

Minutes



Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee

Date: 22 September 2021

Time: 2.03pm – 5.01pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Coordinator: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Attendance

Members:

Michael Alsop

Michael Campbell

Ian Carruthers

Doug Darlington

Troy Gaston

Graham Hankin

Petra Horwood

Andrew Jones

Michael Kilp

Laurie Lewington

David Mylan

Marlene Pennings

Adrian Williams

Sam Willis

Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Apology

Present (joined 3.22pm)

Present

Absent

Apology

Absent

Apology

Present

External agencies:

Neil Kelleher, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Richard Murphy, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Carla Sbrocchi, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Present

Present

Present (left 3.37pm)

Staff:

Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchments to Coast

James Lawson, Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure

Peter Sheath, Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy

Parissa Ghanem, Team Leader Floodplain Management

Vanessa McCann, Team Leader Estuary Management

Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist

Zoie Magann, Meeting Support Officer

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

1 Introduction

2.03pm

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.

2 Previous business

2.04pm

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 meeting held 2 June 2021](#)

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 6).

3 Porters Creek Wetland

2.08pm

Rochelle Lawson (Senior Ecologist) provided a brief update on the Warnervale conservation agreement and protection of Porters Creek Wetland, including the following key points.

- Council resolved to immediately suspend the development of the conservation agreement at the [13 April 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting](#) as per below:

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to immediately suspend the development of the Warnervale conservation agreement and any agreement with the NSW biodiversity Conservation Trust to permanently protect the Porters Creek Wetland until the Airport Masterplan, plan of Management and a subdivision plan is registered that subdivides the Wetland and surrounding E2 land from the employment land in Warnervale.

- Staff complied with the resolution and the conservation agreement hasn't progressed.
- Noted the Airport Masterplan and related matters are yet to be finalised and relevant staff were unable to provide updates to this meeting.
- Members have significant concerns about Porters Creek Wetland given the above and request they be updated as things progress.

Action: Updates about Airport Masterplan and related matters to be communicated to members as part of ongoing consultation.

Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) noted some members had enquired about a previous Stormwater Harvesting Scheme for Porters Creek. The Scheme is no longer current, and staff are considering new strategies that don't rely on stormwater harvesting. A presentation from Cardno was shared for an overview of the draft Revegetation Plan and Catchment Stormwater Modelling being developed.

Action: Cardno presentation and any additional info to be shared with members.

4 Update on coastal management

2.57pm

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Catchments to Coast) and Vanessa McCann provided an update on coastal management including the following key points.

- Phase one consultation for Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) has now concluded and there was a great response to engagement. Updates will continue be provided as available on <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterways>.
- Info on partnership CMPs with other Councils are available at below links:
 - Hawkesbury-Nepean River - <https://hawkesburynepeancmp.org/>
 - Lake Macquarie - <https://shape.lakemac.com.au/coastal>

Neil Kelleher (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) noted implications of the cessation of current Coastal Zone Management Programs (CZMPs) as of 31 December 2021, namely the approvals pathways for works and related grant funding. Regarding concerns raised about foreshore developments, there are coastal hazard lines in Development Control Plans which will continue.

Ben Fullagar provided updates on Wamberal Beach Terminal Protection and Sand Nourishment:

- Phase two engagement occurred 29 July and 10 September 2021. Summary report to be provided to Council shortly.
- Feedback can still be provided online with the survey and social pinpoint here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>
- Cost Benefit Analysis will be placed on YourVoiceOurCoast once completed.
- Taskforce continues to meet – last meeting was 7 September 2021. Minutes online here: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/wamberal-seawall-advisory-taskforce>

Ben Fullagar provided an update on the Tuggerah Lakes Entrance Management Strategy:

- Stages 1-3 complete – current reviewing Stage 3 reports.
- Provided overview of Stage 2 findings – info will be made available to community once finalised.
- Noted Council only considered options that were within current capacity given reduced resources.

5 Update on Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel

3.43pm

Neil Kelleher (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) provided an update on the Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel including the following key points.

- Recommendations made by Expert Panel were forwarded to Government bodies. A lot of recommendations are being incorporated into CMPs, however some are not being addressed.
- Outcomes are being reported to Minister and announcement expected soon.
- Expert Panel did some public consultation around August 2021 – sessions were well attended.
- Looking to generate a summary report to explain Expert Panel findings so that they may be better understood.
- Neil commended work of Council staff regarding their CMP progress.

6 Update on coastal and catchment operations

3.50pm

James Lawson (Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure) provided an update on coastal and catchment operations including the following key points.

