

Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce Meeting Record (Meeting 17)

Location:	Microsoft Teams
Date:	1 March 2023
Time	Started at: 3.30pm Closed at: 4.35pm
Chair	Dr. Phil Watson

Members present:

Dr Phil Watson – Chair, David Farmer – Central Coast Council, Tim Deverell – DPE Crown Lands, Maria Plytariasis – DPE Planning.

Observers present:

Dr Alice Howe (Director, Environment and Planning, Central Coast Council).

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Adam Crouch MP – State Government, Sharon Molloy – DPE Environment and Heritage Group.

The Chair welcomed the Taskforce and completed an Acknowledgement of Country. It was noted the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The minutes and action log for meeting No. 16 were formally finalised, endorsed and distributed to Taskforce members on 20 January 2023.

Item 4 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

The Taskforce discussed outstanding matters arising from previous meetings as summarised below.

4.1 Crown Lands update on management of residual land parcels.

Tim Deverell advised that Crown Lands is progressing the Cancelled Folio relating to residue land at Wamberal Beach and subject of correspondence from Central Coast Council. Crown Lands is awaiting legal advice and is liaising with Land Registry Services on the matter and the priority has been communicated. On 31 Dec 2022, Crown Lands received an email from a potential heir to the residue land (Harold Clarke Thompson) and is pursuing additional advice from the Crown Solicitors Office on this new information. Once a clear pathway forward is known, Crown Lands will be providing further information to Central Coast Council.

Action: Crown Lands to liaise further with Central Coast Council once advice of the above-mentioned issues has been resolved. This advice is also relevant to actions 54 and 55 of the task log.

4.2 Action Item 56: Consideration of recently announced Commonwealth funding opportunities (Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)).

The Chair advised that information sessions on the DRF were conducted by the Reconstruction Authority through late January 2023. Timelines for Round 1 were extremely tight with project submissions closing at 5pm, 14 February 2023 (AEDT) with the Reconstruction Authority.

At the request of Central Coast Council, the Chair discussed a possible application with Dr Alice Howe under Round 1 of the DRF. It was agreed that presently there is insufficient details regarding scope of works proposed, relevant timelines, cost structure and the status of environmental approvals sufficient to furnish a conforming application. However, should these details become clearer over the course of the remainder of the year, the opportunity might present for a sufficiently detailed DRF application in Round 2 (early next year).

4.3 Action Item 57: Review role of the Taskforce and its Terms of Reference.

The Chair reminded the Members that the current terms of the Taskforce were drawing to a close under the existing Terms of Reference. In considering the role of the Taskforce, the Chair advised that the Taskforce was set in motion by the (then) Minister for Local Government (Shelley Hancock) and Local MP (Adam Crouch) in the aftermath of the July 2020 coastal storms and resultant emergency along Wamberal beach. At that time Council required considerable assistance, focus and external expertise to coordinate and implement the preferred management response in its 2017 certified CZMP. This situation was to be exacerbated by the financial collapse of the Council in late 2020.

The Chair advised that the recent finalisation of the Engineering Design Guidelines and consistent public statements from the new leadership team at Central Coast Council on the pathway forward, serve only to highlight renewed confidence in Council's ability to manage this issue now on their own terms and achieve the original objective outlined in their 2017 certified Coastal Zone Management Plan, without the original necessity of the Taskforce structure.

All members agreed that the Taskforce had provided the necessary structure and impetus to assist Council in progression of a much-needed solution to the long-standing coastal erosion risk along Wamberal Beach. It was unanimously agreed by members present that the necessity for a Taskforce was no longer required and that Council could adequately manage the issue moving forward with assistance from relevant government agencies in the normal course of business. This closes Action Item 57 in the task log.

Item 5 Update from Central Coast Council

Dr Alice Howe (Central Coast Council) provided an update from Central Coast Council (CCC).

Dr Howe advised that Council continues to work constructively with Wamberal beachfront landowners to implement a whole of embayment terminal protection solution. Council awaits advice from Crown Lands around options to address management of the residual parcel along Wamberal Beach and the Office of Strategic Lands (OSL) on land use constraints applying to beachfront parcels managed by OSL.

Item 6 Update from the Chair

Phil Watson provided an update as Chair of the Taskforce.

