

NSW Coastal Panel	MEETING NUMBER: 30
	LOCATION: Teleconference
	DATE: 15 JULY 2016
MINUTES	

Present

Name	Nominating Organisation
Dr Carolyn Davies (CD)	Office of Environment and Heritage (A/Chair)
Prof Bruce Thom (BT)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Prof Andrew Short (AS)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Ms Jane Lofthouse (JL)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Mr Stephen Murray (SM)	Department of Planning and Environment
Ms Jane Gibbs (JG)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Mr Phil Watson (PW)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Dr Marc Daley (MD)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

The A/Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Panel members.

Apologies were received from Mr Stephen Wills.

Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

Stephen Wills declared an interest in Item 5 in advance of the meeting and accordingly advised apologies for the Meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Confirmation of Previous Panel Minutes

Outstanding Minutes to be circulated and confirmed out of session. All agreed.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from Previous Meetings

The Secretariat advised that Wollongong City Council wrote to the Panel on 24 May 2016, regarding the Panel's prior advice concerning the proposed seawall at Corbett Avenue, Thirroul. Council advised it has considered the Panel's comments, but based on advice received from its engineering consultant, were of the opinion that the proposed rock revetment seawall to protect the Corbett Avenue road head, was the optimum solution for this location.

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed Construction of a Rock Groyne and Beach Nourishment at South Entrance Beach REF

Correspondence addressed to the Chair, NSW Coastal Panel was received from DPI- Lands on 1 July 2016, seeking the Panel's comments on the above-mentioned proposal, in accordance with clause 129 (2A) of Division 25 of Part 3 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*.

The Panel asked PW to provide a background briefing on the proposal and outline any concerns from the Office of Environment and Heritage. Following a discussion and consideration of the matter, the Panel instructed PW to prepare a draft response for circulation and finalisation by the Panel, raising the following issues:

- The review of alternative options and the economic assessment would appear to favour Option 1 (Periodic South Entrance Beach Nourishment) and yet Option 2 (Short Groyne with Periodic Nourishment) has been adopted. The basis of the justification for the adopted option appears to focus on the availability of additional funding forthcoming from the NSW Government;
- The location of rock groyne structures create public access and potential public safety issues along beach margins which will require careful management to reduce risks;
- It is strongly recommended that Department of Industry – Lands view the proposed works in the context of a short-term (say 10 year) trial with appropriate monitoring in order to highlight and re-dress any unintended adverse outcomes that might arise from the placement of a groyne structure in this location;
- It is recommended that Department of Industry – Lands put in place an agreement with Central Coast Council regarding maintenance and monitoring to clarify responsibilities, particularly in respect of access to sand for purposes of nourishing both South and North Entrance Beaches; and
- The Panel strongly urges Department of Industry – Lands to consult directly with Central Coast Council to ensure that the proposed project is adequately incorporated into Council's Coastal Zone Management Plan currently being prepared for this section of coastline.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Council Construction of Buried Rock Seawall at Stockton Beach REF

Correspondence addressed to the Chair, NSW Coastal Panel was received from Newcastle City Council on 8 July 2016, seeking the Panel's comments on the above-mentioned proposal, in accordance with clause 129 (2A) of Division 25 of Part 3 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*.

The Panel asked PW to provide a background briefing on the proposal and outline any concerns from the Office of Environment and Heritage. Following a discussion and consideration of the matter, the Panel instructed PW to prepare a draft response for circulation and finalisation by the Panel, raising the following issues:

- Members of the Panel are quite familiar with the Stockton Beach area and its erosion history since the mid-1990s. The sand-filled geotextile structure in front of the Stockton Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) was itself installed during this period as a temporary measure to buy time whilst longer term consideration was given to updating and relocating threatened assets nearing the end of their serviceable life. Over the intervening period, in full knowledge of the scale of erosion impacts within the subject precinct, Council have permitted upgrading of additional facilities, including the café and carparking;
- The Panel is disappointed that the proposed protection works (to a 50 year design standard) amount to isolated protection works which are inconsistent with Newcastle City Council's strategic approach (identified in its CZMP) to gradually remove assets from the threat of physical processes within the active beach margin over time;
- The REF document is extremely limited, failing to identify and address key issues such as the potential for increased erosion from end effects of the structure and potential loss of beach amenity in front of the structure. It is disappointing that the REF notes a response might be to monitor the coastline in front of the caravan park to the south in the event that

coastal protection might also be needed there as well. It is highly likely that end effects of the proposed structure will indeed necessitate a proliferation of continued hardening of the foreshore and further loss of beach amenity into the future rather than successively retiring assets that come under threat over time;

- The proposed nourishment to bury the seawall and revegetation with native species would appear well intentioned but ill-conceived. As council would be aware from in-situ performance of the sand-filled geotextile wall in front of the Stockton SLSC and the Mitchell Street seawall further north, there has been no prospect of successfully achieving such a result. While no details have been furnished concerning the scope of the sand nourishment activity, should this proposal proceed (and it is not the recommendation of the Panel that it does) then sand nourishment would be needed to offset the loss of amenity envisaged by the encroachment of more hard protection structures within the active beach margins along Stockton Beach;
- There are no details provided concerning land ownership of the area where the proposed structure is to be located, such as whether the proposed structure is on Crown Land and thus requires land owner's consent from the Department of Industry - Lands, nor details concerning the necessary maintenance regime of the asset over time; and
- It is strongly recommended that Newcastle City Council does not proceed with the proposed seawall at this stage and incorporate its more considered position of how best to manage the Stockton Beach area in the context of its CZMP or a future Coastal Management Program. If it is the position of Council to proceed with the seawall, the Council should view the proposed works in the context of a short-term (say 10 year) trial with appropriate monitoring in order to highlight and re-dress any unintended adverse environmental outcomes that might arise from the placement of the proposed structure in this location.

Agenda Item 7 – Umina DA Update

MD advised that the Panel has now received an application from Mr Doug Sneddon, acting on the behalf of his client, for a further modification to CP13-001 regarding the proposed beachfront revetment wall at No. 8 Berrima Crescent, Umina Beach. The DA was issued a deferred development consent by the Panel on 18 July 2014, with a requirement for the deferred commencement conditions to be satisfied within 12 months. On 17 July 2015, the Panel granted a modification for 12 month extension on the deferred commencement to 18 July 2016. Mr Sneddon has now submitted an application requesting an extension for an additional 6 months, with a revised date of 18th January 2017 to satisfy the deferred commencement conditions, as he awaits a review of a Council decision not to approve a subdivision application for the site.

The Panel agreed to grant an extension to coincide with the intended commencement of the new Coastal Management Act 2016.

Agenda Item 8 – Arrawarra DA Update

MD advised that on 1 July 2016, Keiley Hunter Town Planning, on behalf of the Applicant furnished additional information in response to a formal request by the Panel on 19 April 2016.

The new information will be considered by Gary Fielding and additional coastal engineering reports will be referred to an external coastal engineering consultancy for peer review prior to being reconsidered by the Panel.

Agenda Item 9 – Other Business

- Panel advised that a non-conforming DA had been received for a seawall at 39 Ocean View Drive Wamberal on 16 June 2016. The Secretariat provided a response to the applicant on 17 June 2016 outlining a range of matters that would need to be addressed in order for the Panel to accept the lodgement of the DA. The Applicant has subsequently advised that a revised DA will be re-submitted.
- A/Chair advised of administrative actions underway to fill the Chair and vacant Panel position following the recent resignation of Mr Angus Gordon.
- A/Chair advised the Panel that OEH advice suggested that Byron Bay Embayment and Wharf Road CZMP's were being finalized for submission to the Minister seeking certification. It was anticipated the Minister would refer both hotspot plans to the Coastal Panel for advice.

Agenda Item 10 – Date for Next Meeting

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

The Meeting was closed at 1:00PM