



NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

31 August 2021

Meeting was held online.

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 fifth meeting of Council for 2021. The main matters for this meeting included the Council's 2021-22 Work Plan and the 2021 annual survey of the implementation of the Coastal Management Framework. The Crown Lands Commissioner presented on the findings and recommendations of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 Implementation Review.

Council's 2021-22 Work Plan

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, has directed Council to provide advice on the following matters under its 2021-22 financial year work plan:

- Task 1: Provide advice to the Minister as part of the five-year statutory review of the Coastal Management Act 2016 (Task 1- 2022); and
- Task 2: Provide advice on opportunities to improve the coordinated management of estuaries (Task 2 – 2022).

Task 1- 2022 will focus on determining whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.

Estuary management may be complex due to the interactions of the underlying estuarine processes and the multiplicity of authorities involved. The aim of Task 2 - 2022 is to prepare advice to assist government to improve coordinated estuary management when preparing and implementing Coastal Management Programs (CMP).

Council has completed and reported on all 2020-21 financial year work plan tasks, and Council members have ongoing roles as a member of the Stockton Beach Taskforce (Assoc. Professor Hannah Power) and Chair of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP steering committee (Professor Bruce Thom).

Council's 2021 annual survey of the implementation of the Coastal Management Framework

The Council's 2021 survey of coastal managers and practitioners will build on the results of previous surveys ([2018](#), [2019](#) and [2020](#)) which contributed to the development of priorities for the Coastal and Estuary Program [Future Directions Statement](#), and will inform Council's advice to the Minister on its 2021-2022 Work Plan tasks. The 2021 survey is planned for November and will include both an online component and targeted interviews, similar to previous years. Council reviewed the results of previous surveys, proposed approach, and questions for 2021 and identified those changes necessary for this year's survey.

Crown Land Management Act 2016 Implementation Review

The Crown Land Commissioner, Professor Richard Bush, presented on the main findings and recommendations to government of his review, noting those matters of relevance to the coast and interests of the Coastal Council. The scope of the review is contained in the [Evaluation of the Crown Land Management Act Discussion Paper \(March 2021\)](#), with the review results and recommendations to government in the [Findings and Recommendations Report \(July 2021\)](#). The recommendations offer a more streamlined and effective management of Crown land for the economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefit of the people of NSW.

Matters of interest to the Council addressed in the Commissioner's presentation included:

- Role of the Crown Land Commissioner, relationship with Crown Land Ministers Pavey and Stokes, and scope the Commissioner has in providing advice to other agencies and state government generally;
- How the recommendations of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 implementation review relate to coastal management and the role of the Coastal Council;
- Relationship of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 Implementation Review recommendations to State Strategic Plan for Crown land (Crown land 2031); and
- Potential amendments to the Crown Land Management Act 2016 which may assist in improved coordination of Crown Land activities and responsibilities in coastal management generally, and CMPs specifically.

NEXT MEETING: Next Council meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2021.