
Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 22nd Nov 2018
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mr	ANDREWS	John	Mooney-Mooney Progress Association	X			
Mr	BROWN	Warren	Central Coast Council		X		
Mr	BROWN	Stephen	Roads and Maritime Authority			X	
Mr	BURNS	David	Community Representative	X			
Ms	BURTON	Tegan	National Parks & Wildlife	X			
Mr	FAIRBAIRN	Iain	Sydney Water Corporation	X			
Mr	FENWICK	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina	X			
Mr	FISH	Mike	Community Representative			X	
Ms	FRATER	Ray	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee	X			
Dr	FREEWATER	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage	X			
Ms	CONACHER	Sarah	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative		X		
Mr	IRWIN	Tim	Lower Hawkesbury River Residents –Visiting member	X			Replacing Jill McDiarmid
Mr	KARCZ	Bronek	Community Representative	X			
Dr	LIM	Leong	Community Representative	X			
Mr	HAM	Peter	Central Coast Council		X		
Mr	LEDGER	Robert	Berowra & Districts Community Association – Visiting member	X			
Cr	MARR	Mick	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council			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	PATTISON	Mick	Hawkesbury City Council		X		
Mr	PIGNEYGUY	Justin	Hawkesbury Cruises		X		
Mr	PLUMMER	Graeme	Berowra Waters Progress Association – Visiting member	X			
Mr	REES	Stan	Land and Property Management Authority			X	
Mr	ROWE	Simon	Oceanwatch Australia		X		
Dr	RUBIO	Ana	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mrs	RYLAND	Julie	Hornsby Shire Council		X		Peter Coad
Mr	SCARSBRICK	Brian	Community Representative	X			

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative		X		
Ms	SHORTER	Cybele	Community Representative Dangar Island	X			
Mr	TAYLOR	Chris	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	TILBURY	Nathan	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	VON ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative		X		
Cr	WADDELL	Warren	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council		X		

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 18:20. Meeting was chaired by Cr **Tilbury**. Cr **Tilbury** welcomed our three visiting members from the Lower Hawkesbury River Resident Association (Tim Irwin), the Berowra Water Progress Association (Graeme Plummer) and the Berowra & District Community Association (Robert Ledger).

2. APOLOGIES

Warren Brown, Sarah Conacher, Peter Ham, Mary Howard, Wendy McMurdo, Bec Mooy, Mick Pattison, Justin Pigneyguy, Simon Rowe, Julie Ryland, Ingrid Segovia, Axel Von Zelewski and Cr Waddell.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interest was declared

4. PRESENTATION:

No presentation was organised for this meeting as John **Andrews** was providing an update on the Peat Island Development proposal as part of General Business

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION 201711: The Committee raised concerns about the potential environmental impact on the estuary from the illegal dumping in the Spencer area. **On-going:** Central Coast Council to provide an update to the committee on actions put in place to minimise any potential impacts on the estuary from the illegal dumping at Spencer. In particular information is required about who would undertake the remediation work, what will it involve and how long will it take to do the remediation work

ACTION 201804: Mary Howard requested information from Sydney Water (Iain Fairbairn) about the location of the new WWTP and the volumes per day of the St Mary's WWTP into the Hawkesbury-Nepean River. **Pending.** Iain Fairbairn has been sick having to take a few months off work but Iain mentioned at the meeting he will send the information to Mary straight away

Correspondence:

- **7th Sept/2018** - Enquiries about green weed and brown sludge around Berowra Creek
- **17/Oct/2018** – Hornsby Council received the 2018 Green Globe Awards Public Sector Leadership Award and Clean4Shore received the 2018 National Landcare People's Choice Award
- **22/Oct/2018** - Enquiry about a River Keeper position in the Hawkesbury – John Andrews
- **30 Oct 2018** - Invitation to attend community meeting about PFAS
- **14/Nov/2018** - PFAS – Ecological assessment – potential bioaccumulation in fish and prawns
- **14 Nov/ 2018** - Contribution to Brooklyn's Gateway Newsletter

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting on Thursday 23rd Aug 2018:

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Hornsby Shire Council

- Whole of Hawkesbury River/Estuary Coastal Management Program (CMP)

-MoU has now been signed by the six councils involved in the management of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary: Central Coast, Northern Beaches, Ku-ring-gai, Hawkesbury City, The Hills Shire and Hornsby Shire Councils.

