NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

23 August 2019

Coastal Council members in attendance were:

- Professor Bruce Thom, Chair
- Kate Brooks
- Ron Cox
- Angus Gordon
- Jane Lofthouse
- Annelise Tuor

Apologies: William Glamore

The meeting focused on the Minister’s priorities for the Coastal Council’s 2019 work program and scheduling of activities to meet reporting requirements by December 2019.

The Minister for Local Government seeks the Council’s advice on three Tasks in 2019. The request for advice is made under Section 25 of the Coastal Management Act 2016. The tasks include:

1. Review the implementation of the NSW Coastal Management Framework

   Aim is to understand and assess how well the coastal management framework has been applied and implemented over the past 15 months and make any recommendations for improvement.

   Advice sought:

   - What aspects of the new coastal management framework is working well?
   - Is the framework clear to councils? If not, which aspects of the framework are unclear to councils (and other public authorities) and what are the areas where further work/capacity building is required?
   - Are there specific challenges that impede successful implementation of the new framework and how might they be addressed?
   - Are there any policy settings or operational parameters that the Government might consider which could augment the coastal management framework commenced on 3 April 2018?
   - What additional support could be put in place to facilitate appropriate uptake by Councils in preparing a Coastal Management Program?

   The review is to include public authorities with land ownership and/or management responsibility in the coastal zone as well as upper catchment councils (outside of the coastal zone) to better understand impediments in achieving effective catchment management outcomes.

   Council undertook to seek feedback on the framework implementation from local government, state agencies, industry experts and research organisations through an online survey, targeted interviews with a sample of councils, and from the broader community at the annual NSW Coastal Conference.
2. Involvement of Coastal Council members in specific projects

Aim is to facilitate the involvement of Coastal Council members in key strategic coastal projects from time to time.

The request for advice to a public authority, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), is through the involvement of Professor Bruce Thom as Chair of the Steering Committee for the development of the Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program, ensuring cross over of issues with the Marine Estate Management Act 2014.

Professor Thom will chair his first meeting of the Steering Committee in August 2019.

3. Review the implementation of the Newcastle certified Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) - Part A (Stockton)

Aim is to understand how the implementation of a certified CZMP is progressing, to identify any issues/opportunities and present recommendations on how to better enable implementation of CZMPs.

The review should seek to address, amongst other things, whether the certified Newcastle CZMP is being implemented and are council on track to implement the certified Plan against the identified implementation schedule. Advice is also sought on how the plan has been incorporated into Council’s planning and reporting framework and what issues might have impeded implementation of the certified CZMP?

Associate Professor Ron Cox was tasked with the review.

Members welcomed an updated terms of reference (TOR) for the Coastal Council provided with the Minister’s priorities. While the TOR restate Council’s responsibilities and functions as set out in the Coastal Management Act 2016, they support Council taking an active role in engaging with stakeholders.

Since June, regular updates on the Council’s activities have been provided to the Marine Estate Agency Steering Committee. There have also been meetings with senior officers in state agencies to facilitate coordination of state and local government actions on key coastal management issues (ie. coastal protection works, data access for CMPs, communication of coastal research results to local government and support in the application the research and data).

NEXT MEETING

Next Council meeting is scheduled for 25 October 2019.