
Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 17th November 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	
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			
Mr	COAD	Peter	Hornsby Shire Council		X		

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 18:15. Meeting was chaired by Mrs **Ryland** as both Cllr Tilbury and Cllr Anissee sent their apologies as they were not able to attend the meeting. Julie welcomed Robin Aitken from NPWS Kuring-Gai area.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Anissee, Peter Coad, Ray Frater, Carla Ganassin, Mary Howard, Tim Macdonald, Andy Myers, Mick Pattison, Gus Pelosi, Justin Pigneguy, Simon Rowe, Joanne Scarsbrick, Suzanne Stuart and Cllr Tilbury.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. PRESENTATION:

A presentation was given by Tom Rivard and Nick Lewis, consultants from Royal Haskoning DHV developing the Brooklyn Master Plan. Tom described the overall goal of the Master Plan including the areas of the estuary considered in the plan and the number of community and reference group meetings undertaken so far. Most committee members have attended some of the previous meetings organised by the consultants. Nick focused on the estuary physical processes and waterway use. Most of the presentation and discussions on the night focused on:

Key constraints:

- Physical space
- Environmental sensitivities – including foreshore development as they affect views from the river and night navigation
- Dredging -Sediment contamination shown in previous studies by Birch
- Water depth
- Hydrodynamics
- Development of State Government land would be difficult
- Issue assigning carpark on western side of Sandbrook
- Current plan should include all river settlements as they all rely on Brooklyn (Masterplan should include Dangar and Little Wobby needs at least)- consultants mentioned that current scope of works focus on Brooklyn CBD and does not include this
- Finding additional parking space
- Security in the evenings – in particular around Parsley Bay
- Public spaces for meetings or areas where external visitors could organise events
- Recognising this small village is also commercial fishing base and Brooklyn Harbour has a fleet of utility barges and is a hub for commuter boats

Opportunities:

- Improve navigation in Sandbrook inlet
- Increase boat parking – mooring and storage
- Development of waterfront land along railway causeway – although members thought that this land is unstable
- Change mooring type- more efficient use of space
- More commuter boats to Parsley Bay to make more space else where
- Hawkesbury Marina – extend, reconfigure – potential issue on extension onto public land
- Kangaroo Point area
- Flat rock walking paths – loop around town
- Renovate/make more swimming areas along the foreshore

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- Train station in town – focus on this asset, increase train service and include this when people visiting the area. Alternatively consider a community bus to move people in and out of Brooklyn or car share arrangements. Also consider a carpark for locals outside the town centre
 - McKell Park- an area that is increasing usage
 - Consider the potential development of Peat Island
 - Look for spaces/activities where the youth can hang around as there is a lot of movement to/from
 - Mooney Mooney - from Brooklyn
 - Cycling paths- way of moving from/to Mooney Mooney
 - Sanbrook Inlet is a shelter area – should be used to store boats
 - Promote our commercial fishing and oyster industry

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Presentation on the Brooklyn Master Plan

Members requested a presentation at the next Committee Meeting from the consultants undertaking the Brooklyn Master Plan. Consultants from Royal Haskoning DHV presented at the November meeting.

Organisation of field trip to One Tree Reach Wetland

Members suggested a field trip to One Tree Reach Wetland. A date was proposed unfortunately not enough members were available. Members were encouraged to sign in for a guided bushwalk that Council was organising to the Wisemans Ferry area in November.

Derelict boats in Sandbrook Inlet

NSW RMS has engaged a contractor to remove all derelict boats from Sandbrook Inlet except one- a houseboat currently pending further documentation.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 18th August 2016 were accepted.

Accepted: Wendy **McMurdo** Carried: Chris **Taylor**.

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 September to November 2016 was sent to members prior to the meeting. HSC presentation focussed on a number of key projects identified in the summary document:

Algalert

- A research collaboration between Hornsby Council Natural Resources Branch and UTS researchers won the 2016 NSW Annual Coastal Management Innovation Award. The award was announced at the Coastal Conference that both Peter Coad and Ana Rubio attended
- The development of a decision support tool called ‘Algalert’ gives coastal managers the information to manage and respond to algal blooms that pose a risk to human and ecosystem health

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- The 'Algalert' tool not only gives information about the type and toxicity for each algal species but also the potential for human health risk, the thresholds for management action, public messaging about the HAB (i.e alerting the community to the visual and environmental impacts, such as fish kills, and providing warnings about swimming, shellfish harvesting and fishing)
 - Publically available document from Council's website. Currently developing a website to promote the tool further.