The Chair advised it had been a privilege to Chair this Taskforce and a pleasure to work with all Taskforce Members (past and present) and the community alike over the past couple of years on this acute coastal zone management problem. The Chair thanked Taskforce Members (past and present) for their considerable contributions and commitment to working together to solve this problem.

The Chair noted the tenure of the Taskforce has not been an easy one, particularly given the high community interest and passion for management of Wamberal Beach. However, this was also one of the strengths of the process noting there would be few locations that have benefited from more technical information and consultation opportunities to support decision makers in their deliberations.

The Chair noted the pathway forward balances all considerations whilst reducing the high coastal risks with provision for and improvement of beach amenity into the future. The Chair implored Council to continue working closely with beachfront residents at Wamberal to maintain hard won momentum toward the implementation phase, noting that until this is finally completed, Wamberal Beach remains at continued threat from the next extreme storm event.

Item 7 General Business, Review of Task Log, Next Meeting Date and Close

The Taskforce reviewed the task log and noted no further general business.

The meeting closed at 4.35am

Minutes finalised and endorsed 28 March 2023.



Dr Phil Watson
Chair
Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce

Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce

Action Log

Action number	Meeting date	Action	Responsibility	Notes	Status
4	11/08/2020	Phil Watson and Gary Murphy to meet monthly (or on as needs basis) with affected landowners' representatives	Phil Watson / Central Coast Council (CCC)	Meetings occur as required	Ongoing
45	3/08/2021	Council to document procedures around approvals with view to progress a preferred option by year end following phase 2 community consultation. Update to be provided at next meeting.	Casey Johnston (CCC) / David Farmer (CCC)	Update provided at 14 October 2021 meeting	Complete
46	7/09/2021	Casey Johnston to review project plan with Phil Watson and bring to next Taskforce meeting.	Casey Johnston (CCC) / Phil Watson	Update provided at 14 October 2021 meeting	Complete
47	7/09/2021	Casey Johnston to distribute presentation provided at info sessions to Taskforce members and explore making similar information available on the YourVoiceOurCoast page.	Casey Johnston (CCC)	Distributed to Taskforce members by Casey Johnston on 17 February 2022.	Complete
48	7/09/2021	Phil Watson, David Farmer and Adam Crouch MP to meet to discuss the role of the Taskforce moving forward and any changes to tenure.	Phil Watson, David Farmer (CCC), Adam Crouch MP	Taskforce continuing	Complete
49	14/10/2021	Crown Lands to provide advice about grant funding available for Council.	Tim Deverell (DPE Crown Lands)	Update provided at 18 November 2021 meeting	Complete
50	14/10/2021	Phil Watson to circulate press release on Amendment Bill to members.	Phil Watson	Phil circulated to members via email	Complete

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51	14/10/2021	Scott Cox to keep members updated on progress of site visit to Northern Beaches.	Scott Cox (CCC)	Update provided at 18 November 2021 meeting	Complete
52	17/02/2022	Revised Terms of Reference.	All Members	All members to review and provide comments back to Chair on draft revised Terms of Reference by COB 25 February 2022. ToR revised and completed at Meeting No.14 (15 June 2022).	Complete
53	15/06/2022	Revised Terms of Reference.	Chair	Chair to circulate agreed ToR with Meeting No.14 Minutes for publishing on Council's website.	Complete
54	22/12/2022	Crown Lands to set up a meeting with Council to resolve the residue land and acquisition process in the new year.	Tim Deverell (DPE Crown Lands)	Resolution of long-standing issue.	Pending
55	22/12/2022	Crown Lands to work with Council on mechanisms to allow access across the residual parcel for construction of terminal protection works on other land until longer term ownership issues have been resolved.	Tim Deverell (DPE Crown Lands)	Alleviate potential complexity of construction access along the beach impinging on residual land parcel.	Pending
56	22/12/2022	Consideration of recently announced Commonwealth funding opportunities.	Chair/Dr Alice Howe	Chair and Council to consider Disaster Ready Fund guidelines when available in 2023 for further consideration and discussion with the Taskforce.	Complete

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57	22/12/2022	Review role of the Taskforce and its Terms of Reference at meeting No.17 (scheduled for late February 2023).	All Members	Required by Terms of Reference.	Complete