



# **BUSINESS PAPER**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* of the below mentioned meeting.

## **Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 15 March 2023**

**Commencing at 4:00PM**

**Shellharbour Civic Centre  
Ground Floor Training Room**

# **AGENDA**

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**1. Acknowledgement to Country**

Shellharbour City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal Country and recognise their continued connection to the land we meet on today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region and extend our recognition to their descendants who continue to live on country.

**2. Apologies/Leave of Absence****3. Confirmation of Minutes****3.1 Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting 30 November 2022**

That the Minutes of the Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 30 November 2022 as circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

**4. Disclosures of Interest****5. Presentations**

## 6. Reports

### 6.1 Shellharbour Coast and Estuary 2021-2022 Grants - Update (12024301)

**Directorate:** Amenity and Assets  
**Group:** Built and Natural Environment

**Manager:** Matthew Apolo – Group Manager Built and Natural Environment  
**Author:** Allison Broad – Acting Coastal Programs Coordinator

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#### Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coastal Management Advisory Committee on the Coast and Estuary Grant projects as well as other projects that address objectives of Council's adopted Shellharbour Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) and works towards the Shellharbour Coastal Management Plan (CMP).

#### Background

Shellharbour City Council currently has 4 grants addressing objectives for Coastal Management in the Shellharbour LGA including:

#### NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE); Coasts and Estuaries Grants

- 1. The Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration Grant**  
(\$50,700 from both NSW DPE & SCC; totalling \$101,400 over 3 years; 2021-2024)
- 2. Beach Monitoring Program – understanding our changing coastline**  
(\$116,500 from NSW DPE over 3 years; 2022-2024)
- 3. Warilla Dune Restoration works**  
(\$45,800 from both NSW DPE & SCC; totalling \$91,600 over 3 years; 2022-2025)

#### NSW Environmental Protection Authority (NSW EPA)

- 4. Litter Prevention Grant - Luv the Lake Campaign**  
(~\$105K over 1 year; 2022-2023)

