



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

4 May 2023

Meeting was held at the MidCoast Council's offices at Taree.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage attended via video conference for part of the meeting.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Annelise Tuor, Chair
- Grahame Byron (via video)
- Pam Dean-Jones
- Martijn Gough
- Hannah Power
- Shay Simpson
- Bruce Thom AM

Local government representatives from MidCoast, Port Stephens, Newcastle City, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Councils attended the second half of the meeting. Maitland Council was an apology.

Council members were welcomed to the second meeting of the Coastal Council (the Council) for 2023. The Chair thanked MidCoast Council for hosting the meeting.

The main agenda items included: an introduction to the new Minister Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage, the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC; a progress report on the Council's 2022-2023 Work Plan; and, presentations from Hunter Central Coast Region local councils on the status of their Coastal Management Programs (CMPs), coastal management issues and achievements.

Introduction to Minister Sharpe

The Chair welcomed the Minister, who joined for a short section of the meeting, and introduced each of the Council Members. The role of the Council was outlined as a statutory body established under the Coastal Management Act 2016 (the CM Act) to provide independent advice on coastal matters to the Minister administering the CM Act, which is now the Minister for Environment. Minister Sharpe thanked the Chair for the summary and work of the Council over the past years. A general discussion of the key issues for coastal management followed, including the outcomes of the 2022 CM Act review.

Council's 2022-2023 Work Plan

In March 2023 Council completed the 2022-2023 work plan set by the previous government. A new work plan is to be advised by the incoming government.

Hunter Central Coast Region CMP status

Representatives from MidCoast, Port Stephens, Newcastle City, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast Councils provided an update on the progress of their CMPs and related issues. Maitland Council was an apology and sent a brief report.

The presentations, and subsequent discussions, demonstrated each council is progressing their CMP(s) and experiences of CMP planning and implementation highlighted where improvements can be made. Some of the common issues discussed included: prioritisation of the local council resources to complete a lengthy CMP planning and certification process; State agency and other stakeholder engagement with the CMP process, and their commitment to CMP actions; and, State leadership on key policy issues (e.g.

sea level rise; adaptation pathways; coastal vulnerability area mapping; and incorporation of catchments-based actions outside of the Coastal Zone in a CMP). Many of the issues discussed have been raised in Council's annual surveys of coastal practitioners and its previous meetings with other councils. This discussion has identified priorities for action that will inform Council's advice to the incoming government and Minister during 2023.

MidCoast Council Site Visits (5 May 2023)

Coastal Council's second day on the MidCoast included site visits to Old Bar (significant open coast hazard location), Coopersnook (Big Swamp restoration project), Manning Point (Manning Estuary Coastal Management Program implementation) and Forster-Tuncurry (Wallis Lake entrance shoaling management). The site visits highlighted initiatives taken by MidCoast Council to engage with State government, industry, property owners and the wider community in the preparation of the Manning Estuary CMP and other notable coastal management outcomes.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 2 August 2023 in Sydney.