

NSW Coastal Panel	MEETING NUMBER: 25
	LOCATION: Ballina + Teleconference
	DATE: 11 FEBRUARY 2016
MINUTES	

Present

Name	Nominating Organisation
Mr Angus Gordon (AG)	Chair
Dr Carolyn Davies (CD)	Office of Environment and Heritage (phone)
Prof Andrew Short (AS)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Ms Jane Lofthouse (JL)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Mr Steve Murray (SM)	Department of Planning and Environment (phone)
Mr Stephen Wills (SW)	Department of Primary Industries - Lands (phone)
Dr Marc Daley (MD)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Mr Phil Watson (PW)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Mr Brendan Logan (BL)	Department of Primary Industries - Lands (Observer)
Mr Ben Fitzgibbon (BF)	Office of Environment and Heritage (Observer)_

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Panel members.

Apologies were received from Bruce Thom (LGNSW) and Jane Gibbs (Secretariat)

Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

Agenda Item 3 – Confirmation of Previous Panel Minutes

Minutes for Coastal Panel meeting 22 were circulated prior to this meeting. Due to further time requested by the Panel to review minutes, these will be confirmed out of session.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from Previous Meetings

MD gave a summary of correspondence of matters in relation to responses received from Wollongong Council for proposed foreshore erosion works at Coalcliff and Shoalhaven Council at Mollymook.

Wollongong Council advised the Panel the proposed works, as presented to the Coastal Panel in July 2015 were not undertaken. This was in response to the Panel's comments and request for a more detailed design with input from a Coastal Engineer. When a more permanent design has been developed, with detailed design and coastal assessment, this proposal will again be forwarded to the Coastal Panel for comment.

Shoalhaven Council advised the Panel the proposed work has not yet been undertaken, it is scheduled to start late April 2016. Council noted Advisian has been asked to include information and discussion on sand compartments in their proposal to undertake a review of Council's coastal hazard lines in view of council's adopted sea level rise projections. Advisian is yet to be engaged to do this work as Council was seeking input from OEH on the proposed methodology and integration with coastal reform stage 2. Council advised a Crown Land

licence application for the Mollymook Beach Creek and Dune Protection (Blackwater Creek) was submitted to Crown Land on 02 June 2015.

MD advised he is still in the process of following up comments from Byron Shire Council and RMS on how previous comments provided by the Panel have been considered in relation to proposed coastal protection works at Belongil Beach and Coalcliff.

Agenda Item 5 – Ballina Shire Coastline CZMP

On 2 February 2016, the Chair received correspondence from Minister Stokes requesting the advice of the Panel, regarding the adequacy of the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for the Ballina Shire Coastline and its suitability for certification under the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*.

Following a discussion and consideration of the matter, the Panel instructed PW to prepare a draft response to the Minister for circulation and finalisation by the Panel, encompassing the following elements:

- The documents relied upon to inform the Panel's advice include:
 - (i) Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Ballina Shire Coastline (Version: 2015 Final V1, dated 18 May 2015); and
 - (ii) OEH Regional Operations Group assessment of draft CZMP against the statutory requirements of the *Coastal Protection Act 1979* and minimum requirements of the *Guidelines for Preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans (2013)*.
- Commends Ballina Shire Council for preparing a practical, pragmatic and forward thinking CZMP that covers the whole of its open coastline. In particular, the Plan provides a straightforward approach to adaptively managing identified coastal hazards into the future with a balance between necessary protection, amenity enhancement, public access and dune maintenance elements. It is also noteworthy that the Plan commits to significant long-term monitoring in order to augment future decision making.
- Commends Ballina Shire Council for diligently preparing the CZMP in consultation with the community and in partnership with OEH and other Government agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities for parcels of land that fall within the operation of the Plan.
- Note that in the opinion of the Coastal Panel, the Ballina Shire Council CZMP is **suitable for certification** in accordance with provisions of the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*. It should also be noted, prior to its final release and the Plan being made publically available Ballina Shire Council has committed to undertake the following minor amendments:
 - (i) Updating figure numbers throughout the management plan report; and
 - (ii) Providing a more consistent terminology around the physical trigger used to initiate a land-based survey and seawall construction along Seven Mile Beach. At present the Plan oscillates between volumetric (200 m³) and linear (35 m) triggers, creating unintended ambiguity.
- Include advice to Ballina Shire Council outlining matters that, in the opinion of the Coastal Panel, might provide relevant guidance to augment various initiatives and further studies advised in the Plan over the medium to longer term to meet identified future challenges. These suggestions have been summarised in the following for the consideration of Council, but, are not considered pre-requisites to be addressed in order to certify the Plan. These include:
 - (i) The Plan requires excavation and inspection to estimate the nature and capacity of (currently) buried protection works along Seven Mile Beach in order to upgrade them into the future when certain triggers are realised. It might be worthwhile

Council seeking to obtain records from Planning Tribunals relating to protection works along Seven Mile Beach in the late 1970's which were understood to contain design details of proposed works. If these details can be found, it might assist Councils forward planning around designing upgraded works;

- (ii) The Plan seeks to link opportunistic navigation dredging in the Richmond River as a valuable nourishment source for Seven Mile Beach. The Panel notes that in future, council will seek to explore longer-term sources of sand suitable for offsetting the projected loss of amenity associated with sea level rise. It would be worthwhile for Council to include in such investigations, a more expansive knowledge of sediment budgets relating to the lower Richmond River estuary. This work might also include investigations concerning the sand movement interactions between the training walls and the estuary and the capacity for sand stored adjacent to the southern breakwater structure to also be used for nourishment purposes at Seven Mile Beach (akin to Letitia Spit in Tweed which is used to supply sand to the southern Gold Coast). There might also be lessons learned from the development and operational management of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project (TRESBP) that might be relevant for Ballina Council in this respect;
- (iii) Studies considering future nourishment requirements might be prudent to also consider the extent of indurated sands (or rock) prevalent along Seven Mile Beach) which might limit the extent of artificial nourishment volumes required;
- (iv) The Panel notes there is currently limited beach access at times around the seawall structure in the vicinity of Ross Park. When undertaking the detailed design work for proposed upgrading of currently buried structures along Seven Mile Beach, Council would be advised to look at measures to also integrate pedestrian access along length of all the structures;
- (v) The Panel notes issues raised by DPI Lands in correspondence to Ballina Shire Council dated 29 September 2015 in relation to the Draft Plan. The position of DPI Lands should be noted and encapsulated within the forward direction of the CZMP; and
- (vi) Protection works proposed for the walking track at Boulder Beach might reconsider the utility of utilising smaller rounded rock on a flatter slope to achieve the same level.

Agenda Item 6 – Other Business

None

Agenda Item 9 – Date for Next Meeting

Timing of next Panel meeting to be established out of session pending Member's availability.

The Meeting was closed at 3.00PM.