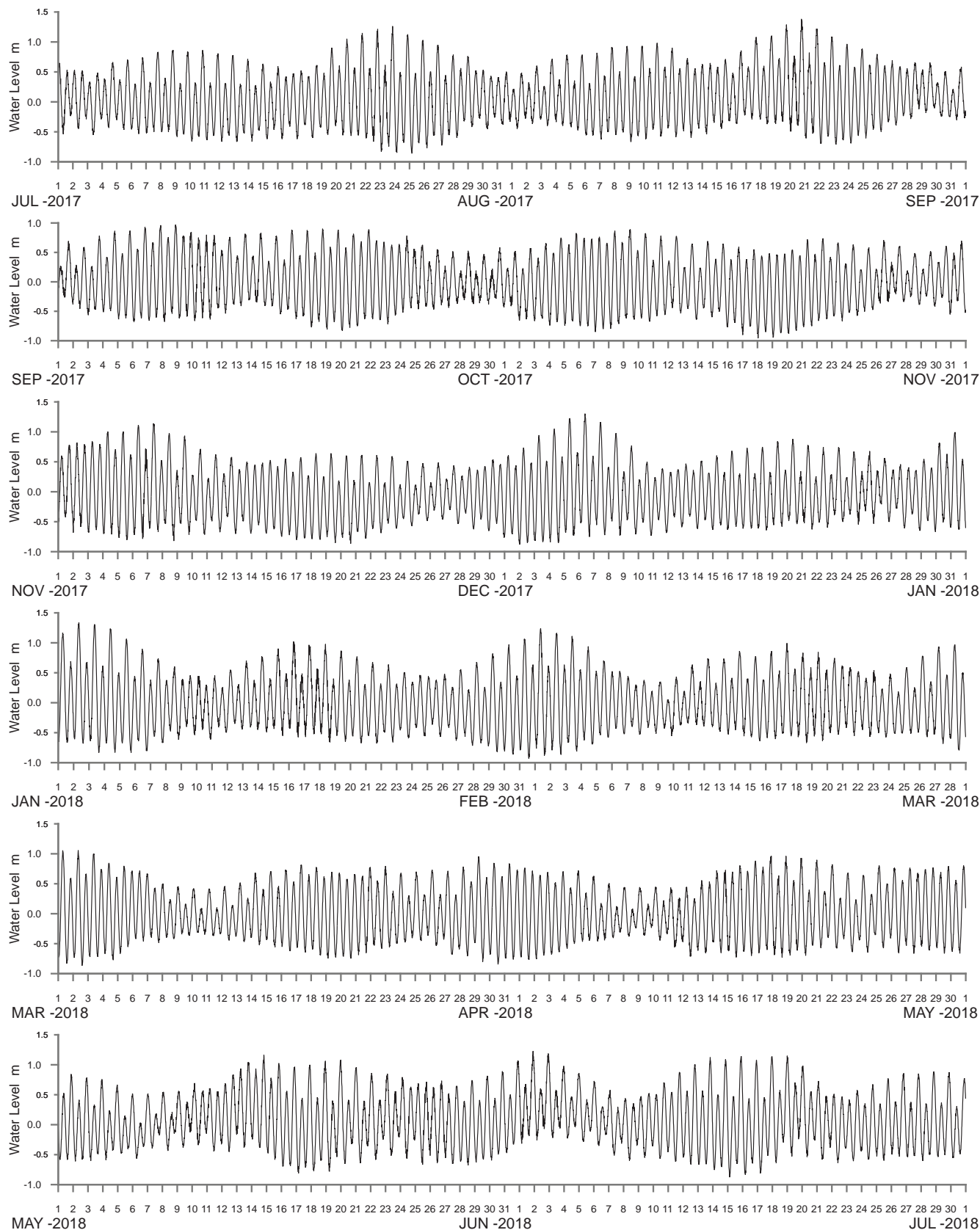
**Manly**  
**Hydraulics**  
**Laboratory**

## CROWDY HEAD STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A17

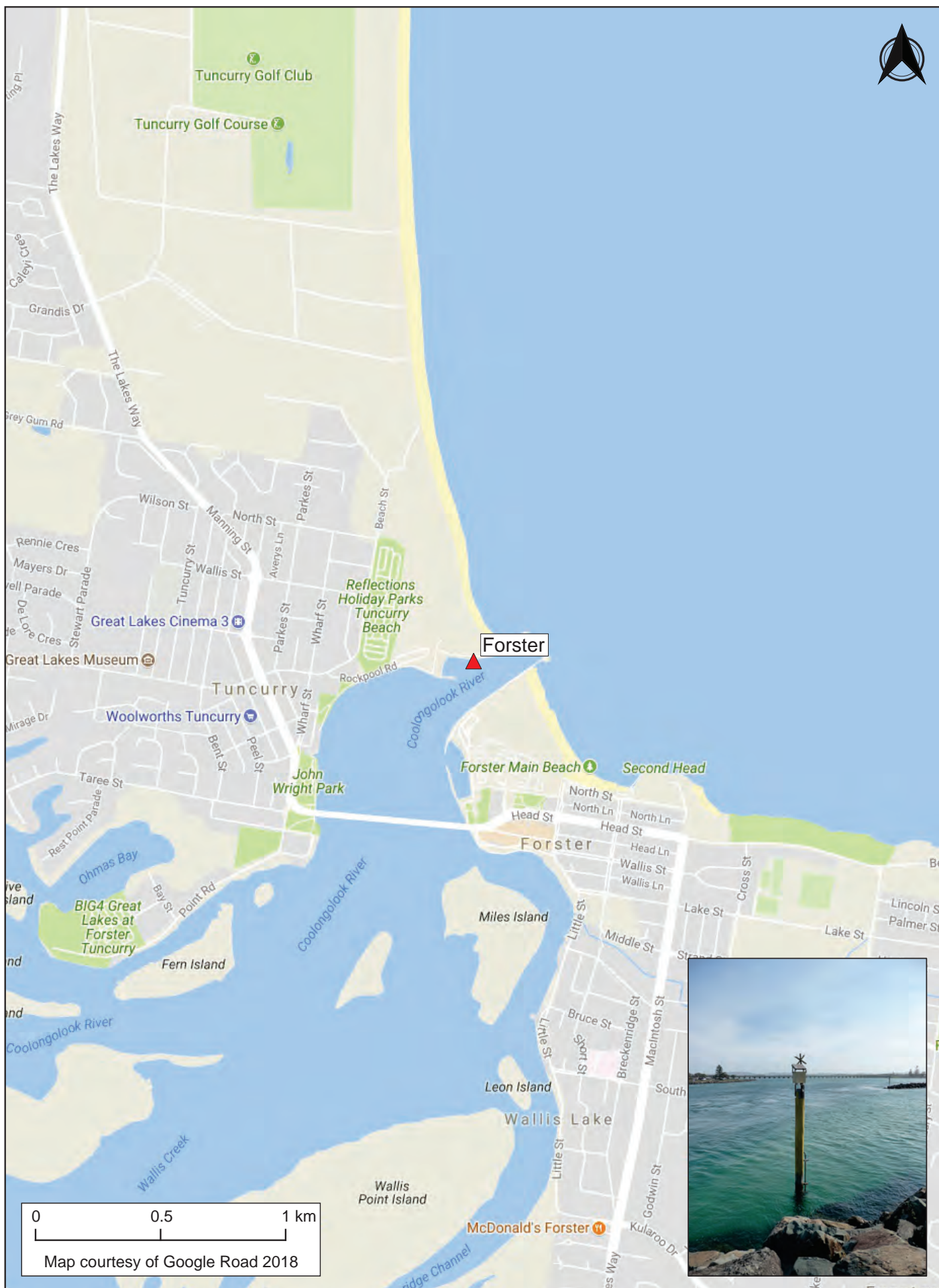
DRAWING 2618-A17.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS





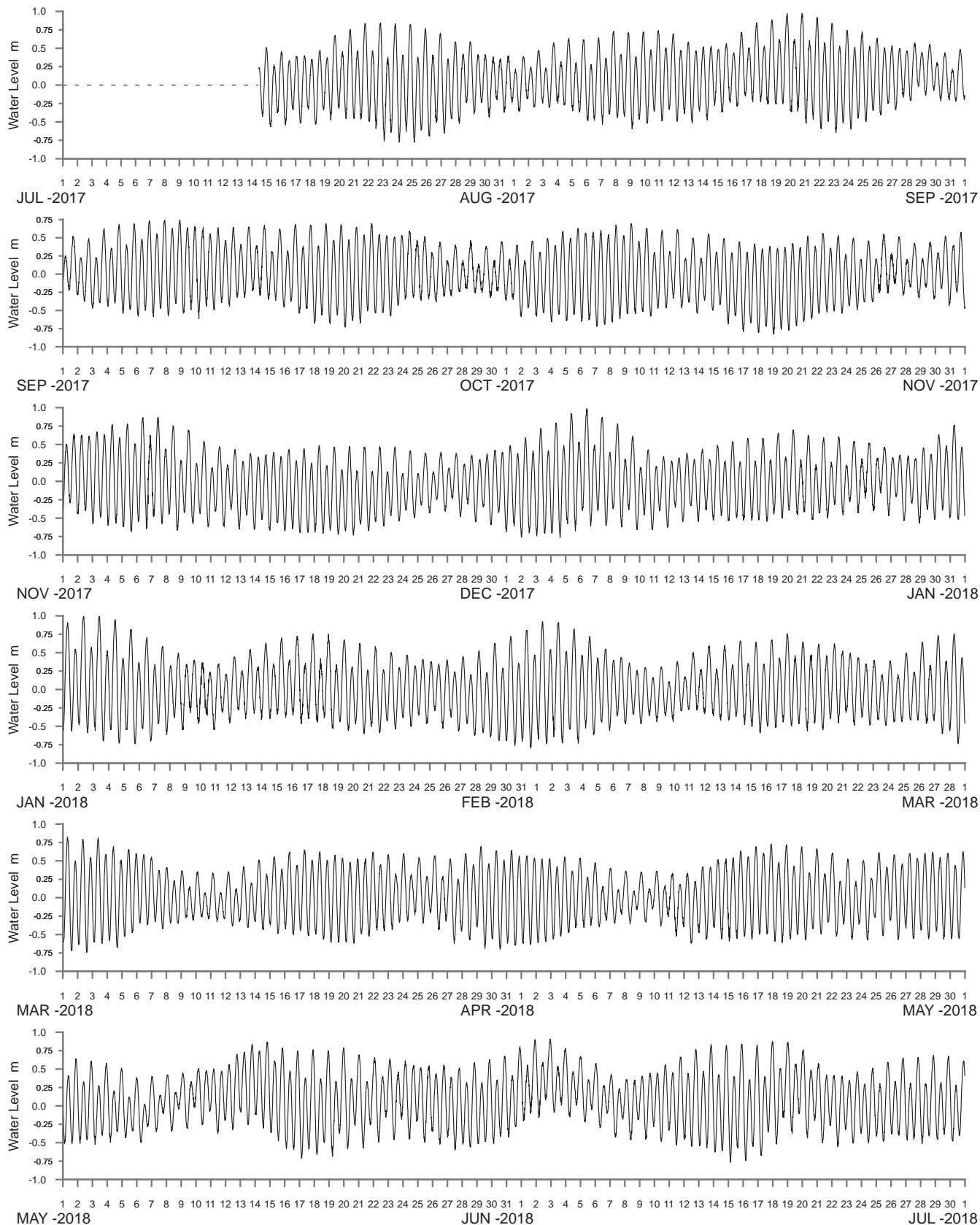
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## FORSTER STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A19

DRAWING 2618-A19.cdr





**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

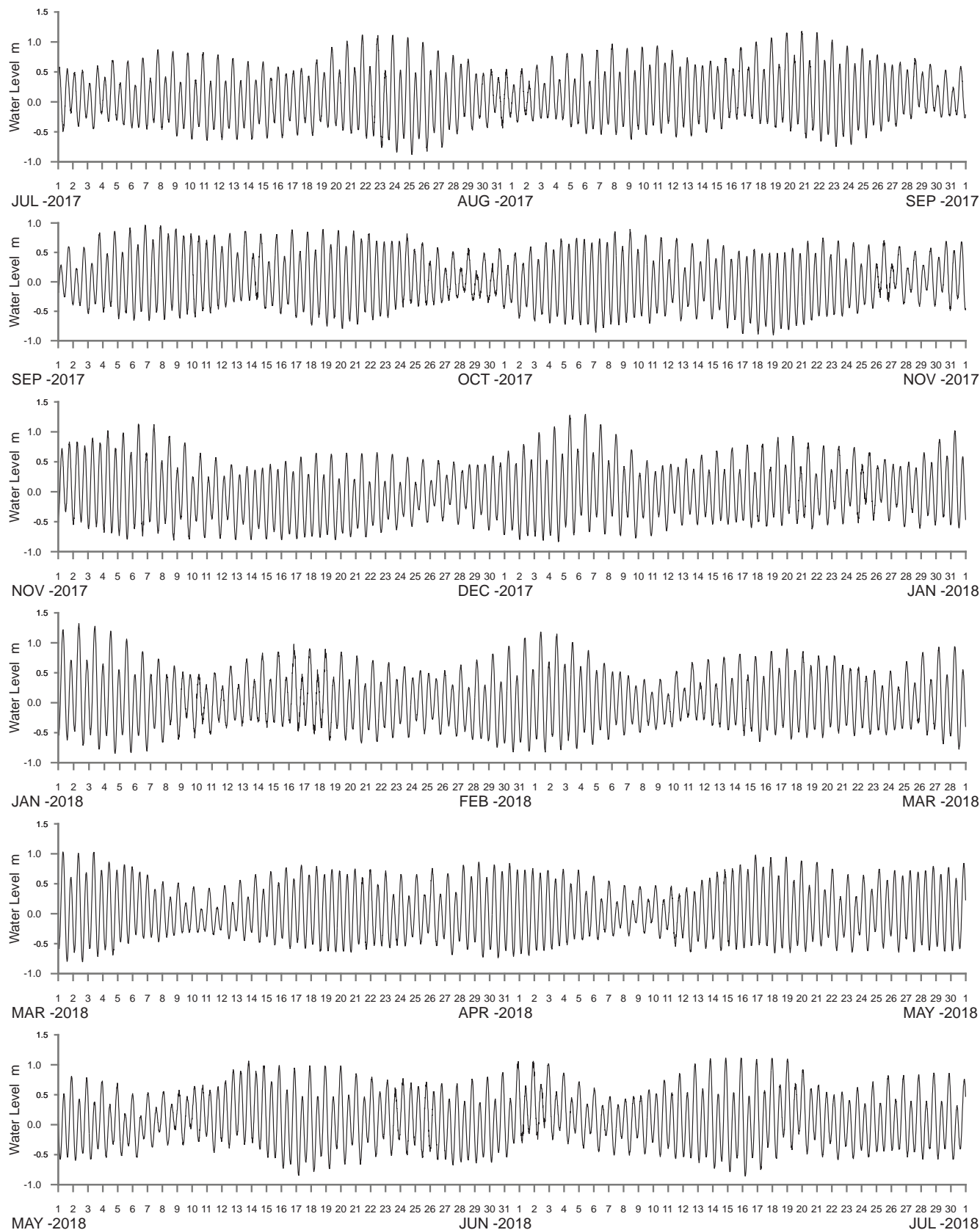
## SHOAL BAY STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

