
Minutes of the 17th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 22nd August 2013
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

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

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6:12pm and Peter Coad (Chair) welcomed the attendees and guests

- Gus Pelosi – Office of Environment & Heritage
- Graeme Dunlavye – NSW RMS

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (moved forward to allow for Mayor's arrival).

Action 201204: The Team Leader – Estuary Management to request information from National Parks regarding the management of local Aboriginal artwork. **Ongoing.**

Action 201206: Tim Macdonald, Gosford City Council, to update the LHEM Committee on the progress of the Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point connection to the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Ongoing.**

Action 201208: Peter Coad, Team Leader – Estuary Management, to report to the LHEM committee on actions undertaken to reduce dogs on Bradleys Beach. Options to consider include writing to Dangar Island residents, increased compliance and improved signage. **Ongoing.**

Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council

Probe Updates

- The five probes deployed in the Hawkesbury now record turbidity data which is available on the HSC website
- Thanks to OEH for part-funding the additional turbidity sensors and to Manly Hydraulic Laboratory for their technical support.
- Mary Howard explained how there is distinct disturbance from tidal movement and the turbidity data is important for commercial fishermen.
- The yearly probe data has been compiled – June 2012/13. All data for the past 3 years is on HSC website.

POMs

- Researchers have identified 10-15 November as the approximate date that POMs appears based on research in the Georges River. Council is working with Sydney Uni to monitor POMs coming into the Hawkesbury Estuary.

Swimming Conditions Map

- There have been problems with the model not updating sites
- Thanks to Dangar Island League for promoting the site in their Mullet Mail.
- StratComms are doing a video to promote the site, but Peter is still seeking input re ways of promoting the site.

ACTION 201306: Peter Coad called for **Committee members** to send him any suggestions on how to engage the community in using the data – eg putting signs up / advertising it in industry newsletters?

Graham Johnston's Volunteers

-
- Recently completed clean ups at Little Wobby, Mooney Mooney, Berowra Creek.
 - Harry **Recher** commented that flood waters result in significant rubbish downstream. He recently picked up lots of rubbish at Sandbrook Inlet.
 - Graham's group were nominated for a Landcare award but missed out. They are trying for the Peoples Choice Award, members were encouraged to vote.

Porto Bay Clean Up

- 60 Tonnes of waste was removed and there is still about 1/3 to go. The project has been well managed by NPWS.

Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 87,379L pumped out this year.
- 115,000L pumped out since 2008.
- The facility is experiencing its highest usage volumes despite there being no increase in private recreational boaters. Justin suggested a user log to get an idea of the number using the pumpout facility – perhaps set it up as a survey of users?

ACTION 201309: Peter **Coad** to consider installing a log book and sign asking users to note their details at the Kangaroo Point Pumpout facility.

Sediment Monitoring

- Stage 1 has been completed (general metals/PAH's/organchlorides).
- 52 sites were sampled – preliminary analysis is completed and the consultants will present to the November meeting
- Stage 2 has started with a focus on new and emerging compounds (rural and domestic chemicals/pesticides/herbicides). This stage will be completed in October.
- Lim **Leong** raised the issue of people burning treated timbers and the ashes ending up in the river. Peter **Coad** advised that this may be picked up in testing if it was of a significant quantity.

Grants

- Two grants received from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage: Erosion Assessment of Lower Hawkesbury (\$50k) and Seagrass Protection and Marker buoys (\$28k) – to replace/refurbish buoys

Industry Assistance

- Broken Bay Oysters are assisting Sydney Uni in POMs research

Commercial Fishers

- Mary **Howard** advised that working groups have held meetings with the Mayor regarding the industry restructure.
- Commercial Fishers are waiting on the outcome of the first meeting of the SARK committee.
- Commercial Fishers have become members of the Australian Marine Alliance.

Other happenings

-
- Estuary Regeneration – Works are continuing at Brooklyn Park, McKell Park, Bar Island, Singleton Road and Wisemans Ferry.
 - Floating Landcare group is going to Bar Island August 23rd 2013.
 - Lower McKell Park Upgrade – steps are nearly completed

Warren Brown – Gosford City Council

Deerubbin Reserve

- Quotes have closed for the Deerubbin Reserve carpark upgrade design. \$400k has been funded for the works.
- Timeline for works:
 - o Engage consultant by 26th August 2013
 - o Design finalised by 18th October 2013
 - o Public exhibition 21-25th October 2013
 - o Construction begins 4th November – to be completed by 20th December 2013.

Richard Woodbury Reserve

- National Tree Planting day was held at the Reserve on Sunday 28/7/13. 50 volunteers attended and 480 seedlings were planted – with about 500 more to be done. Peter **Coad** will forward an email to the group re the next planting day.
- Great turnout from the Ashram next door and Spencer Public School.
- Thanks to CMA for funding.

ACTION 201310: Warren Brown to let Peter **Coad** know the details of the next planting day at Richard Woodbury Reserve. Peter to pass this on via email to the group.

Estuary Clean Up

- 12 tonnes of rubbish was removed from Brisbane Waters.
- Data from the rubbish removal is provided to Tangaroa Blue – they attempt to find out where the rubbish comes from.

Rebecca Mooy – HNCMA

- Prior to Rebecca **Mooy** presenting on Floating Landcare, Peter **Coad** thanked her for all of her efforts in setting up partnerships and assisting with funding.

