



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

13 December 2022

Meeting was held online.

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 seventh and final 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 presentation by MidCoast Council on their recently certified Manning River Estuary Coastal Management Program.

Council's 2022-2023 Work Plan

Council has completed all of its work plan tasks due by December 2022 including:

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

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

Draft guidance, prepared in a collaboration between the Council and the Department Planning and Environment - Environment Heritage Group (DPE EHG), was presented and given in-principle support by the Council. The draft guidance summarises the audit process, the types of metrics local government can track to demonstrate implementation of its Coastal Management Programs (CMPs), and how tracking performance can be aligned with integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) requirements. It is expected DPE EHG will finalise the guidance and publish it in 2023.

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and a process for identifying high priority threats and risks to coastal values of the open coast and estuaries; & Draft guidance, as prepared by the Department, around sea level rise and coastal adaptation.*

The topics were workshopped with DPE EHG senior staff in a special meeting of Council held in Sydney in September 2022. Council provided a report to DPE EHG which outlined issues with the work to date. DPE EHG outlined how the outcomes of the workshop and Council's report are informing the preparation of climate change adaptation guidance and practical approaches for the management of the multiple threats to coastal and estuary values. At this stage no further advice from the Council is sought.

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.

- The survey was successfully run over a three-week period in late 2022, closing on 5/12/23. A total of 106 responses were received, the largest number for any of the annual surveys undertaken by Council since 2018. The majority of responses came from local government (59%), followed by State government (25%) and 'Others' (16%) which included industry

consultants, university researchers and catchment groups. Preliminary survey results were presented and a timeline for reporting to the Minister by early 2023 confirmed.

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.
 - Coastal practitioner feedback on the Toolkit in the 2022 annual survey and a high-level technical analysis (web page analytics) of Toolkit web pages was presented. The data indicate a good level of awareness of the Toolkit but limited use by local government and others. A report on the content gaps and opportunities to improve the awareness and use of the Toolkit is to be prepared for Council's February 2023 meeting.

Lessons from the development of a Coastal Management Program – MidCoast Council

Senior officers from MidCoast Council gave a summary the lessons learnt at each stage of the development of the Manning River Estuary CMP which was certified by the Minister in November 2022. Many of the issues raised, including opportunities for improving and streamlining the CMP process, have been consistently identified by other councils and in Annual Surveys and need to be addressed by priority actions in the Future Directions Statement. MidCoast Council acknowledged the ongoing support of the DPE Hunter and Central Coast Regional Team for the Manning River Estuary CMP development.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 27 February 2023.