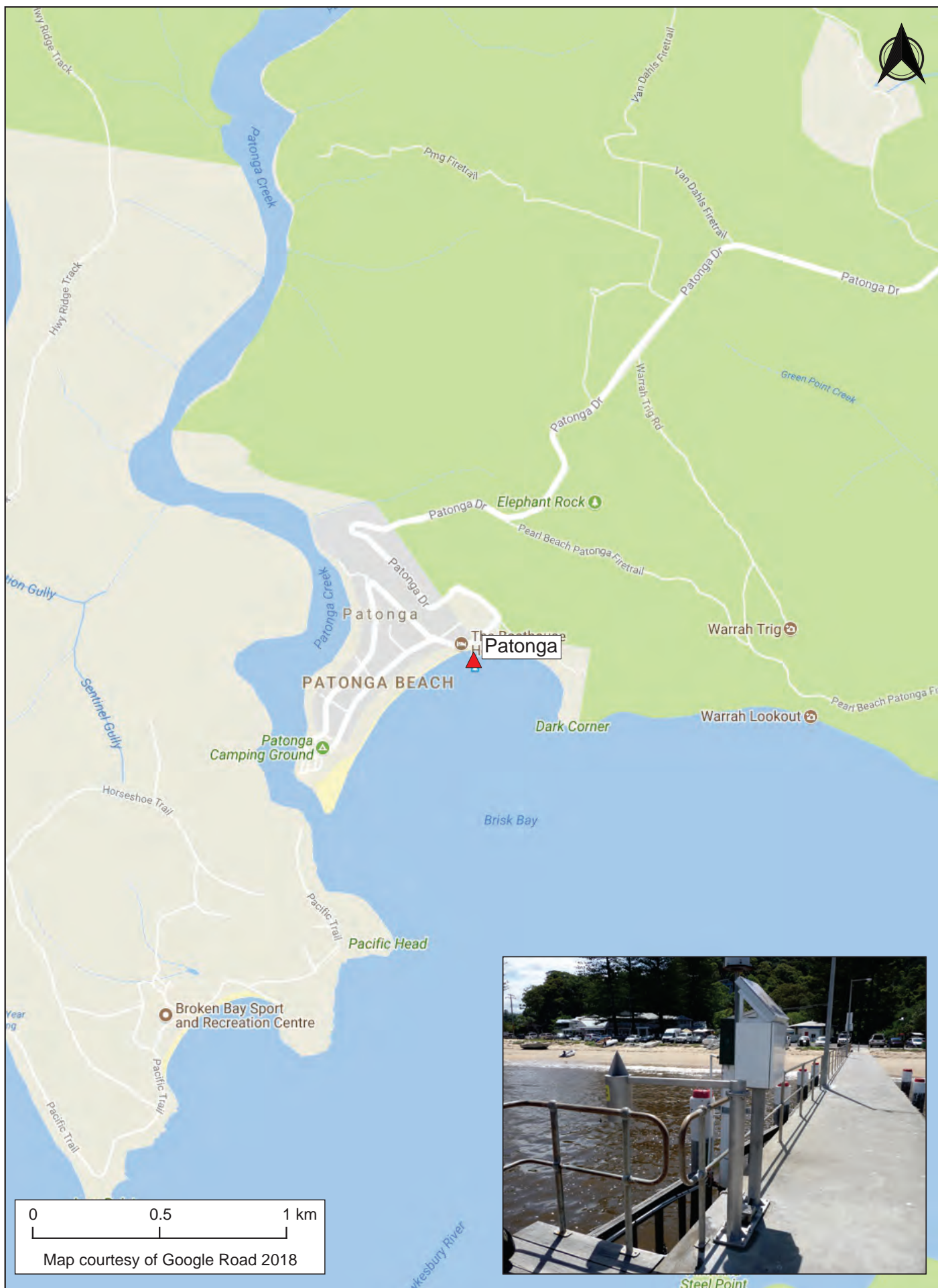
Figure  
A21

DRAWING 2618-A21.cdr





WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM



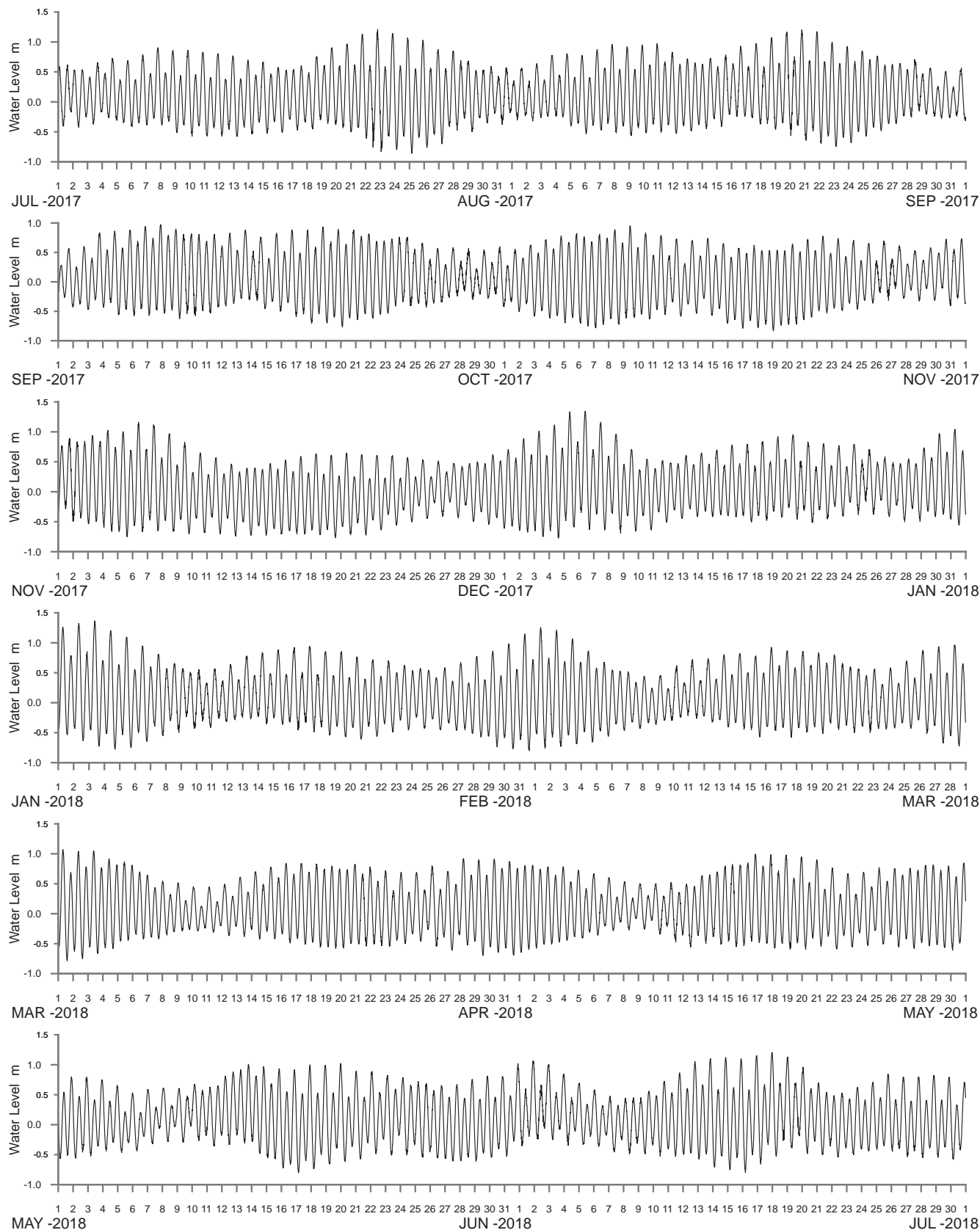
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## PATONGA STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A23

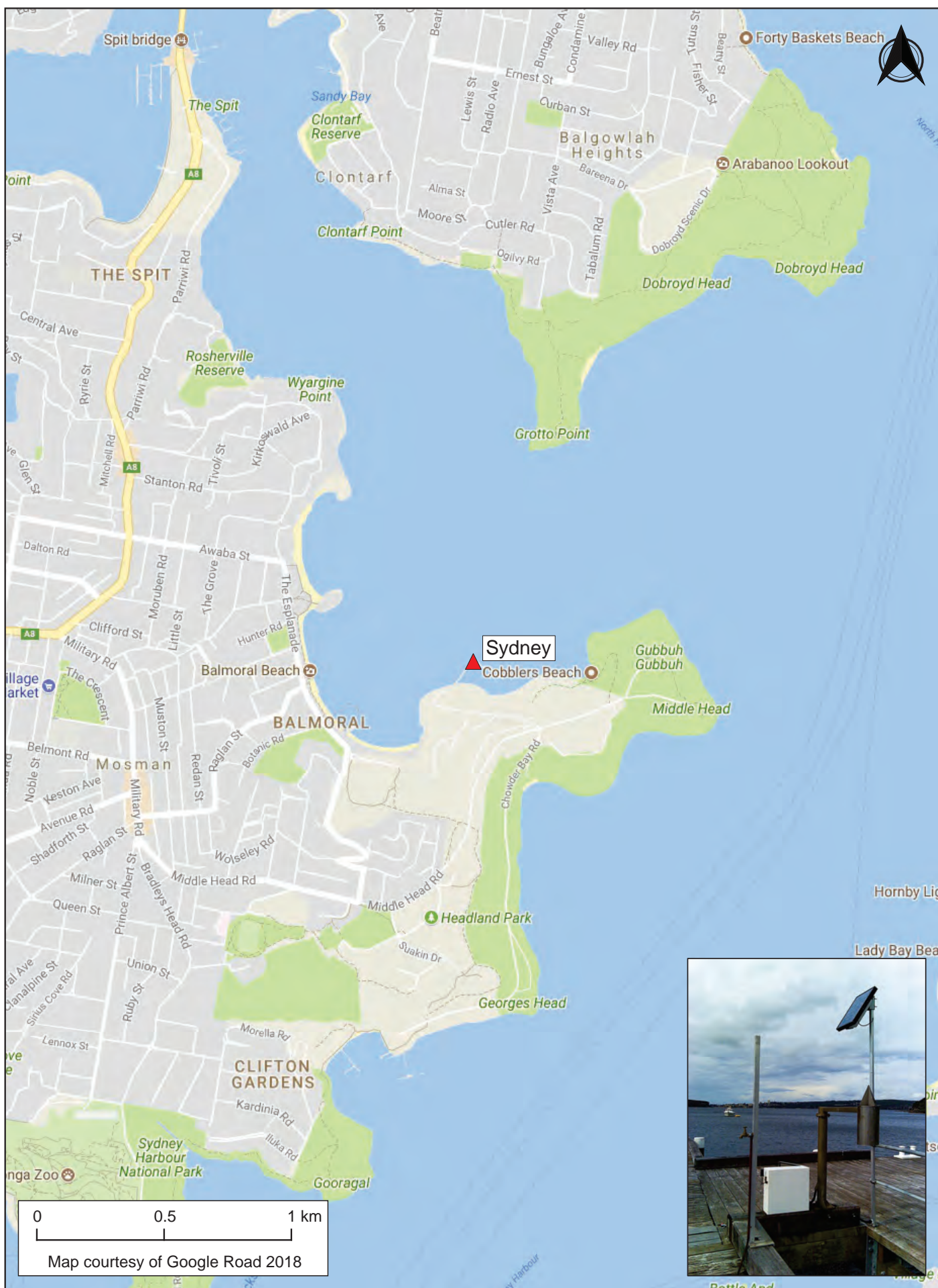
DRAWING 2618-A23.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS





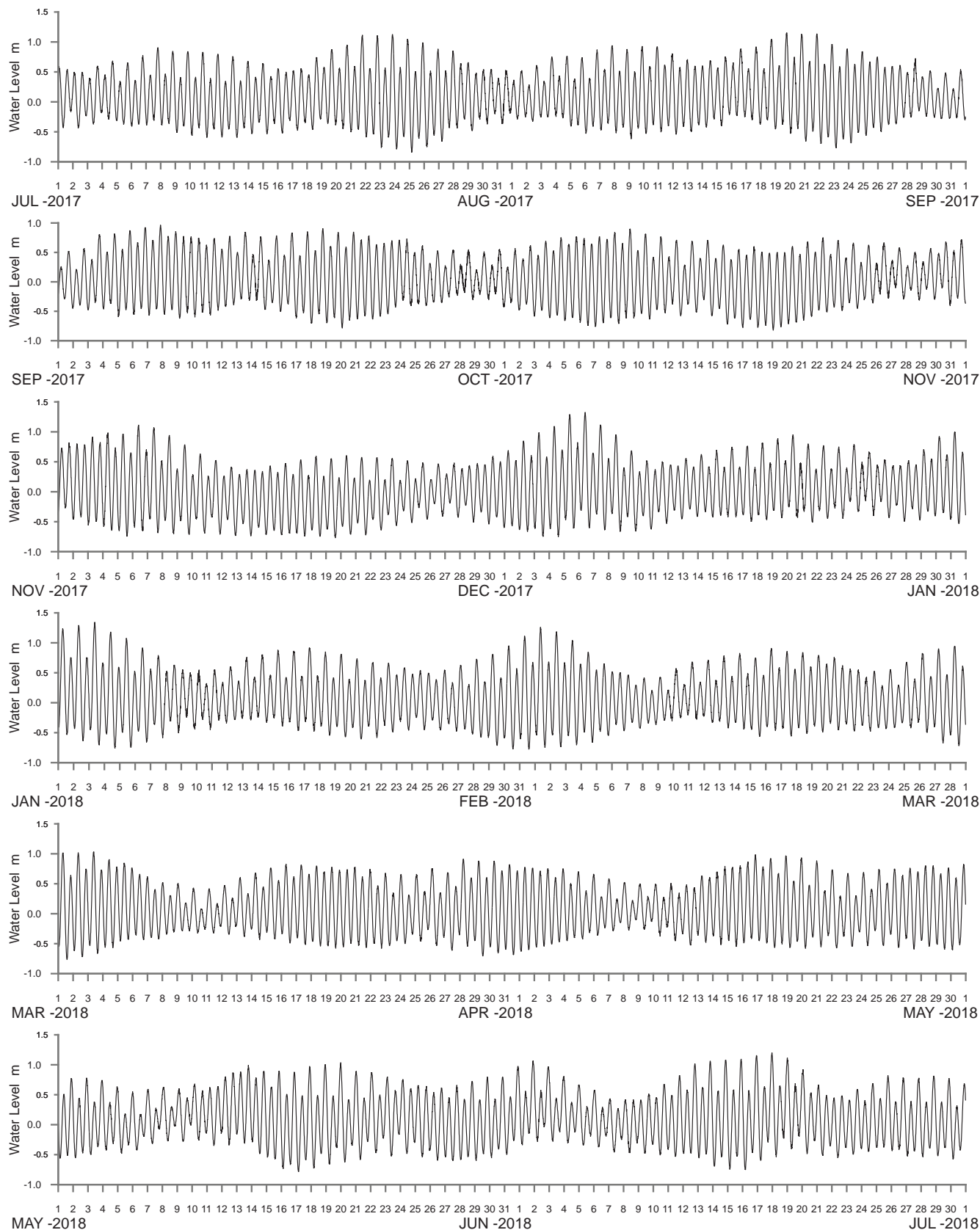
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## SYDNEY STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A25

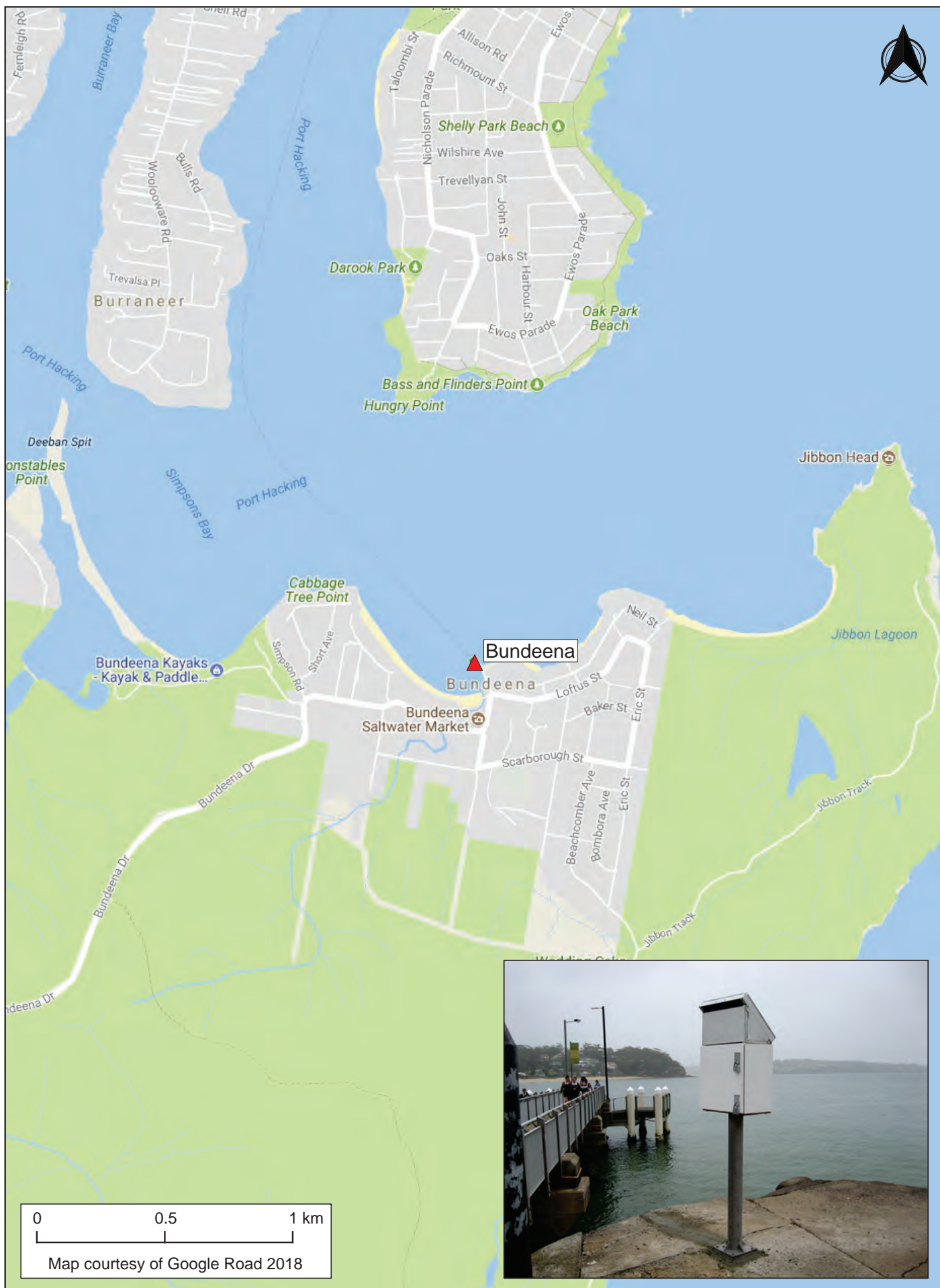
DRAWING 2618-A25.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS





