

Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce Meeting Record (Meeting 5)

Location:	Microsoft Teams
Date:	8 December 2020
Time:	Started at: 2.31pm Closed at: 3.59 pm
Chair:	Dr Phil Watson

Members present:

Phil Watson, Adam Crouch MP – State Government (joined 2.38pm), Scott Cox – Central Coast Council (on behalf of Rik Hart, left 3.58pm), Paul Donaldson – Central Coast Council, Sonya Errington – DPIE Environment Energy and Science (on behalf of Sharon Molloy), Rob Micheli – DPIE Crown Land (on behalf of Jamie Murray), Maria Plytarias – DPIE Planning.

Observers present:

Hon. Shelley Hancock MP – Minister for Local Government , Michelle Fletcher – Minister Hancock’s Office (left 3.36pm), Ben Sheath – Adam Crouch MP’s Office (joined 2.38pm), Luke Sikora – Minister Hancock’s Office, Zoie Magann – Central Coast Council (Minute Taker).

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Rik Hart – Central Coast Council, Sharon Molloy – DPIE Environment Energy and Science, Jamie Murray – DPIE Crown Land.

The Chair welcomed the Taskforce and completed an Acknowledgement of Country. It was noted the meeting would not be recorded as done so previously.

It was noted that Malcolm Ryan will be representing Central Coast Council as the Chief Operating Officer in place of Rik Hart (Acting Chief Executive Officer) moving forward.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Taskforce confirmed the minutes from Meeting 4 held 10 November 2020, which were distributed to members on 24 November 2020. The finalised minutes were also forwarded to the Minister’s Office to comply with reporting requirements in accordance the adopted Terms of Reference (TORs).

Item 4 Address to the Taskforce by the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government

Item deferred to follow Item 6. Followed by Item 7.

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP (Minister for Local Government) addressed the Taskforce to thank Taskforce members and Council's project team for their efforts progressing a long-term solution for Wamberal Beach since the inception of the Taskforce.

Minister Hancock emphasised the need to continue building on the strong recent community engagement around this project and looked forward to further progress during 2021.

Item 5 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Item moved forward to follow Item 3. Followed by Item 6.

The Taskforce discussed outstanding matters arising from previous meetings as summarised below.

- 5.1 Grant variation submission: Paul Donaldson (Central Coast Council) advised grant variation is expected to be submitted this week.
- 5.2 Approvals pathway offshore structures: Maria Plytariasis (DPIE Planning) will provide a written update offline for distribution to members.
- 5.3 Update on management of residual coastal land parcels: Phil Watson advised a meeting was held 27 November 2020 with Crown Lands to discuss this matter, involving Lynne Sheridan as new Executive Director for DPIE Crown Lands. Land status will be updated by Crown Lands and further legal advice will need to be sought. Further updates will be provided to the Taskforce as the matter progresses.

Item 6 Update from the Project Manager

Paul Donaldson (Central Coast Council) provided an update as the Project Manager.

The following key points were noted:

- Project accomplishments and challenges over the past month were summarised.
- Phase 1 Community Consultation completed in collaboration with Council and State Government. Phase 2 expected to commence February/March 2021. Information continues to be made available on Council's website (<https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>).
- Results from Phase 1 Community Consultation were commended:
 - 94 community members attended physical drop-in sessions
 - 15 questions posted on online Q&A board
 - 24,000+ social media users reached
 - 1,841 visits to Council website
 - 15+ phone calls from interested stakeholders
 - 8 people participated in virtual drop-in sessions
 - 578 people completed Wamberal Beach Values and Uses Survey
- Key themes across engagement collated to provide insight into what the community believes are important factors to ensuring long-term solutions for erosion at Wamberal Beach.

- Common ground amongst community is the desire for a sandy beach, addressing the erosion issue at Wamberal Beach and avoiding costly emergency responses resulting in rock and rubble being placed on the beach.
- Phase 1 consultation report expected to be complete January 2021 to provide summary and results of engagement. This will be made available on Councils website.
- Draft report completed for Stage 3 of MHL Study (Draft Seawall Concept Design). Council to review. Drafts for Stages 2 and 4 expected by year end. Other stages progressing.
- Stage 3 MHL report includes five seawall concepts, designed to engineering standards and best practice principles. Seawall alignments are comparable with previous seawall plan. Preferred option is yet to be determined. Stakeholders still need to review options and provide feedback (including community consultation).
- Taskforce commended engagement methods and reiterated importance of keeping community updated and removing uncertainties/confusion about project.

Action: Paul Donaldson to liaise with senior staff to consider circulating preliminary consultation and community survey results with the Taskforce.

Item 7 Update from the Chair

Phil Watson provided update as Chair.

