

# Minutes



## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee

**Date:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Time:** 2pm – 4:30pm

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Chairperson:** Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environment Management

**Coordinator:** Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environment Management

### Attendance

#### Members:

Michael Alsop

Michael Campbell

Ian Carruthers

Doug Darlington

Troy Gaston

Graham Hankin

Andrew Jones

Michael Kilp

Laurie Lewington

David Mylan

Marlene Pennings

Adrian Williams

Sam Willis

#### External agencies:

Chris Drummond, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Philip Buchanan, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Paul Donaldson NSW Department of Planning and Environment (arrived at 3.02pm)

#### Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Absent

Present

Present

Absent

Absent

Absent

Absent

Absent

Present

Present

Present

Present

#### Staff:

Rachel Callachor, Meeting Support Officer

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Peter Sheath, Section Manager Bushfire and Flood Risk Management

Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchment to Coast

James Lawson, Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure

Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Vanessa McCann, Team Leader Estuary Management

Parissa Ghanem, Team Leader Floodplain Management

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

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### 1 Introduction

2.00pm

The chairperson welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies received and members absent without apology were noted.

The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received.

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### 2 Previous business

2.03pm

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

- [Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee Minutes – 7 September 2022](#)

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 8).

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### 3 Davistown Wetlands

2.07pm

Update from Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity regarding this matter, recently reported to Council (Minutes:

Background and information provided regarding the wetlands and fund including:

- Themes, Goals, Actions and Targets for the strategy and the Central Coast Conservation Fund
- Fees, charges and the variety of resources relating to the fund.
- Information regarding community engagement and the implementation of the Environmental Land acquisition program.

Council continues to hold restricted funds from both former Gosford Council and former Wyong Council, in the form of Development Contributions through bonus lot provisions, via COSS and Cl.14 which are not proposed to be reallocated into the proposed Central Coast Conservation Fund . Central Coast Conservation Fund will be the fund going forward that any new appropriate income specifically associated with environmental management and environmental land acquisition type activities will be directed to.

The former-Wyong Cl. 14 scheme was not bought to LEP 2013 and COSS scheme will be wound up.

Proposed fund to held as restricted revenue in revolving trust account, only to be used for Biodiversity strategy related actions.

Questions and discussions from Committee members regarding the fund, in relation to public information available and the balance of the current fund.

Clarification specifically in relation to the parcels known as Davistown Wetlands, was provided that the determination by Council not to pursue purchase of the land isn't an indication that the land shouldn't be preserved.

**Action:** Revised date of Friday 17 February 2023 for feedback from Committee members in relation to the Policy.

**Action:** Presentation to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

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#### 4 Update Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel report

3.10pm

Presentation by Vanessa McCann, Team Leader Estuary Management, a video presentation which covered the Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel.

Feedback from Committee members regarding the good work of Central Coast Council

Comment regarding the ongoing management of the Tuggerah Lakes and urgency.

Noted and that it is a multidisciplinary approach and responsibility is shared across the board.

**Recommendation:** *That Council note the progress against the recommendations in the Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel report.*

**Action:** Presentation to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

Note: The presentation will also be published on Council's website.

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#### 5 Flood and Stormwater management update

2.37pm

Peter Sheath, Section Manager Bushfire and Flood Risk Management, provided update and presentation addressing the following key points:

- Update provided on the Flood Plain Management Program
- Review of the Tuggerah Lakes Flood study has commenced;
- Local Government Recovery Program Grant Application- 2 rounds verbal approval received from OLG- Awaiting written approval
- Grant applications 2023 – successful with 1 application, 3 other applications were unsuccessful.
  - **Kariong & Somersby Catchments Overland Flood Study - Successful**

