



NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

6 December 2019

Coastal Council members in attendance were:

- Professor Bruce Thom, Chair
- Kate Brooks
- Ron Cox
- Will Glamore
- Angus Gordon
- Jane Lofthouse (by phone)
- Annelise Tuor

The priority for the Coastal Council's last meeting for 2019 was to review and prepare a report on progress on the Council's 2019 Work Program.

In August 2019, Minister Hancock asked Council to report on three matters by December 2019:

1. A review of the implementation of the NSW Coastal Management Framework
2. Development of a Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program
3. A review the implementation of the certified Newcastle Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) - Part A (Stockton)

Details of the Minister's request are included in the Council's [August 2019 Meeting Summary](#).

By December 2019, Council had completed its review of the [Newcastle \(Stockton\) CZMP](#) and Chaired Steering Committee and Partners Group meetings to facilitate the development of a [Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program](#). The Minister's [response](#) to the Newcastle (Stockton) CZMP review is available on the [Coastal Council web page](#)., progress on the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP will form part of the Council's end of year report to the Minister.

A key task for the Council was a review of the implementation of the [Coastal Management Framework](#) since its commencement in 2018 .

The Minister sought advice on five questions:

1. What aspects of the new coastal management framework is working well?
2. Is the framework clear to councils? If not, which aspects of the framework are unclear to councils (and other public authorities) and what are the areas where further work/capacity building is required?
3. Are there specific challenges that impede successful implementation of the new framework and how might they be addressed?
4. Are there any policy settings or operational parameters that the Government might consider which could augment the coastal management framework commenced on 3 April 2018?

5. What additional support could be put in place to facilitate appropriate uptake by Councils in preparing a Coastal Management Program?

The review was to include public authorities with land ownership and/or management responsibility in the coastal zone as well as upper catchment councils (outside of the coastal zone) to better understand impediments in achieving effective catchment management outcomes.

Coastal practitioners in local and state government were surveyed as part of the review, via an online survey, interviews of selected metropolitan and regional councils and in a public Q&A session at the 2019 NSW Coastal Conference. The survey outcomes highlight implementation of the framework could be improved through clear and consistent guidance on the preparation of Coastal Management Programs (CMP), commitment of state agencies to the CMP process, and the assistance of state government in removing regulatory hurdles for CMP implementation. The importance of including catchment activities and their potential impacts on the coastal zone as part of the CMP was frequently mentioned.

Despite the potential to improve the framework, overall it was noted that there had been significant progress in the development of CMPs statewide with many councils either in the final stages of scoping their programs (Stage 1) or progressing to an evaluation of risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities (Stage 2). Areas for improvement are clear, have been raised with Council by local government authorities during 2019 and will be noted in the Coastal Council's report Minister Hancock.

NEXT MEETING

Next Council meeting is scheduled for 25 February 2020.