



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, 21 June 2023

Commencing at 4:00PM

**Shellharbour Civic Centre
Ground Floor Training Room**

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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 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.

4. Disclosures of Interest**5. Presentations****6. Reports**

6.1 Shellharbour Coast and Estuary Grants - Update (12077776)

To the Coastal Management Advisory Committee

Directorate: Amenity and Assets
Group: Built and Natural Environment

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

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. Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration Grant (\$50,700 from both NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) & Council; Totalling \$101,400 over 3 years; 2021-2024)
2. Beach Monitoring Program – understanding our changing coastline (\$116,500 from DPE over 3 years; 2022-2024)
3. Warilla Dune Restoration works (\$45,800 from both DPE & Council; 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 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 March:**Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration**

The Bass Point Littoral Rainforest Regeneration program is funded by 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 weeding and bush regeneration works within the littoral rainforest section of Bass Point reserve in the Shellharbour Local Government Area (LGA); 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*).

This program will directly assist Council in addressing erosion issues in the reserve as well as Habitat Management Actions in the CZMP (Action; 2.4.13). These works will also support future actions as we transition to the new CMP.

Update:

The Natural Areas team has completed approximately 1,320 hours of work across the 23.1ha of Littoral Rainforest EEC (**Figure 1**).

These works have targeted the removal of priority weeds in the area: *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.

More than 1,200 seedlings have been planted and maintained, with approximately 1,300 tube stock to be planted out this winter. (**Figure 2**)

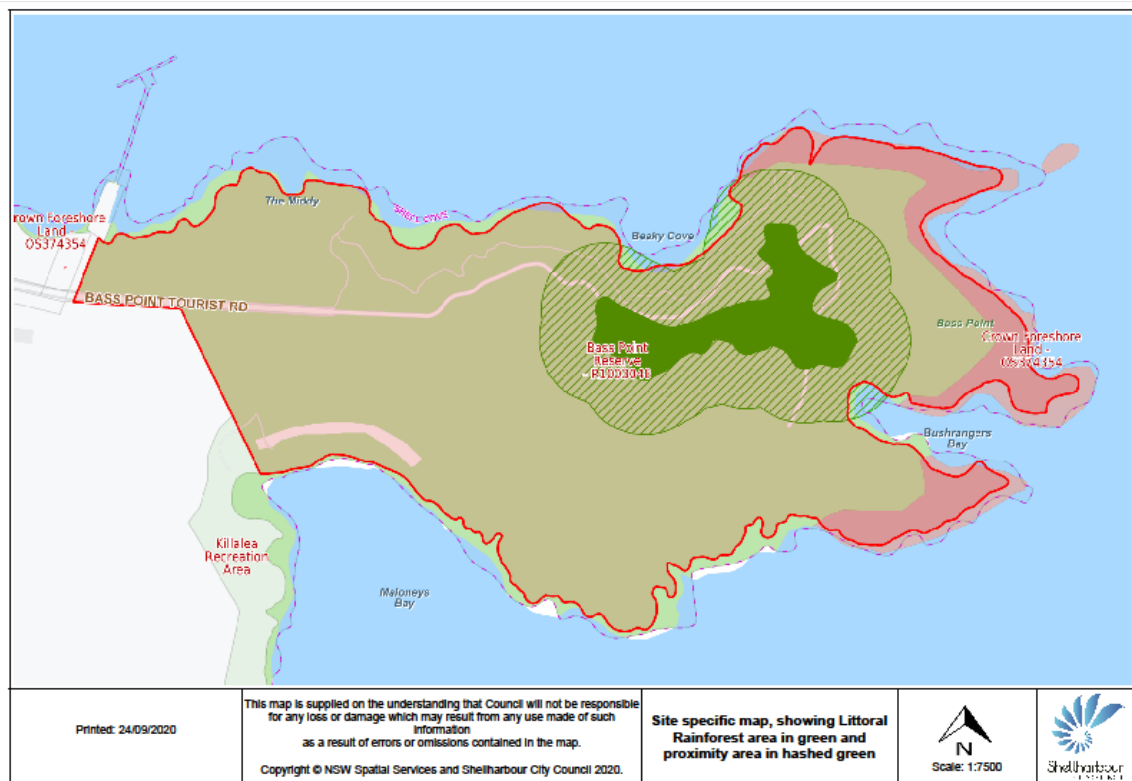


Figure 1: Bass Point Nature Reserve: Littoral Rainforest area in green, and proximity area for regeneration in hashed green.



Figure 2: Shellharbour City Council Bush Regenerator weeding *Lantana camara* (cut and paint method, 2022).

Beach Monitoring Program – understanding our changing coastline

This project aims to monitor our dynamic coastline using continuous photographic imagery from six defined CoastSnap and BeachStat cameras, over time. This infrastructure will provide essential data that will inform researchers and marine managers to better understand coastal morphology and therefore, how to best manage our coast.

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

Infrastructure Update (on the ground & online)

All four CoastSnap stations had been installed for the monitoring of the four beaches (Gadhu Beach, Warilla South Beach, Shellharbour North Beach and Windang Island). However, owing to the Warilla Revetment construction works the Warilla Beach CoastSnap station has been removed and will be reinstalled later in June. Similarly, both BeachStat cameras have also been installed (Warilla and Shellharbour South Beach).

The Dashboard, a digital viewing platform and analysis tool, has also been developed and is now live and publicly available for both monitoring systems (**Figure 3**). The dashboard can be accessed by the public, marine managers and researchers to view Council's specified beach locations over time and utilise tools to analyse beach change.

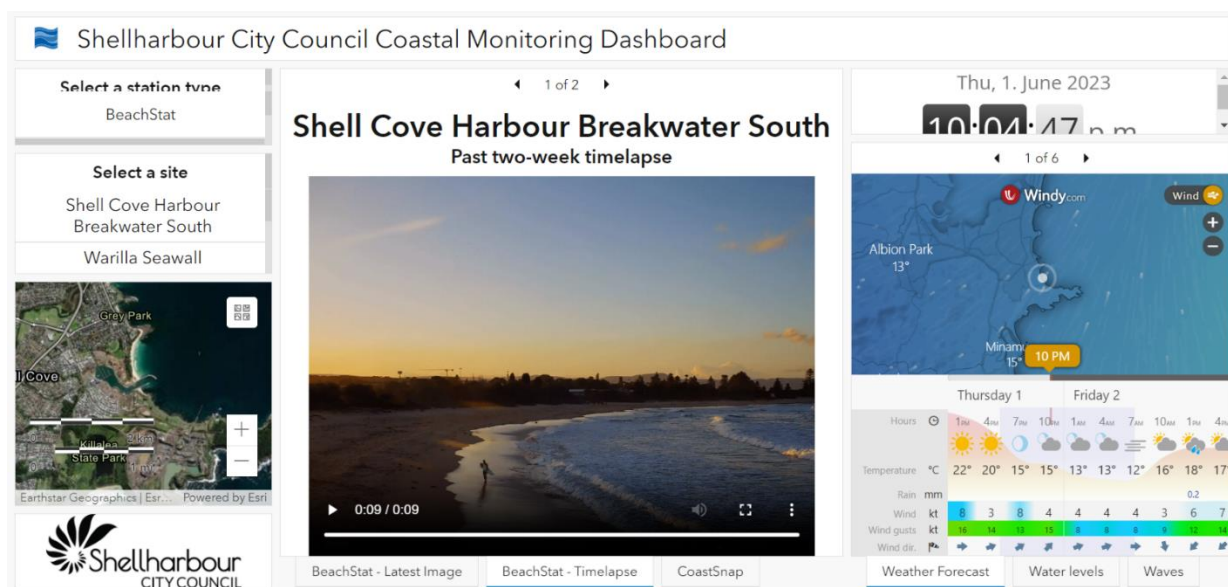


Figure 3: Online [Community Beach Monitoring Program: CoastSnap & BeachStat](#) dashboard.

University of Wollongong Project

A University of Wollongong (UOW) honours research student is currently undertaking a project that will provide further data to Council on monitoring beach volumes. The UOW project will utilise historical data and a range of different models to monitor beach volumes over time. This project will use a Shellharbour Beach as a case study, which will provide further analysis of Shellharbour beach volumes over time, contributing to the analysis that will be undertaken as part of the CoastSnap and BeachStat Monitoring program.

Education Update:

Council have developed an educational video informing the community about CoastSnap and how to use it which has been shared on social media and can be found on the website.

Grant variation seeking extension for monitoring:

Council has recently submitted a request to extend the Beach Monitoring Program grant by one year. The beach monitoring grant was originally intended to be finalised on May 31, 2025, however due to delays for manufacturing, staffing and grant variation delays have resulted in monitoring timeframes being reduced. The grant variation request would extend the project to May 2026 and would allow approximately 2 and half years of beach change analysis to be undertaken.

Warilla Dune Restoration Works

This project aims to protect and enhance the area's coastal 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.

This grant will foster resilience of the dune against coastal erosion, as well as habitat management and education actions in the CZMP (Action; 2.4.13; 2.4.12 Community Education). These works will also support future actions as we transition to the new CMP.

Regeneration update

Weed management and planting continues. Strong sun, wind and evaporation earlier in the year has resulted in a low survivor rate of restored plants.

Council hopes that the current winter planting regime will aid better survival. 360 man hours and 2000 seedlings planted.

Litter Prevention Grant - Luv the Lake Campaign

Shellharbour City Council applied for Stream 1 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 allows for the temporary employment of a 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.

Stream 1 Grant Update:

Waste infrastructure and signage has been updated and installed at 12 specified hotspot locations around Lake Illawarra in both Wollongong (6) and Shellharbour (6).

Council has been liaising with existing and new local community groups for clean-up activities along the Lake.

The Luv the Lake Coastal Clean Up was hosted by Shellharbour City Council in conjunction with Wollongong City Council and stall holders on Saturday June 3. This was the final, large public clean up and education event funded by the NSW EPA's Stream 1 Grants.

Stream 2 Grant Application:

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. A further report has been provided to the committee on the Stream 2 funding.

Shellharbour North and South Dune Restoration Works

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 4**), access improvement and education.



Figure 4: 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 proposed fencing.

This undertaking will foster resilience of the dune against coastal erosion, as well as habitat management and education actions in the CZMP (Action; 2.4.13; 2.4.12 Community Education). These works will also support future actions as we transition to the new CMP.

Regeneration Update:

Revegetation works at Shellharbour North & Shellharbour South Beaches continue with intensive weeding & close to 5000 plants restored into each dune (~10, 000 planted overall). All seeds have been locally sourced and grown at Council’s nursery. The project also includes weed reduction maintenance works including spraying, weed removal & planting.

Education Update:

Between 6-10 students, from Albion Park High School have participated in three separate days of dune restoration planting at the Shellharbour North Dune. This has, and will continue to be, a great opportunity for students to build an understanding of the coastal and environmental works occurring at their local beaches and why they are important.

Other Projects

Council celebrates World Oceans Day, June 8, 2023

This June, in commemoration of World Oceans Day on June 8, Council has organised a number of ocean and coastal themed activities and events over the month for the community to learn about the vital role our oceans play in our local environment.

These activities, over June, will directly assist Council in addressing Community Education actions (2.4.12) in the CZMP, supporting the transition of the new CMP.

The goal of World Oceans Day is to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by our oceans, such as overfishing, pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction, and to encourage sustainable practices and responsibility. It aims to empower individuals to take meaningful action, both on an individual level and collectively, to ensure the long-term health and well-being of our oceans and the countless species that call them home.

Up to eight free community activities were held this month and can be found on Council's website at [World Oceans Day](#).

By promoting awareness, education, and conservation efforts, World Oceans Day strives to instil a sense of responsibility and appreciation for the world's oceans, inspiring people to become advocates and champions for marine conservation throughout the year.

Lake Illawarra Community Engagement – developing an Engagement Strategy

Although works under the Lake Illawarra CMP target this waterway, it has co-benefits for the Shellharbour Open Coast (and Elliot - Little Lake) CMP with residents participating and considering the how we engage our community with the lake activities.

Brooks Community Engagement have been assisting Shellharbour City and Wollongong City Councils in developing a Community Engagement and Participation Strategy for Lake Illawarra and its surrounds.

Since February, Brooks have completed two hotspot kiosks, two community workshops, interviewed over 180 community members and conducted 21 interviews with key stakeholders to inform the development of the strategy.

These activities support Councils addressing actions in the Lake Illawarra CMP including protecting Lake Illawarra through community engagement and participation program (PM3 / EV3).

Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (CMP) Implementation Group Walk around the Lake

At the last Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Plan (CMP) Implementation Group meeting (February 2023), longstanding members proposed the group recommence informal 'walk & talk' catch ups. Similar events in the past have been helpful in Group members developing a better understanding of the Lake.

On Thursday the 27 April, at Yallah Jetty, Committee members of the Lake Illawarra CMP met for an informal 'walk & talk' along the foreshore to Kanahooka Point and back. Shellharbour City Council's Mayor Homer, Council staff & community representatives from both Shellharbour & Wollongong, stakeholders from UOW and Sydney Water, joined the walk.

The group discussed the shorelines rocky foreshore and how these environments change over time with urban development surrounding the lake and the lake's entrance. Members considered the walk highly beneficial for knowledge transfer across the Group.

As a result of the success of this event, Shellharbour and has decided to trial facilitating these walks routinely across the Shellharbour LGA.

Consultations**Internal**

- Manager Environment
- Built
- Natural Areas team
- Environment team

External

Nil

Recommendation

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

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

Date of Meeting: 21 June 2023

Attachments

Nil

6.2 Adoption of Draft Shellharbour Coastal Management Program Scoping Study (12077783)

To the Coastal Management Advisory Committee

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

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 received ahead of the March 2023 Committee meeting.

The Scoping Study estimates that Stages 2 to 4 of the Shellharbour CMP will cost in the order of \$600,000 to complete. The NSW DPE Coasts and Estuaries Funding Program will fund the development of CMPs at a ratio of 2:1 (Planning Stream). Therefore, the anticipated cost to Council for the development of the Shellharbour CMP is in the order of \$200,000. This cost would be split across 2 financial years as provided in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Timing of Costs for Stage 2 to 4 of the Proposed Shellharbour CMP

	Year 1		Year 2	
	Total	Council Contribution	Total	Council Contribution
Stage 2	\$345,000	\$115,000	-	-
Stages 3 & 4	-	-	\$255,000	\$85,000

After consideration of the feedback from the Committee, the final draft Scoping Study will now be presented to Council on 27 June 2023 for adoption.

Shellharbour CZMP and Transitional Arrangements

Under the Coastal Management Act 2016, existing CZMPs were set to expire and cease to have legislative effect from 31 December 2021. In October 2021, the NSW Government passed an amendment to the Coastal Management Act that provided coastal councils an extension to the expiry of existing CZMPs until 31 December 2023.

The Scoping Study identifies 12 to 18 months of studies to be completed before the Shellharbour CMP would be finalised. Therefore, in March 2023, Council wrote to the Minister for Local Government seeking a second, two-year extension of the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). Council is currently awaiting a formal response to this request.

Accordingly, the 2023/24 Operational Plan does not include funding for the development of the Shellharbour CMP as Council is seeking an extension to its CZMP.

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 Adoption of Draft Shellharbour Coastal Management Program Scoping Study report.

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

Date of Meeting: 21 June 2023

Attachments

Nil

6.3 EPA Litter Prevention Grant – Stream 2: Strategic Development and Capacity Building (12077788)

To the Coastal Management Advisory Committee

Directorate: Amenity and Assets
Group: Built and Natural Environment

Managers: Matthew Apolo – Group Manager Built and Natural Environment
Author: Lusiana Vulatha – Coastal Grants Officer

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Coastal Management Advisory Committee on the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Litter Prevention Grant funding.

Background

In June 2022, Shellharbour City Council was successful in securing funding through the EPA's NSW Litter Prevention Grants Program. Stream 1 funding was applied for and implemented in partnership with Wollongong City Council. The stream 1 funding has been used to develop on-ground projects to address the issue of litter in six hotspot locations around Lake Illawarra in both Wollongong and Shellharbour Local Government Areas (LGA). In June 2023, Council will complete the Stream 1 Litter Prevention Grant.

Stream 2 funding under the EPA Litter Prevention Grant program was applied for by Council in April 2023 to deliver strategic goals for litter prevention throughout the Shellharbour LGA.

Update

Council has recently been approved for the full \$100,000 of stream 2 grant funding.

The grant will be used to fund the position of Coastal Grants Officer for an additional 12 months to develop the Shellharbour City Council Litter Reduction Roadmap.

The Roadmap will form the basis for Council to set achievable litter reduction targets that align with the NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2022-30 and how this will be accomplished. Through developing and adopting a Litter Prevention Roadmap, Council will also have the opportunity to apply for Stream 3 funding under the EPA's Litter Prevention Program, which would assist Council in implementing the actions identified in the Roadmap.

Additional benefits of Council developing a Litter Prevention Roadmap include:

- Financial improvements in quantifying staff time and resources dedicated to litter prevention management

- Environmental preservation of both marine and terrestrial species impacted by litter
- Beautification of the built and natural environment
- Strategic direction on how to implement litter prevention practices across the organisation

Council will evaluate ways to embed litter prevention practices into the organisation, so that targets can be achieved beyond the completion of the EPA grant funding. The Roadmap will outline what staffing and financial resourcing is required to deliver long-term litter reduction.

The Roadmap will provide an opportunity for Council to undertake consultation on litter reduction targets and prevention actions. Further consultation with the Coastal Committee will occur over the next 12 months to provide input into the development of the Roadmap. Whilst this Roadmap will consider the whole LGA, it will also create significant benefits for the preservation of marine species that are impacted by litter.

Consultations

Internal

- Manager Environment
- Coastal Programs Coordinator

External

Nil

Recommendation

That the Coastal Management Advisory Committee receive and note the EPA Litter Prevention Grant – Stream 2: Strategic Development and Capacity Building report.

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

Date of Meeting: 21 June 2023

Attachments

Nil

7. General Business

8. Next Meeting

20 September 2023