

Securing the future of our coastline

Meeting notes

Semaphore Working Group

Tuesday 15 December 2020

9:30am – 11:00am

Location: Quest Hotel, Port Adelaide

We would like to acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional Lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today

Attendees:

- Warwick Norman, Save our Shores Semaphore Largs
- Annie Hansen, Semaphore South resident
- Sandra Dann, Semaphore Largs Dunes Group
- Tony Bazeley, Port Adelaide Resident's Environment Protection Group
- Meg Lees AO, Save our Shores Semaphore Largs
- Simon Trill, City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- Neil McFarlane, DEW
- James Guy, DEW
- Steve Dangerfield (facilitator)
- Janet Pryor, DEW (Executive Officer)

Apologies

- Deb Walker, Semaphore South resident
- Maggie Gordon, Semaphore Largs Dunes Group
- Jason Quinn, DEW

1. Welcome

Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Notes from the last meeting

There was a request to amend the 2 November 2020 meeting notes to include details relating to issues raised by community members during the spring works:

- Concern about how close the vehicles are driving to a section of the dunes near the Semaphore jetty and a request for a strategy to be put in place to prevent this from happening again.
- Query about where the equipment is left overnight. Issues raised about the equipment on the beach at Semaphore jetty impeding access.

Action: DEW to amend meeting notes from 2 November 2020.

Actions were reviewed from the last meeting (refer to table in appendix).

3. Project update

James provided a project update:

- New pipeline – A start-up meeting was held on 10 December 2020. A consortia led by McConnell Dowell will be responsible for design and delivery of the new pipeline. This consortia designed, constructed and operate the existing sand pumping system. The consortia includes McConnell Dowell as constructors and Tonkin Consulting as designers. Other expert consultants are also part of the consortia to provide input to specialist areas such as hydraulic design of the pipeline. Designers will start working on concepts in early 2021 and extensive community engagement will occur.
- Impact Assessment Phase 1 – Final report has been distributed. Phase 2 impact assessment will commence early 2021 and a suggested potential consultant has been made by WACRA.
- Small scale sand trials using quarry sand are underway. The working group members are encouraged to view the sand on the beach near West Beach Parks.
- External sand – sand source investigations continue and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Issues raised and discussion

- At the project's Community Reference Group meeting there were questions raised about the pipeline design and construction contractors and the tender process.
- Query about the department's historical data to inform sand intake/discharge locations and discussion about the previously designed pipeline system which only had one intake at the Semaphore South breakwater. The new pipeline will be a different system with multiple intakes such as from Grange. The department's historical beach profile data will be reviewed to inform the Phase 2 impact assessment.
- Query about the economic and social impacts assessed as part of Phase 1 assessment. The department advised that a survey of local traders via the Semaphore Traders Association has been undertaken. The department will continue to engage with the Semaphore Traders Association regarding future works.
Action: DEW to send the Semaphore traders survey report to the working group members.
- Comments from community members that improvements to communication are needed to provide a clearer picture of what is happening and longer term plans.
- Community concerns about erosion scarps at Semaphore and Largs and about individual safety relating to poles that were left exposed because of loss of dune face in front of the Palais Hotel. This issue has been raised on behalf of a community member's concerns. Council has addressed the safety concerns.

4. Future sand movement works

Planning for autumn 2021 sand movement works

The department provided an update on the current thinking around autumn 2021 sand movement works to replenish West Beach.

- The beach surveys (to be undertaken in January 2021) will determine how much sand has been lost from West Beach and inform how much needs to be moved back. Sand will also be needed to top up the Semaphore South dunes before winter 2021 (see item below for more detail).
- The department will give consideration to making operational changes to minimise disruption for the community balancing this with ensuring the length of the works is as short as possible.
- The department will work on options to commence works in response to community requests to avoid works on the beach during the busier months.
- A 'digital elevated model' (DEM) of the Semaphore South breakwater will be undertaken to inform how much sand has built up at that location.