-An OeH funding application has been submitted on behalf of the 6 councils to undertake a Scoping Study, which is the first step towards a CMP, in line with the new NSW Coastal Reforms. Councils will go out to tender to engage a consultant to assist with the development of the Scoping Study. While we wait to hear from the funding all the Council members have decided to undertake an internal workshop to discuss a number of aspects related to the scope of works related to the Scoping Study so we can progress in the development of the study. The area to be covered goes from the estuary mouth to South Creek in the Windsor area.

-At this stage we don't have a real feel for future community reference committees but through the development of the Scoping Study there will be ample opportunities for community consultation. The plan is to engage members of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan on a needs-base. We do value the information provided by members as you are our 'eyes and ears' on what is happening in the estuary. Consequently, we plan to continue the communication via emails and phone calls with the hope that we will hear very soon about the OEH funding application. If we have not received any news about the funding by end of January we will organise another Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan meeting in February

-In addition we are contacting representatives from key stakeholder organisations to be part of a stakeholder technical committee. Currently we have received positive feedback from Greater Sydney LLS, Sydney Water, RMS, NPWS and OEH (Policy and Science teams). I am currently waiting to hear from Crown Lands, DPI Fisheries and Department of Planning & Environment. It is going to be extremely important to ensure that key stakeholder agencies are part of the CMP process.

-The CMP will need to align with the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/815596/Marine-Estate-Management-Strategy-2018-2028.pdf). The strategy has identified 9 key initiatives with associated management objectives and key actions:

- 1) Improve water quality and litter
- 2) Delivering healthy coastal habitats with sustainable use and development
- 3) Planning for climate change
- 4) Protect Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate
- 5) Reduce impact on threatened and protected sp
- 6) Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture
- 7) Enabling safe and sustainable boating
- 8) Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits
- 9) Delivering effective governance

Strategy snapshot has been included in the next page: (https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/817308/MEM-Strategy-Snapshot.PDF)

Members are encouraged to read the strategy and advice on potential projects to consider as part of future's CMP

Our vision

A healthy coast and sea managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community now and into the future

Strategy Goal

The Strategy responds to the priority threats to water quality, habitats and biodiversity of the State's coastal waters and estuaries. It also aims to maximise the benefits the NSW community derives from the marine estate.

Key Actions

- Work with partners and agencies to improve water quality
- On-ground works to reduce diffuse source water pollution
- Focused marine litter campaign

- Improve understanding of climate change impacts
- Identify mangrove and saltmarsh migration pathways
- Support strategic adaptation planning

- Expand commercial fishing observer programs
- Educate the community on threats to wildlife
- Improve marine wildlife incident responses, reporting and data sharing

- Reduce vessel impacts on seagrass
- Solutions to boat storage demand
- Manage boat-based contamination

- Improve government coordination and implementation
- Streamline regulatory instruments
- Increase stakeholder and community participation in marine estate management

Management Objectives

To improve water quality and reduce marine litter for the benefit of marine habitats, wildlife and the community

Understand, adapt and increase resilience, to help mitigate the impacts of climate change on the NSW marine estate

To understand and mitigate threats to threatened and protected species in NSW

To balance protection of coastal and marine habitats and species with ongoing access and safe and sustainable boating

To improve governance arrangements across the marine estate to support coordinated, transparent, inclusive and effective decision-making

Initiatives

Improving water quality and reducing litter



Delivering healthy coastal habitats with sustainable use and development



Planning for climate change



Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate



Reducing impacts on threatened and protected species



Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture



Enabling safe and sustainable boating



Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits



Delivering effective governance



Management Objectives

To protect coastal and marine habitats and associated species and enhance the health of the marine estate by improving the design, quality and ongoing management of foreshore development, use and waterway infrastructure

Work with Aboriginal communities in the management of Sea Country to reduce threats and risks to Aboriginal cultural heritage

To ensure fishing and aquaculture is managed in a way that is consistent with ecologically sustainable use while providing for the health, heritage and social benefits of fishing and seafood consumption

To improve the social, cultural and economic benefits that the NSW community derives from the marine estate by responding to priority threats

Key Actions

- Improve assessment of coastal development activities
- Develop marine vegetation management plans
- Resilient coastal floodplains and priority fish passage barriers

- Framework for involvement in Sea Country management
- Establish Aboriginal positions to manage Sea Country
- Develop Sea Country plans

- Complete an environmental assessment of recreational fishing
- Introduce fisheries harvest strategies
- Enhance social acceptance of fisheries
- Enable new marine aquaculture ventures

- Building on existing school and community education programs
- Establish a Marine Integrated Monitoring Program
- Identify and map current and future use
- Exploring opportunities for innovative ecologically sustainable activities

Images courtesy of: Colin Cooksey, David Harzell, N Johnstone, iStock.com/ JohnCarnemolla, Suneyypics-ae, funky-data, xavierarmai, halovt

www.marine.nsw.gov.au

-As part of the CMP process Councils are encouraged to work with their neighbouring councils addressing cross-boundary projects. OEH Science team organised a meeting with councils undertaking water quality monitoring in the Lower Hawkesbury in addition to Sydney Water with the goal of discussing areas of the estuary that are being monitored, identifying gaps and duplication of effort. An MoU will be signed across all organisations in order to share data and be consistent in the reporting approach. OEH is developing a centralised database for water quality for NSW estuaries.

- A bloom of Moon jellyfish *Aurelia aurita* occurred in Berowra Waters during two days over the weekend 17-18 Nov 2018. Researchers from Griffith University and the Australian Museum were contacted and expressed their interest in getting access to two samples of jellyfish towards a genetic project and to be preserved as part of the Sydney Australia Museum collection. *Aurelia* does occur in NSW, it is a robust animal as it is highly invasive and widespread. Researchers think there are actually many different species, hence the genetic work would help to distinguish which species this is and whether it is native or invasive.
- Creek restoration at Saltpan Reserve is progressing well. This work is funded by Greater Sydney LLS and Hornsby Shire Council. Earthworks and creek line remediation is well underway. Embankment has been rock lined and stabilised. Sandstone capping will limit the spread of *Arundo* (this will happen towards the end of November). A series of small passive species will be planted along a path linking Cole street and the RFS site. Community planting will start in March 2019.
- Council will promote a tree giveaway to Hornsby Shire's Riverside settlements as part of Council's '25,000 Trees by 2020'. Interested residents from river settlements are requested to register to the program via Council's website <http://trees.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/> Any registered resident will be entitled to 5 free native trees for their property. Trees can be collected throughout the year at Council's plant giveaway days <http://trees.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/events/>
- A 'Hawkesbury Macrophyte Meander' boat trip was organised on Saturday 27th October with 18 residents attending the trip. The trip was a great opportunity to educate residents about estuarine processes, impacts of catchment run-off on waterways, the ecological importance of saltmarsh and mangrove ecosystems and on-ground vegetation management works undertaken at the site, in particular, targeting lantana. The activity was supported by Greater Sydney LLS and NPWS
- During the last three months a number of awards were achieved on projects related to the Lower Hawkesbury:
 - Clean4Shore received the 2018 National Landcare People's Choice Award
 - Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with Manly Hydraulics Laboratory received the 2018 Green Globe Awards Public Sector Leadership Award for the approach on water quality monitoring and information delivery to community
 - The NSW Oyster Industry received the 2018 Public Good Award at the 27th NSW Coastal Conference. Hornsby Shire Council nominated the industry for the award.

