



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

30 March 2021

Meeting was held online.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

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

Apology: Pam Dean-Jones

Members were welcomed to the second meeting of Council for 2021. Matters for this meeting included: feedback on the Department Planning Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) Environment Energy and Science division Future Priorities Statement for the coast; and, submissions to the DPIE (Water) Coastal Harvestable Water Rights Review and Crown Lands Commissioner's Crown Lands Management Act Implementation Review.

DPIE Future Priorities Statement for the coast

A draft Future Priorities Statement (Statement) for the coast prepared by DPIE EES Marine Coast Estuary and Floods (DPIE EES-MCEF) was endorsed for consultation by Minister Hancock in late February 2021. As part of this consultation, Council provided preliminary advice on the Statement to DPIE prior to its final advice to the Minister in early April.

Council noted the draft Statement was a good start but required further development to make clear the vision for our future coast, the outcomes to be sought in support of this vision and the strategy to realise a whole-of-government approach to statewide coastal management. Council's advice also included potential focus areas for a future work plan for the term of the current Council to 2023, given the skills and experience of Members and outcomes of work plan tasks undertaken to date.

DPIE Coastal Harvestable Rights Review

The NSW Department Planning Industry and Environment is reviewing a proposal to increase the volume of water landholders in coastal draining catchments can capture in farm dams as a basic right, without the need for a licence or approval. Council's submission notes the potential serious negative impacts on estuaries and the marine estate of proposals to increase the take of catchment runoff without any monitoring via the water licencing framework, or opportunity for compliance investigation/enforcement by the Natural Resources Access Regulator. Water sharing agreements and their impact on waterway health are a key concern for local council Coastal Management Programs.

Crown Lands Management Act 2016 Implementation Review

The Crown Lands Commissioner is undertaking an independent review of the effectiveness of the implementation of the new legislation, the scope of the review is detailed in the Evaluation of the

Crown Land Management Act 2016 Discussion Paper (Discussion Paper). Council's submission addresses those matters to do with the CLM Act considered central to improving integrated outcomes for the management and use of Crown land in the NSW coastal zone and marine estate.

Estuary Management Policy

The Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) has brought a focus on the need for integrated estuary management, as has Council's research on the integration of the results of MEMS projects into local council CMPs and comment on the draft Future Priorities Statement. Members noted the risks of focusing on open coast management at the expense of addressing the pressing planning, environment, social and cultural issues for our estuaries where around 80% of the state's population reside. A range of estuary management concerns, including those likely to be exacerbated by climate change related sea level rise, were discussed and will be considered as possible items to be included in Council's future work plan.

NEXT MEETING: Next Council meeting is scheduled for 27 April 2021.