

TWEED SAND BYPASSING

Advisory Committee & Community Meeting

15 February 2018

Summary of Discussions – Key Issues & Sand Movements

Sand Placement – Overview of sand pumping provided

Sand placement from February 2017 - January 2018: Snapper Rocks East 388,371m³; Duranbah 33,706m³; Total 422,077m³

Sand placement for Contract Year (October 2017 – September 2018): Snapper Rocks East 111,056m³; Duranbah 0m³; Total 111,056m³

Tweed River Entrance / Dredging – Dredging of the entrance bar commenced in February 2017 and concluded in August 2017, when a compliant channel was restored. A total volume of material of 216,604m³ was removed as part of this campaign. No further dredging works have been undertaken since August 2017 and a compliant channel has been maintained.

Bar evolution surveys for June/August/October/January were presented. A comparison between the November & January survey showed the build-up and losses of sand. A cross-section of the bar differences in August, October, November and January was presented, which showed a seaward progression of the bar across this period.

Volunteer marine rescue data presented showed a total 3079 entrance crossings in December 2017.

Environmental Monitoring – Summary of Metocean conditions from 01 February 2017 to 31 January 2018 outlined the more significant events (>2.5m) that occurred through the year. Predominantly East South East swells experienced over the last 6 months. The period of December to the end of January showed more of an influence of Easterly/North of East wave conditions of 1-1.5m; however, the southerly component was still dominant in terms of where significant wave energy has originated. Comparing the periods of August to January 2016-2017 and August to January 2017-2018 metocean conditions were similar with an overall dominant south of east swell direction.

Beach Conditions – Duranbah aeriels (June, October, January) showed the maintenance of reasonable beach width, another key feature was the presence of a rip cell around the center of the beach. Rainbow bay for the same period showed a reduction in beach width between a max width in June (≈115m) to January (≈50m), which is typical of the seasonal trend. Greenmount showed increased in width between June (≈85m) to a max in November (≈165m). Kirra beach has maintained a good beach width across this period.

Community Beach and Entrance Reports – At Fingal beach sand has diminished and there are a large number of exposed rocks at the southern end of the beach, continuing along to the area in front of the surf club. The water quality has been good and at the current time there is a large sand bank from the southern headland that extends for about 1.5km to the north. Coolangatta Bay reported no significant changes in beach conditions over the last 12 months, with shallow banks still creating unfavorable swimming conditions and potential for increased injuries to members of the public. Overall Kirra has maintained a good beach width and the presence of a gutter between the inner and outer banks have assisted in providing reasonable surf conditions. North Kirra was reported to have overall good amenity and beach width. Tugun considered overall beach conditions

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OK, but noted an inshore gutter appeared to be more prevalent with flash rips occurring more regularly.

Marine Rescue reported no incidents or issues and have not received any reports from the boating public or commercial operators in relation to any difficulties in crossing the Tweed river entrance bar.

Surfing Amenity – Overall surf amenity has been reasonable, although has been hampered by the lack of significant swell events from mid-October to mid-January. Mid-January saw the return of significant swells on January 17th/18th and 30th/31st, with good conditions reported on the Southern Gold Coast points and beach breaks. Significant swells were again expected for the upcoming weekend (February 17th – 18th) as long range swell from Cyclone Gita is expected to arrive. Members noted there has been a deterioration in wave quality at Duranbah since 2017.

Communications – Communications of the Tweed Sand Bypassing are continuing to progress. Since the last ACC meeting Instagram numbers have grown by 40%. The Instagram page has also been getting strong responses to recent video posts. It is also anticipated that the project will have a presence at the upcoming Quiksilver Pro where the Sand magazine will be available to pick up. Reference to the sand bypass was also made in a recent swellnet article comparing the Tweed Sand Bypass and the Gold Coast Seaway.