



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

29 June 2021

Meeting was held online.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

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

Members were welcomed to the fourth meeting of Council for 2021. Matters for this meeting included endorsement of three work plan task reports for submission to Minister Hancock, an overview of the Future Directions Statement for the NSW Coastal and Estuary Program and Department Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) presentation on progress of local government Coastal Management Programs (CMPs).

Council's 2020-21 Work Plan

1. Application of 'beneficiary-pays' principle to implementing coastal protection options in certified Coastal Zone Management Plans and Coastal Management Programs.

Update: The report and recommendations were submitted to the Council for formal endorsement. The report provided a broad analysis and evaluation of how the economic analysis components of the coastal management framework are supporting the effective development of CMPs and allocation of grants. The analysis focused on the beneficiary pays principle and a consideration of the supporting guidance on economic analysis and funding models.

Council found there is scope for improvement in the application of the beneficiary pays principle and the use of economic analysis tools in the development of CMPs. The report indicated that identified issues can be addressed. Recommendations will assist realization of improved outcomes, including a strengthened and clarified approach to the application of the beneficiary pays principle and economic analysis in coastal management.

2. Coastal Council audit process and related communication materials.

Update: Council received detailed feedback from DPIE on its draft report for a performance audit framework submitted to the Minister in February 2021. DPIE comments on the draft were incorporated into a revised report on the performance audit framework report. The updated report and recommendations were endorsed for resubmission to the Minister.

3. Opportunities to improve water quality outcomes and identify opportunities to integrate actions in the Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) with Coastal Management Programs (CMP).

Update: The report and recommendations were submitted to the Council for formal endorsement. Council's initial report (December 2020) made recommendations for actions to assist local government access and use of MEMS Initiative 1 (Improving water quality and reducing litter) products in their CMPs. The progress report, which updates those recommendations, found significant headway has been made in finalising and sharing some of the outputs from Initiative 1 (and related projects under Initiative 2).

The review also identified further opportunities to improve the flow of information and benefits from the MEMS initiatives to local government, particularly for urban and regional councils outside of MEMS pilot project areas. Recommendations are made for actions to further encourage an effective and ongoing partnership between state and local government for improved coastal waterway health.

Note: In May 2020 Minister Shelley Hancock directed the Council to provide advice on four tasks and to conduct an annual survey of the Coastal Management Framework implementation as part of its 2020-21 Work Plan. The workplan also included participation on the Stockton Taskforce (Assoc. Professor Hannah Power) and Chairing of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering Committee (Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom). For reference see the work plan scope outlined in the Council's June 2020 Meeting Summary. By June 2021, Council had submitted reports on all four tasks and the results of its 2020 annual survey. Engagement is ongoing for the Stockton Taskforce and Chairing of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering Committee.

Future Directions Statement for NSW Coastal and Estuary Program

The Future Directions Statement (FDS), released by Minister Hancock in June 2021, outlines how state and local government will work in partnership and with their communities to manage the coast. DPIE representatives provided the Council with an overview of the FDS, its five priority areas and how Council feedback and annual surveys had been used in preparing the FDS. The FDS priorities will inform the scope of Council's new work plan, which is to be advised by the Minister.

Progress on local government Coastal Management Programs.

DPIE Energy Environment and Science staff presented Council: a summary of the statewide CMPs status (see CMP summary report card); an overview of local government scoping studies, noting examples of good practice in relation to community engagement; and, an overview on particular aspects of CMP planning including coastal vulnerability assessment and economic analysis.

Next meeting: Next Council meeting is scheduled for 31 August 2021.