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Minutes of the 9th meeting of the  
**Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee**  
Thursday 22nd September, 2011  
Brooklyn Community Centre  
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Family Name</b>	<b>Given Name</b>	<b>Representatio n</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Alternate Rep.</b>
Mr	<b>ANDREWS</b>	John	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Mr	<b>BERGMAN</b>	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service			X	
Mr	<b>BLACK</b>	Steve	NSW Maritime Authority		X		Dave Llyons
Prof.	<b>BOOTH</b>	David	University of Technology Sydney & Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences		X		
Mr	<b>BROWN</b>	Warren	Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	<b>GREEN</b>	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	<b>COLLINS</b>	Emma	Community Representative			X	
Ms	<b>MARVELL</b>	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation		X		
Mr	<b>FENWICK</b>	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina		X		
Ms	<b>FIELD</b>	Melanie	NSW Food Authority		X		
Mr	<b>FISH</b>	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	<b>FRATER</b>	Melissa	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee	X			
Cllr	<b>FREEWATER</b>	Peter	Gosford City Council	X			
Ms	<b>HOWARD</b>	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Hon	<b>LLOYD</b>	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Mr	<b>MACDONALD</b>	Tim	Gosford City Council		X		
Cllr	<b>MCMURDO</b>	Wendy	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	<b>MICHOS</b>	Arthur	Office of Environment & Heritage	X			
Mr	<b>MILES</b>	David	Boat Owners Association		X		
Ms	<b>MOOY</b>	Rebecca	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority		X		Trish Smith
Mr	<b>NORINGTON</b>	Rolf	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative		X		
Mr	<b>PIGNEYGUY</b>	Justin	Hawkesbury Cruises	X			
Emer. Prof.	<b>RECHER</b>	Harry	Community Representative	X			
Mr	<b>REES</b>	Stan	Land and Property Management Authority	X			
Mr	<b>ROWE</b>	Simon	Oceanwatch Australia		X		
Ms	<b>RUBIO-ZUAZO</b>	Ana	Community Representative		X		
Cllr	<b>RUSSELL</b>	Steve	Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Ms	<b>SEGOVIA</b>	Ingrid	Community Representative			X	
Mr	<b>STUBBS</b>	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association		X		
Mr	<b>VON ZELEWSKI</b>	Axel	Community Representative	X			

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## 1. WELCOME

Cllr McMurdo welcomed Ray **Frater**, NSW Ski Federation, Broniek **Karcz**, Dangar Island League, Jen **Dwarte**, Community Environment Network (CEN) and David **Llyons**, NSW Maritime.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from: Steve Black, David Booth, Marcel Green, Andrew Fenwick, Melanie Field, Time Macdonald, David Miles, Rebecca Mooy, Rolf Norington, Simon Rowe, Ana Rubio-Zuazo, Steve Russell, John Stubbs, Warren Brown, Cheryl Marvel.

## 3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

## 4. PRESENTATION

### **Broniek Karcz, Dangar Island League – Community Park Concept for Peat Island**

- Dangar Island League (DIL) proposes that Peat Island be developed into a community park, facilitating improved recreational access to the Hawkesbury River.
- DIL recommendations for Peat Island and Mooney Mooney land on the Western side of the F3 include:
  - o Create a community/riverside park to provide a recreational place for the people of Sydney and the Central Coast
  - o Develop a gateway to the Lower Hawkesbury and the surrounding National Parks and beaches
  - o Develop Peat Island to support the recreation/tourist theme
- DIL do not support:
  - o Residential development on the western side of the F3
  - o The construction of a major fuel service centre