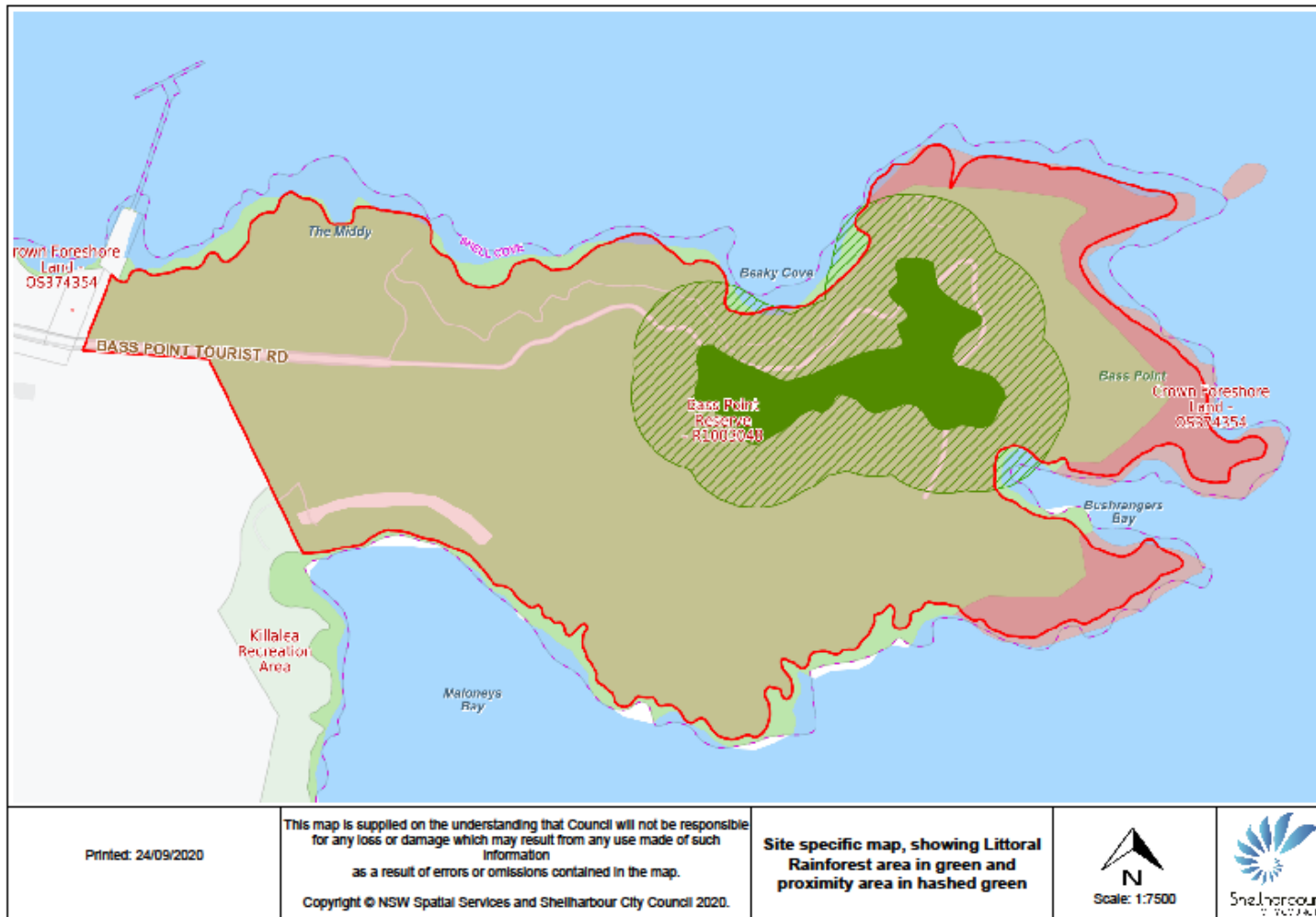
In addition to the 4 grants listed above, Council is also working on the Dune Restoration Works at Shellharbour North and South Beaches which is being funded via an enforceable undertaking by Sydney Water. In this project Sydney water contribute \$500,000 and Council will also contribute an additional \$210,000, equating to \$710,000 over 3 years; 2022-2025.

## Project updates since November

### Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration

**Background:** The Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration program is funded from DPE. The project aims to protect and enhance the areas coastline biodiversity at Bass Point through the conservation of high value ecosystems including Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC), threatened species their habitats and the ecosystem overall. This is being achieved with bush regeneration and revegetation activities within the littoral rainforest section of Bass Point reserve in the Shellharbour local government area; addressing the threat of weed impacts on this vegetation community to improve its ecological integrity, habitat value, and resilience. Expected outcomes include a significant reduction of the density and cover of weed species and an increase in native plant cover. These works will also improve the habitat value of the site for threatened flora and fauna such as *Cynanchum elegans* (White-flowered Wax-plant), *Zieria granulata* (Illawarra Zieria), and the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Rose-crowned Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus regina*), Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), and White-bellied Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*).

**Update:** Approximately 23.1ha of mapped Littoral Rainforest EEC (Figure 1) was selected through targeting priority weeds such as *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (Bitou Bush), *Lantana camara* (Common Lantana), *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Trad), *Delairea odorata* (Cape Ivy), *Passiflora subpeltata* (White Passionflower), with a particular focus on Bitou Bush, Lantana and Cape Ivy. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on hours of work completed and the quantity of seedlings that have been planted.



**Figure 1:** Bass Point Nature Reserve: Littoral Rainforest area in green, and proximity area for regeneration in hashed green.



**Figure 2:** Shellharbour City Council Bush Regenerator weeding *Lantana camara* (cut and paint method).

#### CoastSnap and BeachStat Beach Monitoring Program

**Background:** This project aims to monitor our dynamic coastline and how beach morphology changes over time with continuous photographic imagery. This data will help marine managers to better understand and therefore manage our coast. This will be achieved with the installation of two types of infrastructure; (i) *CoastSnap* - a citizen science platform for the public to monitor beach dynamics; (ii) *BeachStat* - a continuously automated camera with time-lapse imagery.

