

Wamberal Seawall Advisory Taskforce Meeting Record (Meeting 9)

Location:	Microsoft Teams	
Date:	3 August 2021	
Time	Started at: 10.04am	Closed at: 10.53am
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, Maria Plytarias – DPIE Planning, Greg Sullivan – DPIE Crown Lands

Observers present:

Michelle Fletcher – DPIE Environment Energy and Science (joined 10.09am), Ben Sheath – Office of Adam Crouch MP, Zoie Magann – Central Coast Council (Minute Taker)

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Sharon Molloy – DPIE Environment Energy and Science

The Chair welcomed the Taskforce and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Taskforce confirmed the minutes from Meeting 8 held on 29 June 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). The minutes have also been made available on Central Coast Council's website.

Item 4 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Deferred to follow Item 6.

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

- 4.1 Crown Lands update on management of residual land parcels: Greg Sullivan advised probate record for private residual land has been received however doesn't provide a complete answer as to current owner status. Another relevant probate record has been identified and requested for review. Currently awaiting legal advice about compulsory acquisition or reversion to Crown Lands if legitimate owner of parcel cannot be located. Also investigating current position of mean high water mark to establish if this has shifted to affect the boundary of residual land in question. It's expected that any cost to acquire the parcel would be minimal given layout and size.

- 4.2 Update on NSW Government / Council sand nourishment discussions: Phil Watson advised that weekly meetings between himself, the relevant councils (Central Coast, Sutherland and Northern Beaches) and Transport for NSW have been discontinued over the past month, awaiting an outcome from the tender process on the Sydney Metro West infrastructure project and advice in due course. Phil advised that he remains optimistic that the logistical and financial feasibility of the beneficial re-use of tunnelling spoil option for nourishment purposes may proceed. It's likely a decision one way or another will be known before the next Taskforce meeting.

Item 5 Update from the Project Manager

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

The following key points were noted:

- MHL reports for Stages 1-4 are available on Council's YourVoiceOurCoast (YVOC) page, as well as concept render designs for seawall options: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/wamberalerosion>
- Mara Consulting have developed a survey and social pinpoint page for the concept renders that is also available on the YVOC page. The site will be active until the end of September 2021 and is attracting a lot of comments and questions from community members.
- Online sessions are also being organised to facilitate community engagement. At this stage, it is expected to take the form of four 2-hour sessions at varying times over a few days to meet with interested community members. The method of consultation has been adapted to comply with current Public Health Orders and to avoid further delays for the project.
- Stage 6 Cost Benefit Analysis has been reviewed by Council and Phil Watson, with comments submitted to MHL for incorporation. Awaiting final version which will hopefully be provided by September 2021.
- Casey has been responding to emails surrounding planned retreat and explained why this is not viable for future protection of Wamberal Beach. Members agree it's important to ensure that the community fully understands the operational, legal and financial issues pertaining to a so-called "planned retreat" model and that these are being explored as part of the Cost Benefit Analysis report.
- Adam Crouch MP commended the website and information available online, but suggests a mailout or similar approach be undertaken to ensure all residents are engaged, given some may not be aware of or have access to the online forum.
- Phil Watson reiterated it's important for Council to produce a timeline for project given impending time pressures before year end. Casey advised this process has commenced and will have something ready for next meeting in consultation with Phil.

Action: Casey Johnston to explore options for mailout notice to local residents for phase 2 community consultation to complement online piece.

Action: Casey Johnston and Phil Watson to work through project timeline before next Taskforce meeting.

Item 6 Update from the Chair

Brought forward to follow Item 3.

Phil Watson provided an update as Chair of the Taskforce.

The following key points were noted:

- Now approaching some very important timelines for the project that everyone needs to be acutely mindful of.
- The Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) that includes the key actions for protection and sand nourishment of Wamberal Beach will cease to have effect on 31 December 2021, due to transitional arrangements in the Coastal Management Act 2016. This will have implications for the project that need to be clearly understood and considered in the context of implementing this project.
- Although Council are preparing a Coastal Management Program (CMP) under the new framework to replace the CZMP, it is likely this will take some time leaving a gap between the expiration of the CZMP and the certification of the CMP. When the CZMP expires so too will funding assistance under DPIE's Coastal and Estuary Grant Program to implement actions in certified CZMPs. Approval pathways for protection structures and emergency responses (such as those undertaken 2020) will also change for the period between the expiration of the CZMP and start of the CMP.
- Critical to ensure community is aware of changes and implications so they understand what can and can't be done, particularly if there is another major storm event early next year and Council is unable to respond as previous.

Action: 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.

Action: Phil Watson and Adam Crouch to meet with Minister Hancock to discuss priority matters in preparation for CZMP ceasing.

Action: 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.

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

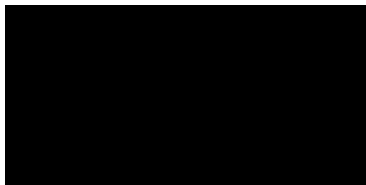
The Taskforce reviewed the task log and noted action updates (see page 4).

The meeting closed at 10.53am

Next Meetings: **7 September 2021 (TBC)**
 10am – 12pm
 Microsoft Teams

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3 August 2021

Minutes finalised and endorsed 11 August 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 Gary Murphy 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)	29/6/21: action transferred to Casey as Project Manager Plan being drafted. Phil and Casey will progress offline and bring back to Taskforce when ready	Pending
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)		Pending
42	3/08/2021	Casey Johnston and Phil Watson to work through project timeline before next Taskforce meeting.	Casey Johnston (CCC) / Phil Watson		Pending
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		Pending
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		Pending
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)		Pending