



# NSW Coastal Council

## NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

23 February 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 first meeting of Council for 2021. Matters for this meeting included: an update on the Council's work plan; and presentations on progress of local council Coastal Management Programs and potential estuary policy and management initiatives under the Coastal Management Framework.

### 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: A scope, plan and timeline for reporting to the Minister by June 2021 on outstanding matters for this task has been endorsed by Council. Work currently underway includes a desktop review of relevant reports and research as well as semi-structured interviews with selected key stakeholders from state and local government and industry with direct experience of the application of economic analyses and the beneficiary pays principle in coastal decision making. Interviews and desktop research are guided by key evaluation questions across three broad lines of inquiry: relevance and appropriateness; process; and effectiveness.

2. *Coastal Council audit process and related communication materials.*

Update: Council endorsed advice on this task to be forwarded to the Minister.

The Coastal Council has a function under section 26 of the *Coastal Management Act 2016* to conduct performance audits of the implementation of coastal management program (CMP) of local councils. The Minister for Local Government requested the NSW Coastal Council to provide advice and a proposed process and assessment framework of potential performance audits by 28 February 2021.

In development of the advice, a Council sub-committee engaged with a range of state agencies with responsibilities and experience in performance audit. These included the: NSW Rural Fire Service; Office of Local Government; Natural Resources Commission; and NSW Audit Office. Key information was also provided by divisions within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

Council's report and recommendations have been submitted to the Minister.

3. *Opportunities to improve water quality outcomes and identify opportunities to integrate actions in the Marine Estate Management Strategy with CMPs.*

Update: Council's advice on this task is ongoing under the 2020-21 Work Plan. Minister's response to the Council's interim report (December 2020) will inform the scope of further advice to be provided by June 2021.

4. *Implementation review of the Lake Cathie Coastal Zone Management Plan.*

Update: Council's report and recommendations on the implementation of the Lake Cathie CZMP have been forwarded to the Minister and are currently under consideration.

#### Other Work Plan Activities

Minister Hancock has directed Coastal Council involvement in the preparation of a Greater Sydney Harbour CMP and Stockton Taskforce. Prof. Bruce Thom, Chair of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering Committee, updated members on engagement with the project steering group and partners on progress with CMP Stage 2 activities.

Dr Hannah Power summarised matters discussed at the most recent meeting of the Stockton Taskforce held in December 2020. See [Minutes of the third meeting of the Taskforce, held on 8 December 2020](#).

#### DPIE Coastal Management Programs Update

Public information on CMP location and status is available online ([DPIE CMP Report Card](#)). Currently there are three certified CMPs (Stockton Beach, Lake Illawarra and Lake Ainsworth) and a further 48 CMPs under preparation. Of the CMPs underway, 26 are primarily focused on the management of estuaries and coastal lakes, 12 cover coastal and estuary areas and the remaining 10 are focused on the open coast. Local councils and their consultants are using the [DPIE CMP Checklist](#) to assess a CMP against the statutory requirements of the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and Mandatory Requirements of the Coastal Management Manual 2018 (Part A).

Around \$35M in grants has been allocated to local councils from the [Coastal and Estuary Grant Program](#) across three funding streams (planning stream, four implementation streams and bushfire affected waterways).

#### Estuary policy management and initiatives under the Coastal Management Framework.

With over 80% of the NSW population living within an estuarine catchment, there are opportunities to better align the long-term sustainable management of NSW estuaries with the objects of NSW Government legislation such as the *Coastal Management Act 2016* and the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. Bruce Thom outlined potential policy and management initiatives that could increase the natural capital, develop economic incentives for adaptation, and ensure that impending conflicts are effectively managed.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next Council meeting is scheduled for 30 March 2021.