



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

27 October 2020

Meeting was held online.

Guest: The Hon Minister Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Annelise Tuor, Chair
- Kate Brooks
- Pam Dean-Jones
- Martijn Gough
- Hannah Power
- Shay Simpson
- Bruce Thom

The meeting agenda included an introduction of the new Coastal Council to Minister Hancock, a discussion the focus for Council's activities and advice over the coming year, and updates on progress with the Council's 2020-21 Work Plan.

Introductions: Minister Shelley Hancock MP and Coastal Council

Minister Hancock was introduced to the Coastal Council members appointed in May 2020, with the four new members (Pam Dean-Jones, Martijn Gough, Hannah Power and Shay Simpson) giving an overview of their professional backgrounds and interest in joining the Council. Minister Hancock acknowledged the contribution of all members over the past year, noting the importance independent expert advice from the Coastal Council in addressing the complex issues confronting local government in the management of the coastal zone. Incorporating solutions to coastal issues based on the best advice was critical to the implementation of certified Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP) and new Coastal Management Programs (CMP). The Council Chair, Annelise Tuor, gave an update on progress with the Council's 2020-21 work plan and identified a range of matters warranting attention (i.e. commitment of state agencies to local councils' CMPs; streamlining the CVA mapping process; tailoring DPIE coastal research to local councils' needs; improving the two-way communication between state agencies and local government on CZMP/CMP planning and implementation).

Minster Hancock welcomed the opportunity to speak with the Council and thanked the Chair for the work plan update. The Minister looked forward to receiving further advice on the work plan tasks and would welcome suggestions on opportunities for improved delivery of Coastal Management Programs based on this advice.

Council's 2020-21 Work Plan

Following Minister Hancock's departure from the meeting, Council discussed the four work plan tasks, updates and reporting.

1. *Application of "beneficiary-pays" principle to implementing coastal protection options in certified Coastal Zone Management Plans and Coastal Management Programs.*

Update: A realignment of DPIE organisational structures in October 2020 is expected to

improve the coordination of marine, coastal, estuary and flood policy development and implementation. In view of the realignment and previous advice under this task on grant guidelines, Council is working with DPIE to develop the work program and deliverables for the remaining scope of the Task and final advice to the Minister by June 2021.

2. *Coastal Council audit process and related communication materials.*

Update: Council reviewed and discussed a draft report on the new Performance Audit Framework. Further consultation on the framework was considered necessary to ensure consistency with the legal requirements under the CM Act 2016 ([Section 26](#)) and also with state and local government audit governance. Preparation of communication material for local councils and other stakeholders is expected to commence in early 2021.

3. *Opportunities to improve water quality outcomes and identify opportunities to integrate actions in the Marine Estate Management Strategy with CMPs.*

Update: Recent publication of the [MEMS status report for local government - initiatives 1-3 - Sept 2020](#) summarises [MEMS Initiative 1](#) deliverables (Improve water quality and reduce marine litter) and potential opportunities for local councils to use information and data from MEMS for their CMPs. Council is reviewing the MEMS status report to identify deliverables available for local councils to use now for reporting to the Minister later this year.

4. *Implementation review of the Lake Cathie Coastal Zone Management Plan.*

Update: Council's report on the implementation of the Lake Cathie CZMP was endorsed for forwarding to Minister Hancock. Council acknowledges the assistance provided by DPIE NE Region and Port Macquarie Hastings Council (PMHC) in compiling information on the planning, certification and status of actions for the implementation of the Lake Cathie CZMP.

Other Work Plan Activities

Minister Hancock has directed Coastal Council involvement in the preparation of a Greater Sydney Harbour CMP and Stockton Taskforce.

Prof. Bruce Thom, Chair of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering Committee, updated members on progress in terms of the CMP focus on waterway health, engagement with the 21 harbour councils, and further research into a governance model for the CMP. Communication on the project, including an [educational video](#) prepared with the support of the Marine Estate Management Authority, highlights the need for a coordinated approach to sustaining and improving catchment and waterway health for the iconic Sydney Harbour as part of a long-term strategy for the coordinated coastal management of Sydney Harbour.

Dr Hannah Power advised members that [minutes of the second meeting of the Taskforce](#), held on 12 October 2020, are available online. The meeting summarised progress on the offshore sand exploration program, included a briefing on the potential sand resource available in the south arm of the Hunter River estuary for use in the nourishment of Stockton Beach and Stockton CMP update.

NEXT MEETING: Next Council meeting is scheduled for 27 November 2020.