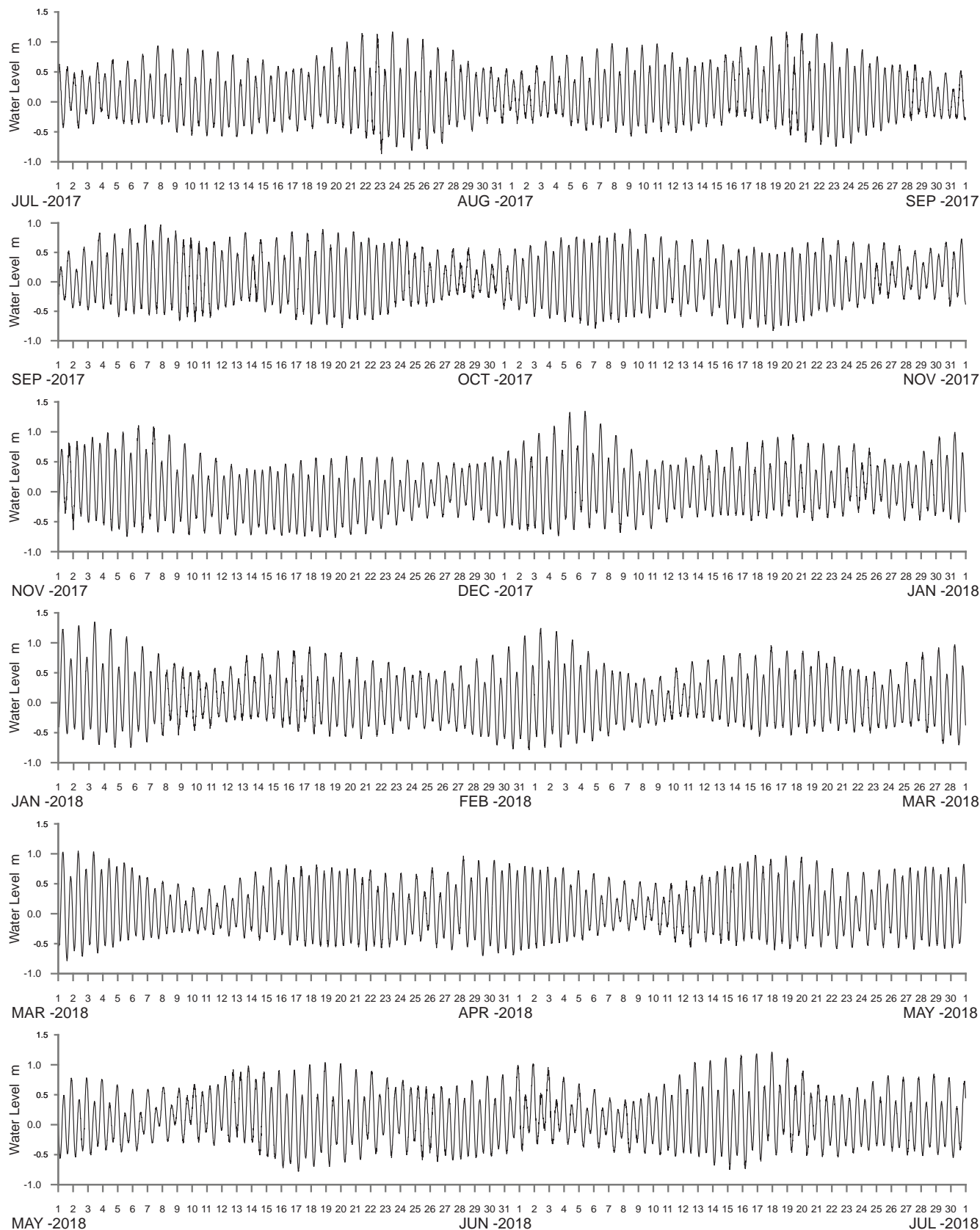
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## BUNDEENA STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

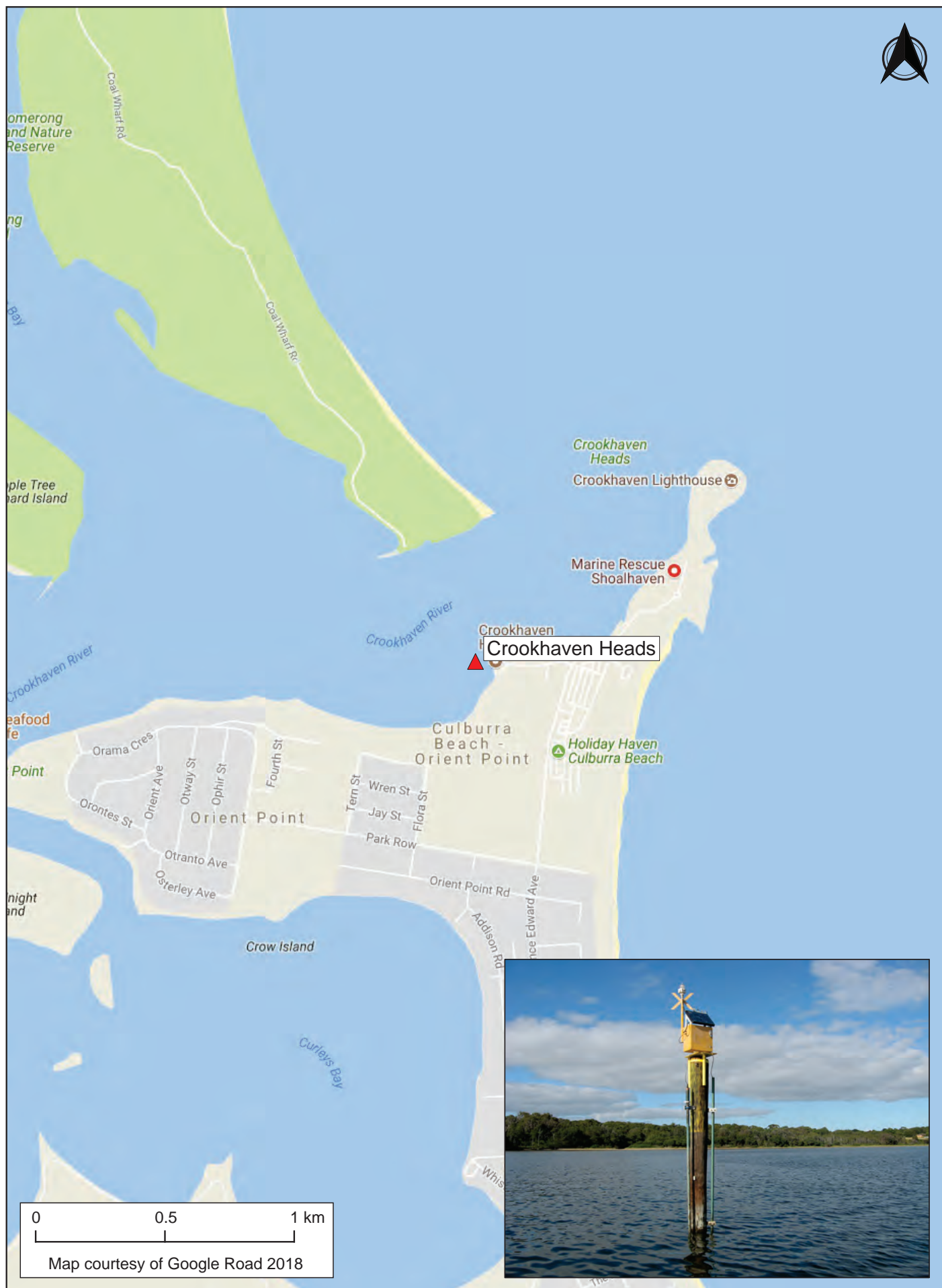
Figure  
A27

DRAWING 2618-A27.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS



**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

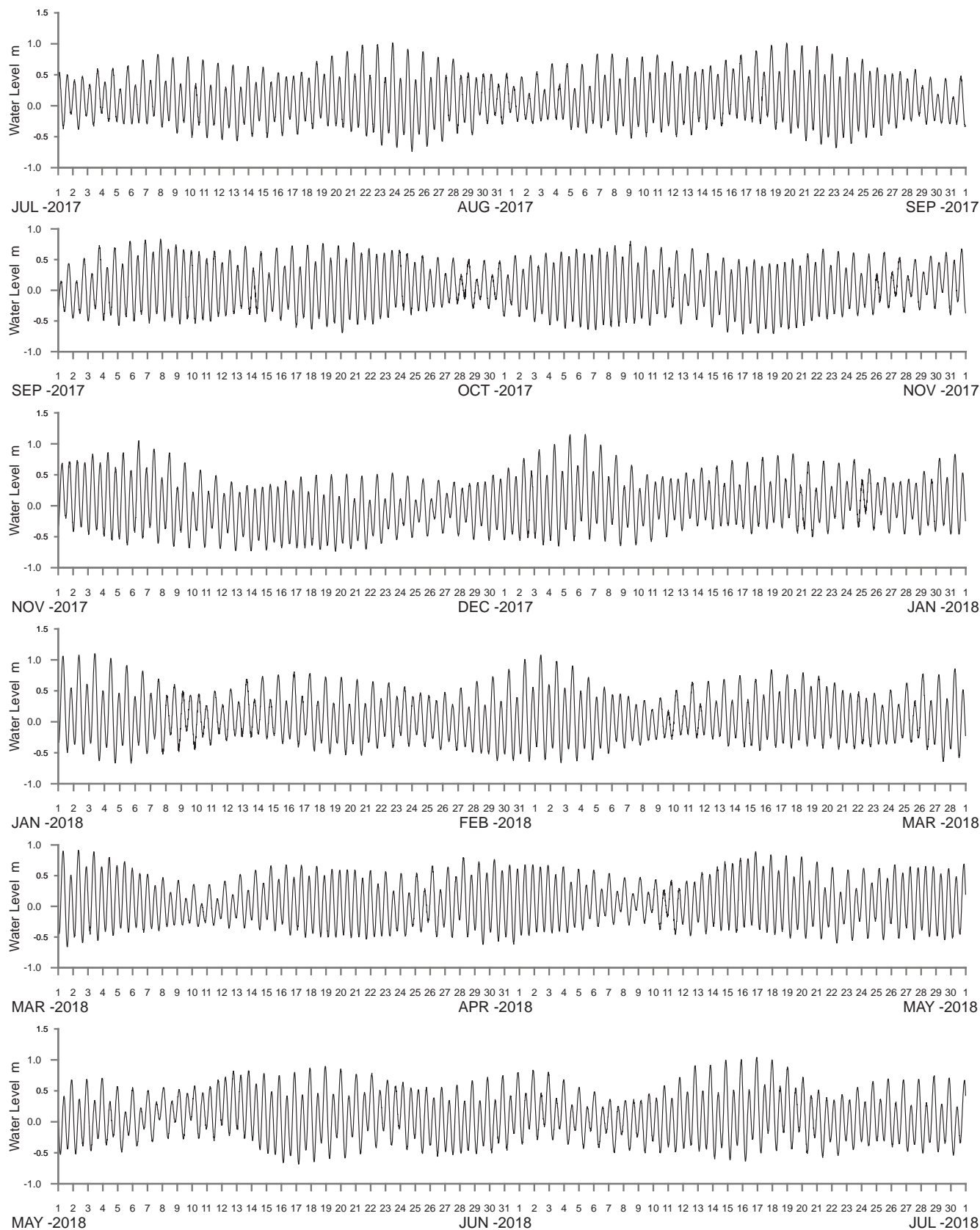
## CROOKHAVEN HEADS STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A29

DRAWING 2618-A29.cdr





WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS





Culburra  
Beach -  
Point

Row

Shoalhaven Offshore



0 0.5 1 km

Map courtesy of Google Road 2018



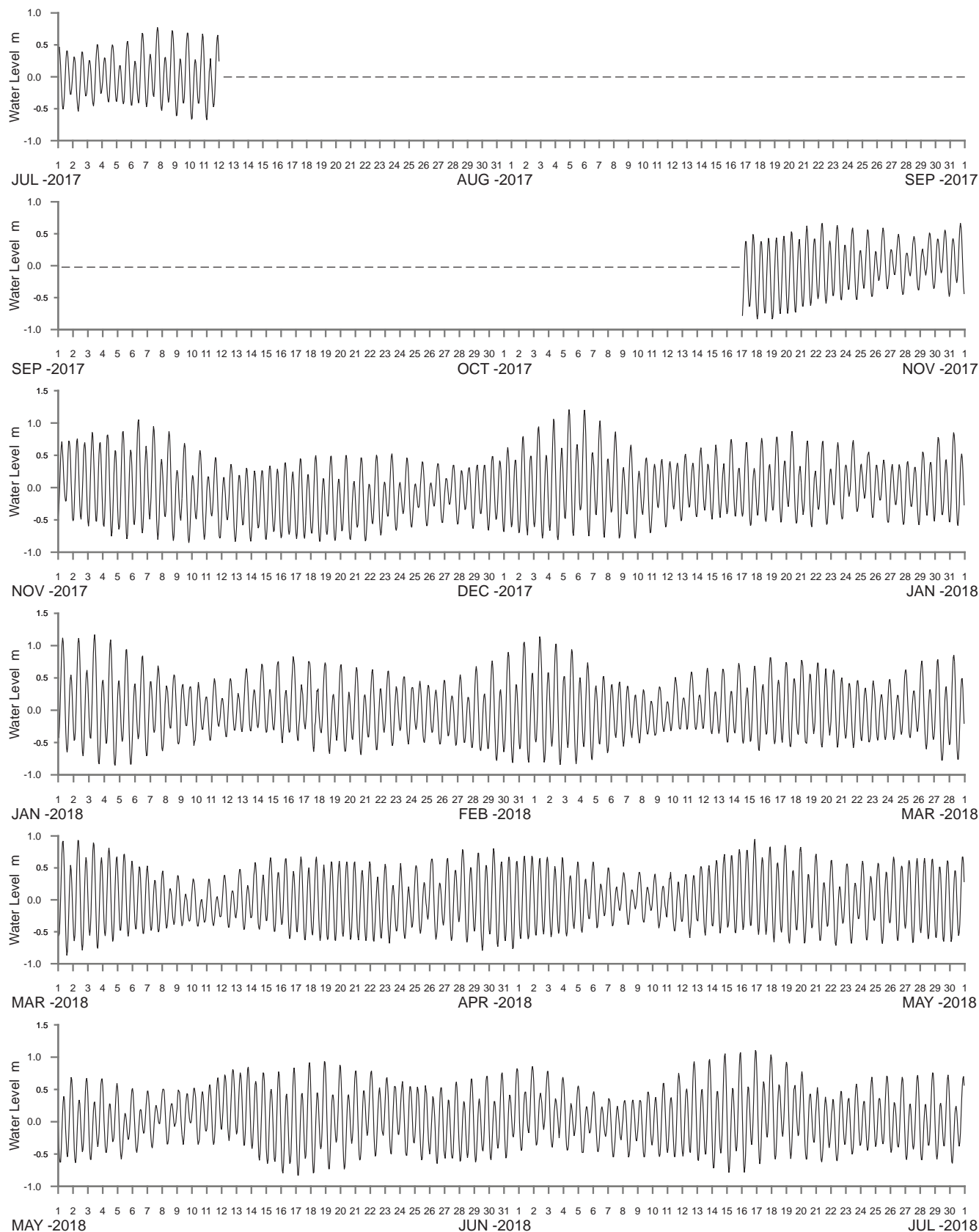
**Manly**  
**Hydraulics**  
**Laboratory**

## SHOALHAVEN OFFSHORE TIDE GAUGE LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

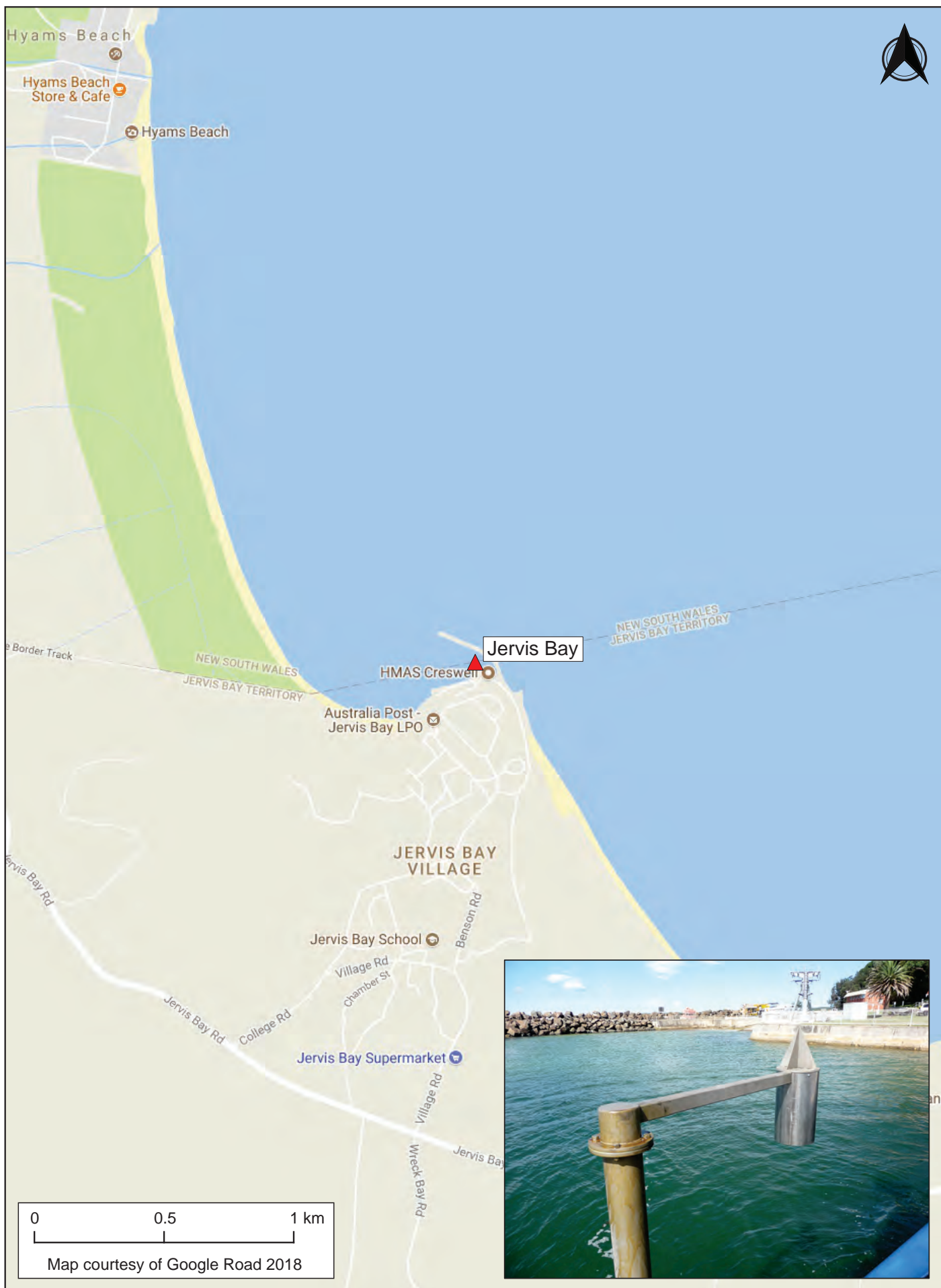
Figure  
A31

DRAWING 2618-A31.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO MEAN SEA LEVEL

