

Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project

Advisory Committee Meeting

19th May 2014

Summary of Discussions – Key Issues & Sand Movements

Sand Delivery – The amount of sand pumped in Contract Year 13 to date (19 May) has been 236,278 m³. Most of this sand was delivered to Snapper Rocks East with 6,341 m³ delivered to Duranbah in two placements in Nov 13 and Apr 14. The condition of Duranbah was inspected on 14 May 2014 and another small placement of up to 3,000 m³ at location 4 has been agreed.

Sand Movements, Letitia Beach – A partial survey of Letitia Beach indicates net rebuilding over the last 9 months from Aug '13 to Apr '14 in central Letitia away from the jetty, but a net loss at the northern end of the beach close to the jetty. As a result there was a small overall net loss along central/north areas. A survey of all of Letitia Beach is scheduled for later this year.

Duranbah – Duranbah fared relatively well to recent ocean storms compared to other beaches with evidence of natural bypassing of sand to Duranbah to aid in rebuilding upper beach conditions. The sand delivered to Duranbah over last year is the lowest quantity since the start of the project.

The southern Gold Coast Beaches – The beaches continue to show large seasonal fluctuations in width with an overall trending of reduction in sand volumes. Kirra Beach may become vulnerable to storm erosion particularly if the extension of the groyne has short-term impacts on sand flow.

Kirra Reef – A biological survey of Kirra Reef indicates increasing diversity of flora and fauna due to natural succession, including the re-establishment of soft corals due to improved habitat conditions attributed to exposure.

Tweed River Entrance – From Apr '13 to Apr '14 there has been a small net scour of the entrance, with reworking of sand pushing the crest of the bar seawards. A clear navigation entrance was surveyed in December 2013 which showed an overall net scour of approximately 100,000 m³ over the last year. Most of this sand was pushed northwards toward Duranbah and helped rebuild the Snapper Rocks surfing bank. The entrance conditions are scheduled to be surveyed in July.

Sand Placement – 400,000 m³ of sand is targeted for Contract year 13 (October 2013 to September 2014) which could potentially include up to 50,000 m³ of dredging.

Feasibility Options – There was an outline presentation of the feasibility study into four options for enhancement of system operations: Option 1 – additional North Kirra outlet for sand pumping; Option 2 – additional nearshore dredge placement areas: 2A at Bilinga/Tugun and 2B in deeper waters seaward of existing nearshore placement areas; Option 3 – one-off nourishment of Kingscliff Beach by Tweed Shire Council using sand dredged from the Tweed River entrance; Option 4 – Backpassing of sand southward along Letitia Beach by pumping and/or by dredge placement. Review of the preferred options agreed to further develop Options 2B and 4. Option 1 and Option 2A may be considered again in the future.

NSW Advisory Committee Positions - Advertising for two NSW community representatives for AC membership was carried out in February. The applications are being reviewed.

TRESBP website - The new site is live and will provide a stronger communication platform for the project.