

# Minutes



## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee

**Date:** 2 March 2022

**Time:** 2.02pm – 4.33pm

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Chairperson:** James Lawson, Unit Manager Environmental Management (Acting)

**Coordinator:** James Lawson, Unit Manager Environmental Management (Acting)

### 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

#### Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Absent

Apology

Apology

Present

Present

#### External agencies:

Phillip Buchanan, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)

Present

Paul Donaldson, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)

Present

Richard Murphy, Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)

Present

#### Staff:

James Lawson, Unit Manager Environmental Management (Acting)

Present

Mathew Barnett, Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure

Apology

Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchments to Coast

Present

Peter Sheath, Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy

Present

Parissa Ghanem, Team Leader Floodplain Management

Present

Vanessa McCann, Team Leader Estuary Management

Present

Zoie Magann, Meeting Support Officer

Present

---

### 1 Introduction

2.02pm

The chairperson welcomed the group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies received and members absent without apology were noted.

It was noted Luke Sulkowski is acting in a different role at Council. James Lawson is Unit Manager Environmental Management (Acting) and will be the chairperson/coordinator of the group while in this position.

The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest.

Mike Alsop declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest for Item 5 with regard to conversations about dredging as he is a member of Gosford Sailing Club.

---

### 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 8 December 2021](#)

Members thanked staff for providing their presentations from the last meeting and requested presentations continue to be provided as available.

The action log was reviewed with updates recorded (see page 7).

---

### 3 Update on Airport Masterplan and future of Porters Creek Wetland

2.09pm

Jamie Barclay (Unit Manager Economic Development and Property) provided some info on Warnervale Airport which was distributed to members via email on 14 February 2022.

The chair invited any comments from members, noting they could email any questions out of session for forwarding to the relevant staff. Some initial comments were received as follows.

- Proposed plan seems to have strong focus on commercial opportunities but not explicit about addressing environmental concerns (e.g. spill over effects, flooding, and impact on catchment).
- Noted CEN did a submission and felt the response received wasn't sufficient, which raised concerns about conduct of processes.
- Members will continue to raise concerns and would appreciate updates provided ongoing.

### 4 Update on coastal management

2.18pm

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

- Stage 2 studies ongoing for Coastal Management Programs (CMPs). Noted Lake Macquarie Council is slightly ahead at Stage 3. Updates are available online at following sites:
  - <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterways>
  - <https://shape.lakemac.com.au/coastal>
  - <https://hawkesburynepeancmp.org/>
- There is also a study regarding groundwater ingress underway (using Berkeley Vale as example) in collaboration with Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).
- Water quality at Avoca Lagoon continues to be monitored. Staff will distribute FAQ and engagement details to members via email.
- Staff working on implementing findings of the Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel and considering these in development of CMP. Info about Tuggerah Lakes is on Council's [waterways website](#).
- Noted key message from survey regarding [Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan](#) is community want to see work happening, not just more studies. Staff provided overview of priority actions implemented.
- Stages 1-4 of [Tuggerah Lakes Entrance Management Strategy](#) are complete and Stage 5 is under review.
- Group discussed trigger points for berm management and response to weather events like present conditions. Noted Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) models change rapidly so staff must adapt and react dynamically. Have also been using [MHLFIT data](#) to develop classifications and guide interim management.
- Staff are also working with DPE on a Water Quality Monitoring Program (first of its kind in NSW). Program helps map water quality in catchments and identify where work is needed.
- Further reports for the Wamberal Beach Terminal Protection and Sand Nourishment project are online here (including recently released Cost Benefit Analysis): <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>. Consultation is open until 20 March 2022.
- Preparations for dredging programs in Tuggerah Lakes and Ettalong occurring in line with funding. Noted there are endangered species (soft corals) in Ettalong that need to be considered in scope of works. Staff will follow up with Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) about scope (including bathymetry details) and will circulate info to members.
- Coastal protection works at The Entrance North are now complete. Council working with Crown Lands and DPE regarding exposed building waste around site.

**Action:** FAQ sheet and info about engagement sessions at Avoca Lagoon to be shared with members.

**Action:** Info from MIDO regarding scope of dredging works to be shared with members.

### 5 Update on coastal and catchments operations

2.59pm

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

- Wrack collection is on track with numbers above KPI target (currently around 5,000m<sup>3</sup>). Shared some compliments received from the public regarding works in Toukley.
- Cumulative total of GPT waste collected for 2021-22 FY is 231 tonnes as of January.
- Little Tern project continues to succeed. 96 birds successfully fledged this season which breaks record of 53 from last year. Noted protection fencing was recently removed due to extreme weather but will be returned once water recedes.
- Staff continue to open major lagoons (Terrigal, Wamberal, Avoca) in response to weather.
- Re Avoca Lagoon – staff relocated approx. 4,000-5,000 tadpoles in response to recent lagoon opening and suspect some of these were Green and Golden Bell Frogs – this is a significant increase in numbers collected previously.
- Noted Council has a Catchments Management Officer in Water and Sewer who helps with matters in the catchment. Discussed importance of partnerships between community and agencies to maintain catchments as this impacts on water quality.
- Member raised concerns about the use of glyphosate, particularly around drains and culverts. Staff will pass on feedback and provide update.

**Action:** Staff to forward Mike Campbell's details to Catchment Management Officer to discuss water quality measures in local catchment.