----- DATA LOSS



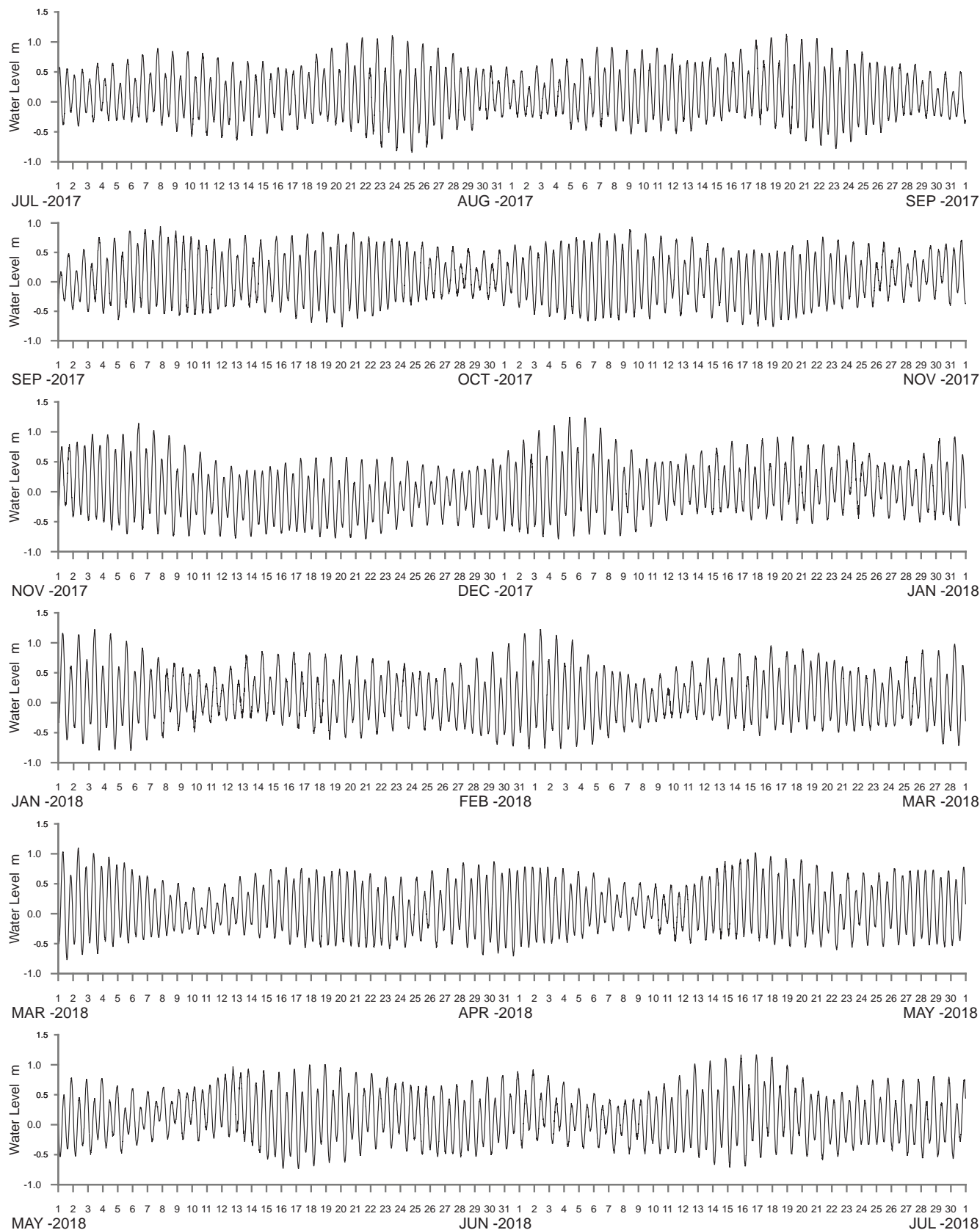
**Manly**  
**Hydraulics**  
**Laboratory**

## JERVIS BAY STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A33

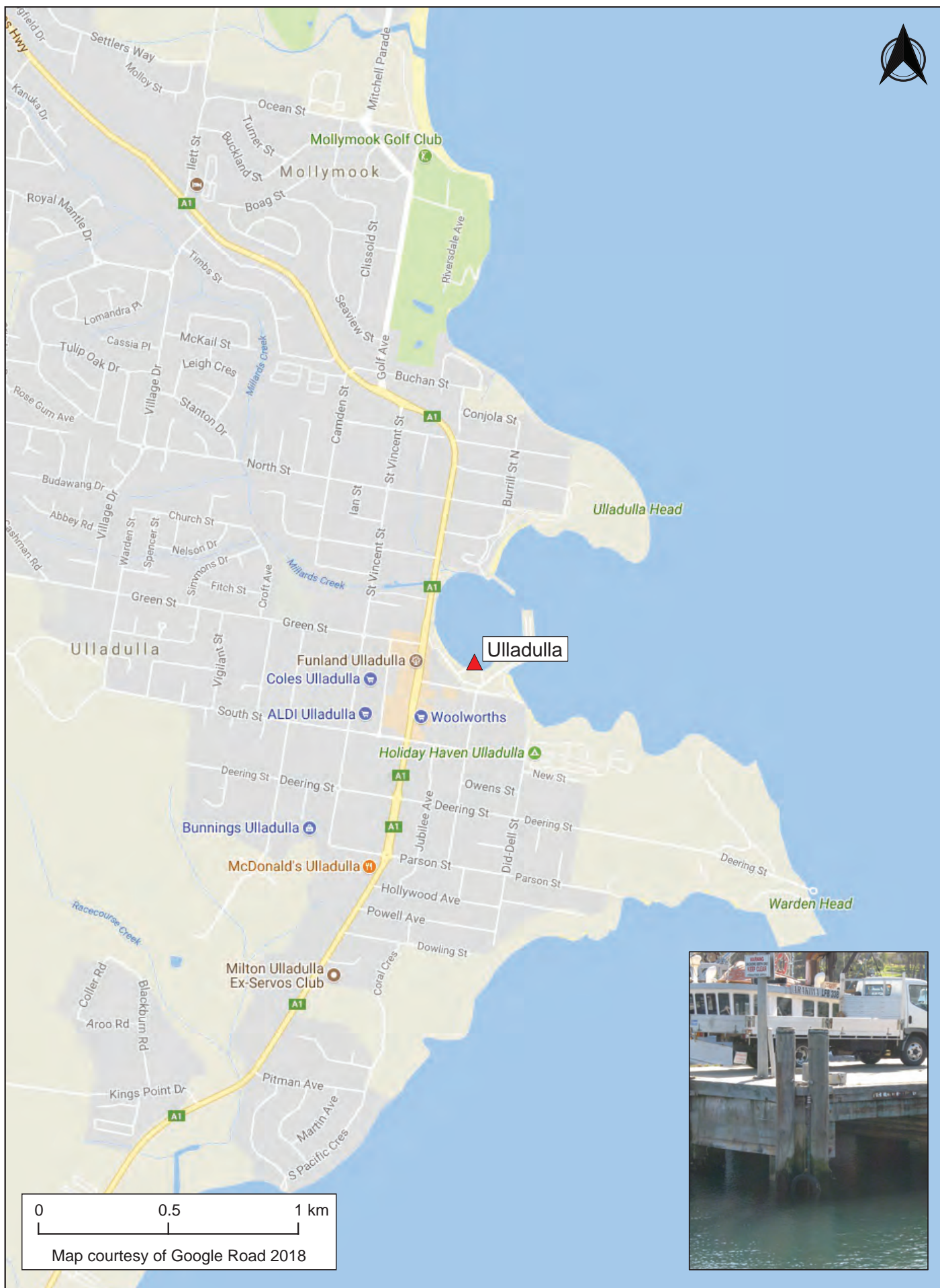
DRAWING 2618-A33.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS





**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

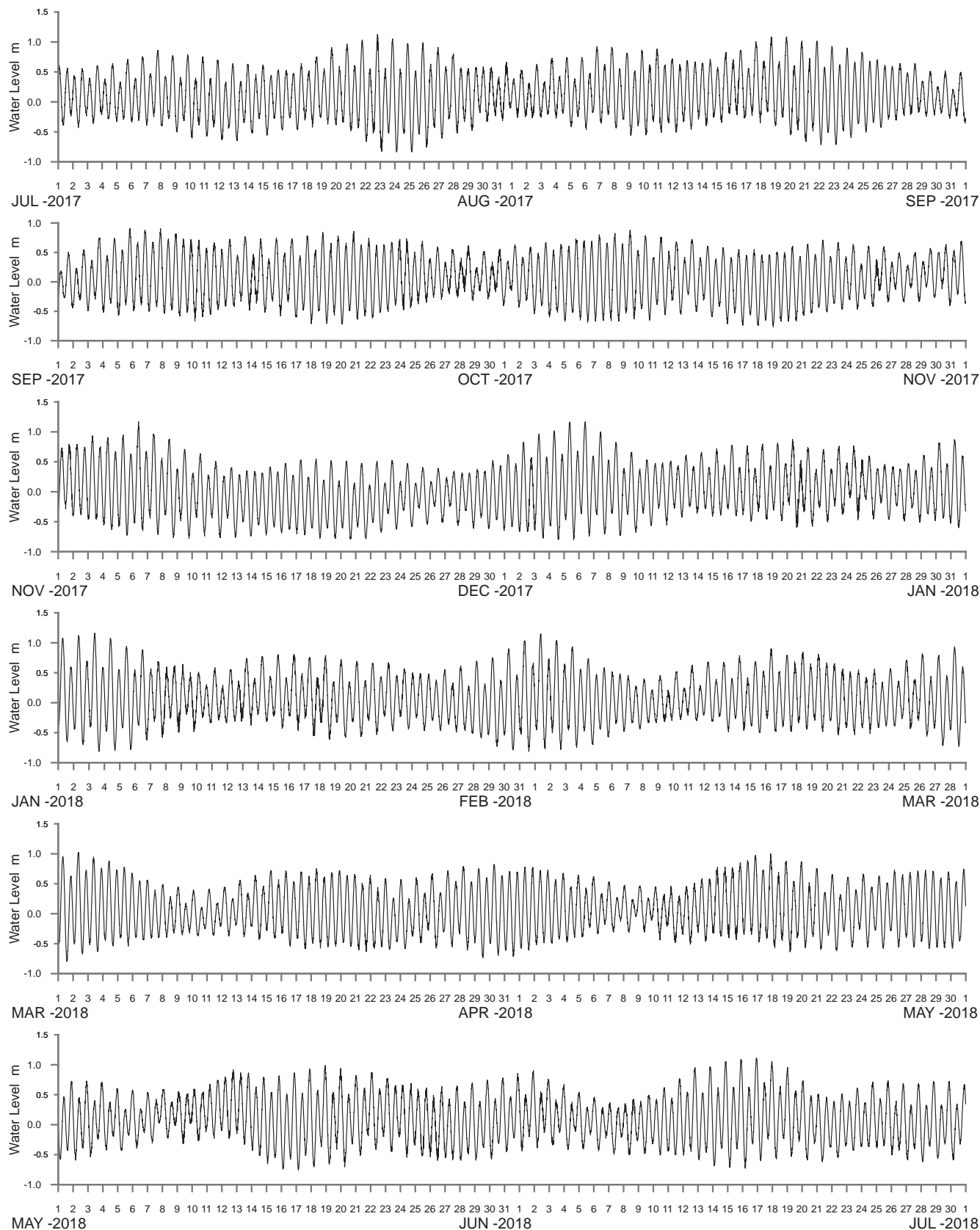
## ULLADULLA STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A35

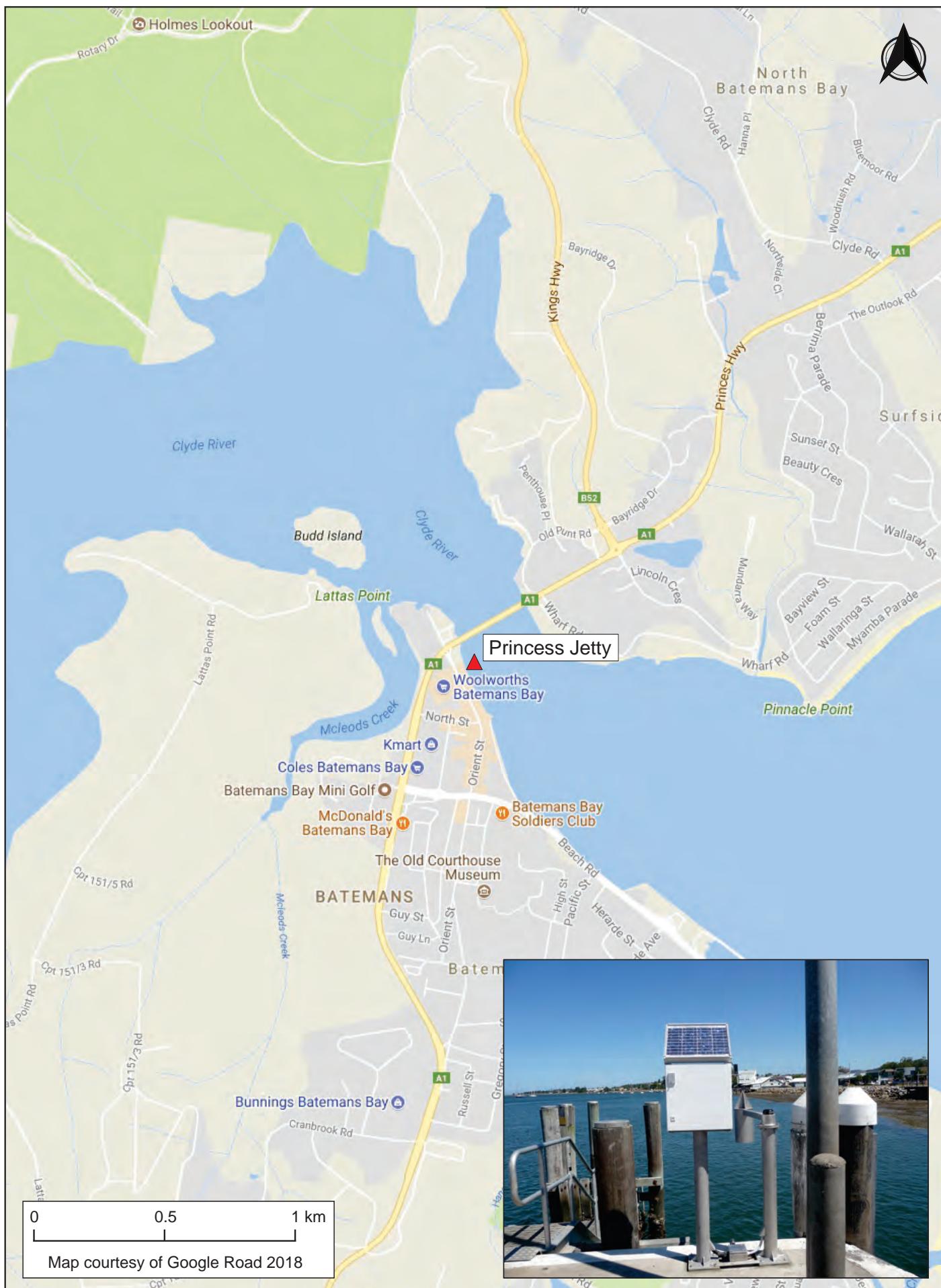
DRAWING 2618-A35.cdr





WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS



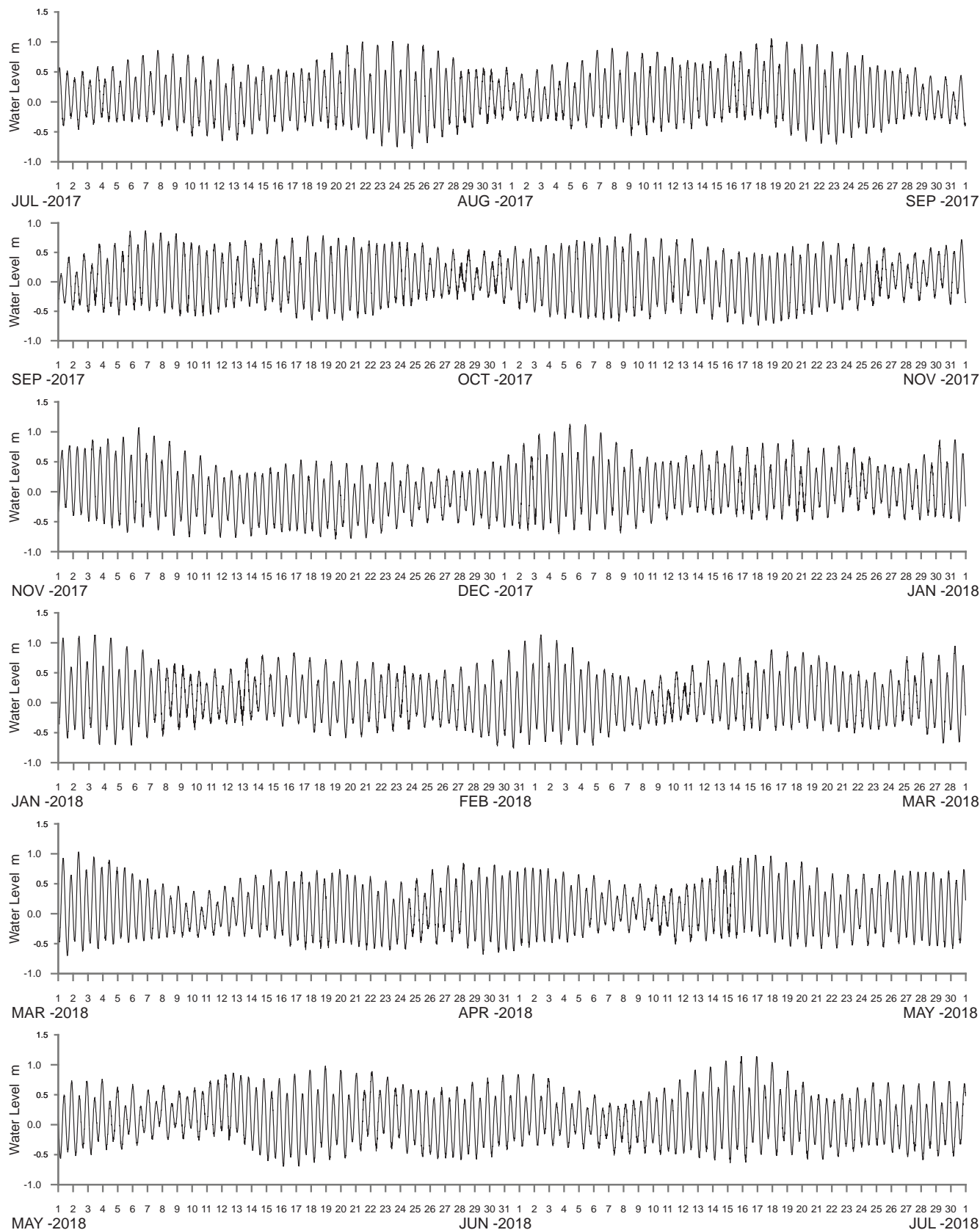
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## PRINCESS JETTY STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A37

