

NSW Coastal Panel	MEETING NUMBER: 19
	LOCATION: Sydney
	DATE: 28 AUGUST 2014
MINUTES	

Present

Name	Nominating Organisation
Mr Angus Gordon	Chair
Prof Bruce Thom	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Prof Andrew Short	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Ms Jane Lofthouse	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Dr Carolyn Davies	Office of Environment and Heritage
Mr Allan Young	Department of Planning and Environment (Observer)
Ms Jane Gibbs	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Dr Marc Daley	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Mr Mladen Kovac	Office of Environment and Heritage - Chief Economist

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Panel members.
Apologies were received from Mr Stephen Wills and Mr Stephen Murray.

Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

No declarations were received.

Agenda Item 3 – Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of meeting 17 (30 June 2014) were accepted (moved by Prof Thom, seconded The Chair). Minutes of meeting 18 (1 August 2014) will be circulated and approved out of session.

Agenda Item 4 – Old Bar Economic Assessment

The Panel discussed the Old Bar Social and Economic Assessment Report that had been completed by the Balmoral Group (commissioned by OEH). Mr Kovac outlined the findings of the report, which showed regarding the different management options there is no ideal solution and there are always winners and losers.

After considerable discussion of the detailed aspects of the report and the various management options, the Panel were of the opinion that a proposed seawall option, regardless of the degree of development of the protected properties, was not an economically beneficial option for Old Bar and the greater community. Based on the findings of the report the Panel accepted that when considering the overall economics, planned retreat represents the only real economically feasible option at Old Bar.

For other locations along the NSW coast the Panel acknowledged the cost benefit analyses of protection vs retreat strategies would need to be considered on a case by case basis, and in other locations protection may offer significant advantages to planned retreat.

Agenda Item 5 – Coastal Zone Management Plan Greater Taree – Formulation of advice

In formulation of advice to be provided to the Minister, the Panel outlined a number of issues they could see with the current Greater Taree Coastal Zone Management Plan. This included:

- The current submission contains a number of documents with no real summary that effectively ties them together;
- The management options and conclusions drawn between the different documents are not consistent and present somewhat different outcomes;
- Information contained in the Worley Parsons (2013) report is now out of date and parts of the report need to be updated;
- The need to update out of date information;
- Manning Point has received little recognition in the plan and in the future is likely to become highly vulnerable to both coastal and flooding hazards;

In considering the Economic Assessment Report, the Panel agreed this now provides a way forward in assisting Greater Taree to progress with a realistic management option for the region. The Panel also acknowledged the position of planned retreat was the preferred option of the Worley Parson Coastal Zone Management Plan (2013), which noted that the two communities at highest threat were Old Bar and Diamond Beach.

The Chair acknowledged the Worley Parsons report, although it has outlined the process of planned retreat, does not specifically detail how planned retreat might be achieved on ground and more work needs to be undertaken surrounding what planned retreat meant for the community. Dr Davies suggested the focus of this work needs to be on developing a mechanism for dealing with planning retreat and how this might be effected. The Panel was in agreement that what needs to be looked at now by Greater Taree City Council was what retreat actually means, how this would translate into planned retreat.

The Panel suggested the next steps should involve OEH working with Greater Taree City Council to prepare a single plan/document that can be submitted to the minister for certification. Develop an implementation plan which provides detail on:

- the planning controls required;
- an (equitable) process for planned retreat including determining a process for implementing the proposed triggers for planning retreat into the planning systems
- exploring options to better define and plan for planned retreats to distinguish it from the base case of business as usual

The Chair and OEH agreed they would work on developing the formal advice to be provided to the Minister and forward it to the Panel for comment before finalising.

Agenda Item 6 – Coastal Zone Management Plan Lake Cathie – Formulation of advice

In review of the Lake Cathie Coastal Zone Management Plan the Panel declared they had reservations about a number of aspects of the report. This included:

- The plan does not appear to present a business case, and therefore could be more effectively described as a Plan to make a Plan;
- The plan in dealing only with part of the coastline, fails to consider the broader coastal process and geomorphology of the region;
- Information contained in the report does not appear to be current and underestimates the true cost of the wall along with the cost-benefit for this option.

Professor Thom also raised concerns about a stormwater outflow pipe onto the beach, how stormwater is managed and how impacts of this outflow might affect any proposed management option.

The Panel also noted the plan should consider the periodic dredging that occurs around the entrance of Cathie Creek under the current management strategy, and how this could potentially be used to develop an adaptive management approach.

The Chair and OEH agreed they would work together on developing the formal advice to be provided to the Minister. The Panel also suggested the likely next steps would be to undertake a social and economic assessment for Lake Cathie, similar to the study previously undertaken at Old Bar. The Panel envisioned that OEH would work with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council in guiding this process.

Agenda Item 7 - Developing operating procedures

The Chair raised the issue that he would like to see greater clarity set out around the way in the Panel operates and in particular timeframes for the response time of the Panel to development applications, infrastructure SEPP submissions, consideration of Coastal Zone Management Plans and general advice. The Chair requested that OEH work closely with the Panel to develop this framework, which could then be made available on the Panel's website to provide clarity for these procedures

Agenda Item 8 - Other Business

Jane Gibbs gave an update on the current status of Byron Shire Council's proposal for the installation of interim coastal protection work at Belongil Beach. Ms Gibbs advised at this stage Council appears to be looking to pursue the option of installing these measures, contrary to previous advice provided by the Panel.

Agenda Item 9 – Date for Next Meeting

No date was set down for the next meeting. The Panel agreed that the next meeting would be held as required.

The meeting was closed at 1:15 pm.