Calabash water quality monitoring station damaged

- Potential boat crash onto monitoring station around Monday morning on 14th November
- Council found out during a sampling run in the area. It was disappointing that residents did not report the damage. Council knew that something was not right with the buoy as the telemetry was not transmitting data
- Council and MHL refurbished the monitoring station the day after (16th Nov) we found out. Data was not lost apart from PAR data as the sensor bracket broke fully.
- The navigational light on the buoy kept working during the damage

Bar Island water quality monitoring station – potential translocation

- Council is currently considering the translocation of Bar island water quality monitoring station meters away towards the main river channel behind the cardinal marker at the entrance to Marramarra Creek on the southern side, the ballast heap and the oyster lease.
- New location is out of the main boat traffic. New location has been proved by oyster growers, commercial fisheries and RMS BSO

Mullet Creek water quality monitoring station - decommissioned in 2017

- The water quality monitoring station at Mullet Creek will be decommissioned in 2017. This station was deployed to assist with the understanding of the environmental drivers related to the Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome. This station has been deployed for three years.

New water quality monitoring station - Crosslands

- Spare probe, parts and resources from the decommissioned Mullet Creek water quality station will be diverted towards a new location in Crosslands
- Data at Crosslands will assist with the gathering of high frequency in-situ water quality data collection towards improving the model that runs daily providing advice on swimming conditions. Crosslands area is one of Council's higher risk recreational sites in the shire.

Recreational Monitoring Program during summer

- Council has increased the frequency of water quality sampling at two recreational sites during summer: Brooklyn Baths and Crosslands Reserve
- Intensive sampling between November – February (inclusive)
- Methodology as per the National Recreational Monitoring Guidelines

Prototype of Seagrass awareness phone app – developed

- Council has collaborated with Macquarie University PACE Program computing students to develop a prototype of a seagrass awareness phone app
- Two groups of students were involved. They developed great prototypes.
- Council is considering the commercialisation of one of them

Review of plans for comment

- Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)
- Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms

Education events

- One Tree reach and Laughtondale guided bushwalk – 20th Nov
- Earth Hour + Plant giveaway – 25th March 2017 – Thornleigh
- World Environmental Day + Plant giveaway – 3rd June 2017 – Brooklyn

Warren Brown – Central Coast Council

- Green Army partnership on projects like:
 - Fencing work after the East Coast Low impacts at Patonga, Wamberal Beach and Pearl beach
 - Clean4Shore
 - Floating Landcare
 - Done restoration
- Funding to engage CEN. Undertake 3 community field days that focus on water quality, wetland monitoring
- Funding for on-ground works: bush regeneration around wetland areas

Hawkesbury City Council - no report representative was absent

Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services

- Floating Landcare received the Blue Star Sustainability award
- Aquatic champions program – focused on Chinese and Arabic students (Year 8) and also adults – environmental messages and understanding of catchments
- Living shorelines – restore oyster reefs, assist with oyster recruitment and assist with foreshore erosion by packing old oyster shells into biodegradable coconut fibre bags and placing them in specific areas in estuaries

Robin Aitken (on behalf of Tegan Burton) – National Parks and Wildlife Services

- Funding received to do weed removal in the area between Cowan and Brooklyn also including Lion Island
- Floating Landcare events at Long Isl, Spectacle Isl during 2017
- Adoption of an amendment of Marramarra National Park, Mougamarra Nature reserve & Maroota Historic Site Plan of Management (<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/ParkManagementPlans.htm>)
- Marramarra Creek management plan amendment related mainly to designated camping at Twin beaches and Horse riding allowed in Marramarra catchment
- Four large control bush burns planned for 2017

Simon Rowe – Oceanwatch Australia – no report – representative was absent

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business

- Planting at the nature strip behind Dangar beach after the flood damage in May 2016 was a success. Residents got involved in the project at the end.

Future Meetings

Next meeting to be held 16 March 2017

Additional meeting for 2017:

25 May 2017

17 August 2017

16 November 2017

8. CLOSE There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:30pm