DRAWING 2618-A37.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM





Batemans Bay Offshore



0 0.5 1 km

Map courtesy of Google Road 2018



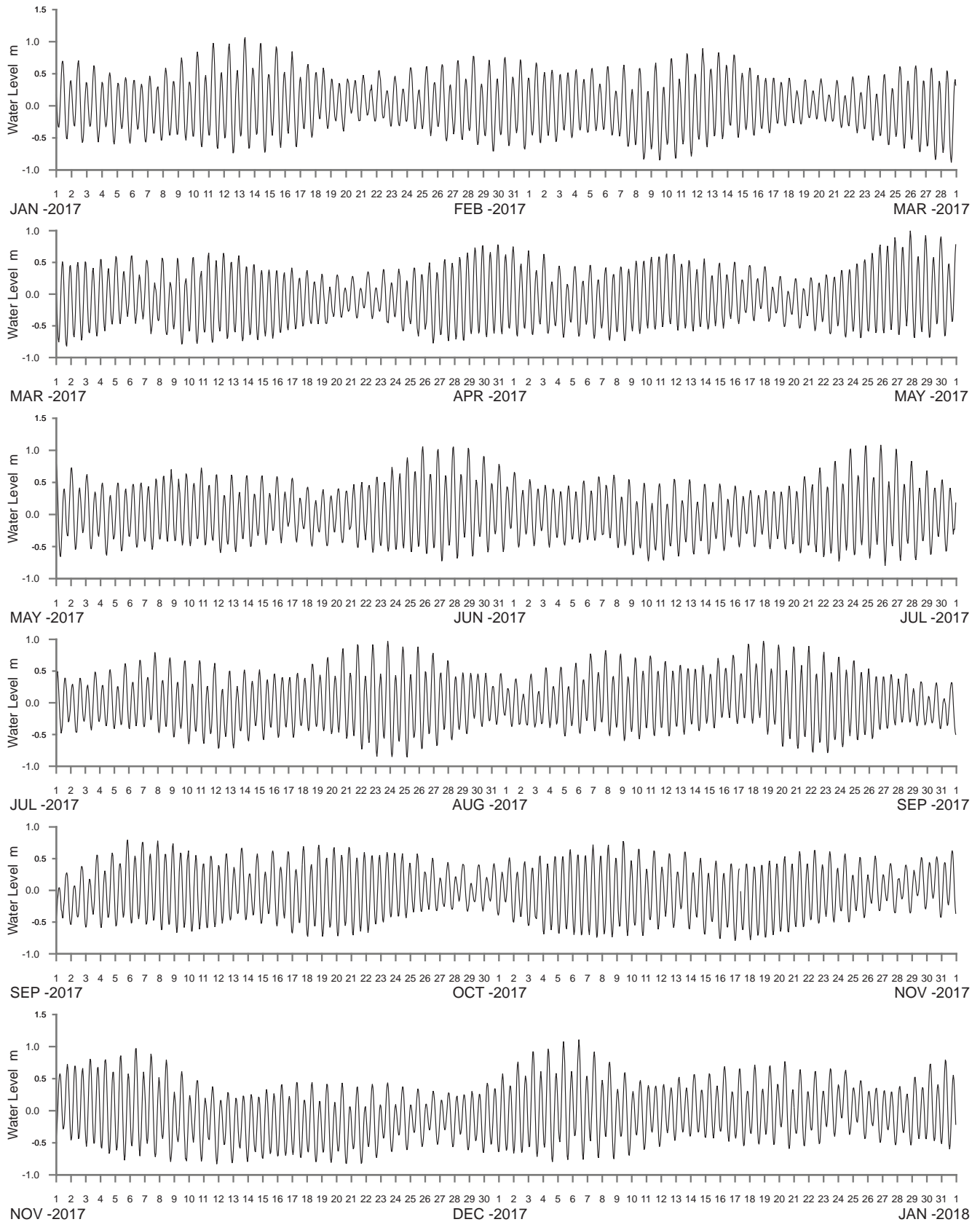
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## BATEMANS BAY OFFSHORE TIDE GAUGE LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A39

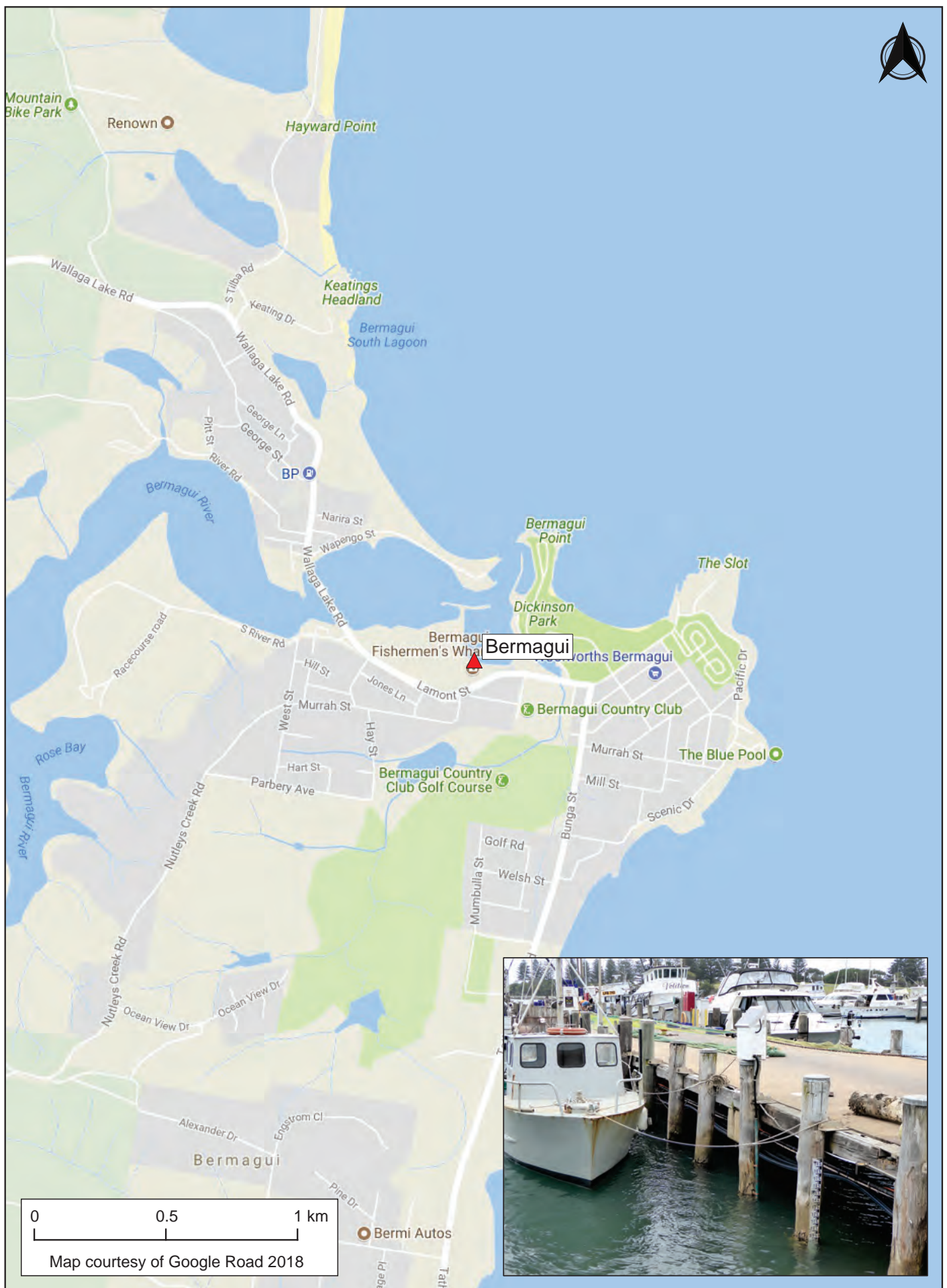
DRAWING 2618-A39.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO MEAN SEA LEVEL

----- DATA LOSS





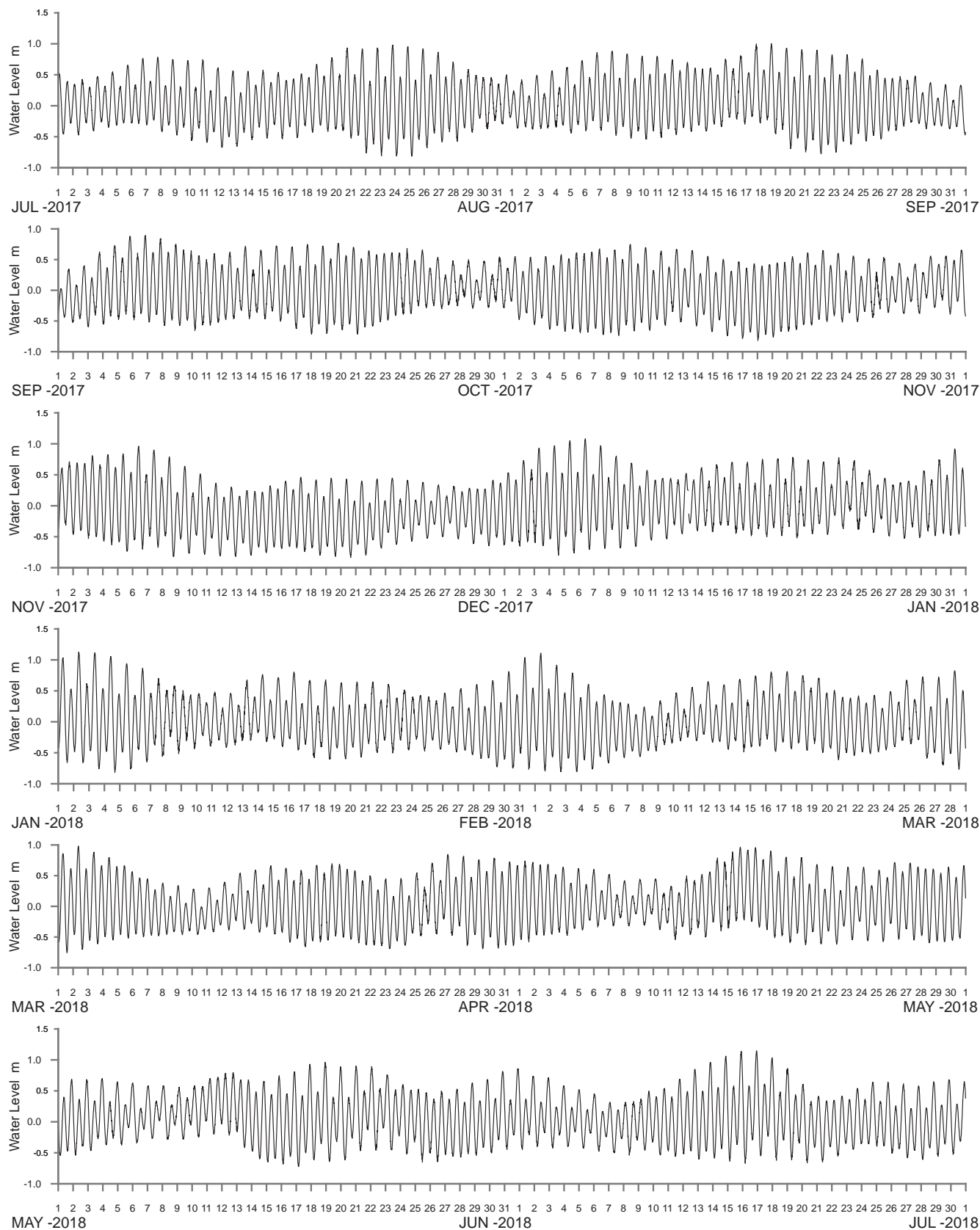
**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

## BERMAGUI STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

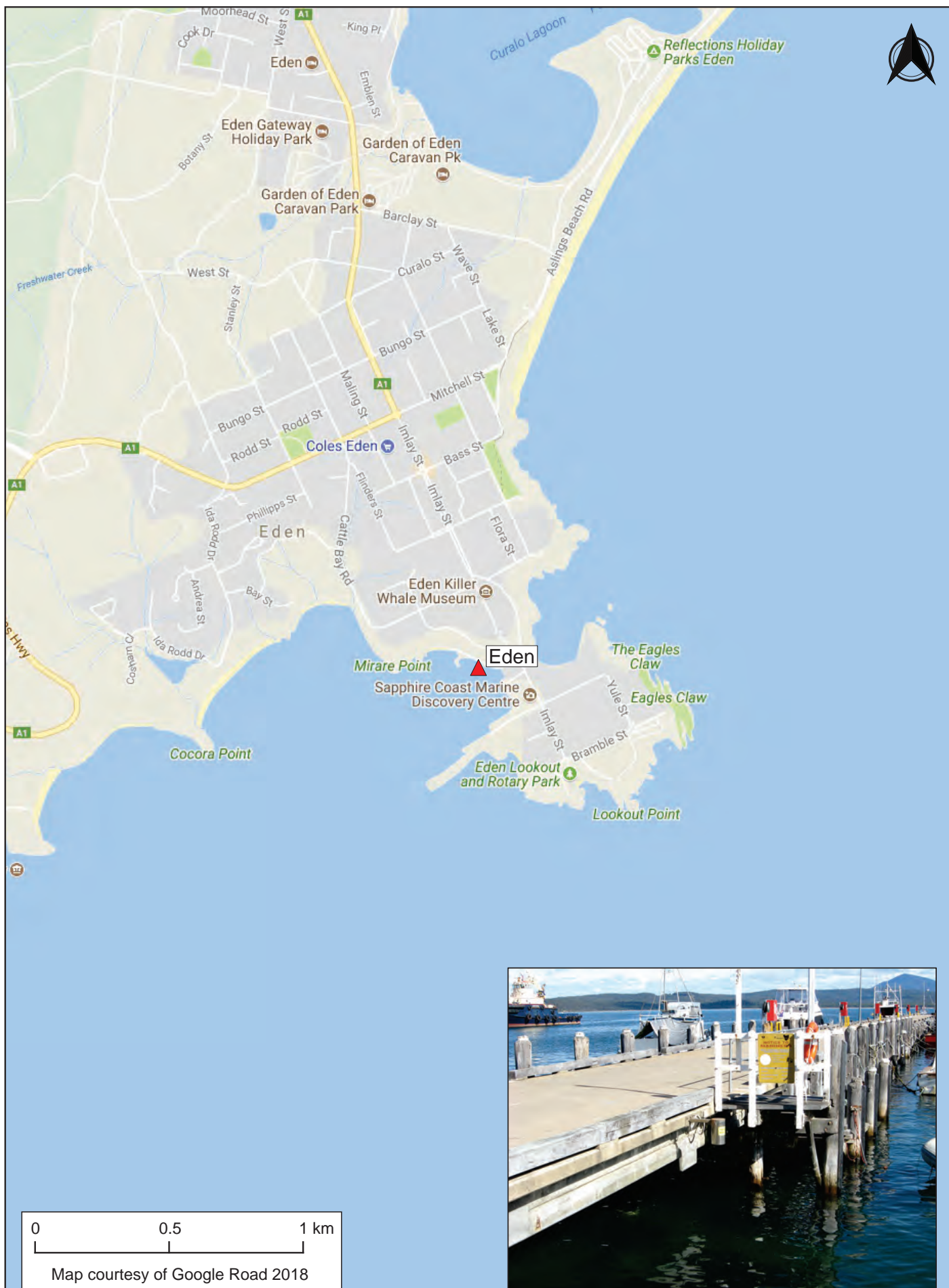
Figure  
A41

DRAWING 2618-A41.cdr



WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS



**Manly  
Hydraulics  
Laboratory**

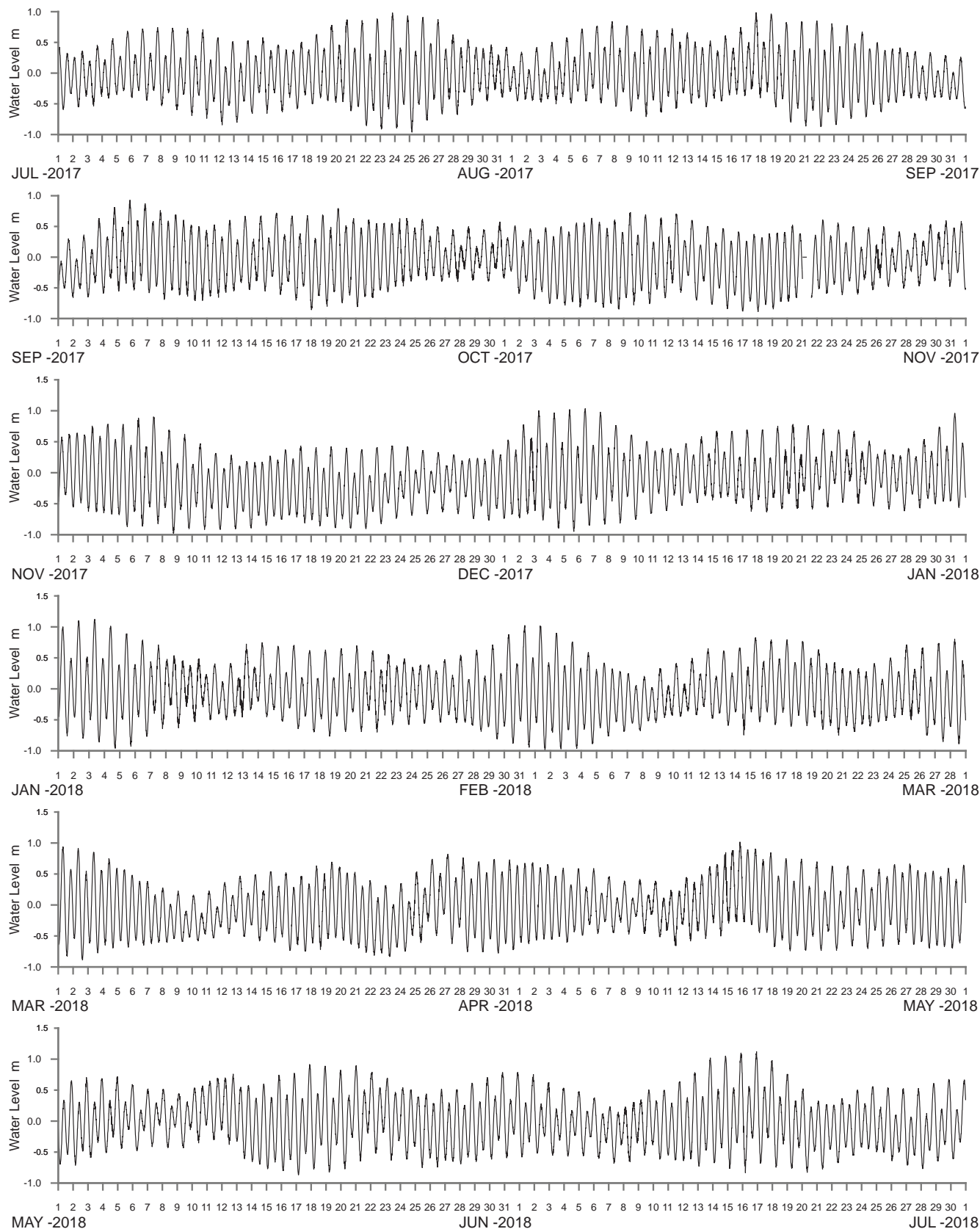
## EDEN STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
A43

