

# TWEED SAND BYPASSING

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## Advisory Committee and Community Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### Summary of Discussions – Key Issues & Sand Movements

**Welcomes / Apologies** – It was noted that the last ACC was held on 30 October 2018. Staffing movements have resulted in Adrian Barwick undertaking the Acting Project Manager role for Governments whilst Kim Bowra and Brendan Logan are in Acting Director roles. It was acknowledged that Robert Schwartz's (previous Qld Project director) retired in December 2018 and that he made a significant contribution to the project. Robert's role will be filled in the coming months.

**Beach and Entrance Condition reports as received from various lifeguards, surf clubs, boardrider clubs and entrance users were tabled;**

**Duranbah Lifeguards** - Duranbah Beach predominately has two fixed rips, one on the Southern Rock Wall and one in the Northern Corner. During September a rip formed in the middle of the beach between two pronounced sandbanks, most recently after the Northerly winds from middle December until end of January the sand has shifted again and formed the two fixed rips at either end of the beach.

Around September it was noticeable a lot of the sand that shifted to fill in along the rock wall on the Southern end left the ship wreck on the southern end of the beach exposed which is rare to see.

Lifeguards conducted majority of their rescues on the incoming tide at the rip along the Southern Rock Wall of the beach.

**Rainbow Bay SLSC** - The conditions of the beach at Rainbow Bay have been good for the past 6 months. The front sand pumping pipe closer to Snapper Rocks has helped the most, pumping sand around to Rainbow Bay. Without the sand pumping the beach would be dangerous to swimmers in the area.

**North Kirra SLSC** - North Kirra recently experienced very strong sweeps and a very shallow back bank – looks like there has been quite a lot of sand movement, with a small cliff starting to develop north and south of the beach.

**Tugun SLSC** - Tugun beach has been really good this year, with little if any escarpment issues. The usual issues with flash rips and northern sweeps.

**D'bah Boardriders** - A competition was held on Australia Day and although the wind was onshore the surf and beach conditions were good. No complaints.

**Volunteer Marine Rescue** - Tweed Bar conditions have been relatively good over the six months. Some difficulty encountered along with impassable conditions for approximately two out of the six months.

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On Saturday 9th February the Rescue Vessel experienced a wave come up only a few meters from the entrance of the bar and was unable to push through which saw the Rescue Vessel come down hard on the back of this wave. Unfortunately some of the crew did sustain injuries.

VMR haven't heard if any Trawlers are experiencing the same issue within this area. This may be wise to follow up as may be an issue with sand movement.

**Tourism (Ocean dive)** - The swell size has been just manageable. There is no distinct channel so the dive boats have been zigzagging their way through and its still very dangerous on the runout tide.

In addition ACC attendees provided the following comments;

- Fingal has recovered from its previous eroded state in the southern corner.
- The entrance has been OK depending on swell and run out tide.
- Duranbah has had good quality banks, particularly against the southern training wall.
- Snapper has taken some time to recover but has started to rebuild behind the rock.
- Rainbow, Greenmount and Kirra have provided a good mixture of swimming and surfing options.

**Sand Placement / Pumping** – Approximately 361,247 m<sup>3</sup> of sand was pumped during the period January 2018 to end December 2018. Of this volume, 15,265m<sup>3</sup> was delivered to Duranbah during November and December. The January 2018 to December 2018 volume was lower than the past five year average. The January 2019 pumping volume was 24,515m<sup>3</sup> which was lower than the previous 5 year average for January. Calm to moderate swell conditions (with the exception of the swell event in mid-October 2018) have generally resulted in lower pumping volumes.

**Wave Conditions** – Wave conditions were presented and it was noted that generally calm to moderate conditions have occurred between August 2018 and January 2019. Only one event occurred during this period in mid-October 2018 with a significant wave height exceeding 3m. It was noted that wave heights of 1 to 1.5m occurred consistently over the October 2018 to January 2019 period. Wave direction was also noted as being further from the east than the same period in 2017.

**Beach Conditions** – Fingal aerals (July 2018, October 2018 and January 2019) indicated recovery of the southern corner of Fingal. Duranbah aerals (March 2018, July 2018, October 2018 and January 2019) showed the maintenance of reasonable and uniform beach width as well as the dominant rip current against the southern training wall. Rainbow bay for the same period showed some erosion due to the October 2018 swell event. Greenmount aerals indicated a rotation with the southern corner building and northern corner retreating. Kirra beach has remained stable with continued exposure of the Miles St groyne.

**Surf Amenity** - Although not many large swell events have occurred, surf quality has generally been good. It was noted that Snapper has only recently shown signs of recovery after the October 2018 swell and that Duranbah has had good quality banks, particularly against the southern training wall.

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**Entrance Conditions and Usage** - Entrance survey of 21 January 2019 shows a clear navigational channel. Entrance usage (via VMR records) has shown the number of entrance crossings to be above the 12 month average. Information regarding the infill rates into the previously dredged areas of the entrance were presented. It was noted that the majority of infill has taken place and that volume fluctuations in the entrance are now more likely to be the result of normal dynamic entrance behaviour.

**TSB Projects** – Updates were provided on the following projects;

- REF backpass by dredge – Nearing completion with distribution of the REF to relevant NSW State Government agencies commencing mid-February 2019.
- STIS003 – Sand trapping and energy efficiency study nearing completion.
- Entrance Management - Governments and TRESB Co discussing options to improve current dredging arrangement.
- TRESBP Transition Project - Contract between Governments and TRESB Co expires in 2024. Transition project will consist of numerous investigations which will commence over the coming months.

**Communications** – Communications have been progressing well with continued use of the Tweed Sand Bypassing Instagram page and the Tweed Sand Bypassing App. It was reported that an updated schools package will commence over the coming months and a review of the communications strategy will occur in the new financial year.