
Minutes of the 27th Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 19th May 2016
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	BROWN	Warren	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	BROWN	Stephen	Roads and Maritime Authority		X		
Mr	BURNS	David	Community Representative	X			
Ms	BURTON	Tegan	National Parks & Wildlife		X		
Mr	FENWICK	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina		X		
Mr	FISH	Mike	Community Representative		X		
Ms	FRATER	Ray	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee	X			
Mr	GANASSIN	Carla	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative		X		
Mr	KARCZ	Bronek	Community Representative	X			
Dr	LIM	Leong	Community Representative	X			
Mr	MACDONALD	Tim	Gosford City Council		X		
Ms	MARVELL	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation			X	
Ms	MCMURDO	Wendy	Community Representative			X	
Mr	MILES	David	Boat Owners Association		X		
Ms	MOOY	Rebecca	Greater Sydney Local Land Services	X			
Mr	MOXHAM	Rob	Commercial Representative – Oysters Farmers		X		
Mr	MYERS	Andy	Oceanwatch		X		
Mr	PATTISON	Mick	Hawkesbury City Council		X		
Mr	PELOSI	Gus	Office of Environment & Heritage		X		
Mr	PIGNEYGUY	Justin	Hawkesbury Cruises		X		
Mr	REES	Stan	Land and Property Management Authority	X			
Mr	ROWE	Simon	Oceanwatch Australia	X			
Dr	RUBIO	Ana	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Ms	SCARSBRICK	Joanne	Community Representative		X		Rob Arnold
Ms	SHORTER	Cybele	Community Representative Dangar Island	X			

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mr	TAYLOR	Chris	Community Representative	X			
Ms	STUART	Suzanne	Hawkesbury City Council	X			
Cllr	TILBURY	Nathan	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	VAN ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative	X			
Mrs	RYLAND	Julie	Hornsby Shire Council	X			

The committee lost representation of Councillors from Gosford Shire Council (Cllr Morris and Cllr Strickson) as a result of Council amalgamations for their area

Bushland Management Advisory Committee members in attendance:

Cllr Browne
Robin Buchanan
Alexi Boyd
Ross Walker
Mick Marr
Joanne Caldwell
Katie Devine

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 18:30. Meeting was chaired by Cllr **Tilbury** who welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Special thanks were given to members of the Bushland Management Advisory Committee who joined the meeting as part of their quarterly meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Anisee, Stephen Brown, Tegan Burton, Andrew Fenwick, Mike Fish, Carla Ganassin, Mary Howard, Andy Myers, Tim Macdonald, David Miles, Rob Moxham, Gus Pelosi, Justin Pigneguy, Mick Pattison, Joanne Scarsbrick.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. PRESENTATION:

Steve **Federow**, group manager of Hornsby Shire Council's Environment & Human Services gave the a presentation on 10/50 monitoring within the Hornsby Shire. Steve described the background to the monitoring of tree loss in urban areas of Hornsby and the methodology used in the assessment. The assessment for the first 12 months of 10/50 resulted in 55% increase of tree canopy area lost, mainly for large trees. When canopy lost is applied to the whole suburban area excluding bushland areas there is a 3% canopy loss per year.

ACTION 201607: Members requested a copy of the 10/50 monitoring presentation. **Completed:** The presentation was sent to members by email 23/5/2016 (HSC REF D06958384)

Cllr **Tilbury** updated the committee on progress regarding Brooklyn Masterplan and Council's amalgamations. Cllr Tilbury noted the preferred tenderer McGregor Coxall was accepted to work on the Brooklyn Masterplan. Particular emphasis will be given to parking and traffic in the area. Cllr Tilbury updated the group with the latest information on Council's amalgamations. On the 12th May NSW Premier Mike Baird and the Minister for Local Government Paul Toole announced 12 new councils in NSW. As part of this announcement Hornsby Shire Council lost the southern section of Epping, now being part of City of Parramatta Council. The potential merge of Hornsby Shire Council with Ku-ring-gai Council is still pending. Latest information about the process, including implementation, consultation and delegates reports is captured in website <https://www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au/>. Members were encouraged to follow latest information on this matter from this website.

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION 201601: Tim **Macdonald**, Gosford City Council, to provide information on the Heritage Study to members, including link to the study. **Complete:** Information provided by Tim **Macdonald** 31/03/2016 (HSC REF D06916779)

ACTION 201602: Tim **Macdonald**, Gosford City Council, to confirm that Peat Island is listed in the Heritage Study. **Complete:** Information provided by Tim **Macdonald** 31/03/2016 (HSC REF D06916779)

ACTION 201604: LHEMP Committee to send letter to Harry Recher and Hjamal Phillip thanking them for their time and contributions to the group. **Complete:** Letters have been sent (HSC REF D06950485, D06950481).

ACTION 201603: Tim **Macdonald**, Gosford City Council, to provide weblink to members about the Gosford Beaches Coastal Zone Management Plan. **Complete:** Information provided by Tim **Macdonald** 31/03/2016 (HSC REF D06916779)

ACTION 201605: Mick **Pattison**, Hawkesbury City Council, to share information with members provided by the Richmond Air Force on the use of chemicals in their facility. Members can contact the Richmond Air Force directly if they require further information on this topic. **Complete:** Information provided by Mick **Pattison** 18/03/2016 (HSC REF D06907727)

ACTION 201606: Tim **Macdonald**, Gosford City Council, to provide Council staff contact details to Mary Howard who might be willing to work with industry on signs. **Complete:** Information by Tim **Macdonald** 31/03/2016 (HSC REF D06916779)

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 17th March 2016 were accepted.