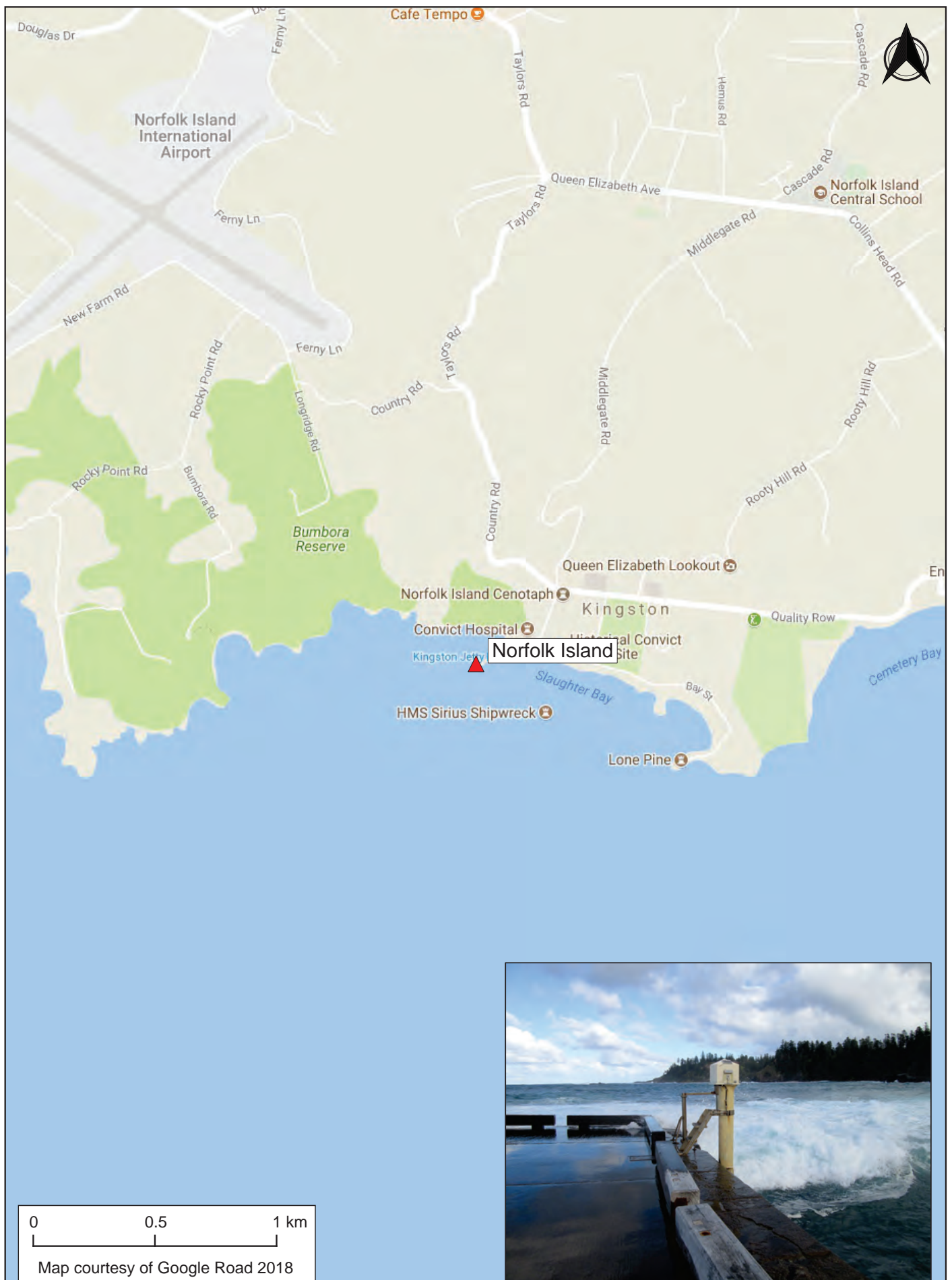
DRAWING 2618-A43.cdr





WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO AUSTRALIAN HEIGHT DATUM

----- DATA LOSS



**Manly**  
**Hydraulics**  
**Laboratory**

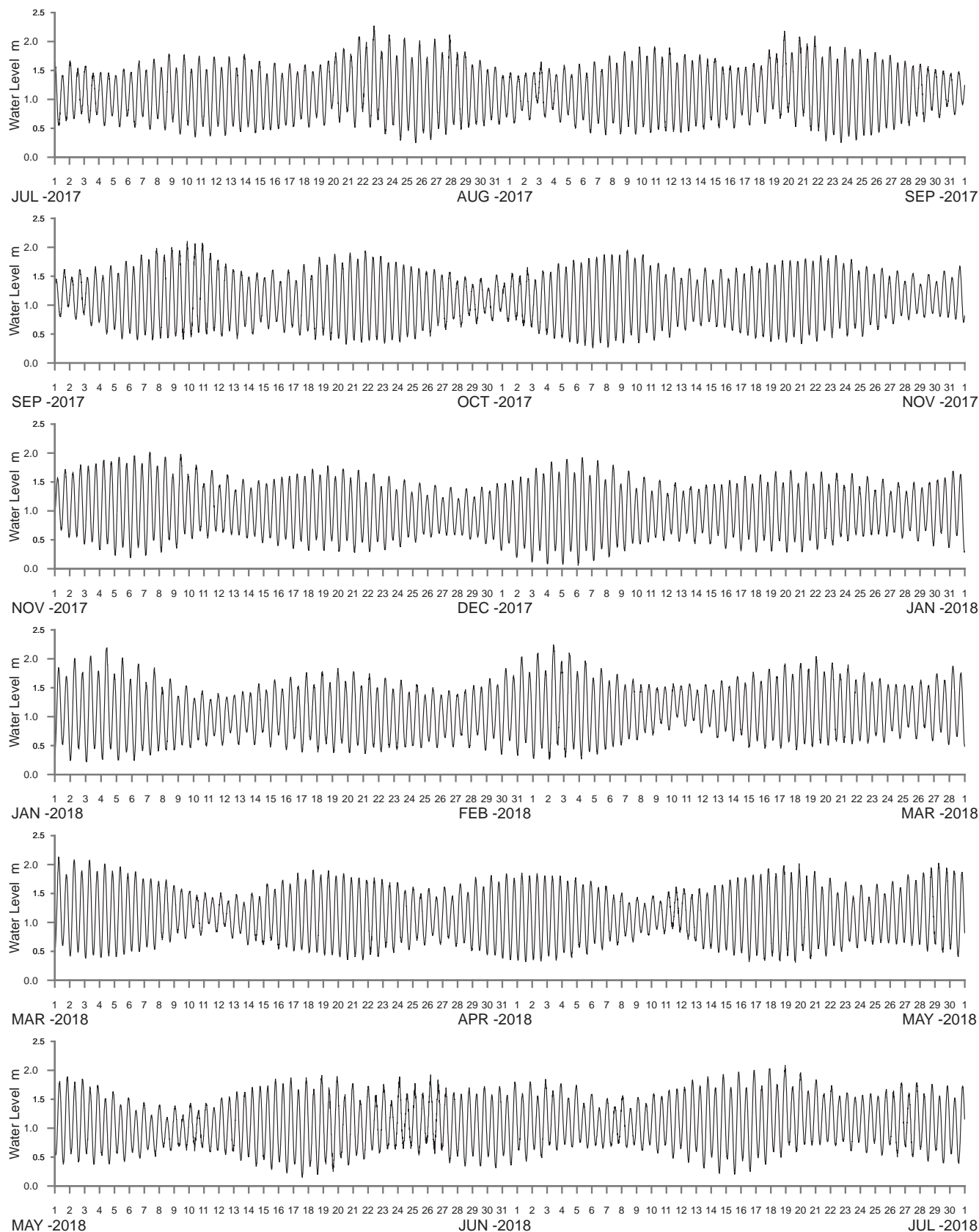
## NORFOLK ISLAND STATION LOCATION

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
**A45**

DRAWING 2618-A45.cdr

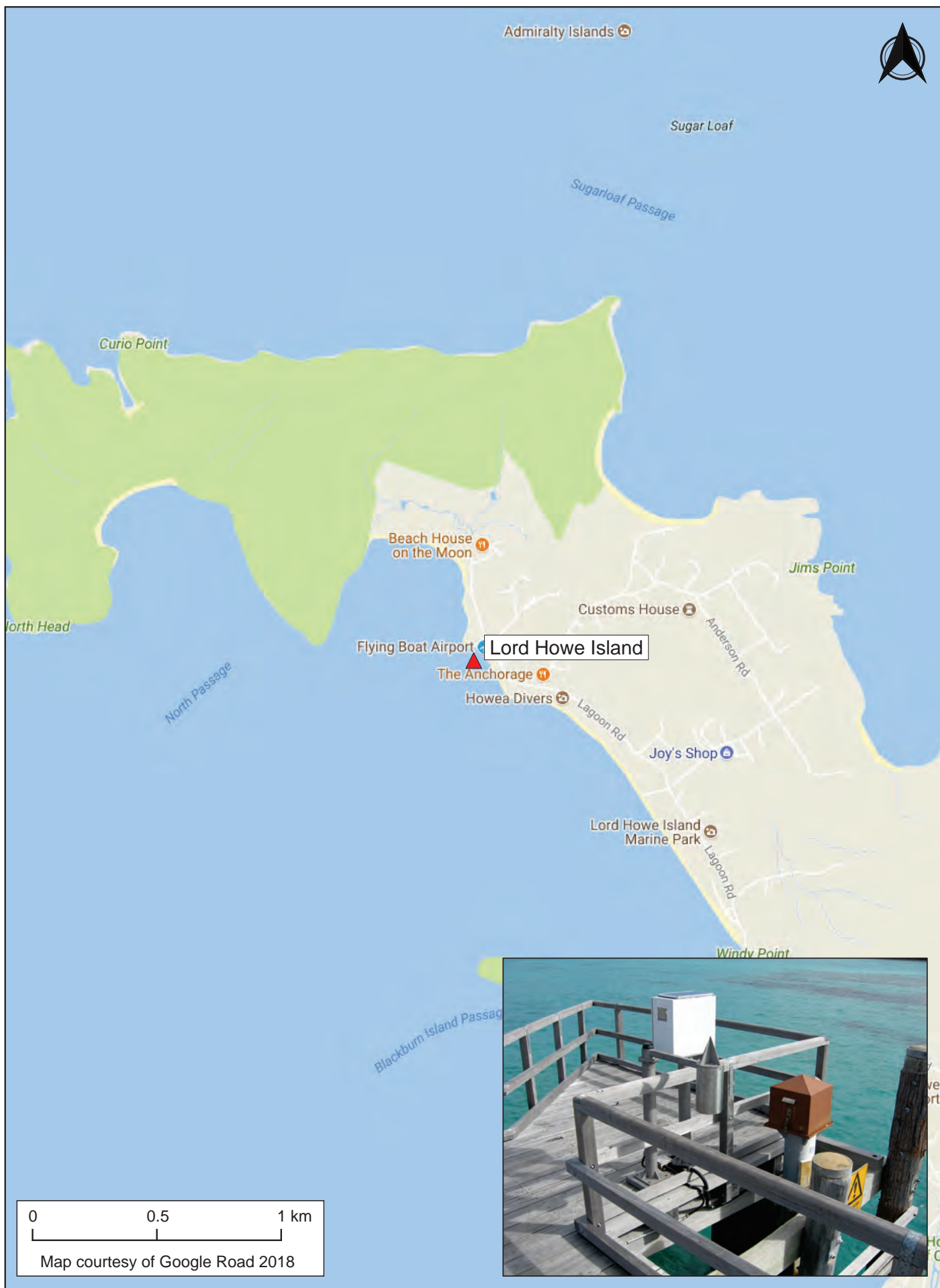


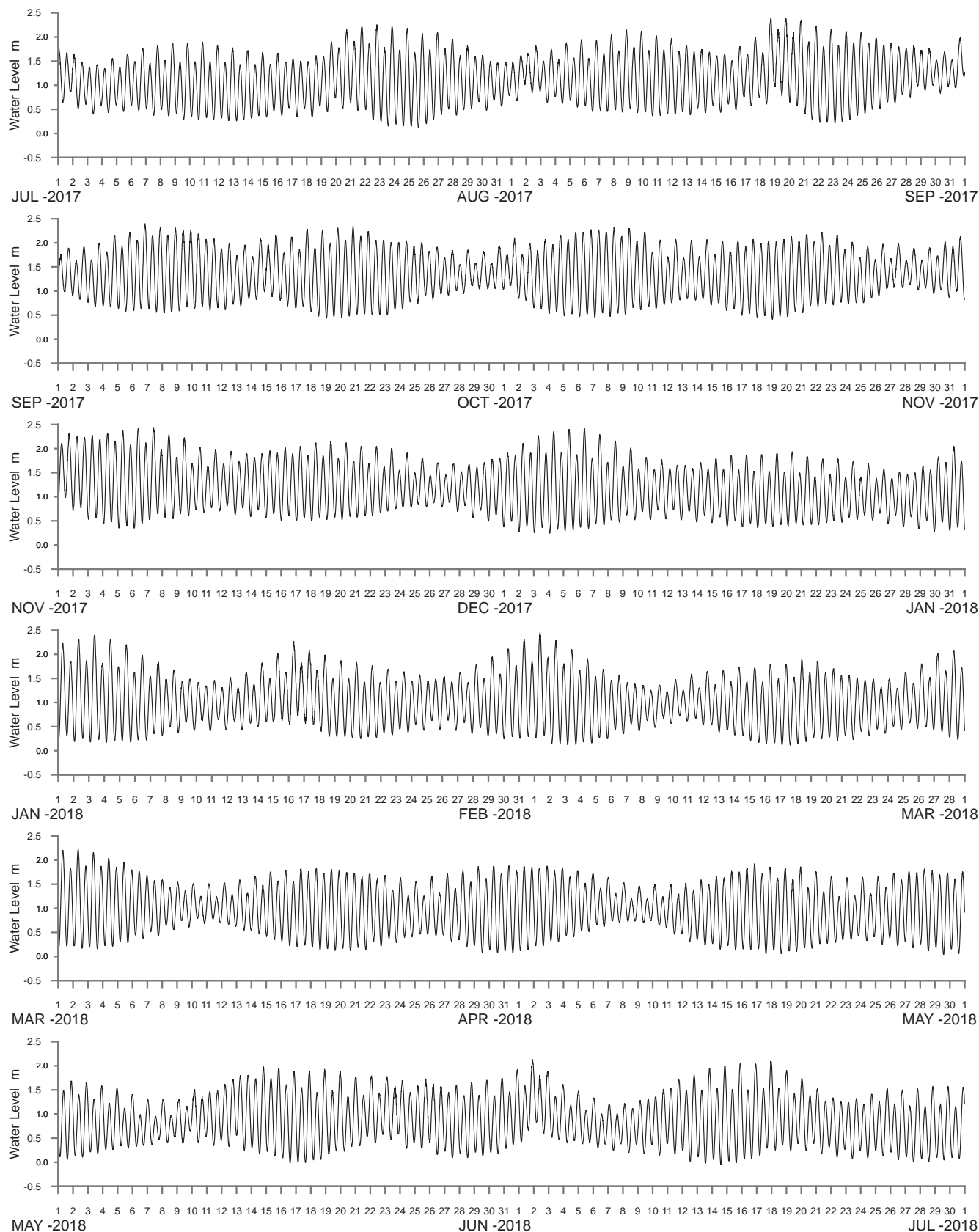


WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO LOWEST ASTRONOMICAL TIDE

----- DATA LOSS

Data for Norfolk Island provided by Bureau of Meteorology's National Tidal Unit (NTU)





