

# ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTE BOOKLET

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held at Manly Chambers on

**Tuesday 28 March 2017**

Beginning at 6.30pm for the purpose of considering and determining matters included in this agenda.



**Mark Ferguson**  
**General Manager**

**Issued: 28/03/2017**

# OUR VALUES

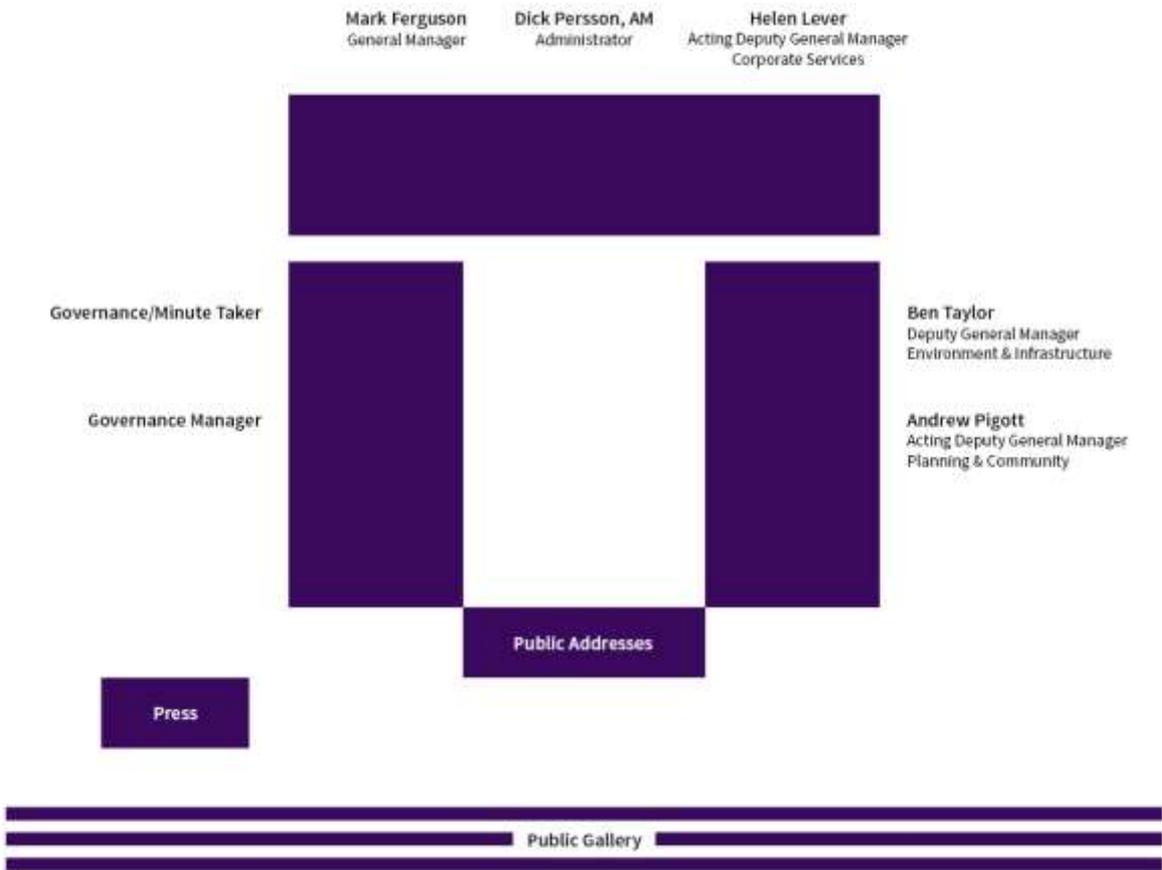
*Respect*

*Empowerment*

*Service*

*Wellbeing*

*Equity*



**Administrator’s Minute for an Ordinary Meeting of Council  
to be held on Tuesday 28 March 2017  
at Manly Chambers  
Commencing at 6.30pm**

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## 5.0 ADMINISTRATOR'S MINUTES

### ITEM 5.1 ADMINISTRATOR MINUTE NO 2/2017 - COASTAL EROSION

TRIM FILE REF 2017/079499

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 [↓ Letter to Prime Minister](#)
- 2 [↓ Letter to NSW Premier](#)
- 3 [↓ Response Letter from Prime Minister](#)
- 4 [↓ Response Letter from Acting Director, Sustainable Development and Coastal Policy](#)

### BACKGROUND

In June 2016 Sydney experienced a massive storm referred to as an East Coast Low, which caused major flooding and coastal erosion. This storm was of such ferocity that it caused the evacuation of dozens of residents from their homes in the middle of the night as the waves washed away the sand dunes underpinning the 10 houses and 14 units over a distance of 160 meters between 1150 and 1126 Pittwater Road, Collaroy.

