



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

30 May 2025

Meeting was held online.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

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

Apology: None

The Coastal Council members met via video, along with representatives from the Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Following an Acknowledgement of Country, Coastal Council (the Council) members and guests were welcomed to the second meeting of the Council for 2025.

The agenda items included: a report on Council activities since the last meeting; an update from DCCEEW Director Marine Coast Estuary and Flood on the Performance Audit of Coastal Management; an introduction to the Minister's Office representative; and, scoping the Council 2025-2026 Work Plan.

Coastal Council Update (Coastal Council Chair)

The Council Chair provided an update on Council work since February 2025, which included meetings with representatives from the Department and Minister Sharpe's Office and advice to the Minister's Office on Intermittently Open and Closed Lake and Lagoons.

Performance Audit of Coastal Management in NSW (DCCEEW Marine Coast Estuary and Flood)

The Audit Office of NSW routinely undertakes reviews of government programs. A [Performance Audit of Coastal Management in NSW](#) forms part of the Audit Office's current work program. It will assess whether the responsible agencies (DCCEEW and Department Planning Housing and Infrastructure) and selected local councils are effectively implementing the [Coastal Management Framework](#). The audit is currently underway. Publication of its findings will occur during 2025.

The Department has been actively engaged by the Audit Office throughout the audit process and the Department updated the Council on the audit process and next steps.

Introduction – Representative from the Ministers Office

A representative from the Minister Sharpe's Office introduced himself and outlined his role in informing the Minister on coastal management matters and priorities. The Council discussed its ongoing engagement with the Minister and her office on work plan tasks and related matters, consistent with its role as set out in the Coastal Management Act 2016.

Coastal Council 2025-2026 Work Plan scope (DCCEEW Marine Coast Estuary and Flood)

The Minister prepares an annual work plan for the NSW Coastal Council in consultation with the Department and the Council. The work plan is an internal operational document that outlines tasks and topics for advice that Council is directed to deliver each year. Council discussed the potential focus areas for the 2025-2026 Work Plan, including opportunities that might arise out of the recommendations from the Performance Audit of Coastal Management in NSW.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Coastal Council is scheduled for 27 June 2025.