Central Coast Council – no report as they were an apology

National Parks and Wildlife Service

- Continue support and partnership with Greater Sydney LLS on Floating
- Current Aboriginal Park Partnerships project at Long Island Nature Reserve, called Keeping Long Island Special. The project has just started and will be completed next year. The project aim is to provide a better understanding of the tangible and intangible cultural values of Long Island, including the potential for the presence of Aboriginal remains; identify threats to those values, and options for mitigating threats; guide a pro-active approach, with NPWS and

MLALC working in partnership, to protect the cultural values of Long Island; provide opportunities for community to build and maintain connections with Long Island.

Bronek **Karcz** asked about the carvings in Dangar Island as he feels that no one takes ownership of them. Residents of Dangar Island would like advice on which group might be the best one to contact in order to maintain them in the long-term. NPWS will look into this. Peter **Coad** also suggested for Bronek to get in touch with the Hornsby Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee

Greater Sydney Local Land Service - a summary report was sent prior to the meeting as the representative was an apology:

Floating Landcare 2018

- Floating Landcare volunteers in 2018 have visited and managed weeds at 13 locations on the Hawkesbury Estuary and in the Pittwater, and also Woy Woy Bay on the Central Coast.
- The final Floating Landcare activity will be to Lion Island on Saturday 24th Nov, weather depending.

Floating Landcare 2019

- The dates for 2019 are currently being finalised with the aim is to have the calendar published pre-Christmas.
- Next year the Floating Landcare program will again provide volunteers the opportunity to visit, experience and participate in removing weeds to restore the vegetation communities at our estuary sites.
- In 2019 some of the activities will combine a couple of sites as we are doing so well at managing the weeds at some locations they only need an hour visit by our enthusiastic volunteers!
- We will also have at least 3 activities on the waters of the Central Coast.
- There will be 5 community engagement activities to river settlements with our project partners, that are near our Floating Landcare sites to educate the residents on weeds, native plants or other aspects of their local environment.
- The calendar for 2019 will be available at: <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees,-plants-and-bushland/floating-landcare>



Photo above: Floating Landcarers in the frame! This year the volunteers have been assisting creating a snap shot of the weed density at a couple of sites through some simple vegetation monitoring using quadrats.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business

PFAS at Richmond RAAF Base

A Community Information Session was organised on the 7th November to provide information on the detailed environmental investigation into PFAS at the RAAF Base Richmond and nearby areas. A Fact Sheet was produced to disseminate results that describes the different levels of exposure risk

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Richmond/Factsheets/201811RAAFBaseRichmondHHRAFactsheet.pdf>

The information session was well attended. Latest information on the investigation is all documented in the Defence website <http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Richmond/>

Specific publications of interest:

- Human Health Risk Assessment Reports
- Ecological Risk Assessment Reports
- Detailed Site Investigation Reports

<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Richmond/publications.asp>

Currently the EPA is working with Defence and the local council to manage the impacts found from the investigation. Ana **Rubio** contacted Defence to get further information on the potential impacts of PFAS on school prawns and finfish. No answer has been received as yet.

ACTION 201806: Ana **Rubio** to send to the committee the link to the reports related to the PFAS investigations including the link to the fact sheet that Defence has produced to disseminate results among community and stakeholders. **COMPLETE:** Information was sent to members (TRIM HSC D07568436)

Warragamba Dam height increase –John Andrews

Information about this issue was requested from WaterNSW as the owner and operator of Warragamba Dam. WaterNSW is leading the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Warragamba Dam Raising (WDR) proposal, which will result in the public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) next year (2019).