Fortunately the former Warringah Council had developed a Coastal Zone Management Plan [CZMP] which had been approved by the NSW Government. This Plan provided a policy and regulatory framework for both Council and a number of State Government agencies to deal with the full range of complex issues involved in moving to protect the properties from future major storm events.

The storm, and the plight of the endangered houses, drew a great deal of media attention which led to considerable community debate about the most appropriate response. There was a clear support of measures to increase beach nourishment by bringing additional sand to the beach from off-shore sand deposits. The likelihood of sea-level rise in the future will only exacerbate the current problems.

Given the high cost of sourcing off-shore sand deposits, Council resolved to write to the Prime Minister and the former NSW Premier to seek their support for a national and state sand nourishment program to address the long term impacts of climate change on our shared coastline. Letters were sent on 15 December 2016. Refer to attachment 1 and 2.

Responses from the Prime Minister (attachment 3) and the Acting Director, Sustainable Development and Coastal Policy in the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (attachment 4) were very disappointing.

The NSW Government has claimed that, under the Local Government reforms, the larger merged councils will be better able to negotiate with governments and their departments. It would appear that this claim is not reflected in the responses of the NSW Premier's Department or the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Not only did Council not receive a response from the Premier, Council did not even receive one from the Minister for the Environment. Rather, correspondence was received from the Office of Environment and Heritage which failed to provide a satisfactory response to Council's call for a national and state sand nourishment program.

With regard to the response from the Federal Government, the Prime Minister did take the time to congratulate Council for its efforts in handling the storm event but basically indicated it was a matter for the State Government.

It appears that Council's 'call to leadership' may have fallen on deaf ears and been sent to the 'too hard basket' by both the Federal and NSW Governments.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- A. Release the responses to its letter of 15 December 2016 from both State and Federal Governments.
  - B. Write again to the Prime Minister and NSW Premier seeking their intervention in what is clearly a matter of State and National importance.
  - C. Seek the support of the local Federal and State Members of Parliament to advocate on behalf of the Council and the community on this important issue.
- 



**Dick Persson, AM  
ADMINISTRATOR**

NORTHERN BEACHES  
COUNCIL

northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Our Ref: 2016/385670

Dear Prime Minister

As you are aware, the major east coast low storm event in June caused significant coastal erosion along New South Wales, including major impacts to Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach.

I am informed that once coastal protective works are installed to protect vulnerable beachfront properties and infrastructure, beach nourishment will be needed to maintain beach width and amenity, particularly in the long term as sea level rises. I have called for the feasibility of undertaking beach nourishment as a complementary strategy to any long term protective works proposed at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach.

I understand that terrestrial sources of sand are no longer cost effective, offshore sand deposits represent the most cost effective and environmentally sustainable source of sand for beach nourishment.

However this issue is not faced by Northern Beaches Council alone. Shoreline erosion issues are not unique to Sydney or even NSW, and beach nourishment is identified as the best long-term management strategy in many situations world-wide. I believe this presents an opportunity for all three spheres of government to cooperate, and address the long term impacts of climate change on our shared coastline through accessing offshore sands. Significant benefit will be provided to the people of NSW and Australia by the Federal and State Government driving a program of sand nourishment to address sea level rise and coastal erosion issues.

I recommend that existing offshore sand deposits suitable for beach nourishment are reserved for public authorities, and that a long-term fund be established for beach nourishment to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise. All spheres of government could contribute so that necessary beach nourishment activities to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise can be appropriately funded and implemented.

Australia's beaches are treasured by all Australians. They are used by locals and visitors alike, including overseas tourists. They bring huge economic and social benefits. The costs on maintaining our beaches in the medium to long term are way beyond the financial capability of the local councils that manage them. I write to you seeking your support for a national and state sand nourishment program to address the long term impacts of climate change on our shared coastline. I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, if you or your Department wish to contact me to discuss the matter further, I can be contacted on 02 9942 2422.

Yours faithfully



15/12/16

Dick Persson AM  
Administrator

Cc the Hon Mike Baird MP

1 Belgrave Street  
Manly NSW 2095  
ABN 57 284 295 198  
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Mona Vale NSW 2103  
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NORTHERN BEACHES  
COUNCIL

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The Hon Mike Baird MP  
Premier  
Minister for Western Sydney  
Member for Manly  
Shop 2 / 2 Wentworth Street  
MANLY NSW 2095

Our Ref: 2016/385635

Dear Premier

As you are aware, the major east coast low storm event in June caused significant coastal erosion along New South Wales, including major impacts to Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach.

I am informed that once coastal protective works are installed to protect vulnerable beachfront properties and infrastructure, beach nourishment will be needed to maintain beach width and amenity, particularly in the long term as sea level rises. I have called for the feasibility of undertaking beach nourishment as a complementary strategy to any long term protective works proposed at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach.

I understand that terrestrial sources of sand are no longer cost effective, offshore sand deposits represent the most cost effective and environmentally sustainable source of sand for beach nourishment.

However this issue is not faced by Northern Beaches Council alone. Shoreline erosion issues are not unique to Sydney or even NSW, and beach nourishment is identified as the best long-term management strategy in many situations world-wide. I believe this presents an opportunity for all three spheres of government to cooperate, and address the long term impacts of climate change on our shared coastline through accessing offshore sands. Significant benefit will be provided to the people of NSW and Australia by the Federal and State Government driving a program of sand nourishment to address sea level rise and coastal erosion issues.

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PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC16-103500

28 FEB 2017

Mr Dick Persson AM  
Administrator  
Northern Beaches Council  
1 Belgrave Street  
Manly NSW 2095

Dear Mr Persson

Thank you for your letter dated 15 December 2016 regarding coastal erosion in NSW.

I commend the Northern Beaches Council for taking action on coastal erosion following the major storm in June last year. I note the Council has adopted a *Northern Beaches Coastal Erosion Policy* and a coastal zone management plan for Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach.

While managing coastal erosion is primarily a state and local government responsibility, the Government is committed to helping Australian communities make good decisions about building resilience against coastal erosion risks. We have invested \$9 million in the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility to help local governments manage the impact of climate change. I encourage you to access the facility's online *CoastAdapt* tool, which may assist you in developing a strategy for sand nourishment at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach.

The Government has also funded a number of coastal rehabilitation projects in NSW. Projects include coastal dune recovery at Newport Beach, rehabilitation of riparian and coastal habitats surrounding Tuggerah Lakes, and storm recovery at Putty and Avoca beaches.

I encourage you to continue engaging with the NSW Government and to monitor funding opportunities on the Department of the Environment and Energy website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Turnbull'.

MALCOLM TURNBULL



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

MD17/221  
2016/385635

Mr Dick Persson AM  
Administrator  
Northern Beaches Council  
1 Belgrave Street  
MANLY NSW 2099

Dear Mr Persson

**Beach nourishment proposal**

I refer to your letter to the former Premier, Mike Baird, about beach nourishment. Your letter was referred to the Office of Environment and Heritage and I have been asked to reply.

Maintaining the presence of beaches is an important objective of the NSW Government's coastal management framework and beach nourishment can be an effective part of a coastal management program. The government recognises the challenges that local councils face in responding to erosion and other coastal management issues. The feasibility of beach nourishment in a particular location will depend on a number of factors including the cost and availability of suitable sand, environmental impacts of the activity and regulatory steps that may be required.

Under the new coastal management framework, which is anticipated to commence in the first half of 2017, local councils are encouraged to work closely with neighbouring councils and other public authorities to identify the actions required to address coastal management issues in an integrated and strategic manner. Identifying the costs of proposed coastal management actions, proposed cost-sharing arrangements and other viable funding mechanisms is also essential.

To support local councils to implement equitable and cost effective actions that reduce exposure to coastal hazards, including the impacts of climate change, the government has announced a funding commitment of \$83.6 million.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact me on 9995 5276 or at [matthew.clark@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:matthew.clark@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Matthew Clark**  
Acting Director Sustainable Development and Coastal Policy

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# NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

