

Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce Meeting Record (Meeting 10)

Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Date:	7 September 2021	
Time	Started at: 9.32am	Closed at: 10.41am
Chair	Dr. Phil Watson	

Members present:

Dr Phil Watson – Chair, Adam Crouch MP – State Government, David Farmer – Central Coast Council (left 10.30am), Casey Johnston – Central Coast Council, Catherine Knight – DPIE Crown Lands (on behalf of Greg Sullivan), Sharon Molloy – DPIE Environment Energy and Science, Maria Plytarias – DPIE Planning.

Observers present:

Michelle Fletcher – DPIE Environment Energy and Science, Scott Cox – Central Coast Council (left 10.30am), Zoie Magann – Central Coast Council (Minute Taker)

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Greg Sullivan – DPIE Crown Lands

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 9 held on 3 August 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 the residual parcel is not referenced in probate documents acquired. Crown Lands are awaiting legal advice about if the parcel would default to Crown Lands without an identified owner. A surveyor has been engaged to review lot boundaries of foreshore parcels from Wamberal Lagoon to Terrigal Lagoon. This will help determine management options and applicable legislation for the relevant parcels.
- 4.2 Update on NSW Government / Council sand nourishment discussions: Phil Watson advised no update since last meeting and noted that as time passes without further advice from Transport for NSW, the likelihood of the beneficial re-use of the tunnelling spoil for sand nourishment purposes

diminishes. Phil advised he was disappointed that the prospective benefitting Council's had worked tirelessly to be able to move on this opportunity (if it were to proceed) but have not been advised or updated for a considerable period now. disappointed that Council hasn't followed up with Transport NSW regarding the opportunity. If this opportunity doesn't progress, there are other opportunities emerging on the horizon as potential sand nourishment sources.

- 4.3 Update on procedures around approvals with view to progress a preferred option by year end following phase 2 community consultation: Scott Cox advised staff are working on a detailed project plan but still need clarification about who is responsible for any works. Noted consent authority will likely be by the Local Planning Panel or Regional Planning Panel. Approval process also depends on the option selected as each has different implications regarding land tenure (e.g. if a structure is built on Council land, Crown land, privately owned land, or a combination thereof).

It was noted there are no actions in the certified Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) regarding Council building a seawall. Regarding concerns about project costs and the CZMP, funding opportunities under the 'planning' stream of DPIE's Coastal and Estuary Grant Program will be ongoing even when funding under the CZMP ceases as of 31 December 2021.

Members reiterated that tight planning is required for success. First step is to decide on preferred option as that will determine cost, then figure out the cost model. Also need to keep community informed about how this is progressing along the way.

Action: Casey Johnston to review project plan with Phil Watson and bring to next Taskforce meeting.

- 4.4 Update on project timelines: updates provided as part of previous items.
- 4.5 Outcome of meetings with CEO/Minister: Minister Hancock met with Council's Administrator and CEO and discussed implications of the cessation of the CZMP at the end of the year and the urgency of resolving this long-standing issue.

Item 5 Update from the Project Manager

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

The following key points were noted:

- Phase 2 community consultation is complete with the summary report expected end of September 2021. Participants were able to pre-submit questions to be addressed at info sessions, where Council staff and project consultants provided detailed presentations. Unfortunately there were only around 21 people who attended across all sessions, noting these were run at different times across days to cater busy schedules.
- The [social pinpoint map](#) and survey links are still active on [YourVoiceOurCoast](#). Interesting to note that the vertical wall options (options 3 and 4) have not received any "likes" although other feedback from the community suggests this is the preferred option due to low impact on beach amenity. Adam Crouch MP noted it would be beneficial to see an overhead perspective of the options to easily compare impact on beach. This was addressed in the presentation provided at info sessions, but staff will consider making the information available on the YourVoiceOurCoast page also.

- A finalised Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) is expected end of September 2021. Plan is to add the CBA to the YourVoiceOurCoast page to allow community to review and provide feedback.
- Members agreed it's important to remember the existing environment at Wamberal Beach is not a prime example of a healthy, vegetated dune. It requires significant ad hoc/emergency works which are often unsightly and not in line with community interests.

Action: Casey Johnston to distribute presentation provided at info sessions to Taskforce members and explore making similar information available on the YourVoiceOurCoast page.

Item 6 Update from the Chair

Phil Watson provided an update as Chair of the Taskforce.

The following key points were noted:

- Phil and Adam Crouch MP met with the Wamberal Protection Association on 11 August 2021 regarding Phase 2 consultation and the MHL reports. The meeting was extremely productive and highlighted a range of central issues which were shared with all Taskforce members on 12 August 2021.
- The tenure of the Taskforce will need to be considered. Its term was extended by a further 12 months to February 2022, to assist Council through 2021 whilst the CZMP remained active. Whilst there is a considerable body of work still to be done to progress an outcome for Wamberal, it is noted the Taskforce will (in accordance with its current Terms of Reference) be dissolved at the end of February 2022.

Action: Phil Watson, David Farmer and Adam Crouch MP to meet to discuss the role of the Taskforce moving forward and any changes to tenure.

Item 7 General Business, Review of Task Log, Next Meeting Date and Close

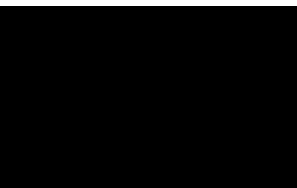
Members thanked Casey Johnston and commended work of the consultants for Phase 2 community consultation.

The Taskforce reviewed the task log and noted action updates (see page 4).

The meeting closed at 10.41am

**Next Meetings: 14 October 2021 (TBC)
10.30-12.00pm (TBC)
Microsoft Teams**

Minutes finalised and endorsed 24 September 2021.



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 Council representative to meet monthly (or on as needs basis) with affected landowners' representatives	Phil Watson / Central Coast Council (CCC)	Meetings occur as required	Ongoing
26	13/10/2020	Paul Donaldson to finalise Project Plan and Governance Plan endorsed by Council	Casey Johnston (CCC)	Superseded by action 46	Closed
41	3/08/2021	Casey Johnston to explore options for mailout notice to local residents for phase 2 community consultation to complement online piece.	Casey Johnston (CCC)	Casey confirmed letter box drop was completed in immediate area, including local cafes and the surf club	Complete
42	3/08/2021	Casey Johnston and Phil Watson to work through project timeline before next Taskforce meeting.	Casey Johnston (CCC) / Phil Watson	Update provided at 7 September 2021 meeting	Complete
43	3/08/2021	Phil Watson, Adam Crouch and David Farmer to meet to discuss Council's financial situation with regard to future planning and funding opportunities for protection works at Wamberal Beach.	Phil Watson / Adam Crouch MP / David Farmer	Superseded by meeting between Minister Hancock, Rik Hart (Administrator) and David Farmer (CEO)	Closed
44	3/08/2021	Phil Watson and Adam Crouch to meet with Minister Hancock to discuss priority matters in preparation for CZMP ceasing.	Phil Watson / Adam Crouch MP	Superseded by meeting between Minister Hancock, Rik Hart (Administrator) and David Farmer (CEO)	Closed
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 to be provided at October 2021 meeting	Pending
46	7/09/2021	Casey Johnston to review project plan with Phil Watson and bring to next Taskforce meeting.	Casey Johnston (CCC) / Phil Watson		

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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)		
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)		