- Council was awarded \$495k NSW Boating Access Dredging Program for The Entrance. Program expected to commence early 2022. This may include a berm management plan but yet to be determined.
- Wrack and algae program is continuing as usual. Graph shared to show amounts removed – on track to meet figures as predicted at last meeting.
- Next lot of collections for Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) planned for early 2022. Currently preparing contract details for this work.
- Noted team are busy with strategic sand building works to lift height of North Karagi sand spit to support Little Tern breeding program that flourished last year.

7 Update on flood and stormwater management

3.55pm

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning) provided an update on flood and stormwater management including the following key points.

- Provided overview of current projects across map of region noting updates are on <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/all-projects/floodplain-management>.
- Current strategies and plans are here: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/forms-and-publications/strategies-and-plans>
- Staff currently preparing contract for maintenance of stormwater monitoring equipment.
- Construction of GPTs in Wamberal and Gwandalan now finished, as well as upgrades in Blue Haven and Buff Point.

- Project underway for saltmarsh swale in San Remo near the former power plant hot water outlet. Interim investigations have commenced and staff are working with MHL.
- Staff continue to work with Development Assessment teams regarding planning and flooding. Shared preview of updated flood certificates – recommendation about floor being above minimal level has been included as per member advice. Members would like to see this better communicated and encouraged, particularly given concerns about sea level rise.
- Regarding question at last meeting about flood mapping for Exempt and Complying SEPP, advice is needed from Strategic Planning about this (noted as part of Action Log).
- Noted there is value in alerting the community to technical assessments used with regard to flooding and planning – good opportunity to leverage local newsletters.

Action: Peter Sheath to provide info on flooding to Ian Carruthers for incorporation into local newsletter.

8 General business

4.39pm

- It was reported that a food processing company was recently fined by the EPA for a pollution event in Ourimbah Creek that occurred in February 2021. Staff were unaware of this and thanked members for flagging.
- Poor water quality in Avoca Lagoon remains a concern. Staff noted there are some current studies underway. Members also noted there are issues with pollution and foreshore works in area still unresolved, that have previously been raised. Staff noted this is being addressed in CMP about working with Local Land Services and landowners.

Action: Ben Fullagar to follow up on planned workshops for Avoca Lagoon and provide update to members.

- Members noted concerns about severe bank erosion in Ourimbah Creek. Staff acknowledged this is an important issue to address and will follow up with relevant stakeholders about a organising a site inspection.

Action: Staff to organise a site inspection of Ourimbah Creek and follow up with relevant stakeholders about the severe bank erosion. Update to then be provided to members.

- Staff noted there is a distribution list for CMP updates which members can be added to. People can subscribe here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sucmp>

Minutes

Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



9 Close

Next meeting: Wednesday 8 December 2021
 2pm – 5pm
 Location TBC

Meeting closed at 5.01pm

Minutes approved by the Coordinator and Chairperson on 29 September 2021.

Changes to minutes applied following member feedback and recirculated 26 October 2021.

Action log

Group name



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	2/6/21: Update on Porters Creek Wetland to be standing item on agenda until further notice	Ongoing
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	Ongoing
2	2/06/2021	Members to be notified once MHL reports for Tuggerah Lakes Entrance Management Study are available.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast	Link to Stage 1 report shared via email 13/9/21. Further reports will be uploaded shortly (as per update 22/9)	Pending
3	2/06/2021	Staff to explore option for establishing working group for Terrigal water quality and notify members accordingly.	Unit Manager Environmental Management	22/9: Staff will liaise with relevant members to schedule informal meeting	Pending
6	2/06/2021	Staff to explore opportunity to map areas and include them in the Exempt and Complying SEPP as areas where the SEPP is "switched off".	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy	Update provided 22/9: Staff can map with respect to flooding but require further planning advice. Will follow up with Strategic Planning about a planning proposal to address outcomes for open coast properties.	Pending

Action log

Group name



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
7	2/06/2021	Staff to provide update on masterplan for airport with regard to future of wetland.	Unit Manager Economic Development and Property	Jamie Barclay unavailable for September 2021 meeting – awaiting advice about when staff can provide information.	Pending
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		Pending
9	22/09/2021	Cardno presentation and any additional info to be shared with members.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending
10	22/09/2021	Peter Sheath to provide info on flooding to Ian Carruthers for incorporation into local newsletter.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending
11	22/09/2021	Ben Fullagar to follow up on planned workshops for Avoca Lagoon and provide update to members.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast		Pending
12	22/09/2021	Staff to organise a site inspection of Ourimbah Creek and follow up with relevant stakeholders about the severe bank erosion. Update to then be provided to members.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending