



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

26 April 2022

Meeting was held in person in Sydney.

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Wendy Tuckerman, attended.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Annelise Tuor, Chair
- Kate Brooks
- Pam Dean-Jones
- Martijn Gough
- Hannah Power
- Shay Simpson
- Bruce Thom

Members were welcomed to the second meeting of Coastal Council (the Council) for 2022. The main matters for the meeting included an introduction to the new Minister for Local Government, Minister Wendy Tuckerman, an update on the Council's 2021-22 Work Plan, and a review of cost benefit analysis and application of beneficiary pays principle for coastal protection works in NSW. The Chair of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (VMCC), Dr Anthony Boxshall, was a guest presenter on the role and operation of the VMCC.

Minister Tuckerman – Introduction to the Coastal Council

- Minister Tuckerman was welcomed to the first in person meeting of the new Coastal Council since its appointment in April 2020. Minister Tuckerman joined the meeting online.
- Introductions to each Council member included an overview of their professional background and expertise and the particular work plan tasks they had led in Council's advice provided to the previous Minister.
- Council identified its top three issues for coastal management:
 - realising the strategic purpose of Coastal Management Programs
 - transparency and consistency in the application of economic analysis and the beneficiary pays principle in coastal management and decision-making
 - identification and mapping of coastal vulnerability areas
- Opportunities to progress each issue, whether as part of the current five-year statutory review of the Coastal Management Act or Council's future work plan, were discussed. The Council would seek to focus any advice on the practical steps that can be taken now to assist local government and their communities on each matter as they prepare their Coastal Management Programs (CMP).
- Minister Tuckerman thanked the Council members for their work to date and looked forward to receiving their frank and independent advice on coastal management matters the Minister may seek in the future.

Council's 2021-22 Work Plan update

- Task 1-2021: Provide advice to the Minister as part of the five-year statutory review of the Coastal Management Act 2016.

Council provided its initial advice on the Act Review to the Minister in late 2021 and has subsequently participated in interviews held in March 2022 as part of the targeted consultation with state and local government stakeholders. The Council expects to provide further advice on the Act Review and its recommendations.

- Task 2-2021: Provide advice on opportunities to improve the coordinated management of estuaries.
Council's final report and recommendations are being prepared and will be submitted to the Minister following the Council meeting on 30 May 2022.
- Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program
Twenty councils within the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment are collaborating with state agencies to develop a whole-of-system CMP with a waterway health focus. CMP Stage 2 studies underway to determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities for waterway health are scheduled for completion by July 2022. A series of workshops with local councils involved in the CMP are planned for later in the year to discuss the project outcomes. Further information on the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP can be found in the [March 2022 communique](#).
- Economic analysis and the application of the beneficiary pays principle.
In 2021, Council provided advice to the Minister on the application of 'beneficiary-pays' principle to implementing coastal protection options in certified Coastal Zone Management Plans and Coastal Management Programs. Commitments have been made under the Coastal and Estuary Management Program [Future Directions Statement](#) (May 2021) for additional guidance on the application of beneficiary pays principle and cost benefit analysis as well as clarity on the use of the term 'public benefit' are consistent with Council's advice.

Council considered discussion papers on the Stockton Beach Coastal Management Program (CMP) and Terrigal-Wamberal Beach Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). Council agreed to prepare further advice for the incoming Minister to highlight its ongoing concern for the transparency and consistency of economic analyses undertaken as part of CMPs and CZMPs, and to identify opportunities to assist local government build capacity in the conduct and review of economic assessments of coastal management options.

Presentation by Chair of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council: Coastal management policy and its implementation in Victoria.

Dr Anthony Boxshall, Chair of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council ([VMCC](#)), summarised the scope and objectives of the Victorian Marine and Coastal Act 2018 and the role of the VMCC under this new legislation. The presentation focused on common issues for coastal management and the approaches the VMCC have found to be effective in influencing positive change in coastal policy implementation in Victoria.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 30 May 2022.