

NSW Coastal Council Meeting 7 – summary minutes

24 May 2019

Coastal Council members in attendance were:

- Professor Bruce Thom, Chair
- Kate Brooks
- Ron Cox
- William Glamore
- Jane Lofthouse
- Annelise Tuor

The Council discussed a range of matters including how new Ministerial responsibilities for the Coastal Management Act 2016 and machinery of government changes post the March 2019 state election will inform a revised work program and approach to stakeholder engagement in 2019.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT

Following the March 2019 state election, new administrative orders saw the Minister for Local Government assume responsibility for the Coastal Management Act 2016. Planning and environment functions of state government are to be incorporated into a new Department Planning Industry and Environment by 1 July 2019. In view of these changes, the Coastal Council is undertaking a review of its work program and engagement activities to ensure ongoing support for the Minister and local councils in relation to independent advice on coastal issues and Coastal Management Programs. Both matters are to be addressed in upcoming meetings with the Hon. Minister Shelley Hancock and Executive of Department Planning Industry and Environment

A REVISED WORK PROGRAM FOR 2019

Council members saw the new administrative arrangements as an opportunity to refresh the work program, focussing on coastal management and programming issues which have emerged over the past twelve months as clear impediments for local government Coastal Management Programs (CMP). The issues include the need for consistent and fit-for-purpose guidance on CMP planning and implementation; timely access to government data and research; flexible funding arrangements for resourcing the planning of CMPs; improved collaboration and integration of state and local government activities and programs; and, preparation of coastal vulnerability area maps under the Coastal Management SEPP.

Local government expressed their concerns on these and related issues in Coastal Council's December 2018 survey of CMPs and CZMPs. While the existing work program had gone some way to addressing these, a revised approach would aim to facilitate improved communication, partnerships and resourcing to build the trust necessary amongst all stakeholders to address long standing impediments to integrated coastal management. The final approach and scope of the Council's 2019 work program is to be confirmed with the Minister.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Members of the Coastal Council continued to actively engage with state and local government representatives in 2019. Since February, discussions have been held with: Crown Lands representatives on how best to assist local government with the timely resolution of coastal

management and works where land owners consent for government-owned land was required; the Department Planning & Environment Coastal Regions Commissioner and Chief Planner on the benefits of integration of local government CMPs into strategic planning initiatives, including councils' Local Strategic Planning Statements; local government groups (Cooks River Alliance, Sydney Coastal Councils Group) on their experience in preparing CMPs; and the OEH Executive on options for greater flexibility in the Coast and Estuary Grants Program to assist CMP planning and improved guidance materials for coastal practitioners in local and state government and industry. Activities to improve the communication between the Marine Estate Management Authority and local government have been a focus and successful in supporting new communication channels for both state and local government interests in the marine estate.

COASTAL COUNCIL WORK PROGRAM - UPDATE

Reports summarising the Council's work program activities in 2018, including results of the December 2018 survey of local government CZMP/CMP status, were provided to OEH in February 2019.

The current work program will be reviewed in the context of the Minister's directions to the Council and commencement of new administrative arrangements for state agencies on 1 July 2019. Consistent with its responsibilities under the Act, Council is developing an auditing framework for assessing CMP compliance and performance. Council continues to work with OEH and MEMA staff and participate in regional forums in support of local government CMP planning. Consultation with state agencies on issues of concern for coastal management (ie. streamlining the development of coastal vulnerability maps; identifying the regulatory barriers to whole-of-embayment and regional sand nourishment programs; and timely access to government data) have progressed and are to be taken up with the new Department Planning Industry and Environment.

NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 28 June 2019.