

TWEED SAND BYPASSING

Advisory Committee Meeting

10th May 2018

Summary of Discussions – Key Issues & Sand Movements

Sand Placement / Pumping – Approximately 93,330 m³ of sand was pumped to Snapper Rocks East during the period February 2018 to end April 2018 (since the last meeting). Over the last year (May 2017 - April 2018) sand pumping by the jetty has totalled 354,703 m³, 33,706 m³ of this volume was pumped to Duranbah beach (May 2017 – July 2017), with the remainder delivered to Snapper Rocks east outlet. November 2017 was considered to be a relatively high pumping month (48,352 m³) due to a strong southerly push early in the month and minimal northerly influence for the remainder of the month. The onset of calmer conditions in summer subsequently saw a drop in delivery volumes from December to April. December and April were considered to be very low pumping months with volumes of 17,003 m³ and 22,108 m³ respectively.

Tweed River Entrance / Dredging – 216,604m³ of sand was dredged from the entrance bar during the 2017 dredging campaign, which commenced in February 2017 and was completed in August 2017. No further dredging has taken place since the end of the previous campaign in August 2017. As of the last entrance survey (5 March 2018) the channel remains compliant.

Project Enhancements – Backpass by dredge deposition areas are continuing to be progressed, with Review of Environmental Factors currently being completed in order to gain approvals. Sediment Transport Information System (STIS) projects are actively continuing, with STIS001 - Conceptual Sediment Transport Model (completed), STIS002 – Strategic Sand Delivery (near completion), and STIS003 – Sand Transfer and Energy Efficiency Investigation (underway). Sediment Tracing studies are approaching their completion with a final processing of additional sediment samples an interpretative report due later this month.

Environmental Monitoring – Beach widths for Duranbah, Rainbow Bay and Coolangatta Bay have seen a reduction in beach widths since October 2017, which is to be expected under the influences of northerly wind and swell that typically occur with summer. Suitable beach widths have been maintained. A new Kirra camera has now been installed behind the Kirra Community Centre which will allow the project to start recapturing data at Kirra once configuration of the camera is completed.

Communications – Communications have been progressing well with good traffic continuing to be experienced on the Tweed Sand Bypassing Instagram page and users of the Tweed Sand Bypassing App. The project had a presence down at the 2018 Quiksilver Pro Gold Coast with a number of Sand magazines distributed to the public.

AC Member Reports/Comments – Fingal Beach still had a lack of significant amounts of sand. In contrast, sand on Dreamtime beach south of Final Headland was considered to be quite full.

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Consequently, this has seen a number of people opting to swimming at Dreamtime, rather than the patrolled beach at Fingal.

Following recent swell events in March 2018 has seen a return to good surfing conditions at Duranbah, with sand that was previously trapped in the compartment now having moved away. For the majority of 2017 Duranbah had a terrible configuration for surfing and dangerous swimming conditions, with a large finger of sand present from the entrance bar to the beach and a large seamount in the centre of the beach, which formed as a result of the 2017 dredging campaign and had remained trapped in the beach compartment. Concerns were also raised by the presence of lifeguard at Duranbah at certain times of year, as this may give the impression the beach is a relatively safe beach, when in fact it isn't. A question was asked by AC members around the vision and intension for the management of Duranbah Beach.

Recent surfing banks along the southern Gold Coast points were considered to be the worst they had been in a long time. In particular, around snapper with a large rip current was noted to have formed running out along the rock and east, pushing surfers and swimmers behind the rock. From Kirra and north the beaches were considered to be in relatively good conditions, with good sand levels. Following the Commonwealth Games Volleyball event at Kirra/Coolangatta part of Queen Elizabeth Park is also due to be returfed.