



Central Coast Council

Catchments to Coast Committee Meeting

Held Remotely - Online

14 June 2023

MINUTES

Attendance

Members

Doug Darlington	Absent
Laurie Lewington	Absent
Mike Campbell	Absent
David Mylan	Absent
Ian Carruthers	Present
Troy Gaston (left at 4.03pm)	Present
Marlene Pennings	Absent
Samantha Willis	Present
Graham Hankin	Present
Michael Kip	Present
Adrian Williams	Present

Status

External agencies

Angela Halcrow, NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Present
Paul Donaldson, NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Present
Chris Drummond, NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Present

Staff

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management	Present
James Lawson, Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure	Present
Peter Sheath, Section Manager Bushfire and Flood Risk Management	Present
Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchments to Coast	Present
Rachel Callachor, Meeting Support Officer	Present
Angela Russell, Civic Support Officer (from 2.51pm)	Present
Parissa Ghanem, Team Leader Floodplain Management	Present
Dr Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning	Apology

Status

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest

The Chairperson, Luke Sulkowski, declared the meeting open at 2.00pm and read an Acknowledgement of Country statement.

Apologies received and members absent without apology were noted. The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received

1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log

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 – 29 March 2023](#)

Correction to an error in the previous minutes was a reference to timeframes in Item 2.1 reflecting the year 2170, and suggesting that they should have read 2120.

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 9) .

REPORTS

2.1 Update on Coastal Management

Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchments to Coast introduced Chris Drummond (DPE) who provided a presentation on the topic of a recent East Coast Low and the coastal effects including a significant ocean anomaly that raised ocean levels and would have generated localised coastal flooding in low lying areas..

Ben provided update on the current status Coastal Management Program status and detailed information regarding Coastal inundation simulator.

Suggestions from the Committee:

- Consider the development of fact sheets and summaries about the various technical studies.
- Look at ways to reach out to engage new people and groups.
- Pop up session – capturing an audience that may not necessarily attend a scheduled/structured drop in session or webinar.

Further updates provided in relation to:

- Websites - Staff are reviewing the content published on different webpages, with a

view to consolidate and update the Council website (updated platform), Your Voice Our Coast, Love Our Waterways and Love Central Coast.

- Council has purchased a new drone with RTK GPS survey capability for coastal monitoring. Expression of appreciation of DPE assistance was given.

Comment from Committee member regarding sand nourishment once a seawall at Wamberal is built, highlighting that it is important to consider timelines regarding this process, and a request for the Committee to be kept informed.

Query – Regarding ferry running aground during low tide at Ettalong and therefore what is the current status of the dredging program?

Response – There should be more information available following MIDO meeting to be held Thursday 15 June.

Query – Regarding other vessels using the channel and request for executive summary of the MIDO meeting being held on Thursday 15 June.

Action: Summary of MIDO meeting to be provided to Committee members.

Confirmation provided that consultation regarding where to place the sand from the dredging is in its early stages.

Action: Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has information on their website regarding tender for Swansea Channel works. Establishment of a similar type page for Ettalong Channel works is to be explored. Council staff to request MIDO consideration of this.

Query – Whether a Fisheries representative/s would be present at the meeting tomorrow?

Response – Not sure regarding overall attendance, but DPE will be in present and it was noted that this query relates to soft corals, and that this topic is to be addressed.

Update on Terrigal and Coastal Lagoon Sewer Audit and Repairs and comparative data provided for the periods of March and June 2023. This is also available online on YVOC.

Recommendation

That the Committee note the report and that updates be included in the action log.

2.2 Update on Flood & Stormwater Management

Presentation by Peter Sheath, Section Manager Bushfire and Flood Risk Management

Presentation included:

Flood level information and mapping demonstration via the online mapping tool, with areas shown that were likely impacted as a result of coastal inundation discussed in the previous agenda item. These areas focussed on Woy Woy, Erina, West Gosford and Spencer.

Query - Regarding any confirmation of these levels, as evidenced by any community complaints?

Response – Given the event it was overnight, low community impact but some contact from customers around Pretty Beach.

Update on flood related development controls and flood consideration controls

Information provided and a 'walk through' of flooding information, based on the mapping, in the areas of Holgate/Matcham, Yarramalong and Wyong. Discussion regarding road access and evacuation.