### **Jen Dwarte, Community Environment Network – Love the River Campaign**

- A community-based campaign aimed at reducing litter in the river and the effect of wake from boats
- Key messages:
  - o Watch Your Wash
  - o Keep It Clean
- Funded by the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
- Project partners include: Hornbsy, Gosford and Pittwater Councils; NSW Maritime; Office of Environment and Heritage; MacMasters Beach Surf Lifesaving Club
- CEN are looking for volunteers to attend boat ramps on the Hawkesbury River over the 2011-12 summer holidays to talk to boaters about caring for the river and to distribute biodegradable rubbish bags and promotional items
- The campaign will be launched 10:30am, Monday 24 October at Anglers Rest Hotel, Brooklyn
- For further information contact Jen Dwarte on 02 4349 4757 or visit [www.cen.org.au](http://www.cen.org.au)

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**ACTION 201105:** HSC to forward boating maps and seagrass stickers to CEN for distribution during the 'Love the River' campaign

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**ACTION 201106:** Jen **Dwarte** to contact Melissa **Frater** regarding promotion of CEN activities and Waterwatch at the 2011 Bridge to Bridge Ski Classic.

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**ACTION 201107:** HSC to advertise “Love the River” launch as part of the Hawkesbury Estuary Program media campaign. This advertising will be distributed to the Advocate, Bush Telegraph, Hills News, Northern District Times and to committee members.

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## 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

### Correspondence:

Invitation sent to Sydney Water inviting a representative to address the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee regarding the proposed Brooklyn STP modifications.

### Matter arising from previous meeting:

**MOTION 201102:** That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 31st March 2011, should be accepted. Complete.

**ACTION 201103:** Mary **Howard** to provide the committee with an update regarding the University of Western Sydney proposal to establish a River Keeper position on the Hawkesbury River. Complete.

The Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) has been established in collaboration with the University of Western Sydney. HEN has approximately 50 members and will be officially launched on the 19th October 2011. HEN has employed a Riverkeeper, the extent of their role is still to be confirmed, however it is expected that they will primarily be working upstream, see [www.hen.org.au](http://www.hen.org.au).

**ACTION 201104:** Steve Black of NSW Maritime to organise a meeting with race organisers and interested members to come to an agreement regarding the protection of seagrasses during the Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic. Complete D01765040.

Meeting held 30 June 2011. Minutes forwarded to committee members 7 August 2011 (D01765040).

## 6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendment to page 3, Section 5 - **Moved** by Jim Lloyd.

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 19th May, 2011 were accepted, subject to the above amendment.

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**MOTION 201108:** That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 19th May 2011, should be accepted. Moved by Mike **Fish** seconded by Jim **Lloyd**. Carried unanimously.

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## 7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### **Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council**

#### OEH Estuary Grants

- \$20 000 received for further estuarine and migratory bird research
- 1 successful grant from 5 applications
- 35 projects funded state wide

#### Underwater Sydney

- Launched in August 2011
- Underwater Hornsby page showcases local species
- [www.underwatersydney.org.au](http://www.underwatersydney.org.au)

#### Real time temperature, salinity & swimming maps

- New data server being tested by Manly Hydraulics Laboratory
- Expected to be live by the end of the year
- Maps will be available via [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/estuary](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/estuary)

#### Algae Monitoring

- Moderate levels of *Heterosigma akashiwo* recorded at Calabash Bay in September 2011
- High levels of benthic and fresh water diatoms and green algae recorded at Laughtondale in August 2011

#### Seagrass Stickers

- Stickers have been printed and are available for distribution
- Distributed to marinas in the Brooklyn area, NSW Maritime and local rescue organisations
- Follow-up phone calls will occur during the next month for feedback on the stickers

#### CSIRO Land Capability Study

- Modelling and reporting are complete
- Model outputs will inform planners on how strategic planning decisions will impact estuarine assets

#### Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 516 877L collected since 2008
- 85 010L collected in 2011
- Next maintenance scheduled for October 2011

#### Oyster Data Portal

- Meta data currently being compiled for HSC water quality data
- University of Wollongong collaborative project

#### Brooklyn Spring Fair

- The Estuary Management team held a stall at the Brooklyn Spring Fair
- Most enquiries were related to local water quality
- A number of requests were received for boating maps and seagrass stickers

