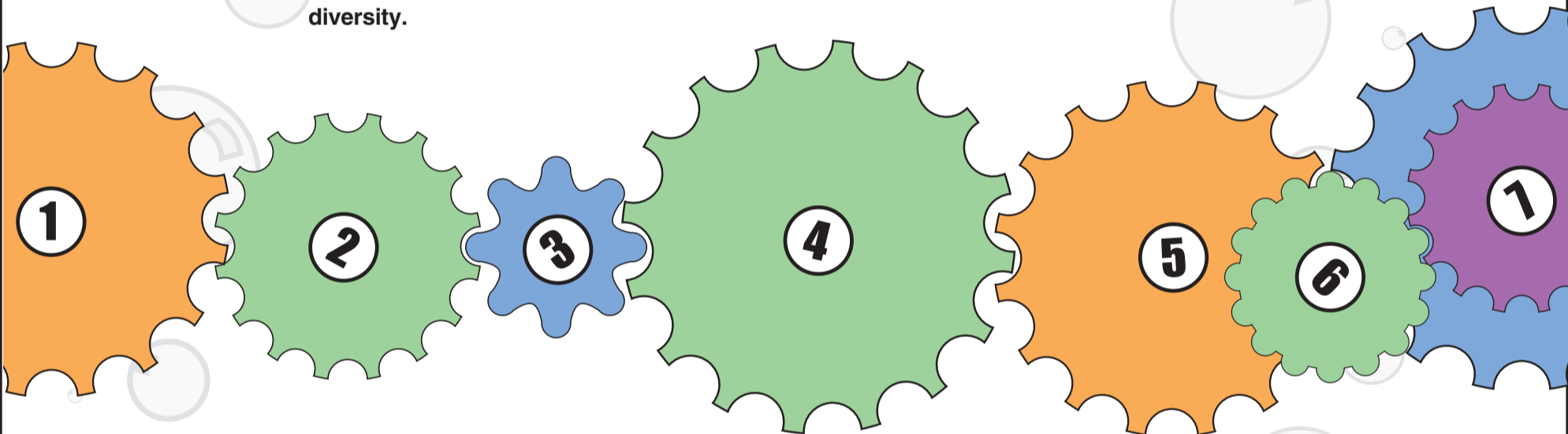


Living on the Edge

Working to Revive, Renew and Protect the Ecology of Lake Macquarie NSW

Functions of a healthy foreshore zone

1. Vegetation filters stormwater run off and stabilises the bank against lake erosion.
2. Absorbs wave energy up the natural sloping beach.
3. Allows dead seagrass to wash up on the shoreline and break down quickly and aerobically.
4. Allows small creatures like crabs to move within the inter-tidal zone, between the aquatic and land environments.
5. Provides for improved water quality with healthy oxygen levels in the near shore zone.
6. Allows for healthy bed sediments, free from the build-up of organic ooze.
7. Encourages an increased number of macroinvertebrates and fish stocks, improving bio-diversity.



In a natural system all components are inter-related. Changing or impacting on one component of the system interrupts this complex interaction and affects the entire system. Some typical activities which can have such impacts are:

1. Removing vegetation and planting exotic species in near shore zones.
2. Building seawalls, which remove natural sloping beaches and prevent the removal of dead seagrass.
3. Elevating the levels of land in near shore zones.

When all of these functions work together in a healthy Lake foreshore, the environment receives enormous benefits, such as:

BUFFERING CAPACITY

- Decreased incidence, risk and costs of erosion
- Local climate control
- Resilience to allow more rapid recovery from disturbance
- Protect shoreline against storm events

AESTHETICS

- Tourism
- Recreation
- Higher property values
- Absence of near shore organic ooze

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM

- Good Water Quality
- Healthy Fish Stocks
- Recreational opportunity
- Tourism, economic opportunity
- Increased employment prospects
- Healthy aquatic plants