



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting 1 May 2026 – Summary Minutes

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Dr Philip Haines, Chair
- Mark Conlon
- Dr Elizabeth McEntyre
- Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray

The NSW Coastal Council (Coastal Council) members met by video, along with representatives of the Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the Department).

Agenda:

- Chair's report on the Coastal Council's activities since the last meeting and an acknowledgement of the new Council member Professor Melissa Nursey-Bray
- Departmental update on coastal management programs (CMPs) and actions from the coastal management performance audit
- NSW CC proposal to undertake a voluntary audit of CMPs.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country and military service (in the context of ANZAC day occurring prior to the meeting), the Council members and guests were welcomed to the second Coastal Council meeting for 2026.

Chair's update

The Chair noted that the Coastal Council's submission on the Explanation of Intended Effect for the proposed Climate Change and Natural Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy has been lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The Chair recently attended a workshop with the Department on the implementation plan for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program.

The Chair noted successful projects under the 2025–2026 Coastal and Estuary Grants Program have now been released online.

Departmental Update

The Director provided an update on:

- the status of CMPs, and noted that there are now 23 CMPs certified, three CMPs submitted for certification and over 30 CMPs being developed;
- how the Department is collaborating with other government partners such as the NSW Reconstruction Authority to deliver actions under the State Disaster Mitigation Plan;
- the progress made to develop an implementation plan for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program;
- the NSW Coastal Management Manual (Part A) review and additional opportunities for the Coastal Council to provide input; and
- NSW Climate Change Fund evaluation being planned for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Management Program.

The Director also:

- advised that the NSW Government is working with the Australian Government to develop a national coastal management framework, on behalf of other States and Territories, and
- acknowledged the attendance and contributions provided by the Coastal Council Chair at recent workshops held to help in developing the implementation plan

Voluntary CMP performance audits

The Coastal Council discussed the considerations for completing a voluntary performance audit of a CMP with a select council, or councils. The Council agreed any CMP audit would be facilitated by the

Coastal Council, would be voluntary and would be completed in a way that aligns with DCCEEW's guidelines, Implementing a coastal management program: preparing for a performance audit.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Coastal Council is planned for July 2026.