

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – Summary Minutes

Held on: 5/03/2026 – 11am to 1pm

At: Online

Chaired by: Dr Philip Haines – Chair NSWCC

Attended

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Dr Philip Haines, Chair
- Mark Conlon
- Dr Elizabeth McEntyre

Apologies

none

Agenda item discussion and actions

The Coastal Council (the Council) members met by video, along with representatives from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department) and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

Following an Acknowledgement of Country, the Council members and guests were welcomed to the first meeting of 2026.

The agenda included:

- the Chair's report on the Council's activities since the last meeting
- an update from the Department on coastal management programs (CMPs)
- an update on the development of an implementation plan for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program and the NSW Coastal Management Manual Part A review
- a presentation from DPHI on the proposed Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP).

Coastal Council Chair Update

The Chair provided an overview of Council activities since the last meeting in October 2025.

Key updates included:

- attendance, engagement and a presentation at the Coastal Conference in Ballina in November 2025

- participation by the Chair in a panel session at AdaptNSW forum to support the release of the NSW Coastal erosion and inundation hazards and exposure assessment 2025
- a presentation from the Chair to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Annual General Meeting and
- a meeting between the Chair and the Minister for the Environment in February.

Department Update

The Marine, Coast, Estuary and Flood Branch Director of DCCEEW updated the Council on several key items. These included noting that:

- additional CMPs had been certified by the Minister for the Environment, bringing the total number of certified CMPs to 23 (refer to the [Department website](#))
- progress had been made on priority workstreams in response to the Coastal management performance audit, including the Implementation Plan for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program and review of the NSW Coastal Management Manual and
- the new divisional structure is now in place.

Update on the development of an Implementation Plan and Review of the NSW Coastal Management Manual

A presentation by DCCEEW was provided about the progress of developing an implementation plan for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program and the review of the Coastal Management Manual, specifically Part A.

Explanation of Intended Effects for the Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environment Planning Policy

A presentation was provided by DPHI on the proposed Climate Change and Natural Hazards SEPP and Draft Climate Change Scenario Guidelines.

Upcoming meetings

The next meeting of the Coastal Council is planned for May 2026.