



# **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, 20 September 2023**

**Commencing at 4:00PM**

**Shellharbour Civic Centre  
Ground Floor Training Room**

# AGENDA

- 1. Acknowledgement to Country .....3**
- 2. Apologies/Leave of Absence .....3**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes .....3**
  - 3.1 Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting 15 March 2023 .....3
  - 3.2 Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting 21 June 2023 .....3
- 4. Disclosures of Interest.....3**
- 5. Presentations .....3**
- 6. Reports.....3**
  - 6.1 Shellharbour Coast and Estuary Grants - Update .....4
  - 6.2 Shellharbour Coast and Estuary 2023-24 Grant Applications.....12
- 7. General Business .....18**
- 8. Next Meeting .....18**

**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 15 March 2023**

That the Notes from the Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2023 as circulated be formally endorsed by the Committee and taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

**3.2 Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting 21 June 2023**

That the Notes from the Coastal Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2023 as circulated be formally endorsed by the Committee and 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 Grants - Update

To the Coastal Management Advisory Committee

**Directorate:** Infrastructure Services  
**Group:** Technical and Recreation Services

**Manager:** Matthew Apolo – Executive Manager Technical and Recreation Services  
**Author:** Leslie Reid – 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 work towards the Shellharbour Coastal Management Plan (CMP).

### Background

Shellharbour City Council currently has four grants addressing objectives for Coastal Management in the Shellharbour LGA including;

#### NSW Department of Planning and Environment; Coasts and Estuaries Grants

1. The Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration Grant (\$50,700 from both NSW DPE and 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; 2022-2026)
3. Warilla Dune Restoration works (\$45,800 from both NSW DPE and SCC; Totalling 91,600 over 3 years; 2022-2025)

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

4. Litter Prevention Grant – Own it and Act –**Still awaiting formal announcement** (~\$90K over 1 year; 2023-2024)

In addition to the four 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 \$210,000, equating to \$710,000 over 3 years; 2022-2025

