



# NSW Coastal Council

## NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

10 May 2024

Meeting was held at the Elizabeth Street, Sydney CBD, offices of the Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Dr Philip Haines, Chair
- Grahame Byron (by video)
- Mark Conlon
- Dr Elizabeth McEntyre

Representatives from Minister Sharpe’s office, the Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Biodiversity Conservation and Science (Conservation Policy & Programs Division) and Department Planning Housing and Infrastructure (Environment Policy and Planning) (DPHI) attended in person and by video.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country by Dr Elizabeth McEntyre, Coastal Council (the Council) members and guests were welcomed to the second meeting of the Council for 2024.

The meeting was conducted as a workshop with state agency representatives. The intent of the workshop was to build the new Council’s awareness and understanding of the NSW Coastal Management Framework history, implementation, status, challenges and opportunities through a series of focused presentations and open discussion. The presentations also provided important context for matters the Minister responsible for the *Coastal Management Act* 2016, the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, may seek advice on through Council’s annual work plans.

The main agenda items included: agency briefings on the Coastal Management Framework, Coastal Management Programs, Coastal Vulnerability Area mapping, work underway for enhancing cultural safety and collaborative partnerships with First Nations peoples in coastal management, and Council’s 2024 Work Plan.

### Agency Presentations.

#### [Coastal management framework](#) (Framework) - DCCEEW

The presentation outlined the scope, purpose, and implementation of the six main components of the Framework that commenced in 2018:

- Coastal Management Act, 2016
- State Environment Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018\*
- NSW coastal management manual
- Coastal management programs
- NSW Coastal Council
- NSW coastal and estuary grants program

\*The State Environment Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018 was incorporated into the State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021.

Local council Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) are central to the delivery of the objectives for the sustainable long-term management of the Coastal Zone. Additional support for this is given via the [Local Planning Direction 4.2](#) for coastal management issued by the Minister for Planning under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979 and the [Coastal Design Guidelines](#), both of which support local councils to ensure development and planning proposals (e.g. rezone land) decisions are consistent with the objectives of legislation. The role of DCCEEW’s ongoing data collection and monitoring programs in supporting the framework implementation generally, and local council CMPs specifically was summarised (e.g. regular LiDAR and bathymetry data capture; a statewide beach profile database; statewide erosion and inundation risk assessments; coastal wave and water level data

collection network; water quality monitoring), with much of the information is accessible through the [Coastal Management Toolkit](#).

#### [Coastal Management Programs](#) - DCCEEW

Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) are prepared by local councils and intended to set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of land within the coastal zone. They are prepared in accordance with the coastal management manual and in consultation with their communities and relevant public authorities. DCCEEW routinely reports the [progress](#) of CMPs and their [certification](#), as well as working closely with local councils at all stages of the CMP process from planning to implementation. Currently there are eleven certified programs, with a further fifty-one planned or underway. Insights from DCCEEW reviews of CMPs as part of the certification process, along with feedback received in collaboration with local councils on CMP development, were summarised.

#### [The State Environment Planning Policy \(Resilience and Hazards\) 2021](#) – Coastal Vulnerability Area maps – DPHI

Coastal Vulnerability Area (CVA) mapping identifies land subject to one or more of the seven coastal hazards listed in the *Coastal Management Act 2016* ([section 4](#)). DPHI gave an overview of the relevant legislation, requirements for a CVA in a certified CMP, and progress on developing a statewide CVA map under the Resilience and Hazards SEPP. To date, CVA maps have been developed in a number of CMPs with one council, the City of Coffs Harbour, having their coastal vulnerability mapping incorporated into the Resilience and Hazards SEPP. The value of a consistent statewide CVA map working with and complementing existing planning controls for coastal hazards in council Local Environment Plans and Development Control Plans was noted, as was the state and local government investment in technical studies and grants to progress CVA mapping.

#### [Enhancing cultural safety and collaborative partnerships with First Nations people](#). - DCCEEW

A presentation on work underway within DCCEEW to strengthen the professional capabilities of coastal managers in state and local government to collaborate and engage with First Nations people through culturally safe approaches. The work is being informed by engagement with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across DCCEEW, DPHI and local government and represents a critical step in realising improved engagement of First Nation peoples in CMP development and coastal management generally.

#### [Coastal Council 2024 Work Plan](#)

Minister Sharpe has directed the Council to focus its efforts in 2024 on providing advice on the implementation of the Framework and ways to improve delivery of outcomes. Consistent with sections 25(1)(a)(i) and 25(1)(b) of the Coastal Management Act 2016, the Minister is seeking advice on five topics:

1. Coastal vulnerability area mapping.  
What are the most effective and appropriate options for considering coastal hazards and vulnerability in land use planning decisions?
2. Managing risks from coastal hazards  
What additional support/investigations could the Government develop to provide further assistance to local government and communities in managing risks of coastal erosion and inundation?
3. Enhancing cultural safety and collaborative partnerships with First Nations people  
What additional support could the Government provide to coastal councils to assist with fostering collaborative and culturally safe partnerships with First Nations people? Are there opportunities to provide greater support to First Nations people deliver community led caring for Country initiatives?
4. The NSW coastal management manual  
What opportunities are there to simplify/streamline both the mandatory requirements in Part A and guidance information in Part B of the NSW Coastal Management Manual
5. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting programs in Coastal Management Programs  
Provide advice on how the Department could improve guidance and information to better support the development of monitoring evaluation and reporting programs required in CMPs.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Council is planned for July 2024.