Issues raised and discussion

- A number of suggestions were made by community representatives about how the operation could be modified to provide more flexibility and improve communications, including:
 - Being flexible with start and end times depending on the tides and weather
 - Communicating daily operational updates to the public (e.g. if the tide is low on certain days then the works could start earlier, on days of high tide, works will start later, etc)
 - Working in winter with more flexibility to operate across financial years

- Working up scenarios to communicate how the operation may change depending on the weather conditions on the day.
- Queries about alternatives to trucking on the beach were also discussed (such as using a barge to move sand; interim storage of sand; exploring an alternative route to move sand off the beach from north of Largs jetty; the use of smaller trucks).
- The department will continue to explore:
 - Timing of works
 - Other potential source locations along the coastline north of West Beach
 - Moving sand to West Beach from north of Largs
 - Possibility of doing a Digital Elevation Model between the Semaphore and Largs Bay jetties.
- It was suggested that the Department consider a base case scenario (i.e. operational times, etc) with a number of alternative working scenarios that could be implemented subject to weather.

Semaphore South replenishment

- Sand is needed to replenish Semaphore South in 2021. It's anticipated that 10,000 m³ of sand would be needed before winter 2021.
- Replenishment of this area is needed every year to top it up.
- Comment was made that given that the breakwater causes the downdrift erosion, the sand to replenish Semaphore South should come from the breakwater salient. The department's preference is to recycle sand from further north, but use of sand from the salient will be considered. It was noted that if Semaphore South is replenished with sand from the salient, then that would reduce the volume of sand in the salient available to replenish West Beach. Additional sand would therefore need to be collected from elsewhere to replenish West Beach.
- Community representatives agreed to hold this discussion/decision until early in 2021.

5. Other business

Updates to Terms of Reference

Community representatives requested that the Terms of Reference (ToR) be amended to include a statement that has recently been included in the Community Reference Group ToR:

The department acknowledges that the discussions and principles raised at each working group meeting, and/or outcomes as recorded in the meeting notes do not necessarily indicate agreement by all working group members or the community groups they represent.

Action: DEW to update the Terms of Reference for the working groups' agreement. It was also agreed to include this statement on each meeting summary.

Issues management / complaints process

- Community representatives would like measures in place for managing and responding to issues.
- A request has been made for a clearer system to document issues that are raised by the community and are responded to. This includes feedback made to the project team via the coast info van. **Action: Steve/Janet to consider issues register. DEW to send departmental complaints process information to working group members.**

Beach profile information

- A request was made for documentation about where the beach profile survey lines are located. **Action: DEW to send working group link to EnviroMaps.**

Ministerial correspondence

- Query about correspondence sent to the Minister awaiting response. **Action: DEW to follow up on response to correspondence.**

6. Next meeting

1st week in February 2021.

Action list (updated 15 December 2020)

Action	Meeting date	Responsibility	Due date	Status
DEW to provide more detail about future sand movement works (autumn 2021 works) plus an update on external sand	2/11/20	DEW	Next meeting	Discussed 15/12 meeting. Will also be on Feb 2021 meeting agenda.
DEW to consider defining where trucks are working to assist people accessing the beach.	2/11/20	DEW	Autumn 2021 works	Noted by DEW for autumn 2021 works.
DEW to clarify definition and contractual arrangements regarding 'equipment on the beach'.	2/11/20	DEW	Next meeting	Discussed at 15/12 meeting. Council preference is for some equipment be stored next to the jetty. Moving equipment off site each day will add to the overall length of the operation. DEW to explain in the communication materials to make it clear.
DEW to amend meeting notes from 2 November to include details relating to issues raised by community members during the spring works.	15/12/20	DEW	End year	In progress – working group to approve amendments before publishing.
DEW to send the Semaphore traders survey report to the working group member	15/12/20	Janet	End year	Completed.
DEW to explore the following for autumn 2021 works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timing works ○ Other sources ○ Moving sand to West Beach from north of Largs ○ The possibility of doing DEM between the jetties ○ Improvements to communication, including scenario planning in communications, daily operational updates, etc. 	15/12/20	DEW	Next meeting	
Discuss Semaphore South replenishment at next meeting	15/12/20	All	Next meeting	Noted for next meeting agenda.
DEW to update the Terms of Reference for the working groups' agreement.	15/12/20	DEW	Next meeting	In progress – update made for approval at next meeting.
Steve/Janet to consider issues register. DEW to send departmental complaints process info to working group members.	15/12/20	Steve/Janet	Next meeting	
DEW to send working group link to EnviroMaps.	15/12/20	DEW	End year	Completed – link sent with draft meeting notes.

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