

Minutes

Catchments to Coast Advisory Committee

Date: 2 June 2021

Time: 2.01pm – 5.07pm

Location: Microsoft Teams / Wyong Committee Room

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

Petra Horwood

Andrew Jones

Michael Kilp

Laurie Lewington

David Mylan

Marlene Pennings

Adrian Williams

Sam Willis

Status:

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present (left 3.56pm)

Present

Present (joined 2.38pm)

Present (joined 2.45pm)

Present

Absent

Apology

Apology

Apology

Present

External agencies:

Neil Kelleher, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Present

Richard Murphy, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Present

Carla Sbrocchi, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Present

Staff:

Scott Cox, Director Environment and Planning

Present

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

Warren Brown, Senior Estuary Management Officer

Present

Melanie James, Estuary Management Officer

Present

Zoie Magann, Meeting Support Officer

Present

1 Introduction

2.01pm

The chairperson welcomed everyone and noted this group is a consolidation of the former Catchment and Coast Committees ([Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons/Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee](#) and [Tuggerah Lakes](#)). Members briefly introduced themselves.

Apologies received and members absent without apology were noted. Members were advised of the resignation of Bob Davies, who served on the Tuggerah Lakes group. Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) noted thanks for Bob's contributions over the years, and advised membership to be further discussed in general business.

Action: Letter to be sent to Bob Davies on behalf of the advisory group to thank for service.

The chairperson completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

The chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. No disclosures were received.

2 Update on Council's current status

2.23pm

Luke Sulkowski noted updates on Council's status continue to be shared online via Council's website and social media channels.

3 Previous business

2.25pm

The group confirmed the minutes of previous meetings noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

- [Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee meeting held 24 November 2020](#)
- [Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons meeting held 16 March 2021](#)
- [Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes meeting held 18 March 2021](#)

The action logs were reviewed with updates recorded (see page 7).

4 Update on coastal management

2.30pm

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Catchments to Coast) provided updates on coastal management, including the following key points.

- Provided status overview of Coastal Management Programs (CMPs), which are open for consultation until 15 June 2021. Details here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/waterways>
- Outcomes of Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel report are being considered as part of CMP project. Summary document of report is being put together and printed copies will be made available.
- Terminal protection at Wamberal Beach still being explored, as well as options for sand nourishment. Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL) studies are nearing completion and will be placed on Your Voice Our Coast soon. Last meeting of Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce was 16 March 2021 ([minutes online here](#)).
- Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Study is ongoing with details available online here: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/environment/coastlines/estuaries-lagoons-and-wetlands/tuggerah-lakes-estuary>.

Action: Members to be notified once MHL reports for Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Study are available.

Melanie James (Estuary Management Officer) provided an overview of the Terrigal water quality audit, including the following key points:

- Audit is progressing with details available online here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/tcla>
- 95% works completed for high risk infrastructure (expected to be complete this financial year).
- Water and Sewer works delayed due to focus on IPART submission due in September 2021, which determines what can be done in 2022-26 for entire region (separate to rate rise process). Community members can make submissions to IPART directly.
- Next audit update from Water and Sewer will likely be available October/November 2021.
- Good news that supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system is getting an upgrade (sewer stations use this to monitor performance) which has benefit for entire region.
- Risk framework for sewer rising mains is being developed to complement intervention plan and prioritise infrastructure investment in region.

Luke Sulkowski noted a [previous Council resolution](#) to extend the tenure of the former Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee until end of July 2021, which is superseded by the group consolidation. Given the status of the audit and limited time to discuss location specific matters in this group, staff will explore options for a working group for Terrigal water quality.

Action: Staff to explore option for establishing working group for Terrigal water quality and notify members accordingly.

5 Update on coastal and catchment operations

3.35pm

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

- Significant flood clean-up has occurred since March 2021 storms. Early weather warnings allowed staff to prepare (opening lagoons and berm lowering). Numerous areas affected by debris with removal still occurring.
- Wrack collection is ongoing. High amount of wrack in Tuggerah foreshore area – there are challenges with access for collection. Currently trending just below KPI for wrack removal program (8,000m³ per year) due to focus on storm response and impact on resources. KPI for next year likely to be reduced given Council's current status. Need to refine processes and consider strategic approach (rather than reactive) to wrack management in line with recommendations from Tuggerah Lakes Expert Panel.
- Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) in constructed wetlands have been cleaned (approx. 520 tonnes of material removed). Noted GPTs have significant financial implications given ongoing operating costs and targets need to be considered given current situation.
- Staff recently met with EPA and Adam Crouch MP to discuss future of dredging program and applicable licenses. Operations to tie in with findings of entrance management strategies and consider where dredged material is to be placed.

Scott Cox (Director Environment and Planning) noted there are significant budget cuts across Council and the community voice is important at this time to guide operational plans and expenditure given limited resources.

6 Update on flood and stormwater management

3.53pm

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy) and Parissa Ghanem (Team Leader Floodplain Management) provided updates on flood and stormwater management, including the following key points.

- Provided status overview of current Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plans (FRMSP) and flood studies, noting most near completion. Grants for projects continue to be applied for. Details about projects are available online: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/floodplain>.

