

# Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce Meeting Record (Meeting 4)

Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Date:	10 November 2020	
Time	Started at: 2.33pm	Closed at: 3.36pm
Chair	Dr. Phil Watson	

## **Members present:**

Phil Watson, Adam Crouch MP – State Government (joined 3.27pm), Paul Donaldson – Central Coast Council, Rik Hart – Central Coast Council, Sharon Molloy – DPIE Environment Energy and Science, Grant Marsden – DPIE Crown Land (on behalf of Jamie Murray)

## **Observers present:**

Michelle Fletcher – Minister Hancock’s Office, Zoie Magann – Central Coast Council (Minute Taker)

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

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Apologies received: Jamie Murray – DPIE Crown Land, Maria Plytariasis – DPIE Planning

The Chair welcomed the Taskforce and completed an Acknowledgement of Country. It was noted the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of minute taking.

## **Item 2 Disclosures of Interest**

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No disclosures were received.

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

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The Taskforce confirmed the minutes from Meeting 3 held 13 October 2020, which were distributed to members on 26 October 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 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

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

- 4.1 Grant variation submission: Paul Donaldson (Central Coast Council) advised the submission is underway and will be finalised shortly. The grant variation includes an increase in scope around engagement and also to support the project management resourcing for the Advisory Taskforce.
- 4.2 Approvals pathway offshore structures: update deferred to next meeting.
- 4.3 Update on potential sand source: Paul Donaldson has liaised with the Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC). HCCDC provided Paul with overview of new and emerging sand sources potentially available for priority beach nourishment projects, such as at Wamberal. Some unknowns around suitability, volumes, timeframes for this potential sand source. These unknowns will

be incorporated into MHL study underway through some sensitivity testing in the cost benefit assessment. Phil Watson noted that pending suitability of material, there is an opportunity for a significant volume of sand to be delivered to Wamberal at very low cost.

Phil Watson advised he also had recent communications with HCCDC regarding emerging sand sources. There is a significant volume of sand potentially available to be relocated to the region, which may be obtained at little to no cost. This could be a great opportunity for beach nourishment as part of the project (pending assessment of suitability). Updates on sand sources will remain a standing agenda item.

- 4.4 Council Coastal Lands Parcel Report: update to be provided at Item 6.
- 4.5 Finalise tenure of Wamberal Project Working Group: Central Coast Council sent letters to members of the Working Group to finalise the tenure of that group and acknowledge the contributions of the group members. Phil Watson will circulate letters to Taskforce members for their information.
- 4.6 Council update on financial position and governance: Rik Hart (Interim Chief Executive Officer, Central Coast Council) provided an update on Council's preliminary financial position, noting it is still early days in recovery.
- 4.7 Council's communication and engagement plan: update to be provided at Item 7.
- 4.8 Amended Taskforce Terms of Reference: the Terms of Reference were updated following the last meeting and circulated to members for review. Confirmed clause regarding publication of Taskforce documents is as follows:

***Publication of meeting minutes and Terms of Reference***

*Meeting minutes and the Terms of Reference are to be made publicly available.*

- 4.9 Publication of Taskforce minutes on State Government website: Taskforce members discussed provision of minutes on State Government website. It was noted that a [Council resolution from 28 September 2020](#) provides that Taskforce minutes would be made available on Council's website. The Taskforce determined it was not necessary to also publish on a State website.

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**Item 5                    Update from the Chair**

*Updates were provided as part of Items 4 and 8.*

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**Item 6                    Management of Residual Private Coastal Land Parcels**

*This item was brought forward to follow Item 4. It was followed by Item 7.*

Phil Watson noted he discussed this matter with Jamie Murray (DPIE Crown Lands) following provision of Council advice regarding management of coastal lands parcels as previously requested. The Taskforce are mindful of the [Council resolution from 19 October 2020](#) with reference to the [Council report \(page 138 – 147\)](#) regarding coastal land parcels along Wamberal Beach, including a road reserve that extends north of the ruins and small sliver of private land at the southern end of the beach, which abuts the mean high water mark.

Phil and Jamie will meet again to assess status of relevant land parcels along Wamberal Beach, with view to consider the best pathway forward to deliver the project. Recommended options will be put forward, with advantages and disadvantages. It was noted that one parcel has been identified as privately owned and the title is a historic issue that will require further investigation. Phil Watson noted that both Council and Crown Lands have undertaken substantial amount of work on the complex land tenure issue to date.

**Action:** Phil Watson to provide an update at the next meeting regarding management of residual coastal land parcels at Wamberal Beach, following further discussions with DPIE Crown Lands and any relevant stakeholders.