This program will directly assist Council in addressing actions in the Coastal Zone Management Plan (Actions; 2.4.1 Monitor Beach Sand Volumes; 2.4.12 Community Education) and will also inform actions in the development of the new Coastal Management Program (CMP).

**Infrastructure Update:** All four *CoastSnap* stations have been installed for the monitoring of Gadhu Beach, Warilla South Beach, Shellharbour North Beach and Windang Island (Figure 3). The first of two *BeachStat* Cameras were installed on 1 March. The first one at Warilla Beach and the second camera at Shell Cove expected to be installed by the end of March.

An interactive Dashboard is being developed by consultants and is expected to be finalised also by the end of March. The Dashboard will be a publicly available tool that will provide detail on both *CoastSnap* and *BeachStat*. For *BeachStat* it will be possible to view the latest image from the selected location, link to an archive containing all images and time-lapse of the images from a period of choosing (generally 24 hours or

longer). The *CoastSnap* Dashboard will have an embedded *CoastSnap* map, which will identify any changes to the coastline as identified through the images.

The installation of the *BeachStat* cameras and the development of the Dashboard have been setback due to manufacturing errors and the need for a grant variation to cover the costs of the Dashboard. The grant variation included an extension of the first milestone actions until the end of March 2023, and actions are now on track to be achieved within this new timeframe.

**Education Update:** Council have been working internally with the Communications Team to develop an Engagement and Communications Plan to inform the community about the new *CoastSnap* and *BeachStat* program, and how to become citizen scientists and contribute towards monitoring our coastline. An educational video informing the community about *CoastSnap* and how to use it is currently in draft stage, and on track to be published by the end of March.

Once the final *BeachStat* camera has been installed and the Dashboard developed, we will action more items from the Engagement and Communications Plan.



**Figure 3:** *CoastSnap* Stations at Gadhu Beach, Warilla South Beach, and Shellharbour North Beach.

#### Warilla Dune Restoration works (2021/CEI/0037)

**Background:** This project aims to protect and enhance the areas coastline dune biodiversity at Warilla with bush regeneration and revegetation activities to improve dune stability, its ecological integrity, habitat value, and resilience. Expected outcomes include a significant reduction of the density and cover of weed species and an increase in native plant cover.

**Regeneration update:** Weed management and planting continues, with future works targeted in cooler weather due to the heavy exposure of demarcated regeneration sites to strong sun, wind and evaporation. Site investigations and research indicate that algal wrack could be used as mulch to aid in future plantings and the maintenance of young plants.

Observations from a recent site visit revealed vandalism to the fencing along beach access points. Further, within the dune significant vandalism to mature shrubs and trees was also observed.



“Luv the Lake” - Litter Grant

**Background:** Shellharbour City Council applied for funding from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for a collaboration with Wollongong City Council for a holistic and streamlined campaign titled ‘Luv the Lake’. The program is designed to increase community pride, respect and ownership of Lake Illawarra and its surrounds. The program aims to implement a range of litter prevention and reduction campaigns across the LGA and will employ a temporary Coastal Grants Officer (Litter Prevention) to work on these initiatives.

Although this funding largely aligns with the Lake Illawarra CMP, it has co-benefits for the Shellharbour Open Coast (and Elliot - Little Lake) CMP with residents participating and considering the impacts of litter to our waterways.

**Update:** A temporary fulltime Coastal Grants Officer (Litter Prevention) was appointed and joined Council in mid-January 2023. The Coastal Grants Officer will engage with teams across Council and the public to employ a range of litter prevention strategies. The Coastal Grants Officer will also liaise with local community groups already undertaking clean-up activities along the Lake and seek to engage new groups also.

An EOI was submitted on 1 March for Shellharbour Council to apply for Stream 2 funding as part of the next round of EPA funded Litter Prevention grants.

Stream 2 uses a strategic approach to integrate litter management practices into the organisation through stakeholder consultation and capacity building.