Floating Landcare

- The 1st year report on Floating Landcare funding has been handed in and Rebecca is now into the 2nd reporting year.
- 2012/13 Achievements:
 - o 590 Volunteer hours / 118 volunteers / 8 activities
 - o 5 consultants have been engaged and 19 staff from partner agencies (Gosford/Hornsby/Pittwater Councils, NPWS, Bush Regeneration Contractors)

-
- 31430m² are covered – doing mostly weeds and bush regeneration
 - 2 tonnes of waste removed from 8 sites (Scotland Island, Hungry Beach, Gentlemens Holt, Milsons Passage, Peats Bight, Spectacle Island, Long Island, Sandbrook Inlet)
 - Rebecca tabled the Landcare media: calendar, poster, brochures, a recent media article
 - Floating Landcare information is available on HSC website
 - Dates coming up:
 - Bar Island – 23/8/13
 - Bar Point 27/9/13
 - Greater Mackerel Beach 28/9/13
 - Bar Point 13/10
 - Portugese Beach 26/10/13
 - Hungry Beach 9/11/13
 - Lion Island 3-4/12/13
 - Corporate Activities – funding requires engaging corporate volunteer groups.
 - Feedback sheets are distributed at each event – feedback provides valuable data.
 - 3 Coastal Volunteer DVDs have been published to encourage new volunteers. The DVDs are available from the CMA website.

ACTION 201311: Peter Coad to email the link to the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority DVDs to the committee.

Change from Catchment Management Authority to Local Land Services

- Rebecca handed out a CAP update – with a map showing the new region and information about the transition
- Presentation – Biosecurity NSW and Local Land Services. Rebecca’s presentation covered DPI’s stance on Biosecurity – including Core Functions and Core Capabilities. Aimed at:
 - prevention of entry of exotic animal and plant pests, weeds and diseases
 - Containing and eradicating exotic animal and plant pests, weeds and diseases
 - Management of animal and plant pests, weeds and diseases
- The Biosecurity strategy is available on the DPI Website

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Mayor Steve Russell (running late), Cllr Anisse, Rolf Norington, John Stubbs, Tegan Burton, David Booth, Cheryl Marvell, Mike Fish, Melissa Frater, Tim Macdonald & John Andrews.

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence:

Matter arising from previous meeting, 23 May 2013:

ACTION 201304: Peter **Coad** to forward correspondence regarding roadside litter (HSC Ref D02123010 & D02176774) to Chris Holstein (State Member for Gosford) for his consideration. **Carried Over** – Mike **Fish** advised Peter to hold off on the action as a clean up had been done recently. (HSC Ref# D02261011)

ACTION 201305: Peter **Coad** to forward a link to Council’s mobile app to members. **Carried Over:** The app is being redesigned and Peter will send the latest version when it is available.

ACTION 201306: Peter **Coad** called for **Committee members** to send him any suggestions on how to engage the community in using the website data – eg putting signs up / advertising it in industry newsletters? **Carried Over:** Peter is still seeking input

ACTION 201307: David **Lyons** and Harry **Recher** to look at redeploying the buoys around Dangan Island – **Completed:** Harry and David redeployed marker buoys in dense seagrass bed areas. (HSC Ref# D02367193)

ACTION 201308: Tim **Macdonald** to follow up repairs to the Pontoon at Deerubbin reserve. **Completed:** Warren **Brown** advised that follow up has been completed. (HSC Ref# D02407196)

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 23rd May 2013 were accepted.

MOTION 201302: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 23rd May 2013, should be accepted. Moved by Harry **Recher**, seconded by David **Miles**. Carried unanimously.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

A) Committee Membership – Peter Coad

- Everyone who applied/reapplied for membership has been accepted via a Report to Council last night. With outgoing and incoming members, the numbers have been maintained. Thanks to everyone for reapplying.

ACTION 201312: Members to be notified of membership by the Mayor.

B) Hawkesbury River Commercial Fisheries Association – Mary Howard

- Mary advised that NSW Water Services is holding a meeting regarding “Environmental Flows from Warragamba”. The date is yet to be advised (1st or 2nd weekend in September?) The HRCFA has spoken with Hawkesbury Council – Mary asked if it is OK to pass on Peter **Coad**’s contact details.

ACTION 201313: Mary Howard to forward information from the NSW Water Services about environmental flows from Warragamba dam if required, to **Peter Coad**.

C) Dangar Island Development – Harry Recher

- Harry raised concerns about an extension of the existing public wharf for 40 berthing sites and a marina. This development has been divisive – and there are concerns regarding the multiple community and environmental impacts (tidal changes / flooding / sea grass beds)
- Residents are worried that approval may set precedence for other developments on other islands.
- Go to Dangar Island League’s website for information
- Lim **Leong** asked about the reserves around the island being used by commuters to put in wharves?
- Harry advised that this is a large development, not a simple wooden wharf. It is not getting any hearing outside the island.
- A public meeting will be held on the last weekend in August and the League will vote on it at the end of September.
- Peter **Coad** provided a brief history on the existing wharf upgrades (disabled access / berthing facilities), and mentioned the consulting firm SMEC have designed some proposals.

D) David Miles

- Asked about a proposal for another arm in the Brooklyn channel for commuter boats. Peter **Coad** advised there has been minor dredging proposed, but he had no further information.

E) Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held 6pm, Thursday 21st November 2013, at the Brooklyn Community Centre.

8. CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:10pm