

# Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons Meeting Record 24 November 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting
Date:	24 November 2020
Time	Started at: 2.04pm Closed at: 3.54pm
Chair	Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning
File Ref	F2018/00097

## **Present**

Ian Carruthers, Jenny McCulla, Adrian Williams, Samantha Willis (arrived 2.52pm), Michael Alsop (non-voting)

## **External Representatives present:**

Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (arrived 2.18pm), Jaimie Potts – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Peter Scanes – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (arrived 3.08pm)

## **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, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Warren Brown – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Kellie Langford – Senior Coastal Management Officer, Melanie James – Estuary Management Officer, Arun Looman – Environmental Monitoring Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

## **Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies**

---

Apologies received: Andrew Jones, Michael Kilp, Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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

## **Item 2 Disclosure of Interest**

---

No disclosures were received.

## **Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

---

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 25 August 2020.

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

Regarding Action 37 (responsibility for dredging in Brisbane Water), staff met with State representatives on 30 October 2020 to discuss the matter. Ettalong Channel is listed as a Key Investment Location in the [NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy](#) so the State manages dredging programs. Locations not identified as Key Investment Locations are managed at the discretion of local Councils. Members noted concerns for funds in current budget allocated to dredging, given Council's current financial situation.

**Action:** Staff to provide bathymetric survey for Ettalong Channel, and seek written confirmation of meeting discussions held with State Government representatives.

#### **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:
  - Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons: Stage 1 underway by Royal Haskoning. Stages 2-4 expected throughout 2021 following Council endorsement of scoping study.
  - Lower Hawkesbury w/Brisbane Water Estuary: Stage 1 endorsed by Council in October 2020. Final briefs for Stage 2 underway. Applications for Coast and Estuary Grant being drafted for Stage 2 – to be lodged by lead Council (Hornsby Shire).
  - Tuggerah Lakes Estuary: Scoping study underway – target completion for end of December 2020. Expert Panel report also due December 2020 with findings to be incorporated into study.
- Lake Macquarie CMP: Stage 1 almost complete. Council staff liaising with Lake Macquarie City Council to ensure communication and engagement for locals.
- Wamberal Beach Terminal Protection Program:
  - Coastal engineering and economic studies underway to consider long-term solutions for Wamberal Beach erosion with consideration of certified Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP).
  - Council resolved to progress with concept designs for seawall on 29 January 2019.
  - Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) engaged May 2020 to complete coastal protection assessments, develop concept plans and updated cost benefit and distribution analysis. Draft reports on track to be completed by year end, with Stage 2 consultation to begin early 2021.
  - Phase 1 engagement launched 9 November 2020 on Council's website. Info here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>
  - Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce established 31 July 2020 to help manage outcomes and provide support to Council for project. Taskforce meets monthly and meeting papers are available online: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/wamberal-seawall-advisory-taskforce>
  - Members noted concerns about public engagement and the impacts of social media, particularly regarding clarification of cost responsibility for project. CZMP doesn't identify funding model but MHL cost benefit and distribution analysis will address this.

**Action:** Staff to check with Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce if Phase 2 engagement will include cost models for project and provide update to Advisory Group.

## **Item 5 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management**

---

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning) provided an update on flood and stormwater management.

The below key points were noted:

- Status of current flood projects and Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plans (FRMSP):
  - Overland flood studies for Brisbane Water Catchments (Point Clare, Tascott, Koolewong, Green Point): in final stages of processing.
  - Overland flood studies for Coastal Lagoon Catchments (Avoca, Cockrone, Terrigal, Wamberal): completed. Flood maps shown for 1% AEP flood depths with recommendations from study.
  - Woy Woy Peninsula FRMSP: Stage 5 report for technical review. Also includes Everglades Catchment Study and Climate Adaptation Landform Case Study (50% completed).
  - Davistown and Empire Bay FRMSP: public exhibition now scheduled for February 2021. Climate Adaptation Landform Case Study also completed and incorporated into FRMSP.
  - Narara Creek FRMSP: draft under review.
- Flood certificates provided to people building houses to educate about flood risks and development constraints. Members noted it's important that flood maps consider climate change and risks with sea level rise, rather than relying on previous flood data for future planning.

## **Item 6 Encroachment on Riparian Areas (Action 30)**

---

James Lawson (Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure) provided a verbal update on encroachments in riparian areas.

The below key points were noted:

- Encroachments have accumulative impact on environment, regardless of if they are deliberate or not. Important to manage to ensure longevity of natural assets.
- Regarding concerns over encroachments near Kahiba Creek, staff liaised with landholders and completed boundary survey in March 2020. Plan is to provide engagement program to improve understanding of encroachment impacts and build relationships with property owners to help manage.
- Encroachment Policy is being prepared and interim Encroachment Register is used in meantime to record occurrences.
- There are concerns about items left in creek area and filling of adjacent properties which may exacerbate flooding. It seems that as quick as materials are removed in area, more items are added.
- Gardening/mowing is also concern for long-term. Encroachment Policy will consider this – education is key part of work being undertaken.

## **Item 7 Consideration of Inviting Wamberal Residents to Future Meetings**

---

The Advisory Group discussed the below Council Resolution from 27 July 2020, regarding coastal erosion at Wamberal Beach.

*718/20 That Council invite expressions of interest from affected residents to be considered to join the Coast and Catchments Committee (Brisbane Waters).*

Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) provided background to the issue, noting the Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce was established shortly after the Resolution and considers community engagement a priority.

Advisory Group members agreed there is no need to invite residents to join the Advisory Group given the work undertaken by the Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce overlaps and engagement works are planned. It was instead requested that the Project Manager be invited to Advisory Group meetings to provide updates on the project.

**Action:** Update on Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce to be standing item on future agendas, with Paul Donaldson (Project Manager) to attend meetings.

**Recommendation:** That Council note the Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons considered inviting affected residents to meetings in accordance with Resolution 718/20, but believes this is superseded by the Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce.

## **Item 8            General Business and Close**

---

- a) Stormwater outlet issue in Hardys Bay continues. Staff are planning other site inspections so will investigate creek as part of trip.

**Action:** Staff to liaise with Adrian Williams regarding site inspection at Hardys Bay.

- b) Concerns raised over pollution event in South Kincumber and Council's capacity to follow up with EPA regarding such matters. Staff confirmed members are welcome to flag issues but Council has no authority over EPA.
- c) Staff advised there are multiple key projects currently on public exhibition which may be of interest:
- o Winney Bay Clifftop Walk Phase 2 – <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wbw2>
  - o Terrigal Lagoon Trail - <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/terrigan-lagoon-trail>
- d) Central Coast Council awarded numerous awards for environmental management:
- o Water Report Card won NSW Local Government's RH Dougherty Award for category "reporting to your community" (for LGAs over 70,000 people).
  - o Overall Winner for Environmental Health Management Award at NSW Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards 2020. Awarded for Terrigal and coastal lagoons audit and water quality improvement program.
- e) Concerns raised that flood mapping and assessment of developments don't sufficiently address climate change considerations. Staff noted a Sea Level Rise Policy is currently being drafted.

**Action:** 'Future planning for climate change and sea level rise' to be added to next agenda.

The meeting closed at 3.54pm

**Next Meeting:            February 2021 (TBC)**