Flow chart of information shared, regarding development approval pathway, and DA / CDC, provided and how this relates to the LEP clause, and how this can be applied, given that CDC's may not be required to assess this.

Discussion regarding 'cut off / isolation' and what is, criteria to define this.

It is also noted that updates on draft sea level rise policy, and information regarding sea level rise scenarios, is ongoing.

Recommendation

The Committee note the report.

2.3 Update on Coastal & Catchment Operations

Presentation by James Lawson, Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure

Highlighted that there are a number of tools, cameras and monitors which council utilises.

Topics covered included:

- Wrack and algae collection
- Loggerhead turtles
- Tuggerah Lakes and The Entrance Channel update on Council's Sand Transfer Work.

Regarding the sand transfer at The Entrance Channel, a point of difference this year – no dredges in the water, it was more sand transfer and shoreline management, although the program did incorporate some dredging using land based machinery..

Focus restoring Karagi Reserve area and berm.

The works commenced on 27 May 2023, this avoided impacts to Little Terns and weather conditions, as well as Plant and Fleet availability.

Update will be provided to the next Committee meeting including volumetric data and a summary of the program.

Query – Anything more permanent than sandbags used to protect the Karagi reserve foreshore being considered?

Response – No, the sandbags are actually 200 (approx.) eco blocks in a pyramid structure, at the water level.

Comments from the Chair regarding water level and wrack, we have observed that there was an inverse correlation between reports of wrack and the water level – lower level of water can make what is thought to be wrack more noticeable, but in some cases it is attached sea grass leaves. This helped drive higher reports earlier in the year when the lake was <0.1m AHD, and less reports now when the lake has been around 0.4m AHD or higher.

Recommendation

The Committee note the report.

2.4 Hardys Bay Stormwater Outlet/RSL Creek

Item on the agenda as per request from Committee members Michael Allsop and Adrian Williams.

Adrian Williams – met with Administrator, Mr Rik Hart, on 17 May 2023.

Adrian believes that the Creek is badly contaminated and gives off an odour.

In response to a summary of information provided to Mr Hart, information was provided that to Adrian that routine maintenance is undertaken.

Query regarding when was the last inspection and what was the result?

Noted in 2010/11, concern to former Gosford City Council was expressed about the contamination and levels of pollution in the creek.

It had been requested that Council consider dredging part of the creek and removing some mangroves to get a proper tidal flow.

Staff advised that the date of the last inspection would be taken on notice, primarily as this is undertaken by Council's Infrastructure Operations directorate whom had no staff present in the committee meeting, and that it is understood that the maintenance inspection is focussed on the outlet area of the stormwater network (not water quality or odour etc.).

Information provided regarding mangrove area surrounding the creek, and the further impact on the removal of mangroves may have other, unintended effects, and not affect the overall flow. The invert level at the stormwater outlet was identified as being generally at sea level, and tidally impacted, and Council staff advised that it was not expected dredging or removal of these trees would have any material favourable impact on water flow or quality.

Query – Regarding works which were undertaken at Mudflat Creek, can similar work occur here?

Response - That that work was done to remediate a flood issue.

Query - regarding water contamination and health warning which was issued.

Response – Approximately 72% of that catchment is still natural bushland, and it would not be expected that the drain would be significantly impacted by pollution, staff will undertake

some further water quality monitoring at the site.

The community observations and concerns regarding odour and water pollution are noted, this may be able to be captured via a water monitoring program. This can also check for issues with sewer works or structures.

Adrian Williams concluded his comments by raising concern on behalf of the community that there is no solution being put forward by Council, and that he is raising the issue in this forum to highlight the problem further.

Recommendation

That Council staff arrange further water testing at this location with results and information to be reported back to the Committee.

2.5 General Business

Update from the Chair in relation to additional ways for the Committee members to connect and discuss issues as a group, outside of the meeting proper.

Following consideration of options, Council encourages the committee to further consider and mobilise what options may be available to them, however it is noted Council considers this meeting as the official forum for the group, but encourages additional information sharing - doesn't hinder it, but Council not able to facilitate this.

Follow up from Committee member – regarding Coastal item on today's agenda, and Communications and Engagement strategy. There was not enough information today from the committee, noting that the CMP is at end of stage 2 – technical reports.

Response – Important window between now and the next meeting regarding next steps. Ben Fullagar advised he will reach out directly to the Committee members in relation proposals, availability and rough time frames. This information will be put into the Communications and Engagement strategy.

