Coastal Council members in attendance were:

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

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.

An update on progress with the work program and reporting is summarised here. Work program tasks are detailed in the [August 2019 meeting summary](#).

1. Review the implementation of the NSW Coastal Management Framework

The aim of the review 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.

Members discussed implementation of the [Coastal Management Framework](#) since 2018, identifying where good progress has been made and where further effort is indicated. Clear progress is seen in the improved awareness amongst state and local government stakeholders of the framework, its components and central role of Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) in delivering long term coastal management outcomes. Minister Hancock’s support for the framework implementation, and engagement on specific coastal management issues, has been important.

Areas for improvement include timely and adequate funding for Coastal Zone Management Plan actions and CMP planning under the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program; clearer guidelines on the appropriate level of cost benefit analysis necessary for coastal and environmental protection works; and, guidance on the application of the Coastal Management SEPP in development assessment and preparation of Coastal Vulnerability Area maps. A significant ongoing opportunity is the improvement of the coordination of state and local government coastal management activities.

A summary of the Coastal Council’s 2019 survey of coastal practitioners was presented to Council members. The survey highlights local government’s call for clear and consistent guidance on the preparation of CMPs, commitment of state agencies to the CMP process, and assistance of state government in removing regulatory hurdles for CMP implementation.

Coastal Council’s review and advice to the Minister will highlight priority areas for attention in 2020.

2. Involvement of Coastal Council members in specific projects.

The Minister may direct from time to time Coastal Council’s involvement in key strategic coastal projects. Current projects include the Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program;
Stockton coastal management; and, Batemans Bay Taskforce

2.1 Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program: The Council Chair has been asked to assist the development of a Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program. To this end, Professor Bruce Thom has chaired meetings of the Steering Committee and Partners reference group to progress collaboration of 21 local councils on the development of the Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program. Primary focus has been on developing recommendations for an appropriate governance model to guide the implementation of a multi-jurisdictional CMP.

2.2 Stockton Coastal Management: Assoc. Professor Ron Cox has been allocated the task of a review of the Newcastle (Stockton) Coastal Zone Management Plan. See summary of task below

2.3 Northern Batemans Bay Coastal Agency Taskforce: Mr. Angus Gordon has been allocated the task of representing the Coastal Council on the taskforce. The taskforce has been established to coordinate agencies assistance to Eurobodalla Shire Council in delivering a certified Coastal Management Program, including addressing coastal hazards at Northern Batemans Bay. Mr. Gordon attended the August 2019 meeting of the taskforce.

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

The purpose of the review by the Coastal Council is to provide an understanding of how the implementation of a certified CZMP is progressing, and to identify any issues/opportunities and present recommendations on how to better enable implementation of CZMPs.

The review, completed with the assistance of City of Newcastle Council (CN) and DPIE Hunter Central Coast Region office, has shown CN are progressing well with the implementation of the CZMP with most of the identified management actions undertaken or commenced since August 2018. City of Newcastle Council expect to transition to a new CMP by December 2021. Coastal Council report makes several recommendations for (1) an interim short-term response to shoreline erosion at Stockton and (2) long term management of the area through a CMP adopting a whole-of-embayment approach.

A summary of the CZMP (Stockton) Review is available on the Coastal Council web site.

NEXT MEETING

Next Council meeting is scheduled for 6 December 2019.