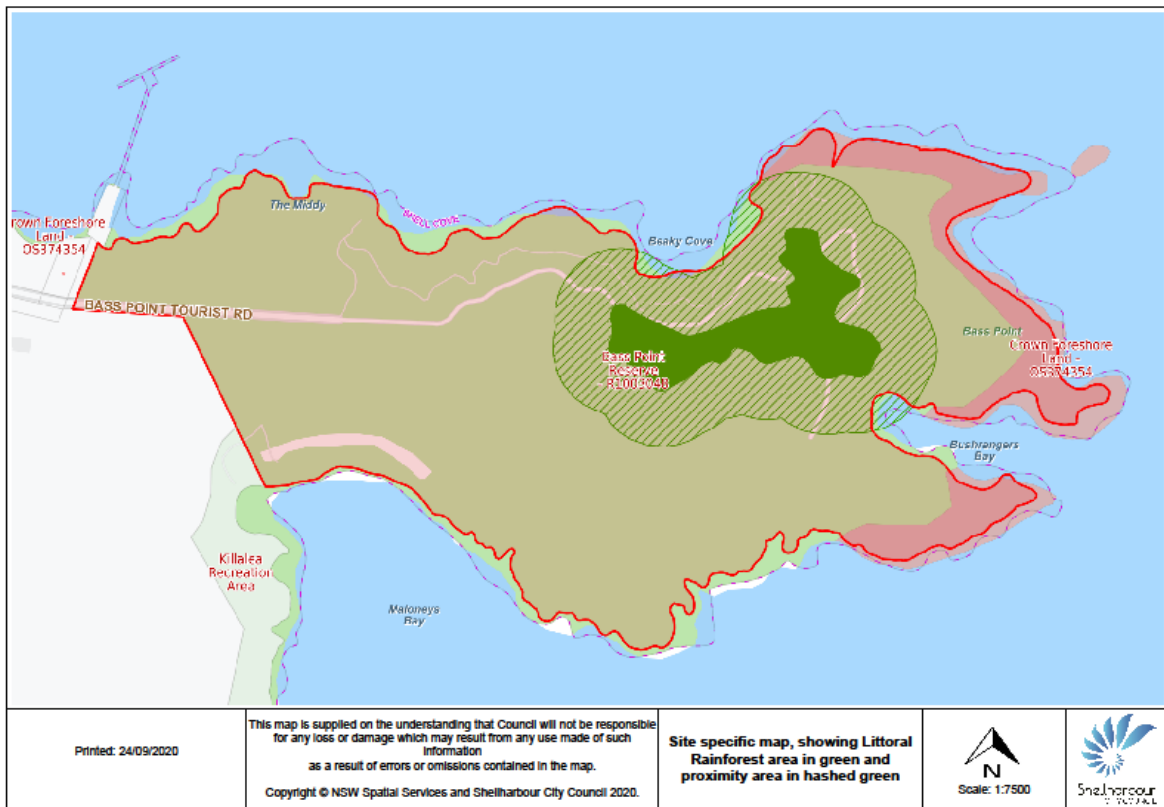
**Project updates since June:**

Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration

A team of Qualified Bush Regeneration Officers conducted primary and secondary weeding activities in the Littoral Rainforest Endangered Ecological Community, also land covered under the Resilience and Hazards State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), Littoral Rainforest and Littoral Rainforest proximity area (**Figure 1**).

The targeted and captured weed species were *Lantana camara* (Common Lantana), *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (Bitou Bush), *Delairea odorata* (Cape Ivy), *Passiflora subpeltata* (White Passionflower), *Asparagus aethiopicus* (Asparagus fern), *Ipomoea cairica* (Coastal morning glory), *Araujia sericifera* (Moth vine), along with a few other common weed species such as bidens, fleabane, and solanam species.

The removal techniques used on site were dominantly manual hand removal with hand tools, use of herbicides with cut and paint and spraying with backpack units, some mechanical tool use, such as brush cutters. When suitable biowaste is left onsite to break down, and removal when necessary of specific weeds and seeds.



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

Milestone 3 Report was submitted to the Coast and Estuary Grants Team, and the Final Report is due in January 2024. This will mark the completion of these grant activities for this grant round.

### CoastSnap and BeachStat Beach Monitoring Program

#### *Project Management*

In July, Council officers completed on the ground surveying of each site for CoastSnap and BeachStat (**Figure 2 and Figure 3**). The survey work was completed with a Senior Scientist (Coastal and Marine) from Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), and an Honours Student from University of Wollongong (UOW). The data will be uploaded to the GIS platform and used to generate quarterly reports on how the coastline is changing over time.

The Grant Variation request to extend the Beach Monitoring Program grant by one year was granted. The project is extended to May 2026 and allows approximately 2 and half years of beach change analysis to be undertaken.



*Figure 2 Council staff with UOW Student at Windang Island*



*Figure 3 Council Staff with UOW and DPE at Coast Snap Station, Windang Island*

*Engagement and Education*

National Tree Day for schools was Friday the 28 July 2023 and 50 Year 6 students from Shell Cove Public School participated at Shellharbour North Beach. In addition to the planting activities in the local sand dunes, the students were also educated about the Coast Snap station on site (**Figure 4**).

A Council Officer spoke for approximately 10 minutes about what Coast Snap is, why it is important and how dune rehabilitation links in with protection of our coastline. The Council officer conducted a demonstration on how to take a photo and upload it to the APP, and encouraged the students to participate in the program in the future when visiting their favourite beaches in the LGA.



*Figure 4 Coast Snap talk with Shell Cove Students*

### Warilla Dune Restoration

The first Milestone for the Warilla Dune Restoration project was submitted. It was reported that there has been 1000 hours of labour invested into the area and that sites are yielding positive results. There is a reduction in weeds, and improvement in biodiversity, due to 2000 plants of varying species being planted, maintained and connecting to the native canopy.

Works on site continue with targeting weed species using a variety of Bush Regeneration techniques, including hand removal, machinery/tool removal, herbicide application of cut and paint and spraying application. The dominant target weed species include; Turkey Rhubarb, Bitou bush, Asparagus fern, Hydrocotyle bonariensis, Ehrharta, Fireweed, Bidens, Couch and Kikuyu grass. **(Figure 5)**



*Figure 5 Site preparation, slashing weeds*

### Shellharbour North and South Dune Restoration Works

#### *June in the Dunes*

On Wednesday, 28 June 2023, indoor Council staff took part in an incredible planting day at the Shellharbour North Dunes. In total, approximately 15 Council staff planted 3000 tubestock plants that were propagated and grown in Council's nursery.



*Figure 6 Council Staff at Shellharbour North Beach*



*National Tree Planting Day*

National Tree Day for schools was Friday 28 July 2023 and a community planting day was held on Sunday 30 July 2023. At Shellharbour North Beach, 2000 seedlings were planted in the dunes.

Council workers continue to target weed species. (**Figure 6**)

Litter Prevention Stream 2 Grant Application:

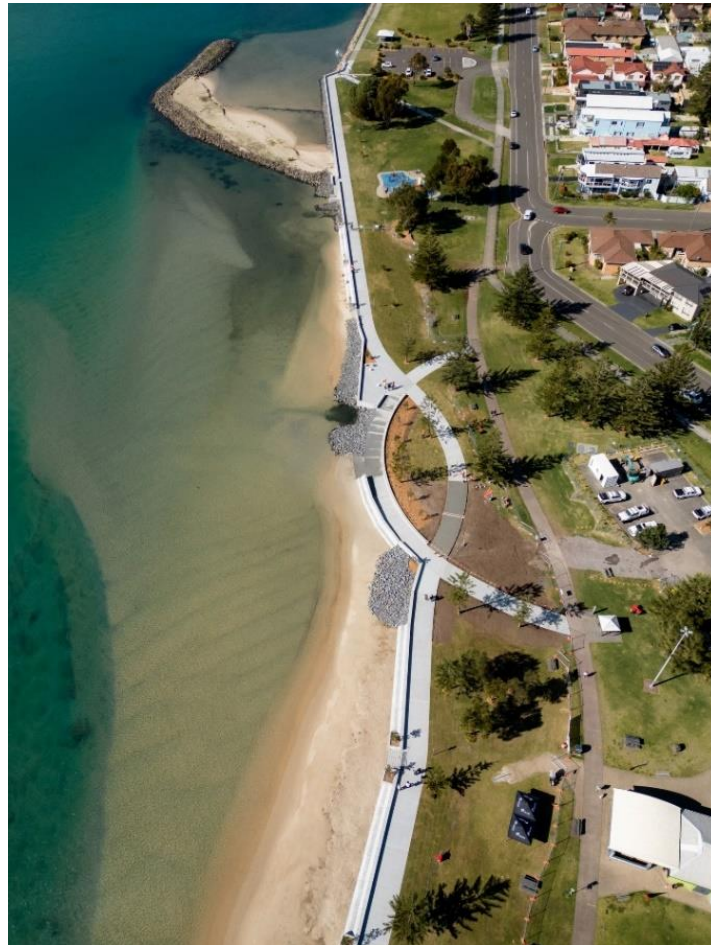
Council have been informed that the Stream 2 grant was successful, however are still awaiting formal announcement by the Minister. The Stream 2 Grant will focus on strategic development and capacity building within the Council.

Council is moving forward with identified activities outlined in the grant application. Council staff have participated in an online workshop with the EPA in July regarding Grant deliverables, and the first staff Steering Committee workshop occurred in August.

Lake Illawarra*Reddall Reserve Promenade*

The Reddall Reserve Masterplan identified the promenade for renewal. The replacement will provide new and improved foreshore seating, increased pedestrian accessibility, safeguard against shoreline erosion, reduced maintenance and provide greater connection to the wider Reserve. (**Figure 7**)

Thanks to the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program, Council was able to secure \$3 million grant for the upgrades. Construction commenced in October 2022 and is now complete. An opening day was held on the 1 September 2023.



*Figure 7 Reddall Reserve Renewal*

**Consultations**

**Internal**

- Executive Director Infrastructure Services
- Environment Manager
- Assets Projects Officer
- Biodiversity Projects Officer
- Team Coordinator Bushland Management
- Bush Regeneration Leading Hand
- Sustainability Engagement and Education Officer

**External**

- Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
- Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

**Recommendation**

**That the Coastal Management Advisory Committee receive and note the Coastal Coordinator report.**

Approved for consideration: Matthew Apolo  
Executive Manager Technical and Recreation Services

**Date of Meeting:** 20 September 2023

**Attachments**

Nil

## **6.2 Shellharbour Coast and Estuary 2023-24 Grant Applications**

To the Coastal Management Advisory Committee

**Directorate:** Infrastructure Services

**Group:** Technical and Recreation Services

**Manager:** Matthew Apolo – Executive Manager Technical and Recreation Services

**Author:** Leslie Reid – 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 2023-24 Coastal and Estuary Grant Program applications that Council has submitted for both the Implementation and Planning Streams.

### **Background**

#### *Implementation Stream*

The 2023-24 Coastal and Estuary Grants Program for the Implementation Stream opened in July 2023. Council staff liaised with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to collaborate on appropriate grant applications to address actions out of the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). This funding is under a 1:1 funding agreement.

A summary of these two grant applications is:

1. Shellharbour North – Dune Protection Fencing (\$130,000 over 1 year)

This grant application proposes a project that will improve and maintain beach accesses to protect beach/dune health and provide high quality and safe public access to Shellharbour North Beach. The condition of the current fences is poor with sections in total disrepair and failing to restrict access. Informal access paths also exist through the dunes with no fencing present, causing harm to flora and fauna and contributing to weed infestations and vegetation vandalism. The project would see council formalise and upgrade preferred beach access paths and close and rehabilitate informal paths. This would be achieved through the installation of new dune fencing, and replacement of old, broken dune fencing.

If successful, the project will be undertaken from November 2023 – May 2024, and will be funded 1:1, with a Council contribution of \$65,000 and DPE contribution of \$65,000.

## 2. Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration (\$110,000 over 3 years)

Similar to the previous grant which concludes in January 2024, this grant application proposes a project that will undertake bush regeneration and revegetation within the Littoral Rainforest and Littoral Rainforest Proximity Area of Bass Point Reserve. The project would address the threat of weed impacts on this Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) to improve its ecological integrity, habitat value and resilience. This would build on the work of the previous grant funded project for this area by addressing problems that could not be covered within the scope of the last project. This new project would also focus efforts on the conservation of newly found occurrences of endangered species *Cynanchum elegans* and *Zieria granulata* within the Littoral Rainforest. Expected outcomes include a significant reduction of the density and cover of weed species and an increase in native plant cover.

If successful, the project will be undertaken from February 2024 – 2027. It will be funded 1:1, with a \$55,000 contribution from Council and a \$55,000 contribution from DPE.

### *Planning Stream*

The Coastal and Estuary Grants Program for the Planning Stream is open year-round. The Planning Stream is available for projects that aim to develop a Coastal Management Program (CMP), transition a CZMP to a CMP, and to investigate and design coastal and estuary management activities recommended in a certified CMP only.

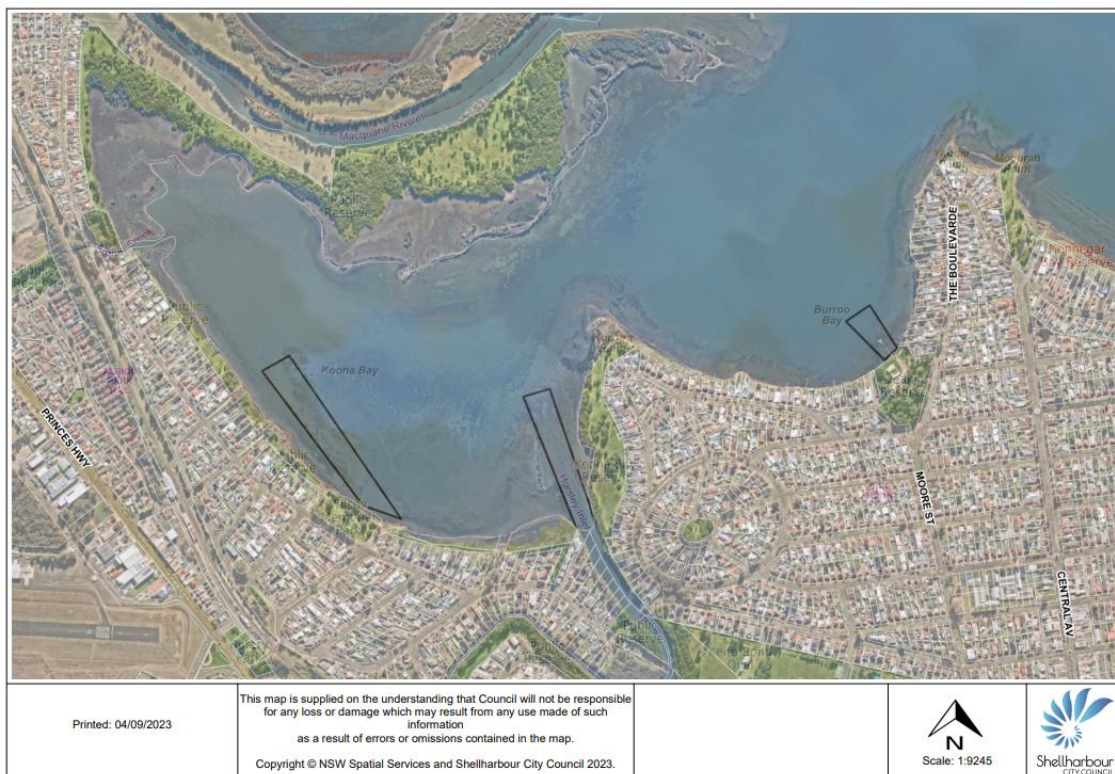
Council staff are applying for two Planning Stream Grants. The Planning Stream grants are a 2:1 funding agreement.

### 1. Dredging Investigation - Scope for Burroo Bay, Koona Bay and Horsley Creek (\$240,000 over one year)

Council is applying for a grant addressing action RA5 and RA6 of the Lake Illawarra CMP.

- RA5 Conduct small scale dredging to improve public recreational outcomes and to improve the functionality of stormwater outlet infrastructure.
- RA6 Investigate the need for and viability of larger scale dredging of bays and the entrances to creeks or other measures to improve recreational amenity and access within the Lake where sedimentation and/or the changed nature of the entrance channel has negatively impacted on recreational use

The grant will assist Council with funding towards investigations on the viability of dredging for navigational and recreational purposes at Burroo Bay and Koona Bay. **(Figure 1)** This grant has been identified as an outcome of Councillor and Community requests through the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group.



*Figure 8 Indicative locations for dredging, Burroo Bay and Keona Bay, Lake Illawarra*

The total grant value will be for \$240,000, with an \$80,000 contribution from Shellharbour Council, and \$160,000 from Department of Planning and Environment.

2. Shellharbour Coastal Values Project – Aboriginal cultural values, current status, risks and vulnerabilities (\$60,000 over 12 months)

Shellharbour Council have identified a project in partnership with the Community Life team, and Assets Projects team which addresses an information gap identified in Council's adopted Stage 1: Scoping Study for the CMP.

The Aboriginal cultural values and assets within the Shellharbour LGA coastal region remain partly unknown. Aboriginal coastal cultural values and assets, and those still to be identified, are at risk due to coastal hazards. These risks are significant enough to warrant a detailed technical study to inform the preparation of the CMP.

The technical study will undertake a cultural values vulnerability assessment, utilising the outcomes of the key hazards assessments to determine the risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities relevant to Aboriginal Cultural Values. Coastal management issues relating to Aboriginal cultural values and assets and high-level actions and/or interventions to manage the impacts of coastal hazards as identified by the Aboriginal community will inform Stages 3 – 5 of the CMP process.

If successful, the total grant value will be for \$60,000, with a \$20,000 contribution from Council and a \$40,000 contribution from DPE.

**Financial / Resources Implications**

The grant applications address actions within Council's CZMP, and Council's Stage 1: Scoping Study for Shellharbour's CMP.

The Implementation Stream grant applications are based on a 1:1 funding agreement, where the State Government will provide \$1 for every \$1 contributed by Council.

The Planning Stream grant applications are based on a 2:1 funding agreement where the State Government will provide \$2 for every \$1 contributed by Council.

The total project value for the four grants is \$540,000 and \$220,000 would be funded by Council operations budget.

**Legal and Policy implications**

If successful, the Grant Funding Agreements will have to be signed by Council. Council will have to operate under the terms outlined in the Funding Agreement.

**Public / Social Impact**

There are multiple public and social impacts that would come from these four grants.

Shellharbour North – Dune Protection Fencing

This project would directly benefit the community by formalising and upgrading preferred beach access paths to ensure safe public access to the beach. In doing so, the project also protects the dune system's flora and fauna, helping improve the ecological values of the site, which is highly valued by the community.

Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration

Bass Point Reserve is a major regional tourist destination, receiving both domestic and international visitors, who come to admire the scenic natural views, appreciate the unique biodiversity values of the site, and participate in recreational activities such as bushwalking, bird watching, swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving, and more. By improving and maintaining the ecological state of the site, this project will provide benefit to the local community and broader public in tourism revenue, recreational value, heritage conservation, and the intrinsic environmental value of the site.

Scope for Dredging

This application is addressing an action out of the Lake Illawarra CMP that was specifically included due to high community interest in this activity. The Scope of dredging at Burroo Bay, Koono Bay and Horsley Creek inlet will investigate localised dredging around key recreational boating infrastructure and stormwater drains where sedimentation and/or the changed nature of the entrance channel has impacted on usage, access and/or functionality.

### Coastal Values Project

This technical study will apply a community-led placed-based approach to identify the known and predicted Aboriginal cultural values within the Shellharbour LGA coastal regions. These values will be determined by Traditional Owners, custodians and knowledge holders.

Aboriginal people will play an active role in the cultural values assessments and be central to controlling how these values are best protected, conserved, and/or managed.

### **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

This report supports the following strategies of the Community Strategic Plan:

- Objective 1.2 We are a liveable community
- Strategy 1.2.3 Construct and upgrade buildings and infrastructure that meet current and future community need
- Objective 2.1 We are sustainable
- Strategy 2.1.1 Our bushland, coast and waterways are protected to ensure safe and sustainable use for present and future generations
- Strategy 2.1.2 Deliver plans and programs that enhance and protect biodiversity in our natural areas
- Strategy 2.1.5 Address, adapt, and build resilience to climate change

### **Consultations**

#### **Internal**

Executive Director Infrastructure Services

Environment Manager

Assets Projects Officer

Biodiversity Projects Officer

Open Spaces Manager

Team Coordinator Bushland Management

Bush Regeneration Leading Hand

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

#### **External**

Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)

Local Aboriginal Lands Council



**Recommendation**

**That the Coastal Management Advisory Committee receive and note the Grants Update report.**

Approved for consideration: Matthew Apolo  
Executive Manager Technical and Recreation Services

**Date of Meeting:** 20 September 2023

**Attachments**

Nil

**7. General Business**

**8. Next Meeting**

29 November 2023