WATER LEVEL REFERENCED TO LORD HOWE ISLAND TIDAL DATUM

## Appendix B Current station data

**Table B1 Current station digital data**

NSW coastal region	Catchment, river or port	Station name	Location	Period of data
North	Tweed River	Tweed Entrance South	South Breakwater	May 2014–ongoing
North	Tasman Sea	Tweed Offshore <sup>1</sup>	Offshore	Dec 1982–ongoing
North	Brunswick River	Brunswick Heads	South Breakwater	Mar 1986–ongoing
North	Richmond River	Ballina Breakwall	South Breakwater	Dec 2008–ongoing
North	Clarence River	Yamba	South Breakwater	Jul 1986–ongoing
North	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour <sup>1</sup>	Inner Harbour Pumpout Jetty	Aug 1996–ongoing
Mid North	Hastings River	Port Macquarie	South Breakwater	Mar 1986–ongoing
Mid North	Tasman Sea	Port Macquarie Offshore <sup>1</sup>	Offshore	Dec 1984–ongoing
Mid North	Crowdy Head Harbour	Crowdy Head <sup>1</sup>	Fishermans Wharf	Jul 1986–ongoing
Mid North	Wallis Lake	Forster	North Breakwater	Jul 1986–ongoing
Central	Port Stephens	Shoal Bay	Public Wharf	Apr 2014–ongoing
Central	Hawkesbury River	Patonga	Public Wharf	Jun 1992–ongoing
Central	Sydney Port Jackson	Sydney	HMAS Penguin Wharf	Sep 1987–ongoing
Central	Sydney Port Jackson	Sydney Backup	HMAS Penguin Wharf	Aug 2010 - ongoing
Central	Port Hacking	Bundeena	Public Wharf	Dec 2014-ongoing
Central	Crookhaven River	Crookhaven Heads	Upstream of Entrance	Mar 1992–ongoing
Central	Tasman Sea	Shoalhaven Offshore	Offshore	Sep 2005–ongoing
Central	Jervis Bay	Jervis Bay	HMAS Creswell	Sep 1989–ongoing
South	Ulladulla Harbour	Ulladulla	Wharf in Harbour	Dec 2007–ongoing
South	Clyde River	Princess Jetty	Public Wharf	Dec 1985–ongoing
South	Tasman Sea	Batemans Bay Offshore	Snapper Island	Sep 2000–ongoing
South	Bermagui River	Bermagui	Inner Harbour	Mar 1987–ongoing
South	Twofold Bay	Eden	Working Jetty	Sep 1986–ongoing
North Tasman Sea	Tasman Sea	Lord Howe Island	Main Wharf	Aug 1994–ongoing

<sup>1</sup> Station has changed location during data period

## Appendix C Historical tide data

**Table C1 Historical tide data**

Station Name	Location	Period of record	Location
Tweed Regional	North Breakwater	Feb 1987–Apr 2015	On line
Tweed Regional	Breakwater 201470	1978–1980	On line
Richmond River	Breakwater 202471	1889–1912	HiLos on line
Richmond River	Ballina	1959–1963	Microfiche MHL
Ballina 202470	Half Tide Breakwater	Apr 1986–May 2011	On line
Clarence River	Yamba	1900–1924	HiLos on line
Yamba Offshore	Yamba 204450	Jun 1987–Sep 2009	On line
Clarence River	Iluka 204437	1956–1961	On line
Clarence River	Breakwater	1957–1958	HiLos State Archives
Coffs Harbour	Main harbour	1966–68 and 1969–72	Microfiche MHL
Coffs Harbour	Main harbour	1972–1973	Microfiche MHL
Coffs Harbour	Main harbour	1951–52, 1961–64	HiLos State Archives
Coffs Harbour	Outer harbour 205470	1951–1996	On line
Coffs Harbour	Outer harbour	1953–56, 1957–60	Microfiche MHL
Coffs Harbour	Water Police Jetty Inner Harbour 205470	1990–1996	On line
Macleay River	Entrance 206477	1901–1913	HiLos on line
Crowdy Head	CSIRO 208470	1985–1986	On line
Tomaree	Hospital Jetty 209471	Oct 1985–Apr 2014	On line
Tomaree	Hospital Jetty	1967–1969	HiLos State Archives
Newcastle	Boat harbour 210461	1899–1921	HiLos on line
Newcastle	Breakwater	1946–1961	HiLos State Archives
Port Hacking	Hungry Point	Nov 1987–Feb2015	On line
Port Jackson	Fort Denison 60370	1914–2008	On line
Port Kembla	Harbour	1957–1965	Microfiche State Archives
Port Kembla	Harbour 214480	1987–1992	On line
Jervis Bay	HMAS Creswell 216471	1914–1919	HiLos on line
Jervis Bay	Huskisson 216472	1987–1993	On line
Batemans Bay Offshore	Snapper Island 216451	1986–1990	On line
Batemans Bay Offshore	Offshore 216452	1987–1988	On line (MHL556)
Moruya River	Moruya Heads 217403	1951–1952	HiLos State Archives
Moruya River	Entrance	1951–52, 1987–88	On line
Eden	Snug Cove 220470	1978–1990	On line
Eden	Snug Cove	1954–1956	Microfiche State Archives
Norfolk Island	Kingston Jetty	1994–2015	On line

Fort Denison data courtesy of Sydney Ports Corporation and BoM National Tidal Unit.

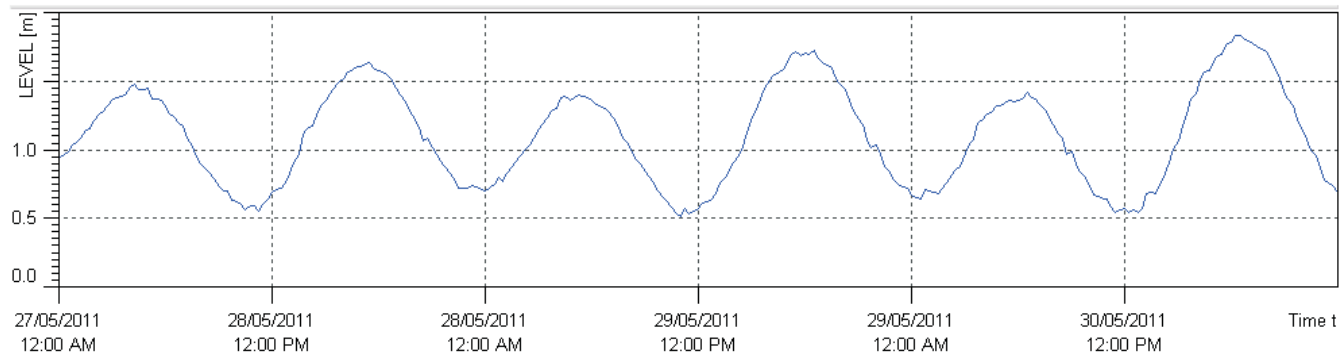
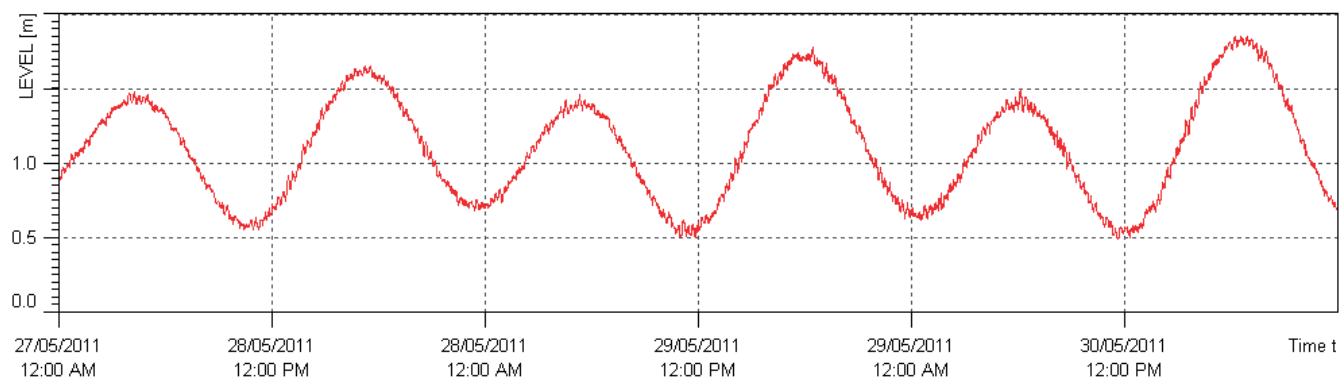
Data for Norfolk Island since 2015 provided by Bureau of Meteorology's National Tidal Unit (NTU).



## Appendix D Sample outputs

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Coffs Harbour 1-minute data



Coffs Harbour 15-minute data

Station Name, Sydney (Live),,  
 Station Number,213470,,  
 Long,+151:15:30.72,,  
 Lat,-33:49:31.56,,  
 Datum,Zero Fort Denison,,  
 ,,,  
 ,,,Level 1,  
 ,,,  
 Date,Time,Value [m],State of value  
 1/05/2014,0:00:00,1.267,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,0:15:00,1.163,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,0:30:00,1.112,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,0:45:00,1.006,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,1:00:00,0.912,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,1:15:00,0.858,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,1:30:00,0.784,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,1:45:00,0.704,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,2:00:00,0.662,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,2:15:00,0.596,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,2:30:00,0.537,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,2:45:00,0.507,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,3:00:00,0.486,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,3:15:00,0.447,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,3:30:00,0.445,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,3:45:00,0.453,55 (Fair)  
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 1/05/2014,4:15:00,0.471,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,4:30:00,0.489,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,4:45:00,0.527,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,5:00:00,0.574,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,5:15:00,0.609,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,5:30:00,0.676,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,5:45:00,0.731,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,6:00:00,0.791,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,6:15:00,0.868,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,6:30:00,0.914,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,6:45:00,1.004,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,7:00:00,1.067,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,7:15:00,1.132,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,7:30:00,1.195,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,7:45:00,1.243,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,8:00:00,1.304,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,8:15:00,1.366,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,8:30:00,1.374,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,8:45:00,1.42,55 (Fair)  
 1/05/2014,9:00:00,1.443,55 (Fair)



TIDAL PLANES IN METRES ABOVE ZERO OF LOCAL GAUGE VALUES

TIDAL RANGES IN METRES

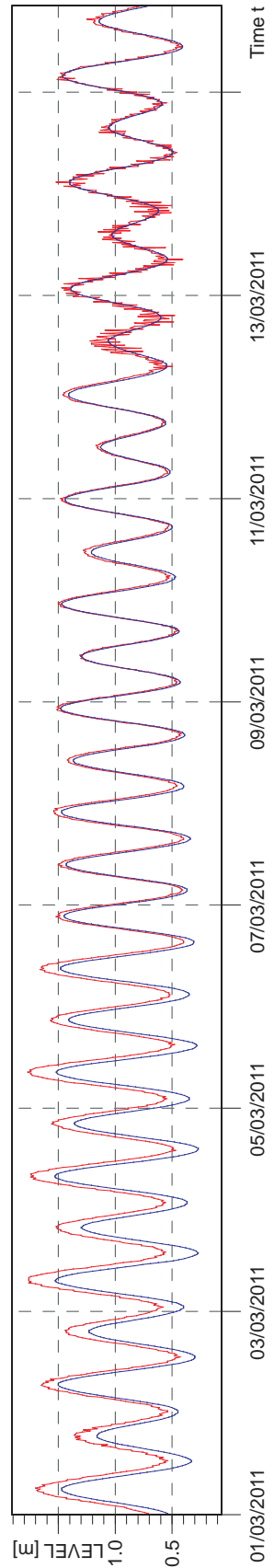
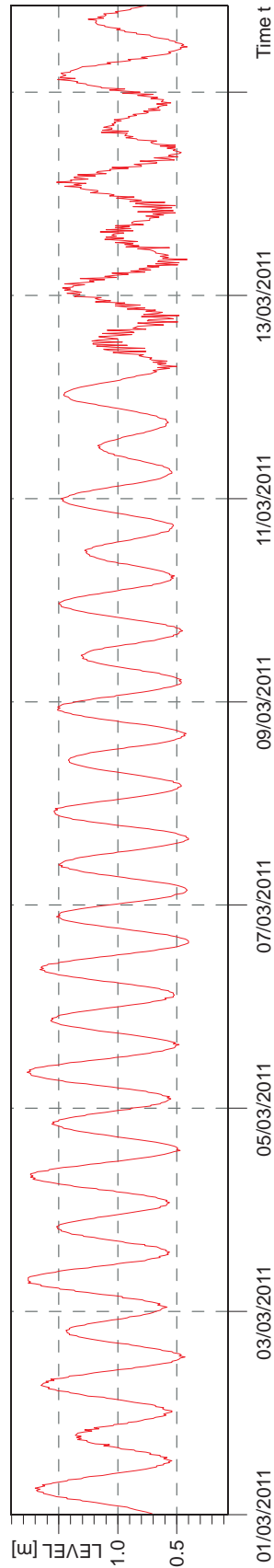
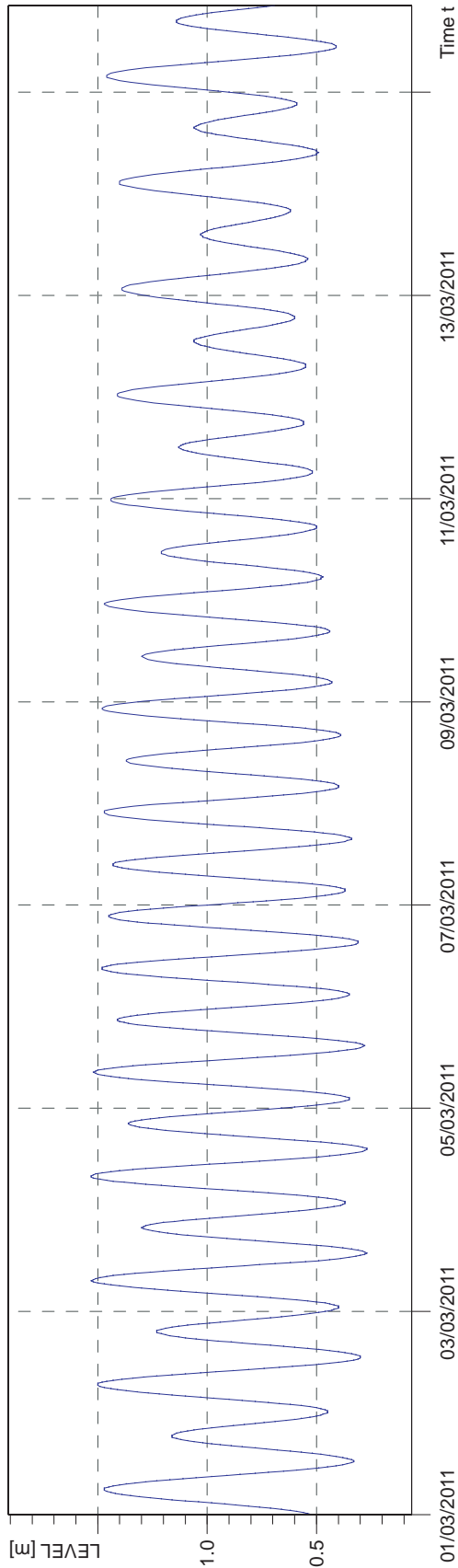
DRAWING 2618-D3.cdr



# MANLY HYDRAULICS LABORATORY

STATION NAME : Sydney (Live)  
 RECORDER TYPE : MHL Station  
 A.W.R.C. No. : 213470  
 DATA START : 29.06.2013  
 DATA FINISH : 30.06.2014  
 DATA TOTAL : 1 years 2 days  
 DATABASE TIME INTERVAL (second): 0  
 THRESHOLD LEVEL (m) : 1.900  
 DATUM : Zero Fort Denison  
 DATE OF ISSUE : 09:00 22.10.2014  
 ANALYSIS PERFORMED BY : RJ  
 COMMENTS : Sydney (Live) Level 1 00 - Continuous.P  
 event ranking for period 29.06.2013 to  
 30.06.2014

RANK	PEAK (m)	DATE	TIME	START	DURATION (hr)	MAX RISE (m/hr)
1	1.976	21.07.2013	18:45	21.07.2013	1.3	0.100
2	1.980	22.07.2013	20:15	22.07.2013	1.5	0.140
3	2.065	23.07.2013	20:30	23.07.2013	2.3	0.300
4	2.048	24.07.2013	21:45	24.07.2013	2.0	0.308
5	1.951	19.08.2013	19:00	19.08.2013	0.5	0.120
6	1.957	20.08.2013	19:30	20.08.2013	1.3	0.136
7	1.994	21.08.2013	20:15	21.08.2013	1.5	0.184
8	1.910	07.10.2013	09:45	07.10.2013	0.3	0.020
9	1.951	05.11.2013	09:00	05.11.2013	1.0	0.104
10	1.937	04.12.2013	09:00	04.12.2013	0.5	0.100
11	2.028	05.12.2013	10:00	05.12.2013	1.8	0.360
12	1.988	31.12.2013	06:30	31.12.2013	1.0	0.272
13	2.003	01.01.2014	07:45	01.01.2014	1.8	0.248
14	2.187	02.01.2014	08:30	02.01.2014	3.0	0.392
15	2.182	03.01.2014	09:15	03.01.2014	3.0	0.496
16	2.165	04.01.2014	10:00	04.01.2014	3.0	0.404
17	1.939	31.01.2014	08:15	31.01.2014	0.8	0.112
18	1.913	01.05.2014	22:00	01.05.2014	0.3	0.044
19	1.930	02.05.2014	22:30	02.05.2014	0.5	0.088
20	1.931	12.06.2014	19:30	12.06.2014	0.8	0.104
21	2.046	13.06.2014	20:15	13.06.2014	2.3	0.296
22	2.170	14.06.2014	20:45	14.06.2014	3.3	0.372
23	2.232	15.06.2014	21:45	15.06.2014	3.3	0.360
24	2.084	16.06.2014	23:15	16.06.2014	2.8	0.352
25	1.981	27.06.2014	20:30	27.06.2014	1.8	0.132
26	2.065	28.06.2014	21:00	28.06.2014	2.5	0.376
27	1.956	29.06.2014	21:45	29.06.2014	1.8	0.108



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## SAMPLE TIDAL PREDICTION DATA PLOT

MHL  
Report 2618

Figure  
**D5**

DRAWING 2618-D5.cdr

## Appendix E Glossary of terms

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Amplitude (H)	One half of the difference in height between consecutive high water and low water, hence half the tide range.
Australian Height Datum (AHD)	Is a geodetic datum for altitude measurement in Australia. According to Geoscience Australia, in 1971 the mean sea level for 1966-1968 was assigned a value of zero on the Australian Height Datum for 30 tide gauges around the coast of the Australian continent. The resulting datum surface has been termed the Australian Height Datum (AHD) and was adopted by the National Mapping Council as the datum to which all vertical control for mapping is to be referred.
Automatic tide gauge	An instrument that automatically registers the rise and fall of the tide. In some instruments, the registration is accomplished by recording the heights at regular time intervals in digital format.
Benchmark (BM)	A fixed physical object or mark used as reference for a vertical datum. A tidal benchmark is one near a tide station to which the tide staff and tidal datums are referred. A primary benchmark is the principal (or only) mark of a group of tidal benchmarks to which the tide staff and tidal datums are referred.
Chart datum	Chart datum taken to correspond to a low-water elevation, and its depression below mean sea level is represented by the symbol Z.
Coastal boundary	The mean high water line (MHWL) or mean higher high water line (MHHWL) when tidal lines are used as the coastal boundary. Also, lines used as boundaries inland of and measured from (or points thereon) the MHWL or MHHWL.
Constituent	One of the harmonic elements in a mathematical expression for the tide-producing force and in corresponding formulas for the tide or tidal current. Each constituent represents a periodic change or variation in the relative positions of the earth, moon and sun. A single constituent is usually written in the form $y = A \cos (at + \acute{a})$ , in which $y$ is a function of time as expressed by the symbol $t$ and is reckoned from a specific origin. The coefficient $A$ is called the amplitude of the constituent and is a measure of its relative importance. The angle $(at + \acute{a})$ changes uniformly and its value at any time is called the phase of the constituent. The speed of the constituent is the rate of change in its phase and is represented by the symbol $a$ in the formula. The quantity $a$ is the phase of the constituent at the initial instant from which the time is reckoned. The period of the constituent is the time required for the phase to change through $360^\circ$ and is the cycle of the astronomical condition represented by the constituent.
Digital Recorder (or logger)	An electronic recorder system which stores the information in accessible form, for example, on tape or solid state memory.