If successful, Shellharbour Council can apply for upwards of \$100,000, which primarily covers employment costs for the Coastal Grant Officer to facilitate the grant.

This will assist in addressing two litter prevention actions in the Lake CMP:

- WQ8 - Improve Litter Management
- PM3 - Develop and implement a community engagement and participation strategy

The Shellharbour City Council Clean Up Australia Day event took place on Picnic Island (Lake Illawarra). The clean-up event was organised by Council’s Environment Team.

The teams successfully collected:

General waste - 18kg  
Recyclables - 27.5kg  
Metals - 40kg

Planning is underway to update infrastructure at selected hotspot locations around Lake Illawarra in both Wollongong and Shellharbour. This will include installation of signage, stickers and additional bins.

An amended grant timeline and communications plan has been finalised with the approval of the EPA. Relevant stakeholders within Wollongong and Shellharbour councils have been consulted in scoping a new timeframe for the grant deliverables.

#### Shellharbour North and South Beach Dune Restoration Works

**Background:** In July 2020, a Sydney Water sewage pipe, known as a rising main, failed releasing approximately 430,000 litres of untreated sewage. This flooded Darley St, Shellharbour, flowing into the nearby dunes and residents' properties with pollutants damaging the local environment.

The NSW Environmental Protection Authority implemented enforceable undertakings requiring Sydney Water to fund projects to enhance or restore the environment, including:

- Project Funding Agreement: To meet objectives to restore and rehabilitate beach dunes at North and South Shellharbour Beach
- Prevent damage to beach dunes at North and South Beach Shellharbour through fencing (see Figure 5), access improvement and education.



**Figure 5:** Dune restoration and protection works at Shellharbour North Beach (left image) and Shellharbour South Beach (right image). Green highlights indicate areas to be restored and yellow lines indicate fencing.

**Regeneration Update:** Council's Natura Areas Team has done two mass team planting days this year. A total of 3300 plants have recently been planted back into the dune (Day 1 ~2000; Day 2 ~1300). All seeds have been locally sourced and grown at Council's nursery. The project also includes maintenance works, including spraying, weed removal & planting.

**Consultations****Internal**

Bush Regeneration Leading Hand  
Acting Manager Projects  
Projects Delivery Officer  
Community Connections

**External**

Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)  
Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Fisheries  
Water Research Laboratory (WRL)

**Recommendation**

**That the Coastal Management Advisory Committee receive and note the Shellharbour Coast and Estuary 2021-2022 Grants - Update report.**

Approved for  
consideration by: Matthew Apolo  
Group Manager Built and Natural Environment

**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2023

**Attachments**

Nil

**6.2 Update on Draft Shellharbour Coastal Management Program Scoping Study (12024304)**

**Directorate:** Amenity and Assets  
**Group:** Built and Natural Environment

**Manager:** Matthew Apolo – Group Manager Built and Natural Environment  
**Author:** Matthew Apolo – Group Manager Built and Natural Environment

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**Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coastal Management Advisory Committee on the progress of the draft Shellharbour Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study.

**Background**

The committee was provided a copy of the draft Scoping Study at the November 2022 committee meeting and feedback was requested by 1 February 2023.

Feedback has been received and is currently being considered before finalisation. The committee will be advised of the finalisation and a final document will distributed upon completion.

**Consultations****Internal**

Nil

**External**

The Coastal Management Advisory Committee have previously been consulted on the draft Shellharbour Coastal Management Program Scoping Study.

**Recommendation**

**That the Coastal Management Advisory Committee receive and note the update on Draft Shellharbour Coastal Management Program Scoping Study report.**

Approved for  
consideration by: Matthew Apolo  
Group Manager Built and Natural  
Environment

**Date of Meeting:** 15 March 2023

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**Attachments**

Nil

**6.3 Capital Works Update**

A verbal update will be provided to the committee on current and upcoming capital works in Shellharbour coastal areas.

**7. General Business**

**8. Next Meeting**

21 June 2023