**Action:** Staff to pass on feedback regarding use of glyphosate and report back to group.

### 6 Update on flood and stormwater management

3.12pm

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

- Overview of grant applications:
  - Successful – Update Tuggerah Lakes Flood Study (1994) to incorporate better analysis of interaction with ocean, particularly with regard to climate change and sea level rise.
  - Unsuccessful – Chittaway Point Climate Adaptation Study.
  - Pending – Upgrade to automatic flood gates at Burns Rd Ourimbah.
- Recap of current floodplain management studies and plans as noted online here:  
<https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/all-projects/floodplain-management>
  - Draft Woy Woy Peninsula FRMSP will be publicly exhibited shortly.
  - Exhibition of Davistown/Empire Bay FRMSP now complete – preparing report to Council.

- There are a number of capital works programs underway across region:
  - GPT and wetland in Blue Haven has been upgraded.
  - Saltmarsh swale for San Remo being investigated – model is based on successful example at Long Jetty.
  - Installation of flood gates at Burns Rd Ourimbah (awaiting funding outcome).
  - Flood education signage to be installed at identified sites on a priority basis.
- Discussed flood warning systems and classifications, roles of BOM, SES and Council, and difference between ‘flood watch’ and ‘flood warning’. Shared helpful BOM video about flood classifications: <https://youtu.be/gKDPgp5Ds9s>
- Noted BOM issue flood warnings based on data from three locations: Hawkesbury River (Wisemans Ferry), Wyong River (railway bridge), and Tuggerah Lakes (based on Long Jetty gauge).
- There have been changes to flood classifications for Tuggerah Lakes, driven by February 2020 flood. Change was endorsed by Flood Warning Consultative Committee and agreed by Council, SES and BOM.
  - Minor flood level remains 0.9m
  - Moderate level changed from 1.8m to 1.3
  - Major level changed from 2.2 to 1.6 (noted Feb 2020 flood was 1.67m)
  - Minimum floor level has been 2.7m for 30 years
- Members noted inaccuracies on Floods Near Me App (correct levels not showing) – staff will follow up and noted BOM is reliable source.
- Discussed rainfall data and noted this is on BOM site: [http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap\\_fwo.pl?IDN60170.html](http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60170.html)
- Discussed Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) levels in relation to housing and Flood Certificates. Accountability is with home owners/buyers to ensure development complies.
- Noted draft Flood Policy is being developed, which is a harmonised version of former Gosford and Wyong policies with updated references. Update to be provided at next meeting.
- SES Local Flood Plan for Central Coast is being prepared by SES with assistance from Council.
- Provided brief overview of Woy Woy FRMSP and potential management options under review. Staff will consider how the group can be engaged further about this document before the next meeting, given time constraints with reporting.

**Action:** Staff to follow up about Floods Near Me App levels for Central Coast.

**Action:** Update on draft Flood Policy to be provided at next meeting.

**Action:** Staff to consider options for getting member feedback on the draft Woy Woy Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMSP) in line with project timeframes.

### 7 General business

4.05pm

- Vanessa McCann provided a quick overview of recent Environmental Restoration Fund projects. Of note is a new education program launching in March that empowers community members to run own environmental projects.
- Members raised concerns about an [Administrator Minute from the Ordinary Council Meeting held 22 February 2022](#), regarding a discussion paper on advisory groups. Members agreed the group is a valuable forum and they are mindful of discussing matters within their scope. Also noted the challenges associated with COVID and restrictions on meeting over the past few years. State Government representatives agreed the group is an important conduit between Council, State Government, and the community, and would like to see further involvement from other agencies (e.g. Fisheries, LLS). Members will consider making submissions to the Administrator regarding this matter and would like to share contact details where appropriate.

**Action:** Staff to distribute the Administrator Minute regarding advisory groups and include member emails for those who previously approved sharing.

- Peter Sheath showed members how to access BOM site for weather info. Noted Council also does media releases to share important weather announcements:  
<https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/news/severe-weather-update-0>

### 8 Close

Next meeting:           Wednesday 1 June 2022  
                                  2pm – 5pm  
                                  Wyong Committee Room / Teams

Meeting closed at 4.33pm

Minutes approved by the Coordinator/Chairperson on 11 March 2022.

# 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</p> <p>8/12/21: 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</p> <p>2/3/22: No further update – cost estimate of works is underway.</p>	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	<p>Link to Stage 1 report shared via email 13/9/21.</p> <p>Further reports will be uploaded as available.</p>	Pending

# 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  2/3/22: Members requested this remains a standing item, given relevance to Porters Creek Wetland.	Pending
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  2/3/22: Ben Fullagar advised update not available yet but will follow up and distribute to members out of session	Pending
14	8/12/2021	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.  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	Pending
15	8/12/2021	Staff to revisit action relating to stormwater basin at Kangy Angy rail facility.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy	Staff have followed up with TfNSW multiple times and received no response.	Pending



# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
16	2/3/2022	FAQ sheet and info about engagement sessions at Avoca Lagoon to be shared with members.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast		Pending
17	2/3/2022	Info from MIDO regarding scope of dredging works to be shared with members.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast		Pending
18	2/3/2022	Staff to forward Mike Campbell's details to Catchment Management Officer to discuss water quality measures in local catchment.	Meeting Support Officer		Pending
19	2/3/2022	Staff to pass on feedback regarding use of glyphosate and report back to group.	Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure		Pending
20	2/3/2022	Staff to follow up about Floods Near Me App levels for Central Coast.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending
21	2/3/2022	Update on draft Flood Policy to be provided at next meeting.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending

# Action log

## Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee



Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
22	2/3/2022	Staff to consider options for getting member feedback on the draft Woy Woy Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMSP) in line with project timeframes.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending
23	2/3/2022	Staff to distribute the Administrator Minute regarding advisory groups and include member emails for those who previously approved sharing.	Meeting Support Officer		Pending