Digitise	To translate analog information into digital form i.e. a series of numeric data readable by, and stored within, a digital computer.
Diurnal	Having a period or cycle of approximately one tidal day. Thus, the tide is said to be diurnal when only one high water and one low water occur during a tidal day, and the tidal current is said to be diurnal when there is a single flood and a single ebb period of a reversing current in the tidal day. A rotary current is diurnal if it changes its direction through all points of the compass once each tidal day. A diurnal constituent is one which has a single period in the constituent day. The symbol for such a constituent is the subscript 1.
East Coast Low (ECL)	East Coast Lows (ECL) are intense low-pressure systems which occur on average several times each year off the eastern coast of Australia, in particular southern Queensland, NSW and eastern Victoria. Although they can occur at any time of the year, they are more common during autumn and winter with a maximum frequency in June. East Coast Lows will often intensify rapidly overnight making them one of the more dangerous weather systems to affect the NSW coast. East Coast Lows are also observed off the coast of Africa and America and are sometimes known as east coast cyclones.
Encoder	A device that translates tidal movement into computer readable data.
Ellipsoid	An idealised model representing the mean sea level of the earth and is used as a computational reference for global position fixing
Estuary	An embayment of the coast in which fresh river water entering at its head mixes with the relatively saline ocean water. When tidal action is the dominant mixing agent it is usually termed a tidal estuary. Also, the lower reaches and mouth of a river emptying directly into the sea where tidal mixing takes place. The latter is sometimes called a river estuary.
Extreme high water	The highest elevation reached by the sea as recorded by a tide gauge during a given period.
Extreme low water	The lowest elevation reached by the sea as recorded by a tide gauge during a given period.
Floatwell	A stilling well in which the float of a float-actuated gauge operates. Also known as a stilling well.
Gas purged pressure gauge	A type of analog tide gauge in which gas, usually nitrogen, is emitted from a submerged tube at a constant rate. Fluctuations in hydrostatic pressure due to changes in tidal height modify the emission rate for recording.
Harmonic analysis	Process of measuring or calculating the relative amplitudes and frequencies of all the significant harmonic components present in a given wave form.

Harmonic prediction	Method of predicting tides by combining the harmonic constituents into a single tidal curve. The work is usually performed by electronic digital computer.
Head	The difference in water level at either end of a strait, channel, inlet, etc.
High water (HW)	The maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high water is due to the periodic tidal forces and the effects of meteorological, hydrologic, and/or oceanographic conditions. For tidal datum computational purposes, the maximum height is not considered a high water unless it contains a tidal high water.
High water mark	A line or mark left upon tide flats, beach, or alongshore objects indicating the elevation of the intrusion of high water. The mark may be a line of oil or scum on alongshore objects, or a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm. This mark is physical evidence of the general height reached by wave runup at recent high waters. It should not be confused with the mean high water line or mean higher high water line.
Higher high water (HHW)	The highest of the high waters (or single high water) of any specified tidal day due to the declination $A_1$ effects of the moon and sun.
Higher low water (HLW)	The highest of the low waters of any specified tidal day due to the declination $A_1$ effects of the moon and sun.
Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)	The highest level which can be predicted to occur under average meteorological conditions and under any combination of astronomical conditions; this level may not be reached every year. HAT is not the extreme level which can be reached as storm surges may cause considerably higher levels to occur.
Hydrographic datum	A datum used for referencing depths of water and the heights of predicted tides or water level observations. Same as chart datum. See datum.
Indian spring low water	A datum originated by Professor G. H. Darwin when investigating the tides of India. It is an elevation depressed below mean sea level by an amount equal to the sum of the amplitudes of the harmonic constituents $M_2$ , $S_2$ , $K_1$ , and $O_1$ .
Inverse barometer effect	The inverse response of sea level to changes in atmospheric pressure. A static reduction of 1.005 mb in atmospheric pressure will cause a stationary rise of 1 cm in sea level.
$K_1$	Lunisolar diurnal constituent. This constituent, with $O_1$ , expresses the effect of the moon's declination. They account for diurnal inequality and, at extremes, diurnal tides. With $P_1$ , it expresses the effect of the sun's declination. Speed = $T + h = 15.041,068,6^\circ$ per solar hour.



King Tide	A non-scientific term used to describe especially high tide events occurring twice a year around early January and early July. They occur when the earth, sun and moon are in alignment and when the sun is closest and furthest from the earth (perihelion and aphelion respectively).
Lambda	Smaller lunar evectional constituent. This constituent, with $V_2$ , $U_2$ , and $(S_2)$ , modulates the amplitude and frequency of $M_2$ for the effects of variation in solar attraction of the moon. This attraction results in a slight pear-shaped lunar ellipse and a difference in lunar orbital speed between motion toward and away from the sun. Although $(S_2)$ has the same speed as $S_2$ , its amplitude is extremely small. Speed = $2T - s + p = 29.455,625,3^\circ$ per solar hour.
Low water (LW)	The minimum height reached by a falling tide. The low water is due to the periodic tidal forces and the effects of meteorological, hydrologic, and/or oceanographic conditions. For tidal datum computational purposes, the minimum height is not considered a low water unless it contains a tidal low water.
Lower high water (LHW)	The lowest of the high waters of any specified tidal day due to the declination $A_1$ effects of the moon and sun.
Lower low water (LLW)	The lowest of the low waters (or single low water) of any specified tidal day due to the declination $A_1$ effects of the moon and sun.
Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT)	The lowest level which can be predicted to occur under average meteorological conditions and under any combination of astronomical conditions; this level will not be reached every year. LAT is not the extreme level which can be reached as storm surges may cause considerably lower levels to occur.
Lunar tide	That part of the tide on the earth due solely to the moon as distinguished from that part due to the sun.
$M_2$	Principal lunar semi-diurnal constituent. This constituent represents the rotation of the Earth with respect to the Moon. Speed = $2T - 2s + 2h = 28.984,104,2^\circ$ per solar hour.
Mean high water (MHW)	A tidal datum. The average of all the high water heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. For stations with shorter series, simultaneous observational comparisons are made with a control tide station in order to derive the equivalent datum.
Mean low water springs (MLWS)	A tidal datum. Frequently abbreviated spring low water. The arithmetic mean of the low water heights occurring at the time of spring tides observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. It is usually derived by taking an elevation depressed below the half-tide level by an amount equal to one-half the spring range of tide, necessary corrections being applied to reduce the result to a mean value.

Mean Sea Level (MSL)	The arithmetic mean of the water level heights at the tidal station observed over a period of time (preferably 19 years).
Modem	A device allowing a computer to be accessed over a telephone line.
Neap tides	Tides of decreased range or tidal currents of decreased speed occurring semi-monthly as the result of the moon being in quadrature. The neap range ( $N_p$ ) of the tide is the average range occurring at the time of neap tides and is most conveniently computed from the harmonic constants. It is smaller than the mean range where the type of tide is either semi-diurnal or mixed and is of no practical significance where the type of tide is predominantly diurnal. The average height of the high waters of the neap tide is called neap high water or high water neaps (MHWN) and the average height of the corresponding low waters is called neap low water or low water neaps (MLWN).
$O_1$	Lunar diurnal constituent. See $K_1$ . Speed = $T - 2s + h = 13.943,035,6^\circ$ per solar hour.
Phase	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any recurring aspect of a periodic phenomenon, such as new moon, high water, flood strength, etc.</li> <li>2. A particular instant of a periodic function expressed in angular measure and reckoned from the time of its maximum value, the entire period of the function being taken as <math>360^\circ</math>. The maximum and minimum of a harmonic constituent have phase values of <math>0^\circ</math> and <math>180^\circ</math>, respectively.</li> </ol>
Pressure Sensor	A pressure transducer sensing device for water level measurement. A relative transducer is vented to the atmosphere and pressure readings are made relative to atmospheric pressure. An absolute transducer measures the pressure at its location. The readings are then corrected for barometric pressure taken at the surface.
Range of tide	The difference in height between consecutive high and low waters. The mean range is the difference in height between mean high water and mean low water. The great diurnal range or diurnal range is the difference in height between mean higher high water and mean lower low water. For other ranges see spring, neap, perigean, apogean, and tropic tides; and tropic ranges.
Relative mean sea level change	A local change in mean sea level relative to a network of benchmarks established in the most stable and permanent material available (bedrock, if possible) on the land adjacent to the tide station location. A change in relative mean sea level may be composed of both an absolute mean sea level change component and a vertical land movement change component, together.
$S_2$	Principal solar semi-diurnal constituent. This constituent represents the rotation of the Earth with respect to the Sun. Speed = $2T = 30.000,000,0^\circ$ per solar hour.

Seiche	A stationary wave usually caused by strong winds and/or changes in barometric pressure. It is found in lakes, semi-enclosed bodies of water, and in areas of the open ocean. The period of a seiche in an enclosed rectangular body of water is usually represented by the formula: $\text{Period (T)} = 2L / \text{square root (gd)}$ in which L is the length, d the average depth of the body of water, and g the acceleration of gravity.
Semi-diurnal	Having a period or cycle of approximately one-half of a tidal day. The predominant type of tide throughout the world is semi-diurnal, with two high waters and two low waters each tidal day. The tidal current is said to be semi-diurnal when there are two flood and two ebb periods each day. A semi-diurnal constituent has two maxima and two minima each constituent day, and its symbol is the subscript 2.
Shallow water constituent	A short-period harmonic term introduced into the formula of tidal (or tidal current) constituents to take account of the change in the form of a tide wave resulting from shallow water conditions. Shallow water constituents include the overtides and compound tides.
Slack water (slack)	The state of a tidal current when its speed is near zero, especially the moment when a reversing current changes direction and its speed is zero. The term also is applied to the entire period of low speed near the time of turning of the current when it is too weak to be of any practical importance in navigation. The relation of the time of slack water to the tidal phases varies in different localities. For a perfect standing tidal wave, slack water occurs at the time of high and of low water, while for a perfect progressive tidal wave, slack occurs midway between high and low water.
Solar tide	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The part of the tide that is due to the tide-producing force of the sun.</li> <li>2. The observed tide in areas where the solar tide is dominant. This condition provides for phase repetition at about the same time each solar day.</li> </ol>
Solid State	An electronic device composed of components with no moving parts – in this instance, using the electronic properties of solids, as in transistors, semi-conductors and integrated circuits.
Spring high water	Same as mean high water springs (MHWS). See spring tides.
Spring low water	Same as mean low water springs (MLWS). See spring tides.
Spring tides	Tides of increased range or tidal currents of increased speed occurring semi-monthly as the result of the moon being new or full. The spring range (Sg) of tide is the average range occurring at the time of spring tides and is most conveniently computed from the harmonic constants. It is larger than the mean range where the type of tide is either semi-diurnal or mixed, and is of no practical significance where the type of tide is predominantly diurnal. The average height of the high waters of the spring tides is called spring high water or mean high water springs (MHWS) and the

average height of the corresponding low waters is called spring low water or mean low water springs (MLWS).

Storm surge	The local change in the elevation of the ocean along a shore due to a storm. The storm surge is measured by subtracting the astronomic tidal elevation from the total elevation. It typically has a duration of a few hours. Since wind generated waves ride on top of the storm surge (and are not included in the definition), the total instantaneous elevation may greatly exceed the predicted storm surge plus astronomic tide. It is potentially catastrophic, especially on low-lying coasts with gently sloping offshore topography.
Telemeter	Transmit data to a distant receiving station via a telephone line or by telegraphic means.
Tidal characteristics	Principally, those features relating to the time, range, and type of tide.
Tidal constants	Tidal relations that remain practically constant for any particular locality. Tidal constants are classified as harmonic and non-harmonic. The harmonic constants consist of the amplitudes and epochs of the harmonic constituents, and the non-harmonic constants include the ranges and intervals derived directly from the high and low water observations.
Tidal current	A horizontal movement of the water caused by gravitational interactions between the sun, moon and earth. The horizontal component of the particulate motion of a tidal wave. Part of the same general movement of the sea that is manifested in the vertical rise and fall called tide.
Tidal Plane	A level of water (often defined by tidal constituents) from which water depths and heights of tides are referenced.
Tide	The periodic rise and fall of the water resulting from gravitational interactions between sun, moon and earth. The vertical component of the particulate motion of a tidal wave. Although the accompanying horizontal movement of the water is part of the same phenomenon, it is preferable to designate this motion as tidal current.
Tide curve	A graphic representation of the rise and fall of the tide in which time is usually represented by the abscissa and height by the ordinate. For a semi-diurnal tide with little diurnal inequality, the graphic representation approximates a cosine curve.
Tide (water level) gauge	An instrument for measuring the rise and fall of the tide (water level).
Tide Tables	Tables which give daily predictions of the times and heights of high and low waters. These predictions are usually supplemented by tidal differences and constants through which predictions can be obtained for numerous other locations.

Tsunami	A shallow water progressive wave, potentially catastrophic, caused by an underwater earthquake or volcano.
Universal time (UTC)	Same as Greenwich mean time (GMT).
Z <sub>0</sub>	Symbol recommended by the International Hydrographic Organisation to represent the elevation of mean sea level above chart datum



## Appendix F Publications of interest

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### Data Reports

MHL Annual Ocean Tide Levels Summaries available from 1986-87 to 2016-17

MHL Report Nos. 515 (86-87), 544 (87-88), 563 (88-89), 585 (89-90), 602 (90-91), 628 (91-92), 658 (92-93), 697 (93-94), 732 (94-95), 777 (95-96), 876 (96-97), 947 (97-98), 1013 (98-99), 1069 (99-00), 1129 (00-01), 1205 (01-02), 1277 (02-03), 1347 (03-04), 1423 (04-05), 1512 (05-06), 1764 (06-07), 1848 (07-08), 1933 (08-09), 2010 (09-10), 2089 (10-11), 2158 (11-12), 2219 (12-13), 2292 (13-14), 2384 (14-15), 2475 (15-16), 2574 (16-17).

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 1998, *Tweed Heads, Yamba and Port Macquarie Offshore Tide Gauges 1982-1997*, MHL Report 722, May 1998.

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 2010, *Tidal Data Compilation 2010*, MHL Report 1988, June 2010.

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 1987, *Ocean Tide Measurement Program Progress Report*, Report No. MHL471.

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 1990, *NSW Ocean Tide Network Jervis Bay HMAS Creswell Tide Gauge System*, Report No. MHL580.

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 2013, *North Coast Ocean Tide Scoping Study*, MHL Report 2072, September 2013.

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Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 2012, *OEHS NSW Tidal Planes Analysis: 1990-2010 Harmonic Analysis*, MHL Report 2053, October 2012.

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 2012, *MHL Tidal Methodology Review*, MHL Report 2156, August 2012.

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory 2014, *OEH NSW Water Level Frequency Distribution Analysis*, MHL Report 2100, March 2014.

## Mean Sea Level

Couriel, E, B Modra and R Jacobs 2014, *NSW Sea Level Trends – The Ups and Downs*, 17<sup>th</sup> Australian Hydrographers Association Conference, Sydney, Australia, October 2014.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO 1985, *Manual on Sea Level Measurement and Interpretation*, IOC Manuals and Guides, No. 14.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO 1986, *Global Sea-level Observing System (GLOSS) Implementation Plan 1985-1990*, IOC/INF-663.

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National Mapping Council, Permanent Committee on Tides and Mean Sea Level (PCTMSL), *Tide Gauge Survey Information*.

## Anomalies and Storm Surge Analysis

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