



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

25 October 2022

Meeting was held at the Moruya Golf Club in the Eurobodalla Shire Local Government Area.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Annelise Tuor, Chair
- Pam Dean-Jones
- Martijn Gough
- Hannah Power
- Shay Simpson
- Bruce Thom AM

Council members were welcomed to the fifth regular meeting of the Coastal Council (the Council) for 2022. The main agenda items included progress reports on the Council's 2022-2023 Work Plan and a discussion of coastal management in southern NSW with senior officers from Shoalhaven City Council and Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shire Councils.

Council's 2022-2023 Work Plan

Council has progressed work plan tasks including:

1. Review of selected actions from the Coastal and Estuary Program Future Directions Statement (FDS).

- *Coastal Management Program performance audit process and metrics.*

In collaboration with Council, the Department Planning and Environment - Environment Heritage Group (DPE EHG) is developing guidance material for local government on the metrics to track while implementing Coastal Management Programs (CMPs), and how tracking performance can be aligned with integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) requirements. The FDS targets 2022 for the publication of the guidance.

- *Criteria and a process for identifying high priority threats and risks to coastal values of the open coast and estuaries; & Draft guidance, as prepared by the Department, around sea level rise and coastal adaptation.*

Both topics were workshopped with DPE EHG senior staff in a special meeting of Council held in Sydney in September 2022. The workshop highlighted the complexity of the issues to be addressed, the scope of action necessary for climate change adaptation and management of the multiple threats to coastal and estuary values, the importance of a whole-of-government approach to realise the operational and strategic outcomes sought for the Coastal Zone, and the resourcing challenges for both local and State government to achieve these.

- *Draft guidance, as prepared by the Department, on involving First Nations communities in coastal planning and management.*

DPE EHG gave an overview of the draft guidance, its purpose, general approach, and consultation undertaken with key stakeholders in the Aboriginal community, State agencies and local government. The Council supported the draft Guidance and noted the next steps are to finalise the consultation draft based on stakeholder feedback, including that of the Council, prior to its release in 2023.

2. Undertake the 2022 Annual Survey of coastal practitioners on the implementation of the Coastal Management Framework. The survey aims to identify the key issues for managing existing and emerging issues in Coastal Management Programs.

- Council endorsed the draft survey questions and planned timeline for the conduct of the survey in November 2022. The 2022 survey retains most of the questions from the 2021 Annual Survey, new questions address the use of the Coastal Management Toolkit by local government and others in the preparation of CMPs.

3. Review the existing guidance material available in the Coastal Management Toolkit and provide recommendations on any gaps or opportunities that may exist to supplement this guidance.

- To inform the identification of gaps and opportunities, an analysis of the Coastal Management Toolkit (Toolkit) web page use statistics is to be undertaken. This information will be combined with feedback from the 2022 Annual Survey and reported to DPE EHG to better understand the current use of the Toolkit and what is needed by coastal practitioners for their CMPs (i.e. new guidance material and/or training in the use of guidance material on the Toolkit).

Coastal Management on the NSW South Coast

Senior officers from Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley councils detailed their experience of preparing the ten CMPs underway in their local government areas. CMP planning and implementation matters of concern included:

- the challenges of undertaking Coastal Vulnerability Area (CVA) assessments and preparing Planning Proposals to include CVA maps in State Environment Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards 2021);
- addressing catchment-related activities and landuse outside of the Coastal Zone which are affecting coastal waterways;
- securing the commitment of state agencies to actions in CMPs; Coastal and Estuary Grants Program funding not accounting for resource-constrained regional councils with small populations having to manage large coastal zones.

Council officers noted that community engagements undertaken as part of the CMP planning process had highlighted an increased awareness of climate change and its potential impacts. This has assisted community engagement on coastal management and decision making using a climate change adaptation pathways approach. The ongoing support of DPE Regional Teams and their collaboration with councils on CMP planning was acknowledged.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 13 December 2022.