



# NSW Coastal Council

## NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

26 September 2023

Meeting was held online.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

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

Representatives from the Department Planning and Environment (Environment and Heritage Group - Marine Coastal Estuary and Flood; and Water Floodplain and Coast Regions) attended by video.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country by Bruce Thom, Coastal Council (the Council) members were welcomed to the fourth formal meeting for 2023, which will be the final meeting of this Council. The three-year term of a majority of the Council membership expires at the end of October, a new Council is to be appointed by the Minister.

The main agenda items included: reports on preparation of Council's annual survey of the implementation of the Coastal Management Framework; an update on Coastal Management Program (CMP) implementation from Environment and Heritage Group - Marine Coastal Estuary and Flood; and, a discussion with Senior Team Leads from the Environment and Heritage Group - Water Floodplain and Coast Regions (North East; Hunter and Central Coast; Greater Sydney; and South East) on coastal management and CMP delivery in their regions.

### Council's Annual Survey

Council has undertaken annual surveys of coastal practitioners' experience of the implementation of the [Coastal Management Framework](#) (Framework) since 2018, publishing summaries of the results on the [Coastal Council web page](#). The annual surveys provide a unique longitudinal view of the Framework implementation. Council endorsed finalising the survey questions and conduct of a 2023 annual survey.

### Environment and Heritage Group - Marine Coastal Estuary and Flood CMP update.

Information on [CMP progress](#) and [certified CMPs](#) is routinely published on the Department's website. A total of nine CMPs have been certified and are now being implemented by local councils. The Lake Macquarie CMP is at a late stage of development (Stage 4) and is expected to be certified in the coming month. Local councils have been sent a reminder that Coastal Zone Management Plans will cease to have effect after 31 December 2023.

### Environment and Heritage Group - Water Floodplain and Coast Regions – Framework and CMP implementation

Senior Team Leads from each coastal region joined the meeting to discuss implementation of the Framework and preparation of CMPs, updating the Council on what is working well, what opportunities there are for improvement and where the Council could focus its efforts for ongoing support for local councils' CMPs. A key measure of success has been the certification of CMPs - by 2023 most regions have at least one CMP which is guiding a local council's strategic management of their coast.

Implementation of the Framework and development of CMPs over the past five years has identified opportunities for improvement, many of which have been captured in coastal practitioner feedback to the Coastal Council's annual surveys. Regional team leads also noted the value of Council's ongoing advocacy on behalf of local councils for action on perceived regulatory hurdles for CMPs noted in the

annual surveys and regular engagement with regional stakeholders in State and local government.

Acknowledgement of the outgoing Council and retiring member Professor Bruce Thom.

The outgoing Chair acknowledged the contribution of each Member to the Council's meetings, advice to government and related activities since their appointment in 2020. Over this time, Council has successfully completed three annual work plans set by the Minister and overseen three annual surveys of the implementation of the Framework.

Special mention was made of Professor Bruce Thom's AM contribution. Bruce is stepping down from the Council in 2023 and leaves a significant legacy of public service and contribution to coastal science, research management and policy. In relation to the current and past Councils, Bruce was the inaugural Chair (2018-2020) then Member (2020-2023). Over this time, he has Chaired, or attended, every formal meeting of Council; at the direction of the Minister, Chaired the Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program Steering Committee; participated in numerous briefings to Ministers and senior government representatives on coastal policy and management; and, mentored coastal practitioners and leaders at all career stages (new, emerging, established). Bruce has also served the NSW government in other capacities, including Member and then Chair of the NSW Coastal Panel 2011-2018; Member of Coastal Expert Panel 2012-2016 advising the NSW Minister for Environment on the development of coastal reforms; and, Chair of the Coastal Committee (1989-1998) and its successor the NSW Coastal Council (1999-2004). He has supported multiple State governments to drive the development of the draft NSW Coastal Policy (1994), the NSW Coastal Policy 1997, and the NSW Coastal Management Act 2016. Council acknowledges and thanks Bruce for his contribution to the Coastal Council and coastal management in NSW more generally.

NEXT MEETING: A date for the first meeting of the incoming Council will be scheduled following their appointment.