

Minutes



Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee

Date: 8 December 2021

Time: 2.05pm – 4.25pm

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

Andrew Jones

Michael Kilp

Laurie Lewington

David Mylan

Marlene Pennings

Adrian Williams

Sam Willis

Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present (left 3.50pm)

Present

Present

Apology

Apology

Apology

Absent

Present (left 3.36pm)

Apology

Guests

Kim Wolfenden, Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries

Present (left 2.39pm)

External agencies:

Paul Donaldson, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Present

Neil Kelleher, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Apology

Richard Murphy, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Present

Carla Sbrocchi, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Apology

Staff:

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental Management

Present

Ben Fullagar, Section Manager Catchments to Coast

Present

James Lawson, Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure

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

2.05pm

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.

It was noted that Petra Horwood (former Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee member) resigned from the group.

It was also noted that Marlene Pennings would likely be unavailable for meetings going forward due to poor health. The group passed on their well wishes for Marlene.

2 Previous business

2.08pm

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 22 September 2021](#)

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

3 DPI Shark Program

2.14pm

Kim Wolfenden (Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries) provided an overview of DPI's Shark Program, following a meeting held with Council staff in November 2021. The following key points were noted:

- For last 5 years Fisheries have been trialling different options for shark programs. Aim is to protect people while ensuring minimal harm to sharks and other wildlife.
- Provided overview of options investigated which included Clever Buoy, physical barriers, personal protection methods (deterrent devices on equipment), helicopters and drones for aerial monitoring, smart drumlines, VR4G shark listening stations (real time alerts can be delivered to phones and smart watches), tagging and tracking target sharks.
- Have also been myth busting about sharks as part of community engagement and education with use of mobile shark trailers.
- Fisheries consulted with stakeholders to develop NSW Shark Program 2021/22. Federal government committed \$21.4M for preferred shark mitigation options.

- Program outcomes for Central Coast include 25 smart drumlines to use alongside existing shark nets (10 nets in region), three listening stations and two new drone locations.
- Encouraged download of Shark Smart App: <https://www.sharksmart.com.au/>
- Member noted concerns about migration of humpback whale calves with regard to net deployment (nets aren't permanent structures). Suggested delaying deployment until November each year to help minimise risk to calves.
- Discussed tagging and movement tracking of sharks and noted myth of sharks being permanent residents of one location.

4 Update on coastal management

2.39pm

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Catchments to Coast) provided the following updates regarding coastal management projects.

- Currently at Stage 2 for Coastal Management Programs (CMPs), with studies underway for the various CMPs. Noted Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) have been extended for two years until 31 December 2023, which also means funding opportunities under coastal and estuary grant programs will continue. Updates about CMPs are online here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterways>
- Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce continues to meet. A report to Council is expected early 2022. Info about the project is online here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>.
- Stages 1-4 are now complete for the Tuggerah Lakes Entrance Management Strategy. Project scheduled for completion with interim procedure to be adopted early 2022. Info about the project is online here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/project-stage/tuggerah-lakes>
- The final report from the Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel is available online here: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/estuaries/protecting-and-managing-estuaries/tuggerah-lakes-expert-panel>

Vanessa McCann (Team Leader Estuary Management) provided the following updates regarding water quality and restoration projects.

- Two water quality report cards recently completed – [Central Coast Waterways Report Card \(ecological health\)](#) and [State of the Beaches 2020-21 \(recreational health\)](#).
- Good news that Avoca has changed from Grade F to Grade B since last audit. Staff are trying to understand processes behind this change and have introduced a monitoring dashboard to help with this <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/097fbbd6b361493f8343a38608eb4ba6/>
- Recommended use of Beachwatch App to monitor alerts for local beaches <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beachmapp>
- Noted Terrigal Beach returned to poor quality due to wet weather and that audit is ongoing.