The following key points were noted:

- Phil met with Council's Administrator and Chief Operating Officer to discuss future of Taskforce given Council's current financial situation. Noted that Council plans to continue with the Wamberal initiatives, given importance of securing long-term solution for Wamberal Beach, and financial costs associated with alternative being 'management by emergency'.
- Phil congratulated Council on the commitment to the recent drop-in and online virtual engagement sessions, which from his perspective enabled all sectors of the community to express their views, take advice and learn more about what's proposed moving forward. Having attended the sessions he observed an overwhelming sense of importance in maintaining the utility of the beach system which has always been a centrepiece of the plans moving forward along with an appropriate level of engineer designed protection. Both are achievable and one will not be delivered without the other. These sessions also highlighted the extent of misleading information which persists in the community about the role, function and impacts of seawalls within the specific context of the physical coastal processes operating along Wamberal Beach. This will need to be a focus for improved information on Council's website moving forward to augment the information already available.
- Phil thanked fellow Taskforce members for ongoing efforts and commitment to the project.
- Potential sand sources for beach nourishment continue to be considered and updates will be shared with Taskforce as available.

Action: Phil Watson to support Council with technical review MHL coastal engineering and economics study, and provide feedback for consideration prior to finalisation of reports.

Action: Phil Watson to meet with Chief Operating Officer (Malcolm Ryan) to discuss project resourcing and more specific details in the wake of the recent Administrator's 30-day Interim Report.

Item 8 CMP Options / Pathways for Wamberal – Terrigal Beach

Paul provided update on the status of Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) being prepared for Councils coastal zone. CMP options and pathways including for Wamberal – Terrigal Beach were discussed.

The following key points were noted:

- Council's project team have been liaising with internal stakeholders about CMP options and how to progress with priorities. CMP pathways can look different from site to site, depending on a range of factors. Timing is important in some cases, as CMPs ensure that the implementation of projects within certified CMPs can be funded in 2022 and beyond.
- Taskforce agreed best approach is to focus on completing the MHL studies and current community engagement work, which is the priority. Following this process, a Wamberal - Terrigal CMP can then be progressed and 'fast-tracked' due to the advanced level of information which will then be available to support the preferred actions moving forward.

Item 9 General Business, Review of Task Log, Next Meeting Date and Close

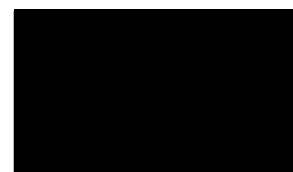
- Phil Watson and Paul Donaldson met with Wamberal Protection Association on 17 November 2020. Primary concerns remain consistent in ensuring community consultation is key priority of the project at present.
- Noted updated Terms of Reference have been uploaded to Council's website as previously requested to allow for publication of minutes.

Action: Paul Donaldson to invite MHL consultants to next meeting to provide update on progress.

The meeting closed at 3.59pm

Next Meetings: Late January 2021 (TBC)
2.30pm – 4pm
Microsoft Teams

Minutes finalised and endorsed 22 December 2020.



Dr Phil Watson
Chair
Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce

Enc. Action Log.

Action Number	Meeting Date	Group Name	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Date Action Completed	Status
4	11/08/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson and Gary Murphy to meet monthly (or on as needs basis) with affected landowners' representatives	Phil Watson / Gary Murphy (CCC)	Ongoing		Standing Agenda Item
14	8/09/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson/Gary Murphy to circulate draft Coastal Erosion Policy to Taskforce members out of session.	Paul Donaldson (CCC) / Gary Murphy (CCC)	13/10: still underway - awaiting outcomes of MHL study		Pending
17	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson to confirm submission of grant variation in accordance with advice provided by DPIE regarding community consultation and resources for project management.	Paul Donaldson (CCC)	8/12: grant variation to be submitted this week		Pending
18	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Maria Plytarias to forward info on offshore structures to Chair for circulation prior to next meeting.	Maria Plytarias (DPIE)	8/12: info to be circulated out of session	15/12/2020	Complete
19	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson to provide update on potential sand sources following discussions with HCCDC contact.	Paul Donaldson (CCC)			Standing Agenda Item
26	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson to finalise Project Plan and Governance Plan endorsed by Council	Paul Donaldson (CCC)			Pending
27	10/11/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson to provide an update at the next meeting regarding management of private coastal lands, following further discussions with DPIE Crown Lands and <u>any relevant stakeholders</u> .	Phil Watson/Jamie Murray	Update provided at 8 December meeting	8/12/2020	Complete
28	10/11/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Sharon Molloy and Phil Watson to consider any further stakeholders to be involved in community drop-in sessions and pass information to Paul Donaldson.	Sharon Molloy (DPIE) / Phil Watson			Complete
29	10/11/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson to share link to Council's project engagement page with relevant community members <u>and organisations</u> .	Phil Watson			Complete
30	8/12/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson to liaise with senior staff for consideration and approval of presentation being <u>provided on website</u> .	Paul Donaldson			Pending
31	8/12/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson to support Council with technical review MHL coastal engineering and economics study, and provide feedback for consideration prior to finalisation of <u>reports</u> .	Phil Watson			Pending
32	8/12/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson to meet with Chief Operating Officer (Malcolm Ryan) to discuss project resourcing and more specific details in the wake of the recent Administrator's <u>30-day Interim Report</u> .	Paul Donaldson			Pending
33	8/12/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson to invite MHL consultants to next meeting to provide update on progress.	Paul Donaldson			Pending