

Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons Meeting Record 16 March 2021



Location:	Zoom Meeting
Date:	16 March 2021
Time	Started at: 2:03pm Closed at: 4:00pm
Chair	Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management
File Ref	F2018/00097

Present

Ian Carruthers, Andrew Jones, Adrian Williams, Michael Alsop (non-voting)

External Representatives present:

Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Carla Sbrocchi – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning, Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Catchments to Coast, James Lawson – Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning, Parissa Ghanem – Team Leader, Floodplain Management, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Warren Brown – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Amy Walpole – Personal Assistant to Unit Manager (Minute Taker)

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Michael Kilp, Jenny McCulla, Samantha Willis

The Chairperson welcomed the Advisory Group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Members were previously notified via email that Jenny McCulla resigned from the Advisory Group on 18 February 2021. In accordance with Section 4 of the Terms of Reference the casual vacancy will not be filled as there is less than nine months left in the current Council term.

Item 2 Disclosure of Interest

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 24 November 2020.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log, with staff providing an update on pending items.

Item 4 Update on Coastal Management

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Catchments to Coast) provided a presentation on coastal management, noting recent events and project updates.

The below key points were noted:

- Update on scoping studies:
 - Looking to launch a combined engagement piece on Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) on Your Voice Our Coast on 30 March 2021.
 - Hawkesbury Nepean w/ Brisbane Water Estuary – Applications for Funding Stage 2 submitted on 2 December 2020, still awaiting outcome.
 - Hawkesbury Nepean CMP Scoping Study is nearing completion. Revised draft is being reviewed by Council and DPIE staff, with a final copy expected to be done by end of March 2021.
 - Tuggerah Lakes Estuary CMP Scoping Study is being completed in-house. Workshopping with internal stakeholders, agency reps and experts scheduled for March 2021.
 - Lake Macquarie CMP being prepared by Lake Macquarie City Council. Stage 1 has been completed.

The Advisory Group discussed a Vision Statement for the CMPs. The below was supported for inclusion. This will also be discussed with the other Catchments and Coast Committee on Thursday 18 March 2021:

'Achieve a healthy and sustainable coastal zone for the whole of the Central Coast both now and into the future, encompassing natural assets, community well-being and resilience'

Action: Link to CMP public exhibition info to be shared with Advisory Group members once live.

Item 5 Update on Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Catchments to Coast) provided an update on the Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (WSAT).

The below key points were noted:

- Update on scoping studies:
 - Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) have been engaged to provide technical reports which include six stages.
 - Phase 1 community consultation was launched 9 November 2020. summary report is available on Council's Your Voice Our Coast website. <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/project-stage/wamberal-beach-terminal-protection-and-sand-nourishment-investigation-and-concept>
 - Phase 2 engagement has been delayed until late April/May 2021 as related technical reports and draft concept designs are still being prepared.
 - Project update also went to Council at [9 March 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting](#). Reiterated that no decisions have been made as consultation is ongoing.
 - Taskforce tenure has been extended by 12 months.

Item 6 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning) provided an overview of the current flood and stormwater studies being undertaken.

The below key points were noted:

- Provided status updates on current Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plans (FRMSP) and other flood studies.
- Davistown and Empire Bay FRMSP is currently on public exhibition until 26 March 2021 on Your Voice Our Coast: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/DEBFloodplain>
- Member noted concern about State Government proposal to widen Empire Bay Drive with regard to possible issues with run off.

Item 7 Future Planning for Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning) provided an update on Council planning for climate change and sea level rise.

The below key points were noted:

- DPIE completed a report [Practical Considerations of Climate Change](https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/floodplains/floodplain-guidelines) in 2007 as part of their Floodplain Risk Management Guidelines, which are available on the DPIE website: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/floodplains/floodplain-guidelines>
- Central Coast Council adopted a Climate Change Policy in 2018, which is on Council's policy website: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/forms-and-publications/policies>
- Council is currently drafting a Sea Level Rise Policy for the whole Central Coast LGA.
- Member suggested including further information around flood/floor level with regard to development considerations.

Action: Staff to consider revised wording in Flood Certificates with regard to minimum floor level as discussed.

Item 8 General Business and Close

- Members flagged concerns about the implications of Council's current financial situation and the effect on resourcing and projects. Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) advised staff are prioritising projects as best as possible, but there will be some service level reductions given the decrease in resources available.
- It was noted there's a report going to Council on 23 March 2021 regarding some changes to Advisory Groups, which involves consolidation of some groups including this one. Members noted general support of combining the two Catchment and Coast Committees, but noted consideration will need to be given to timing/format of meetings to ensure matters can be discussed sufficiently.

The meeting closed at 4pm

**Next Meeting: June 2021
To be confirmed**