Recommendation

That updates be included in the action log to reflect the status of these items discussed.

The Meeting concluded at 4.10pm.

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 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 17/11/22 Council has recently completed the Porters Creek Wetland & 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. Therefore Council is currently investigating other potential stormwater management opportunities for	Completed

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				<p>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.</p> <p>14/12/22: Update provided at Item 8.</p>	
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	<p>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.</p> <p>14/12/22: Update provided at Item 7.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>29/3/23 – Update to be provided as a part of report/discussion at today's meeting. To be removed from action log going forward as the Taskforce is to be wound up.</p>
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	<p>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</p>	<p>Pending – presentation will be requested.</p> <p>29/3 – No further</p>

Minutes of the Catchments to Coast Committee Meeting 14 June 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				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.	update on this item.
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 29/3/23 – Included on meeting agenda today. (Presentation by Ben Fullagar)
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 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.	Ongoing 29/3 – Included on agenda today (Peter Sheath) Query re: re-occurring item or whether it can be completed off the action log. Advice that a further update is anticipated at the next Committee

Minutes of the Catchments to Coast Committee Meeting 14 June 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
					meeting. Report included in today's agenda.
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 29/3 – Update as included on agenda at today's meeting. Included in today's agenda.
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. 29/3 – Peter Sheath to provide update - item on agenda at today's meeting and further update to be provided at the next Committee meeting regarding the

Minutes of the Catchments to Coast Committee Meeting 14 June 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
					work undertaken / progress of the Policy. Included in todays agenda
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
25	14/12/2022	Copy of Tuggerah Lakes Riverine and Catchment Health Monitoring Report for Central Coast Council to be distributed to Advisory Group members.	Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Catchments to Coast		29/3 – Confirmation that this has been distributed. Completed.
26	29/3/2023	Options in relation to CMP engagement with Community members. Discussion of preferences, time and availability, online, focus group workshops, community drop in sessions – or ‘all of the above’?	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast	To be clarified by SM Catchments and Coast at next meeting	Included in agenda as part of today’s meeting.

Minutes of the Catchments to Coast Committee Meeting 14 June 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
27	29/3/2023	Distribute Link to committee members for Community Focus Groups for the Wrack Management Strategy when it opens.	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast	First workshop to be held 14/6/2023	Completed
28	29/3/2023	YourVoice OurCoast (YVOC) website to be updated with current timeframes and information regarding CMP's.	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast	Item to be addressed at today's meeting	
29	29/3/2023	Options to be explored regarding other opportunities for communication and collaboration for the group outside of the meeting format in relation to CMP process.	Luke Sulkowski Unit Manager Environmental Management	Completed – update as a part of General Business in June 2023 meeting.	Completed
30	29/3/2023	Options to be explored in relation to distribution of the presentations prior to the meeting to give the Committee members an opportunity to review the information being presented.	Luke Sulkowski Unit Manager Environmental Management	ON GOING	
31	29/3/2023	A copy of the ' <i>Understanding and Managing Flood Risk</i> ' – <i>Flood risk management guide FB01</i> to be distributed to Committee members.	Peter Sheath Section Manager Bushfire and Flood Risk	A link to this document was emailed to Committee members	Completed

Minutes of the Catchments to Coast Committee Meeting 14 June 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
			Management		
32	29/3/2023	Further update and report regarding maintenance work at Canton Beach to be provide at next Committee meeting.	James Lawson Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure	Council crews undertook maintenance works at Canton Beach foreshore and also installed information signage on 6/4/23, just prior to Easter.	Completed
33	29/3/2023	Final request for Committee members to provide any feedback on the proposed Central Coast Conservation Fund Policy and internal restriction for acquisition of Davistown Wetlands.	Committee Membership	Reporting has been completed and item currently on exhibition. Action item completed.	Completed
34	14/6/2023	Queries regarding ferry running aground during low tide at Ettalong and request for information regarding other vessels using the channel and request for executive summary of the MIDO meeting being held on Thursday 15 June. Action: Summary of MIDO meeting to be provided to Committee members.	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast		
35	14/6/2023	Dredging works - Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has information on their website regarding tender for Swansea Channel works. Establishment of a similar type page for Ettalong Channel works is to be explored.	Ben Fullagar - Section Manager Catchments to Coast		

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
		Action: Council staff to request MIDO consideration of this.			