



COLLINGWOOD BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP "CBPG" Progress Report to the NCA July 2015

1. Sea Level Rise Policy:

Since the meeting of the NCA and Minister Stokes in December 2014 the sea level rise policy previously adopted by Shoalhaven Council in October 2014 was challenged by staff. A subsequent meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee (P&RC) in Feb 2015 endorsed the original rises adopted in October 2014 for 2030 and 2050, but this time included a forecast for 2100 which had not been included in the original policy in October 2014. The resolution of the P&RC is:

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Committee's delegated authority from Council, that Council reaffirm its decision in respect of sea level projections as follows:

- a) Establish a sea level rise benchmarks for planning purposes based on a 2030 horizon 100 mm, a 2050 horizon of 230 mm and 360 mm horizon for 2100 as indicated in the Whitehead & associates Report.
- b) Review the projection based on real data every 7 years with tidal gauges at HMAS Creswell and Ulladulla being included in the calculations along with other NSW gauges, modelled or corrected altimeter data be excluded unless new Satellites overcome the present measurement error.
- c) Apply the adopted sea level rise projections for the preparation and review of flood studies, flood risk management studies and plans, coastal hazard studies and asset management plans;
- d) As part of a future amendment to Shoalhaven Development Control Plan 2014, review Chapter G6: Areas of Coastal Management and other relevant chapters to ensure provisions are consistent with the adopted Sea Level Rise Policy and
- e) Continue to monitor State and Federal Government advice including Stage 2 Coastal Reform and future Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports and review its sea level rise projections in accordance with part b.
- f) Adopt the explanatory Notes and Guidelines as follows:-
 - i) This resolution takes into account the following papers and Presentation, and Complementary Review of the Whitehead Report and is adopted on the basis of 7 year reviews primarily using real long term data from the Fort

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Denison Tidal Gauge as well as the consideration of trends from local tidal stations.

The seven year reviews means Council's plans can quickly respond to any significant change in the rate of sea level increase or decrease and on this basis Council believes it is reasonable to use the above methodology to determine the planning levels.

It is also noted that the CZMP's are plans which are assented to by the Minister.

Whitehead and Associates Report Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven Councils.
Whitehead & Lord

The presentation by George Kruk Chartered Civil Engineer 10th Feb 2015

Commentary and Analysis on the
Whitehead & Associates 2014 NSW Sea-Level Report
Carter R.M., de Lange W., Hansen, J.M., Humlum O., Idso C.,
Kear, D., Legates, D., Mörner, N.A., Ollier C., Singer F. & Soon W.

NSW Ocean Water Levels
B Modra1, S Hesse
Manly Hydraulics Laboratory, Sydney, NSW

2. Collaboration with Shoalhaven Council.

The CBPG reached out to the Council's Coastal Planning team to collaborate on the methodologies to be used for incorporating the consequences to the new sea level rise predictions into the CZMP. Very minor progress has been achieved in approaches to the Council for collaboration with the CBPG.

3. Community Engagement.

The CBPG sought and has been successful in forming a subcommittee within the local Community Consultative Body "CCB"/ Vincentia Residents and Ratepayers Association as a means to establish recognised communication channel on Coastal Zone Management Plan "CZMP" between the community and Council.

A motion was passed at the June meeting of the CCB to request Council to write to the State Member, Shirley Hancock, to seek the State Government to support community representation on the Coastal Reforms committee.

4. Dune Care Vegetation.

A significant amount of the time of the CBPG is being taken up with the critical issue of the vegetation on the dunes at Collingwood Beach. A monoculture of banksias and acacias has developed with plantings and consequential spreading of seedlings since the late nineties. These plantings were contrary to bush care plans which contained long term commitments by the local Rate Payers Association and Department of Water Conservation over the 1980's and 1990's. These commitments were to planting of species which would not grow to greater than 2.5m and not interrupt the property owners' views. As would be expected, significant conflict has arisen between the residents wanting to retain views and Council staff with their own preferences. The Councillors opted to form a "Dune vegetation Reference Group" to come up with a management plan to achieve a balanced decision. This process is proceeding but not without the challenges of the environmentalists determined to achieve outcomes that would prejudice to the residents' legal rights to have a view, a point determined in various courts.

The CBPG submitted a position paper for the management of Dune vegetation through the local CCB. The position paper was adopted by the CCB.

5. Participation in case study for Association of Local Government.

The CBPG has been approached to participate in a case study for the Association of Local Government on a toolkit for Coastal adaptation. The CBPG is currently appraising the process for participation.

6. Grant for Community Engagement.

Council has received a grant for community engagement for the CZMP. Council has appointed Straight Talk "ST" as the successful tenderers. ST will be supported by BMT/WBM as technical experts.

7. Sand Reserves: - Collingwood Beach's greatest asset.

The CBPG is to promote the benchmark and passion shown by the Woolli group in encouraging a representation of the owners to measure the sand reserves in the dunes. Professor Emeritus Roger McLean, who along with Bruce Thom, measured Bengello Beach each year since 1976 met with the CBPG in June '15 to share his understandings and experiences on the benefits and process of how to

measure and monitor the beach. Professor McLean referred to papers published on his research and field work on both Bengello Beach and the Funafiti Atoll (undertaken by University of Auckland and University of New South Wales). The studies for both of these beaches reflect there is no evidence of sea level rise causing any loss of sand reserves over the last century.

Sufficient evidence appears to exist to establish the sand reserves on Collingwood Beach have been increasing. This means Collingwood Beach is deemed to be an accreting beach. Some members took measurements to add support to this evidence. The survey reflected the dunes are now 8 metres further seaward of the MHWM than when the subdivision boundary lines were determined in 1952.

A link to an incidental You Tube taken of the dunes at Collingwood Beach after the major storms along the NSW coast in May 2015 is included below. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the dune stabilisation efforts of the late seventies.

8. Hazard lines.

Hand in hand with the accretion and the new sea level rise policy is the necessity for Council to collaborate and redraw the hazard lines.

9. Sharing experiences and benchmarking.

The property owners re-energised in early 2014 and obtained recognition of the CBPG from Council in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy. The CBPG values the experiences the Coastal Alliance shares amongst its members. One of the CBPG objectives is to be on the front foot with the CZMP and mitigate some of the challenges the other members of the Coastal Alliance are experiencing with challenging CZMPs after they get to public display. Only time will tell whether the CBPG is accepted into the decision making process or deemed to be a group resorting to collaboration by deputations. The CBPG strive for the former.

Yours faithfully,



John Stuchbery

Chair Collingwood Beach Preservation Group

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7OEGuewO_E