- Wagstaffe to Daleys Point Catchments Flood Study - unsuccessful
- Patonga Creek Catchment Flood Study - unsuccessful
- Burns Road Ourimbah Boom Gates - unsuccessful
- Status update regarding non-grant funded projects: Narara Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan
- NSW Govt emergency response fund (ERF) – guidelines expected to be released in early 2023, May include: levee assessment, flood warning infrastructure and voluntary house raising (Council to fund 25% of VHR – needs reporting to and endorsement by Council)
- Update on Olney Drive Blue Haven Gross Pollutant Trap
- Update on San Remo water quality improvement project
- Water sensitive urban design standard drawing review
- Long Jetty boardwalk, educational signage to be installed within the next week.
- Council Response to 2022 flood inquiry (State Govt). Report handed down late July, 29 recommendations. Council's response supports 16 in full, another 12 in principle, and further improvements for 12 recommendations. Summary provided of Council's response and comments. Letters sent to MPs stating Council's position.
- Tuggerah Lakes Interim Entrance Management Triggers: consideration of information from the Yarramalong and Ourimbah water level gauges be used to assist as per Council's interim entrance management procedure for Tuggerah Lakes
- Analysis of actual flood events over the past 20 years.

Comment from Philip Buchanan - DPE Floodplain Management Grant applications will open again in February 2023.

DPE will continue to work with Council regarding their grant applications and understands the resource levels for these applications for Council.

NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) is proposed to be established July 2023.

Question in relation to whether the NSWRA is proposed to cover all natural hazards/disasters. Response provided that it is the understanding there is the intention to do so.

Parissa participated in workshops regarding the response to inquiry at a meeting and workshop held by FMA last month. The points of Central Coast Council were provided to Floodplain Management Australia who also submitted a response to the inquiry.

Comments and congratulations from the Committee to the Council team for work on response, and on the prediction tool, members interested to get more details.

**Recommendation:** "That Council instruct staff to implement an additional intervention trigger as part of the Interim Entrance Management Procedure where actions in accordance with the relevant

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entrance condition are also implemented if there is a flood level of both 7mAHD on the Yarramalong Water NSW gauge 211014 and 6mAHD on the Ourimbah Creek Water NSW 211013 gauge.”.

**Action:** Presentation to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

### 6 Catchment Operation

3.38pm

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James Lawson provided update on Catchment Operation. Key points raised:

- Wrack collection
- Little Tern program update
- Lagoon monitoring
- Staffing over Christmas

Question regarding Canton Beach and weeds on foreshore, comment that sandstone falling over and access to the water is also an issue.

Information provided by Luke Sulkowski: Restoration and upgrade is planned for the beach. Weeds on beach addressed last summer, so may need to be re-visited. Noted the lake is low and sea grass leaves are visible on surface of water making the live seagrass appear like free and floating wrack

Further details provided regarding a qualitative focus on wrack collection program. Next financial year looking to move away from measurement, towards wrack management strategy and best outcomes for the estuary. Volumes to still be reported, however there will be a different focus.

Contract with wrack provider has been extended for another year, plus one year option

**Action:** Presentation to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

### 7 Update on Coastal Management (Standard Item)

3.48pm

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Presentation by Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchments to Coast provided an update.

Key topics covered included:

- Update on Wamberal Seawall Advisory taskforce (Action 42): Last meeting was held 30 August 2022, the Terms of Reference were revised with future focus around sand nourishment opportunities at a regional/state-wide scale. Next meeting is planned for March 2023.
- Update on Water & Sewer Avoca Lagoon (Action 13)
- Update on CMPs and ways to get involved during consultation period.
- Tuggerah Lakes CMP – Entrance Options Paper Community Focus Group– first meeting to be held 14/12/2022

- Lake Macquarie CMP completed and draft on public exhibition for comment till 3 February 2023.
- Update on Info from MIDO regarding scope of dredging works (Action 17) – dredging likely mid-2023, at the earliest.
- Water Quality Report Card and Beachwatch – see Council’s website for full results.

Questions from Committee members and responses as follows:

- CPM and community consultation. Will there be a briefing on this topic? Query regarding role for the Advisory Committee in this process - could it be briefed in early 2023.  
Confirmation that advisory committee will be included in consultation and Council would like to work with members in early 2023 on the best way to be involved.
- Question re: rock wall, southern end of The Entrance North– contamination.  
Information provided that residents are engaging with coastal engineering and contamination consultants and have met with council regarding this.  
Emergency Protection Works - Karagi beach accessway, was completed late 2021– the beach is recovering well, a lot of sand has come back.
- Wamberal Sea wall – Comment to give credit to council for changes made to the engineering requirements following community consultation.  
Sand nourishment state-wide program - Letters were issued as per the Council resolution, will follow up regarding response received, next steps.  
Comment on work with other Councils who are also seeking a similar styled program.
- An overview of the *Tuggerah Lakes Riverine and Catchment Health Monitoring Program* was provided by *Vanessa McCann, Team Leader Estuary Management* to address Action 24.

**Action:** Presentation to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

Copy of *Tuggerah Lakes Riverine and Catchment Health Monitoring Report* for Central Coast Council to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

### 8 Update on Porters Creek Wetland Stormwater Management study (Action 36) 4.16pm

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Peter Sheath, Section Manager Bushfire and Flood Risk Management provided update and presentation addressing the following key points:

- Completion of Porters Creek revegetation study.
- Project has completed so no further update required or ongoing actions regarding this item.

Further information provided regarding Warnervale Contributions Plan, Porters Creek wetland.

Some land has been transferred to Council for conservation purposes, in the area of Minnesota Road and back to the railway line. Council looking to see if these funds can be utilised to restore and enhance this site to the east of the wetland and look to restore the flood plain to some degree. A further update will be provided to the Committee as this matter advances.

**Action:** No further action required - completed.

### 9 General business

4.20pm

- Update from Committee member, Graham Hankin, regarding contact from SES Wyong after July flood, seeking local knowledge for the SES.

A small group has been established, made of up residents of Chittaway Bay and Chittaway Point, who now have direct contact with SES and provide updates regarding what's happening on the ground, reducing the need for the SES to send crews out to collate information.

Information provided includes updates regarding which streets are usually first effected by flooding, car parking options, etc.

A Sandbag demonstration / workshop day was held – good feedback received on the usefulness of the information, how to correctly sandbag and keep the majority of the water out. Leaflets will be circulated, for residents who may have to do their own sandbagging.

Question regarding promotion of these activities and if Council can get involved to assist with advertising this information.

Noted there is a similar group in the Hunter which covers a number of suburbs/areas within the LGA.

- Vanessa McCann will be departing the organisation and will commence a new role at the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, commencing in February 2023.  
Chair thanked Vanessa for her passion, knowledge and dedication to her role which includes the long-term involvement over many projects in her time at Council, particularly in relation to Tuggerah Lakes.

### X Close

Next meeting: 29 March 2023  
2pm-4pm  
TBC

Meeting closed at 4.30pm

Minutes approved by Chairperson, Luke Sulkowski, on 27 January 2023.

# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
36 (Tuggerah Lakes)	27/02/2019	A presentation on the Stormwater Management Plan currently under review for the Porters Creek Wetland catchment to be provided at a future meeting	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy	<p>2/6/21: Update on Porters Creek Wetland to be standing item on agenda until further notice 8/12/21: No further updates currently from last meeting. Proceeding with trying to get costing prepared for options. Regarding recent motion to remove buffer zones, there were restricted activities in buffer zone, and these have now been removed so activities (mowing) can take place, but must still occur within SEPP. 2/3/22: No further update – cost estimate of works underway 10/05: PS – No further update – cost estimate of works is still underway Investigation regarding funding nexus, Dev. Contributions Plan, revegetation strategy</p> <p>17/11/22 Council has recently completed the Porters Creek Wetland &amp; Catchment Stormwater Modelling, Revegetation Plan and Monitoring Plan (Cardno 2022). The plan shows that the proposed revegetation will provide little reduction in stormwater flows entering the wetland from developments.</p>	Completed



# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Therefore Council is currently investigating other potential stormwater management opportunities for the wetland. Until such time as a new stormwater management strategy is developed & adopted, all new development will be assessed in accordance with Council's LEP, DCP and Civil Works Specifications. 14/12/22: Update provided at Item 8.	
42 (Brisbane Waters)	24/11/2020	Update on Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce to be standing item on future agendas, with Project Manager to attend meetings.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast	2/6/21: Update on Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce to be standing item on agenda until further notice 1/6/22: It was noted that another meeting of the Advisory Taskforce was to be arranged in the coming weeks. 10/08: standing agenda item. 14/12/22: Update provided at Item 7.	Ongoing
2	2/06/2021	<del>Members to be notified once MHL reports for Tuggerah Lakes Entrance Management Study are available.</del>	Section Manager Catchments to Coast	<del>Link to Stage 1 report shared via email 13/9/21. 8/12: Further reports will be uploaded as available 10/05: BF – get MHL to present at the next committee meeting – 20 minutes</del>	<del>Completed – link distributed</del>

# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
8	22/09/2021	Updates about Airport Masterplan and related matters to be communicated to members as part of ongoing consultation.	Unit Manager Economic Development and Property	Response from Unit Manager Economic Development and Property emailed to members 14 February 2022 10/05/2022: PS – a verbal update will be provided at the next committee meeting. Any further updates can be directed to the EPD section (via the AG) 10/08: Update to be provided during the Action Log item at the next meeting.	Pending – presentation will be requested.
13	8/12/2021	Staff to get advice from Water and Sewer about works in Avoca Lagoon and report back to members when appropriate.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast	Update to be provided at 2 March 2022 meeting 10/05/2022: BF – a verbal update will be provided at the next committee meeting. Any further updates can be directed to the W&S section (via the AG) 1.9km of sewer re-lined in the Avoca area. 14/12/22: Update provided at Item 7.	Ongoing
14	08/12/2021	Staff to bring updates on relevant policies and DCP review to group when available.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy	DCP review is still deferred. Update to be provided at 2 March 2022 meeting 2/3/22 – Peter Sheath advised Planning team can't provide update on DCP currently, but Flood Planning team are focusing on updating Flood Policy 10/05: PS – nothing further to report, quick verbal update 1/06: No finalised policies	Ongoing

# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				or DCP chapter. Drafted flood policy update – reviewed and additional information. New Sea Level Rise policy. LGA wide chapter in Development Control Plan to be developed. Public exhibition will occur for any policies.	
17	02/03/2022	Info from MIDO regarding scope of dredging works to be shared with members	Section Manager Catchments to Coast	10/05: BF – will reach out to MIDO to get an update (website with contact details). AW to follow up the process for circulating information to members prior to the meeting (and then for the meeting itself) 10/08: BF to follow up circulation of information via the AG. 14/12/22: Update provided at Item 7.	Ongoing
21	02/03/2022	Update on draft Flood Policy to be provided at next meeting	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy	10/05: PS – defer item/update to the following meeting – verbal update to be given 10/08: Update to be provided during the Action Log item at the next meeting.	Update to be provided with DCP update.
23	7/09/2022	Luke Sulkowski to distribute link for updated TOR	Luke Sulkowski - Unit Manager Environment Manager	21/11 Civic support distributed link.	Completed

# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
24	7/09/2022	Michael Campbell - Request for Jess Preston to attend December Meeting, Ben Fullagar to make contact with Jess Preston.	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast	Information on Tuggerah Lakes Riverine and Catchment Health Monitoring Program report was provided by Vanessa McCann, Team Leader Estuary Management to address questions from Michael Campbell.	Completed
26	14/12/2022	Copy of <i>Tuggerah Lakes Riverine and Catchment Health Monitoring Report for Central Coast Council</i> to be distributed to Advisory Group members.	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast		