

Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce Meeting Record (Meeting 13)

Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Date:	17 February 2022	
Time	Started at: 10.00pm	Closed at: 11.25pm
Chair	Dr. Phil Watson	

Members present:

Dr Phil Watson – Chair, David Farmer – Central Coast Council, Casey Johnston – Central Coast Council, Tim Deverell – DPE Crown Lands, Sharon Molloy – DPE Environment, Energy and Science (joined 10.55am).

Observers present:

Brendan Rogers – Adam Crouch MP’s Office, Catherine Knight – DPE Crown Lands, Anthony Oliver – Consulting Surveyor for DPE – Crown Lands, Michelle Fletcher – DPE Environment, Energy and Science (joined 10.55am).

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Adam Crouch MP – State Government (Parliament sitting), Maria Plytariasis – DPE Planning.

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 Taskforce confirmed the minutes from Meeting No.12 held on 18 November 2021. The finalised minutes were also forwarded to the Minister’s Office to comply with reporting requirements in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference (TORs).

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: Catherine Knight advised that Crown Lands investigation into the ownership of the land and the heirs and successors to the estate, has now shifted to an examination of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 and potential acquisition pathways. It is envisaged that key findings from this investigation will be presented to the next Taskforce meeting.

An independent surveyor's report was presented to the Taskforce, regarding the position of the mean high water boundary pertaining to the residual land parcel and the unformed Council road along the foreshore at Wamberal Beach. The report was commissioned by Crown Lands, and key findings and mapping outputs will be made available to Central Coast Council.

- 4.2 Update from Council on site visit to Northern Beaches: Casey Johnston provided an update to the Taskforce on the site visit to Northern Beaches Council and Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach on 9 December 2021 which was attended by Rik Hart (Administrator), David Farmer (CEO), Council staff and Dr Phil Watson (Taskforce Chair). Casey noted it was a great opportunity to candidly share experiences with Northern Beaches Council and appreciate the complex range of issues associated with the approval of beach protection works and implementing key actions in certified coastal zone management plans. Great experience for Council staff to visually appreciate the scale of the construction works currently underway along Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach within the context of the broader beach environment given the media reporting surrounding the site over recent months.

Phil Watson noted that for Central Coast Council moving forward, it is really important to draw on the utility of the certified CZMP and the extent of underpinning studies that will guide decision making and development assessment processes down the track. Phil also advised the importance of getting on the front foot and conditioning the community regarding expectations during construction and more importantly, what the finished product will deliver and how the beach system will look and be managed into the future.

Item 5 Update from the Project Manager

Casey Johnston (Central Coast Council) provided an update as Project Manager.

The following key points were noted:

- Stage 5 Coastal Monitoring Webpage and Stage 6 Cost Benefit Analysis are now complete, finalising the MHL Terminal Protection and Sand Nourishment project. FAQ's have been developed and will accompany the documents for release on Councils Your Voice Our Coast today.
- Council has engaged MHL to develop the Wamberal Minimum Engineering Guidelines (WMEG). Information from the MHL Terminal Protection and Sand Nourishment project and feedback from community consultation phases 1 and 2 will assist in the development of these guidelines. Topics will include engineering specifications, location of asset, maintenance, ownership, waste disposal, planning and environmental legislation and landscaping to name a few. The guidelines will assist property owners preparing coastal protection works development applications and for Council staff assessing them.

Item 6 Update from the Chair

Phil Watson provided an update as Chair of the Taskforce.

The following key points were noted:

- It has been disappointing to observe some recent negative media from a contingent in the community convinced that protection works will result in the loss of the beach at Wamberal. Whilst appreciating the concerns expressed by a wide sector of the community in the immediate aftermath of the July 2020

storm about beach access and the exposure of ad-hoc materials, predictions of comparatively rapid and extensive beach recovery, in the absence of further storms based on long-term knowledge and experience of the Wamberal Beach system have proven accurate.

- The Chair advised he had spent hours with many individuals and groups explaining the nature of physical coastal processes and the performance of protection structures within the Wamberal Beach context. It is unfortunate that some have failed to appreciate the extent of protection works already in existence along the length of Wamberal Beach that have been buried again following the storm impacts in July 2020, owing to the extent of natural beach recovery. In particular over the past 6-12 months the beach system is arguably as wide as it can be within the natural fluctuations of erosion and recovery. In certain beach settings, protection structures can have a very large impact on beach alignment, sand storage and amenity, but this is not generally the case at Wamberal. In addition to the very visible operating model of the Wamberal Beach system during and after recent storm impacts in 2016 and 2020, the technical reports prepared by MHL also bear these results out through scientific rigour and data analysis over a long period of time. The continued proliferation of rhetoric along the lines of "protection will lead to loss of the beach at Wamberal" remains misleading and incorrect in this specific beach setting.
- The Chair also noted that with the clear intention from the outset of this process to position any properly engineer-designed structures as far landward as possible and generally further landward than existing buried ad-hoc works, these can serve only to further enhance the longer-term provision of recreational beach amenity at Wamberal. It is important that Council can draw on all this technical information furnished by MHL that is specific to the Wamberal Beach context.

Item 7 Review Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Chair advised the existing ToR were last updated on 16 March 2021 and are due to be revised and updated by March 2022.

The Chair and David Farmer recently met to discuss how best to refocus the role and utility of the Taskforce moving forward to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of Central Coast Council in changed circumstances. As members are aware, the parameters around this project and its delivery have changed significantly over recent months with landowners seeking to prepare detailed designs and formulate a DA for an integrated form of protection.

The role of the Taskforce has been suggested to pivot from one that has had a strong project management and infrastructure delivery focus to one that coordinates State agency actions to assist Central Coast Council to progress the implementation of the protection and sand nourishment action in the certified CZMP. Key actions will be to progress and finalise the land tenure issues underway by Crown Lands and to understand and integrate the views of DPE Planning (as landowners along Wamberal) regarding proposed protection options in a DA from landowners as they progress. Other issues regarding Government contributions toward funding models, etc would also be considered by the Taskforce when relevant. These issues and the change in focus will require alteration to the current Terms of Reference.

Whilst there is a strong desire to maintain the framework of the Taskforce for the next 12 months, it is suggested that meeting frequency could be pared back to a quarterly basis.

Action: Taskforce members to provide comments on draft revised ToR back to the Chair by COB 25 February 2022.

Item 8 General Business, Review of Task Log, Next Meeting Date and Close

The Taskforce reviewed the task log and noted all outstanding prior actions have now been completed.

The meeting closed at 11.25am

Next Meetings: May 2022
Time/Date TBC
Microsoft Teams

Minutes finalised and endorsed 10 March 2022.



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.	Pending