

NSW Coastal Panel	MEETING NUMBER: 26
	LOCATION: Gosford + Teleconference
	DATE: 19 FEBRUARY 2016
MINUTES	

Present

Name	Nominating Organisation
Mr Angus Gordon (AG)	Chair
Dr Carolyn Davies (CD)	Office of Environment and Heritage
Prof Bruce Thom (BT)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Prof Andrew Short (AS)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Ms Jane Lofthouse (JL)	Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
Mr Stephen Wills (SW)	Department of Primary Industries - Lands
Dr Marc Daley (MD)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Mr Phil Watson (PW)	Office of Environment and Heritage - Coastal Panel Secretariat
Mr Neil Kelleher (NK)	Office of Environment and Heritage – Observer (Item 5)

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Panel members.

Apologies were received from Steve Murray (Department of Planning and Environment) and Jane Gibbs (Secretariat)

Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Interests

Nil

Agenda Item 3 – Confirmation of Previous Panel Minutes

Outstanding Minutes to be circulated and confirmed out of session. All agreed.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from Previous Meetings

Chair advised that the Panel had received correspondence from NSW Public Works Manly Hydraulics Laboratory in response to the Panel's recommendations concerning the proposed Flynn's Beach seawall being considered under SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007.

MD advised that the Panel had been contacted by RMS about seeking comment on proposed slope protection works at Coalcliff on Lawrence Hargreaves Drive to be undertaken under SEPP (Infrastructure) 2007. Comments to be sought from Panel out-of-session prior to finalization of formal response.

Agenda Item 5 – Gosford Beaches CZMP

The Chair received correspondence from Minister Stokes requesting the advice of the Panel, regarding the adequacy of the draft Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) and its suitability for certification under the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*.

Following a discussion and consideration of the matter, the Panel instructed PW to prepare a draft response to the Minister for circulation and finalisation by the Panel, encompassing the following elements:

- Commends Gosford City Council for preparing a practical and forward thinking CZMP that covers the whole of its open coastline. In particular, the Plan provides a straightforward approach to adaptively managing identified coastal hazards into the future with a balance between accommodating the legacy of past development decisions, adaptive protection, amenity enhancement, public access and dune maintenance elements. It is also noteworthy that the Plan commits to significant long-term monitoring in order to augment future decision making.
- Commends Gosford City Council for diligently preparing the CZMP in consultation with the community and in partnership with OEH and other Government agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities for parcels of land that fall within the operation of the Plan. In particular, council should be commended for satisfactorily (anticipated) resolving issues with DPI Lands over management measures at Pearl Beach and other administrative matters relating to the CZMP.
- Commends Gosford City Council on the quality of the maps produced in appendix 5 which clearly sets out the proposed management actions at each beach covered in the Plan and also details the location of critical infrastructure (Sewer, Water and Stormwater). Note that in the opinion of the Coastal Panel, the Gosford City Council CZMP is **suitable for certification** in accordance with provisions of the *Coastal Protection Act 1979*, subject to Council relevantly updating the CZMP to reflect the outcome of (anticipated) agreed arrangements with DPI Lands.
- Notes that Council, through assistance provided by OEH is preparing to undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis to further investigate the proposed protection option for Wamberal Beach. This CBA will be undertaken in accordance with the CBA Guidelines currently on exhibition as part of the coastal reform package.
- Include advice to Gosford City Council outlining matters that, in the opinion of the Coastal Panel, might provide relevant guidance to augment various initiatives and actions proposed in the Plan. These suggestions have been summarised in the following for the consideration of Council, but, are not considered pre-requisites to be addressed in order to certify the Plan. These include:
 - (i) The Plan document in its current format is a rather lengthy, perhaps cumbersome document for members of the public to navigate through. Much of the information submitted could be consolidated into a separate “supporting information” repository with the actual Plan being a comparatively simple, streamlined presentation of the factors effecting the relevant coastline, the current management regime, proposed actions and an associated implementation schedule and proposed funding arrangements (where relevant). Such a document, importantly needs to be in a format that is readily understood by the coastal communities for whom they are ultimately designed. It is strongly recommended that the Council consider the utility of preparing a rather short, concise document that achieves the above-mentioned as perhaps an additional, communications tool. The Panel suggest this could be achieved by way of combining the maps in Appendix 3 and Appendix 5 and Tables 2 – Table 20 in the CZMP, together with a brief synopsis of the Plan which might form the basis of an effective summary document;

- (ii) It is recognised that the Plan has significant elements dedicated to emergency management, noting there are currently some 8 “Authorised Locations” permitting landowner placement of “Temporary Coastal Protection Works”. It is worth noting that significant changes to the current emergency management framework are foreshadowed in the coastal reform package, which was recently on public exhibition. In the event that these changes are enacted via new legislation, possibly during 2016, it is strongly recommended that Council revise the Emergency Action Sub-Plan components accordingly in order that these critical components remain up-to-date;
- (iii) The Panel notes that Council will continue to work closely and co-operatively with DPI Crown Lands with a view to determining if Council would be eligible for funding assistance to dredge parts of Broken Bay under the “Rescuing our Waterways” Program. Although this area currently sits outside the active mandate of the Plan, such a dredging program might provide a valuable source of sand nourishment into the future to enhance beach amenity whilst improving navigation;
- (iv) The Panel notes that not all beach compartments (excluding National Parks) within the plan area are reserved so as to be under the care, control and management of Council (such as portions of Pearl Beach). It is recommended that Council and DPI Lands continue discussions to formalise transfer of administrative responsibilities to Council for parcels of land where it can be demonstrated to provide more seamless administration and improved outcomes for implementation of components of the Plan;
- (v) The Panel notes that beach scraping forms a significant component of the Plan as a response to assist in the management of coastal erosion and beach recovery. While this action is commendable, Council needs to recognise that following an erosion event sand for scraping activities is likely to be sparse. The Panel therefore suggests that if beach scraping it to be utilised as a management tool, ideally this should be undertaken prior to event, or if utilised following an event, principally as a tool to reduce public safety issues associated with the presence of an erosion scarp; and
- (vi) The Panel notes that in future, council will seek to explore longer-term sources of sand suitable for offsetting the projected loss of amenity associated with sea level rise. It would be worthwhile for Council to also consider in such investigations, a report prepared by The Water Research Laboratory titled “East Coast Study Project – National Geomorphic Framework for the Management and Prediction of Coastal Erosion”, dated May 2013.

Agenda Item 6 – Other Business

CD asked the Panel about required upcoming site visits that might be necessary to formulate advice on CZMPs referred by the Minister. Panel to consider and advise out-of-session.

MD advised the Panel was likely to receive a DA within the next month for a proposed seawall to be constructed at Arrawarra.

Agenda Item 7 – Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next Panel meeting was set down for 4 March 2016

The Meeting was closed at 3.30PM.