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### Asquith Pre-school Visit

- The Estuary Management team visited Asquith Pre-school with the Water Catchments boat
- Students learned the names for different parts of the boat and how to stay safe on the water

### Estuarine and Migratory Bird Survey

- More field surveys are being undertaken by HSC and UNSW Rivers and Wetlands Centre
- Project due for completion in December 2011

### Media Campaign

- Commenced in December 2010
- Display advertisements are run monthly in the Bush Telegraph and all 3 council columns (The Advocate, Hills News and Northern District Times)
- Recent advertisements include (F2007/01344)
  - o Underwater Sydney launch
  - o Catchment Remediation Rate
  - o Protecting the Hawkesbury River
  - o Estuary Clean up projects
  - o Parsley Bay biodiversity friendly seawall
  - o Free guided bushwalks program

### Broken Bay Oysters Memorandum of Understanding

- MOU between Broken Bay Oysters and Council signed 29th August 2011 (LDOC006276)
- Received a lot of media attention

### Derelict Oyster Lease Removal

- Broken Bay Oysters have commenced removing derelict oyster leases from around Bar Island
- Funded by the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
- The State Government tipping fee has been waived for disposal of removed infrastructure

**ACTION 201109:** GCC to contact Chris Holstein about support for funding oyster lease clean-up operations. This follows on from Action 201005 "That Gosford Council seeks formal support for the removal of derelict oyster leases in the Lower Hawkesbury estuary from: the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee; Broken Bay Oyster Growers; Mooney Mooney/Cheero Progress Association; Hawkesbury Nepean CMA; NSW Maritime; Gosford Council; Hornsby Council; NSW Industry & Investment. These letters of support are to be provided to Gosford City Council as part of an oyster lease clean-up proposal to DECCW" (meeting 24/06/2010).

### Webpage Updates

- The Hawkesbury Estuary Program section of Council's website has been updated
- Meeting agendas and minutes are available from this site
- [www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/estuary](http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/estuary)

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### **Trish Smith – Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority**

- HNCMA in the initial stages of reviewing the current Hawkesbury Nepean CMA Catchment Action Plan (CAP)
- All 13 NSW CMAs will be reviewing their CAPs
- Members can be involved by participating in the “What’s your favourite place?” survey, [www.myfavouriteplace.org.au](http://www.myfavouriteplace.org.au).
- Central West CMA has completed the review and their website provides useful information about the process

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**ACTION 201110:** HSC to distribute information to committee members about the HNCMA’s “what’s your favourite place?” website.

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## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. Brooklyn Dangar Island STP**

- Sydney Water applied to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for a modification of effluent quality limits for discharges from the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Discussion held regarding the poor community consultation process and the lack of information available from Sydney Water

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**MOTION 201111:** That the LHEMC write to Greg Pearce, Matthew Kean, Chris Holstein and Chris Hatcher stating the committees concerns regarding the Brooklyn Waste Water Treatment Plant. The committee requests that delegation meet with local members to discuss the Committees concerns.

These concerns include:

1. Inadequate consideration of alternate treatment options
2. No data provided to substantiate negligible impacts from the proposed licence modifications
3. Failure of Sydney Water to provide adequate information to address community concerns
4. Due diligence of the plant design

Moved by Harry **Recher**, seconded by Mike **Fish**. Carried unanimously.

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### **B. Waterwatch**

- The Community Environment Network is looking for volunteers to participate in the Waterwatch program.
- Funding received from HNCMA to establish Waterwatch groups on the lower Hawkesbury River
- Sydney Water will be phasing out the Streamwatch program
- Discussion held regarding the potential for Waterwatch to obtain Streamwatch data

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**ACTION 201112:** HSC to promote Waterwatch on the Council website

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### **C. Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held 6pm, Thursday **24 November 2011**, at the Brooklyn Community Centre.

## **9. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 8:40 pm