- Provided overview of Environmental Restoration Fund projects underway, as funded by the Federal Government.
- Noted more digital content is being generated for waterways education and in-person events are recommencing.
- Member asked about seagrass that started appearing in region (suspected macro algae). Staff are monitoring the situation and looking into causes.
- Concerns raised about vegetation at Canton Beach, namely that the sandy portion of beach is too large and foreshore may need regrading and reestablishment as a saltmarsh. Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) indicated that some upgrade works were being planned but also suggested feedback regarding foreshore treatments such as saltmarsh and regrading be submitted as part of the CMP process.
- Question about sewer remediation works in Avoca as part of Terrigal and Coastal Lagoons Audit. Noted updates on audit are online here <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/project-stage/terrigan-and-coastal-lagoons-audit> but staff will check with Water and Sewer about when outcomes of inspections will be known.
- Members commended immense scope of work undertaken by staff.

Action: Staff to provide presentations for sharing with members via email.

Action: Staff to get advice from Water and Sewer about works in Avoca Lagoon and report back to members when appropriate.

5 Update on coastal and catchments operations

3.28pm

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

- Provided update on volume of wrack removed – currently tracking above target for 2021-22.
- Dredging program for The Entrance announced at last meeting on track for preparations to begin February 2022. Physical dredging expected to commence in August 2022. Staff continue to liaise with EPA about project.
- Good news that Council was recently a category winner of Excellence in the Environment Awards (Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement: On-ground Works) for the Little Tern Conservation project.
- Works at Karagi Reserve and around North Entrance Beach are ongoing in consultation with consultants and community to ensure safe beach amenity.

- A number of maintenance works have been completed by team including fencing works and improvements to beach access ways.
- Update on The Entrance North Coastal Protection Works – Council staff recently undertook a short extension of the previous emergency protection works at the southern end of Hutton Parade The Entrance North in order to better protect public infrastructure that has faced continuing erosion since the 2020 coastal erosion event. These works have now been completed at a cost of approximately \$90K. Council has no further plans for work at this location but recognises that further consideration in regards to the erosion threats presented to The Entrance North will need to be considered and addressed as part of the development of the new Coastal Management Program. Council's next dredging program at The Entrance is likely to deposit recovered sand in the vicinity of Hutton Parade south of Hargraves Street.

6 Update on flood and stormwater management

3.42pm

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 flood studies and operational projects. Info is available online here <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/all-projects/floodplain-management>
- Staff continue to work with planners regarding flooding matters, including sections in the Development Control Plan (DCP). Members would like to see more community consultation on flooding in the DCP. Staff are also reviewing policies and will bring back any relevant info to the group for noting.
- Staff are awaiting outcomes of some grant applications for adaptation planning and are preparing to apply for new grants in early 2022.

Action: Staff to bring updates on relevant policies and DCP review to group when available.

7 General business

4.09pm

- Noted there was a confidential report that went to Council recently regarding vegetation management at Warnervale Airport. Summary was that previous motion regarding vegetation management was rescinded to allow mowing up to the buffer area (within scope of SEPP).
- Member noted concerns about pollution in Ourimbah Creek, potentially relating to Kangy Angy rail facility. Staff advised they would revisit the relevant action and provide an update.

Action: Staff to revisit action relating to stormwater basin at Kangy Angy rail facility.

- Member flagged there's a DA on exhibition for North Avoca that potentially impacts the coastline. DA review is outside scope of group but staff will follow up internally.

- Members agreed to meet in a hybrid format moving forward, noting Wyong Committee Room would be used as Gosford is no longer available.

8 Close

Next meeting: March 2022
 2pm – 5pm
 Wyong Committee Room /
 Teams

Meeting closed at 4.24pm

Minutes approved by the Coordinator and Chairperson on 20 December 2021. Minor changes approved following member feedback on 22 December 2021.

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: No further updates currently from last meeting. Proceeding with trying to get costing prepared for options from</p> <p>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>	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>8/12: Further reports will be uploaded as available.</p>	Pending

Action log

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
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. 8/12: action should be completed as of 22/9/21	Complete
7	2/06/2021	Staff to provide update on masterplan for airport with regard to future of wetland.	Unit Manager Economic Development and Property	Deferred until 2022	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	Deferred until 2022	Pending
12	8/12/2021	Staff to provide presentations for sharing with members via email.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		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		Pending

Action log

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
14	8/12/2021	Staff to bring updates on relevant policies and DCP review to group when available.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending
15	8/12/2021	Staff to revisit action relating to stormwater basin at Kangy Angy rail facility.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending