

NSW Coastal Panel	MEETING NUMBER: 20
	LOCATION: Fishermans Beach
	DATE: 16 APRIL 2015
MINUTES	

Present

Name	Nominating Organisation
Dr Carolyn Davies	Office of Environment and Heritage (Deputy Chair)
Prof Bruce Thom	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Prof Andrew Short	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Ms Jane Lofthouse	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Mr Steve Lawson	NSW Trade and Investment (Crown Lands) – Deputy Member
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 Phil Watson	Office of Environment and Heritage - Observer

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

The Deputy 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

The Chair Angus Gordon did not attend this meeting to avoid any perceived conflict of interest, as he had previously been employed in a consultancy role in the early stages of the development of the Collaroy-Narrabeen Coastal Zone Management (CZMP) Plan. This employment was prior to Mr Gordon's appointment as Chair of the NSW Coastal Panel.

No other declarations of interest were received.

Agenda Item 3 – Formulation of advice Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach and Fishermans Beach Coastal Zone Management Plan

Prior to the Coastal Panel meeting, Panel members met with officers from Warringah Council to receive a presentation of the CZMPt Plan and undertook a site visit.

Dr Davies opened the discussion regarding the formulation of the Panel's advice for the Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach and Fishermans Beach CZMP. Dr Davies suggested the Panel had a few options in their advice to be provided to the Minister: (1) recommend certification; (2) recommend certification subject to amendments of the Plan; (3) not recommend certification due to the Plan requiring significant changes.

The Panel raised concern about the length of the Plan, with some of the sections in the Plan being reiterations of the previous work which were required to progress the Plan to this point and not being of relevance in the final Plan document. The Panel were of the opinion that that the core actions of the Plan should be presented upfront in the document, and that the Plan should contain a clear map that outlines what the management actions are in each of the three key areas (Area 1 - North of Devitt Street, Area 2 - South of Devitt Street and Area 3 - Fishermans Beach). However, the Panel acknowledged these issues were minor and that

these changes should be able to be accomplished without too much difficulty. The Panel suggested that one of the key aspects that needed to be developed to accompany the Plan was a clear communications strategy, to advise the community of the plan of management and actions contained in the Plan in each of the three key areas.

The Panel discussed the inclusion of the Emergency Action Sub Plan (EASP), in which the Plan itself acknowledges the EASP is out of date. The Panel recognised the need for the EASP contained in the Plan to be current, as an emergency could occur at any time and the Plan needs to clearly document what will be done under such circumstances. The Panel resolved council will need to ensure it updates the EASP in the final (published) version of the Plan.

The Panel discussed the proposed management strategies employed in each of the three areas. Professor Thom noted the Plan essentially adopted a hold the line strategy. The Panel expressed some concern with the management options in Area 2, permitting landowners to fund and construct their own protection works, although not linking this aspect to the need to support future beach nourishment campaigns. The Panel were concerned that in the absence of any landowner contributions to nourishment, there may be an expectation that any future nourishment costs would be borne by Council. Professor Thom also raised concerns in relation to uncertainty surrounding where the risk and liabilities in relation to any landowner funded works and outlined the need for clarity around this specific issue.

In consideration of the Plan as a whole, the Panel acknowledged the progress that Warringah Council had made in recent years, with the Plan representing more of a strategic CZMP and some actions requiring following up work. This included (1) Developing guidelines for landowner on the requirements for new and upgraded protection works; (2) The need to develop a communications strategy to accompany the Plan; (3) That council was still yet to engage with other agencies (Department of Planning and Environment and Trade and Investment) to ensure certain actions outlined in the Plan can be implemented. The Panel were of the view that all three actions were critical to the success and implementation of the Plan. The Panel recommended that the proposed landowner guidelines should be considered as a supplementary CZMP and should also require the consideration of the Panel once they have been developed. The Panel also recommended that council should seek to immediately engage with the Departments of Planning and Environment, and Trade and Investment, to resolve any issues regarding the management of Crown land and Crown waterways and ensure the actions proposed in the Plan including the required changes to the planning instruments are able to be effected.

Professor Andrew Short expressed his disappointment that the opportunities for casual land repurchasing along Collaroy-Narrabeen beach had been overlooked in the Plan. Professor Short was of the opinion that this action had delivered tangible benefits to the community in the past, through the return of public space along the beachfront and options for land purchases, on casual basis and when they become available, should also be included as another potential management action for the Plan.

Based on discussions with council earlier that day the Panel acknowledged council appears to have conducted extensive community consultation in relation to the direction and actions proposed in the Plan. The Panel was in agreement that the level of consultation undertaken was more than reasonable and therefore was satisfied this requirement had been fulfilled.

The Deputy Chair requested the secretariat draft a letter to Council outlining issues raised and also prepare advice recommending certification of the CZMP for consideration by Panel members.

Agenda Item 8 – Other Business

No other business items were raised.

Agenda Item 9 – Date for Next Meeting

No date was set down to the next meeting. The next meeting would be held as required.

The meeting closed at 2:15 pm.