



NSW Coastal Council

NSW Coastal Council Meeting – summary minutes

20 September 2024

Meeting was held in hybrid mode with attendees joining the meeting in person at the Sydney Elizabeth Street offices of the Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and online.

Coastal Council members in attendance:

- Dr Philip Haines, Chair
- Mark Conlon
- Dr Elizabeth McEntyre (via video MS Teams)
- Grahame Byron (via video MS Teams)

Apology: None

Representatives from the Department Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Biodiversity Conservation and Science (Conservation Policy & Programs Division) attended by video.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country by Mark Conlon, Coastal Council (the Council) members and guests were welcomed to the fourth meeting of the Council for 2024.

The main agenda items included: Outcomes of local council and Local Aboriginal Land Council meetings on the NSW central, mid and north coast held in August 2024; summary results of the Coastal Council 2024 survey of coastal practitioners and their experience of the implementation of the [Coastal Management Framework](#) conducted in July 2024; and an update on the Council's 2024 work plan.

Stakeholder engagement: Local council and Local Aboriginal Land Council meetings in August 2024.

The Coastal Council Chair, Dr Philip Haines, met with representatives from eight local government and two Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) during August. Meetings and site visits were held with Byron Bay, Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Nambucca Valley, City of Newcastle City, Lake Macquarie City, Central Coast and Northern Beaches Councils and the Worimi and Bahtabah LALC. Coastal Council Members attended meetings with City of Newcastle Council and Worimi LALC (Dr Elizabeth McEntyre) and Northern Beaches Council (Mr Mark Conlon).

The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the new Coastal Council appointed by the Minister in January 2024, hear and discuss coastal management matters of importance to councils and LALCs and to receive an update on progress on councils' coastal management programs. Information was also sought on matters the Minister is seeking the Coastal Council's advice on as part of its 2024 work plan. Site visits organised by councils highlighted coastal management initiatives and issues for their local government area.

Meetings with south coast local councils and First Nations People representatives are planned for prior to and at the annual NSW Coastal Conference to be held in Batemans Bay in November 2024.

Coastal Council 2024 Survey – Summary

The Council has undertaken regular surveys of coastal practitioners' experience of the implementation of the Coastal Management Framework (Framework) since 2018 and, with the Minister's approval, published results of the surveys on the Coastal Council web page (see [2022 Survey Summary](#)). The 2024 survey was conducted online over three weeks in July 2024.

The 2024 survey achieved the highest response of any survey to date with 124 individuals providing feedback, most responses coming from coastal practitioners in local (44% of responses)

and state government (37% of responses). Feedback on practitioner familiarity and experience with implementation of the coastal management framework, particularly CMPs, showed that there had been some improvement since the last survey in 2022. Opportunities to make changes and improvements in the application of components of the framework (e.g. *Coastal Management Act 2016*; Manual; Coastal Management Programs) and resourcing were identified and will inform Council's advice to government.

2024 Work Plan – Update

Information on Council's 2024 five work plan topics (see [Meeting 2024-2 Summary](#)) has been gathered through Council's independent research, state agency briefings, direct engagement with local councils and other organisations, and coastal practitioner feedback to the Council's 2024 survey. Stakeholder engagement planned for October-November, including attendance of all Council members at the NSW Coastal Conference in November 2024, will build upon this base so that Council's advice to government has a focus on the practical actions that can be taken to support local councils' planning and implementation of CMPs.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Coastal Council is to be held in November 2024.