## **Item 7                    Standing Item: Update from the Project Manager**

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

The following key points were noted:

- Council continues to progress work on the broader Wamberal Project.
- Project accomplishments and challenges over the past month were summarised.
- Several actions were completed by Council (as per matters covered in Item 4), with documents circulated to Taskforce members out of session and prior to this meeting.
- MHL study is progressing well and without significant delay. Draft reports for coastal engineering project stages on track for completion before year end. Delivery of the draft economic assessment is expected early next year.
- Paul joined Phil Watson at the most recent monthly meeting with Wamberal residents, which provided an opportunity to speak with representatives from this stakeholder group about the project.
- Communications and Engagement Plan has been finalised and the first phase of broader engagement is now underway. This phase involves providing a baseline of information to community, launching a community survey and providing an opportunity to meet with the project team. This phase will run for the next 4 weeks, with the next phase of engagement scheduled for February 2021 at this stage. Content presented in the first phase of engagement is underpinned by technical information, which has been reviewed prior to publication. Council's project engagement page is now live here: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>
- Paul noted it is important to provide history of the issue for context as part of engagement. A storyboard has been developed to disseminate information to the community. A survey has been designed to help the project team understand how the community use and value the beach. The project engagement webpage also includes FAQs to address common talking points.
- Face-to-face meetings is another key aspect of the first phase of engagement. Drop in sessions are being held 25 and 26 November 2020 to allow community to meet with Council and State Government to discuss the project. Paul extended an invite to Taskforce members. Confirmed COVID safe practises are being implemented.
- Taskforce members congratulated Council for the website and progress with the engagement piece.

- It was requested the Working Project Plan and Project Governance Structure be made publicly available before the next meeting. Paul noted the Project Plan is still being finalised as internal consultation needs to be undertaken to ensure holistic approach.

**Action:** Sharon Molloy and Phil Watson to consider any further stakeholders to be involved in community drop-in sessions and pass information to Paul Donaldson.

## **Item 8                    General Business, Review of Task Log, Next Meeting Date and Close**

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- a) Phil Watson met with Wamberal residents last month as regularly scheduled. Similar concerns continue to be raised with residents regarding prioritisation of community consultation. Good news story is that this is progressing, as noted in Item 7.
- b) Phil Watson met with representatives from the Australian Conservation Foundation (Central Coast Branch) on 21 October 2020 to hear concerns. The group is also similarly concerned about the lack of community consultation to date.

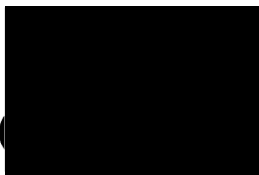
**Action:** Phil Watson to share link to [Council's project engagement page](#) with relevant community members and organisations.

- c) Adam Crouch MP noted thanks to Council for expediting the community engagement piece, given that it is important to provide the facts and highlight the positive outcomes for the beach and local residents who are at the heart of the project.

The meeting closed at 3.36pm

**Next Meetings:            Tuesday 8 December 2020  
                                  2.30pm – 4pm  
                                  Microsoft Teams**

Minutes finalised and endorsed 24 November 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)			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)			To be addressed at next
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
20	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Luke Sulkowski to circulate Council Report regarding management of coastal land parcels for info of Taskforce members. Phil Watson will then follow up with Jamie Murray (DPIE Crown Land) prior to next meeting.	Paul Donaldson (CCC) / Phil Watson	Link included in draft minutes and sent to Phil for circulation. Superseded by Action 27.	19/10/2020	Complete
21	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Council to liaise with Project Working Group to finalise tenure and pass on appreciation of Taskforce to members in close.	Central Coast Council		10/11/2020	Complete
22	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Council to provide update on financial position with regard to any related impact on project as further information becomes available.	Central Coast Council		10/11/2020	Complete
23	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Paul Donaldson to distribute Communications and Engagement Plan to Taskforce for review once available.	Paul Donaldson (CCC)		20/10/2020	Complete
24	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson to draft amended TORs clause for consideration outside of meeting, relating to publication of the minutes.	Phil Watson		10/11/2020	Complete
25	13/10/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Sharon Molloy and Phil Watson to follow up about provision of Taskforce documents on State website, with view to consider that Council website would include a link to State page.	Sharon Molloy (DPIE) / Phil Watson		10/11/2020	Complete
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 <del>any relevant stakeholders</del>	Phil Watson/Jamie Murray			To be addressed at next meeting
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			Pending
29	10/11/2020	Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce (External)	Phil Watson to share link to Council's project engagement page with relevant community members and organisations.	Phil Watson			Pending