Action: Staff to upload the Coastal Lagoons Overland Flood Study to Council's website and share link with members once available.

- Provided overview of impacts on flood planning given recently announced State Government flood-prone land package. Details here: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/flood-prone-land-package>.

Action: Staff to confirm if flood planning changes will impact DAs lodged prior to 14 July 2021 awaiting approval.

- Flood classification levels for moderate and major floods are being reviewed for amendment (needs approval from Federal and State Government bodies). Changes would mean March 2021 event would be considered moderate flood rather than minor. Members flagged impact that flood classification levels have on insurance policies.
- Members provided further feedback on wording in flood certificates regarding action 47.
- Provided overview of comprehensive LGA wide hazard mapping with regard to State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP).

Action: Staff to explore opportunity to map areas and include them in the Exempt and Complying SEPP as areas where the SEPP is "switched off".

- There are 5 GPT upgrade projects occurring across region (2x Blue Haven, 1x Buff Point, 1x Gwandalan, 1x Wamberal), which are already funded in the current program.
- Good news: Council received Highly Commended Award for Floodplain Risk Management Project of the year from Floodplain Management Australia. Awarded for the Davistown and Empire Bay Climate Change Adaptation Study.

Members raised concerns about erosion in some local creeks with sandy clay soils. Luke Sulkowski advised staff will follow up offline but that it's best to raise service requests with customer service at time of incident to allow timely action from relevant team.

7 General business

4.39pm

Parissa Ghanem provided an update on Porters Creek Wetland, including the following key points.

- Consultant has been engaged to develop Porters Creek Wetland Catchment Stormwater Modelling, Revegetation Plan and Monitoring Plan. Objective is to build stronger nature-based solutions to attract developer contributions. Noted that current s94 contributions are based on previous water harvesting plan that is not being pursued.

- Council previously resolved to progress a conservation agreement for Warnervale including protection of Porters Creek Wetland at the [25 November 2019 meeting](#). This was since suspended at the [13 April 2021 meeting](#) until matter of subdivision is resolved. Members raised concerns about the future of the wetland at cost of Warnervale airport.

Action: Staff to provide update on masterplan for airport with regard to future of wetland.

Regarding membership, Luke Sulkowski noted vacancies for the group will not be filled at this stage given the high number of members following consolidation – no objections were received. Staff will follow up with members absent from this meeting to confirm interest in the group.

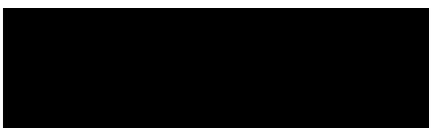
Petra Horwood advised she likely won't be available for future meetings but is still interested in the working group for Terrigal water quality.

8 Close

Next meeting: Wednesday 8 September 2021
 2pm – 5pm
 Microsoft Teams

Meeting closed at 5.07pm

Minutes finalised and endorsed 4 June 2021.



Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager Environmental
Management
Chairperson / Coordinator

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	2/6/21: Update on Porters Creek Wetland to be standing item on agenda until further notice	Standing agenda item
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	Standing agenda item
17 (Terrigal)	24/11/2020	Staff to check in with beach safety team to discuss options for swimmer safety information (particularly following wet weather), and provide update to members via email before year end.	Estuary Management Officer	2/6/21: Staff discussed signage info with lifeguards – this has implications for all beaches across region. Beachwatch data should be referred to.	Complete
18 (Terrigal)	24/11/2020	Staff to assess wet weather data availability for modelling and to consider how this information could be provided to swimmers.	Estuary Management Officer	2/6/21: There is already info available about when people shouldn't swim in line with legislation and government recommendations. Beachwatch data should be referred to.	Complete
19 (Terrigal)	24/11/2020	Staff to keep Sub-Committee updated regarding Audit progress and timeline with consideration to Council's current financial situation.	Estuary Management Officer	2/6/21: Update provided at 2 June 2021 meeting. Next update from Water & Sewer for audit expected Oct/Nov 2021.	Complete
47 (Tuggerah Lakes)	16/03/2021	Staff to consider revised wording in Flood Certificates with regard to minimum floor level as discussed.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy	2/6/21: Wording workshopped at 2 June 2021 meeting.	Complete

Action log

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Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
1	2/06/2021	Letter to be sent to Bob Davies on behalf of the advisory group to thank for service.	Meeting Support Officer		Pending
2	2/06/2021	Members to be notified once MHL reports for Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Study are available.	Section Manager Catchments to Coast		Pending
3	2/06/2021	Staff to explore option for establishing working group for Terrigal water quality and notify members accordingly.	Unit Manager Environmental Management		Pending
4	2/06/2021	Staff to upload the Coastal Lagoons Overland Flood Study to Council's website and share link with members once available.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		Pending
5	2/06/2021	Staff to confirm if flood planning changes will impact DAs lodged prior to 14 July 2021 awaiting approval.	Section Manager Flood Planning and Strategy		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		Pending
7	2/06/2021	Staff to provide update on masterplan for airport with regard to future of wetland.	Unit Manager Economic Development and Property		Pending