Accepted: Chris **Taylor** Carried: Leong **Lim**.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ana Rubio – Hornsby Shire Council

A summary of actions and projects related to the implementation of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan for the period March-May 2016 was sent to members prior to the meeting. HSC presentation focussed on a number of key projects identified in the summary document: a) progress on One Tree Reach Wetland's hydrologic study, b) real-time water quality monitoring and swimming condition maps, c) Clean4Shore program; d) Brooklyn's litter survey; e) upcoming community events and f) funding applications submitted.

One Tree Reach Wetland - hydrological and fish stock study update (Recreational Fishing Trust funds)

- Goal:
 - Understand the hydrologic processes of the wetland to ensure optimal management of the site to improve local fish stocks
- Project outputs:
 - High resolution aerial photography, digital elevation model and vegetation assessment
 - Quantification of hydrological processes
 - Fish stock assessment
 - Water quality monitoring
 - 2x Education workshops
- Progress:
 - Field investigations completed
 - Digital Elevation Model for the entire wetland has been completed

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- Vegetation community assessment validated based on aerial photography taken by drones;
 - Soil chemical characteristics from profile data currently being analysed
 - Second fish survey undertaken
 - Future work will focus on determining a storage volume relationship of the wetland and providing hydrological recommendations of the management the wetland

Water quality monitoring buoys

- Technical problems with the telemetry at Laughtondale monitoring station has resulted in delays in the delivery of data via the website. This has also affected the data feeds into the hydrodynamic model that runs daily to deliver swimming conditions. The modem and telemetry components have been upgraded to use 4G network, the system is now working.
- Continue higher than usual incidences of toxic algal blooms observed in Berowra Creek.

Swimming condition

- Quarterly (Jan-Mar) statistics on swimmable days reported: 85% at Brooklyn baths; 90% at Dangar Beach and 0% at Crosslands Reserve
- Swimming condition thresholds being review at present as we have more locations and more data. Last review of the thresholds was undertaken in 2010

Foreshore Clean-up

- Final report includes overall stats for the 2015 Clean4Shore program (available from Council's website)
- 8 tonnes of marine debris collected from the Hawkesbury through 12 trips. Top items reported: Foam insulation & packaging and plastic film remnants (bits of plastic bags, wrap, etc)
- Marine litter hotspots: Bar point area and Sandbrook Inlet
- Looking for high schools in Hornsby Shire to take part of the program – flyer produced

Brooklyn litter survey

- Hornsby Shire Council's waste team seeking feedback in regards to litter hotspots / littering behaviour in the Brooklyn area
- There are currently 57 litter bins in Brooklyn but despite of this, litter still seems to be a problem
- A council staff has been talking to residents and businesses in the area
- Members were asked to send information and ideas on how to manage the litter issue in the area

Community Events

- 21st May -Bush guided walk River: Boat, Walk & Talk – fully booked
- 28th May – McKell River Seasons Winter Festival
- 4th June- Hornsby Environment day– Berowra Community Centre – Plant giveaway
- 1st June – One Tree Reach and Laughtondale guided bushwalk
- 12th July – Kids activity – Intertidal Exploration at Crosslands Reserve

ACTION 201608: Leong **Lim** suggested that advice can be given during the plant give away for protecting plants against wallabies. Council's estuary team will discuss topic with nursery. **Complete:** Discussion with Council's community nursery coordinator took place 9/6/2016 (HSC Ref D06976028)

Funding applications submitted:

- 2016 Recreational Fishing Trust – Canoe Launching unit at Crosslands Reserve

Warren Brown – Gosford City Council

- Warren has been working in a different section of council. Only recently has moved back to his position that covers activities in the Hawkesbury estuary
- Members brought up media on the EPA investigation on the illegal dumping operation along the banks of the Hawkesbury River on the Central Coast

ACTION 201609: Members requested the media link to the ABC website on the illegal dumping at Spencer. John **Andrews** will provide link for dissemination among members. **Complete:** link was sent to members 24/5/2016 (HSC Ref D06959578)

Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services

- Floating Landcare continues with 8 trips in the Hawkesbury up to date - \$10k received to continue with program
- Demonstration Farm in Richmond: composting, manure re-use, etc
- Sustainable horse keeping workshop – focus to think of themselves as ‘grass farmers’ to reduce nutrient loads onto waterways
- Working with turf growers and irrigation strategies
- Workshops on responsible fishing – focus on non-English speaking community groups, in particular Chinese and Arabic groups
- Attendance of flood simulation workshop – assistance with domestic & commercial animals
- Waiting on federal and state funding

Tegan Burton – National Parks and Wildlife Services – no report – representative was absent

Simon Rowe – Oceanwatch Australia

- Recent reports on tropical areas (Carpentaria Gulf) of extended areas of mangrove community loss. Researchers unsure of environmental driver
- OceanWatch will host the Australian Shellfish Restoration Network & Eco-engineering Field Day. The network is a Community of Practice which brings together organisations and individuals interested in shellfish reef education, conservation, restoration and management. For more information please see www.shellfishrestoration.com.au
- Living shorelines project – placing oyster shells in coir fibre bags instead of rock fillets to reduce foreshore erosion and promote settlement of oyster larvae as artificial oyster reefs

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business

- **Coastal Funds**

On the 7th May the NSW Government announced an \$83.6 million budget funding commitment towards the management of the NSW coastline.

Future Meetings

Next meeting to be held 18th August

8. CLOSE There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:45