In May 2017, the NSW Government released Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities - The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy (Flood Strategy, https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/93051/Infrastructure-NSW-Resilient-Valley,-Resilient-Communities-2017-January.pdf), providing a comprehensive long-term framework for the NSW Government, local councils, businesses and the community working together to reduce and manage flood risk in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. The strategy concluded that raising Warragamba Dam by 14 metres is the best infrastructure option to reduce flood risk from floodwaters from the Warragamba River catchment. WaterNSW has organised a number of community events to discuss the outcomes of the strategy. WaterNSW has offered the opportunity of involving any Lower Hawkesbury Estuary member in the current Warragamba Dam Raising Proposal's Social and Environmental Impact Assessment to inform the EIS

ACTION 201807: Ana **Rubio** to send to the committee information received from WaterNSW on the flood strategy, two community updates and a presentation given to councils in the area. **COMPLETE:** Information was sent to members (TRIM HSC D0756839)

Peat Island Development – John Andrews

John **Andrews** gave a detailed presentation on the background and processes that Peat Island Development Proposal has gone through.

- Property NSW is continuing with plans for the rezoning of Government land at Peat Island and part of Mooney Mooney. Peat Island closed in 2010 and since then the government has been looking for ideas for this land.
- The 2014 Planning Proposal was revised incorporating feedback from consultation meetings with the Department of Planning, Central Coast Council, other key stakeholders such as Hornsby Shire Council and the local community. Overall feedback was that proposal involved too much development of the area resulting in mayor impacts on the estuary and local area.
- In October 2016, Property NSW lodged the revised Planning Proposal with Council and in March 2017 Council endorsed the proposal. The proposal was granted Gateway Determination in August 2017 allowing Central Coast Council to place the Planning Proposal on public exhibition once further stakeholder consultation and additional expert reports are completed.
- Project sheet as per 2017 can be viewed from this link:
https://www.property.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Peat%20Island%20Project%20Sheet_2_0.pdf
- - The revised proposal is less excessive than the one in 2014.
- Proposal wants to create public access to Peat Island
- Peat Island used to have its own wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that now is closed. Any development will need to use the Brooklyn WWTP.
- Marina proposal has been moved but still proposed in the causeway in an area that is heavily silted (this area might not be an option)
- Public exhibition of the Proposal is anticipated early 2019 but no progress will happen until after election next year. There won't be any more community consultation this year
- There are unresolved Aboriginal land claims affect the site and potential impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Project wish list for 2019

Members were asked to put forward a project or idea for consideration in 2019. The following points were discussed:

- Need for better communication across key agencies i.e. coordination of water quality monitoring
- Derelict boats: need for a better procedure to address the increasing number of derelict boats (a key issue is that the age of current boat owners is increasing)
- Need for an overall vision for the Hawkesbury, how to put a spotlight on the Hawkesbury
- Better management of short-term holiday rentals on river settlements
- Continue urban development – how to limit further development, what is the carrying capacity
- Need for increased routine monitoring of septic systems on river settlements on both foreshores
- Protection of seagrasses
- Concerns about overfishing (both commercial and recreational) excluding prawn trawlers
- Need for studies on recreational fishing stocks
- Weed management
- Need for education at recreational foreshore users (eg Twin Beaches, Gentlemen's Halt, Singleton Rd) in relation to waste products (fishing line and bait bags, bottles and other rubbish), cutting trees down for firewood, dogs
- River settlement residential communities with bush-friendly gardens in connection to nature reserves are intruding areas with dogs, not respecting the nature reserve areas
- Need for protection of our foreshore Aboriginal sites i.e. particularly the numerous shell middens along the waterways. Need for mapping / proper documentation, assessment of condition and threats of shell middens, managing the waterways in such a way as to offer them a bit better protection.

Future Meetings

No meetings are scheduled for 2019 as yet as we are hoping that there will be significant consultation as part of the scoping study towards the Hawkesbury Coastal Management Program.

You can access information on meeting dates and previous minutes from

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/water-catchments/hawkesbury-estuary/lower-hawkesbury-estuary-management-committee-meetings>

CLOSE Meeting closed at 8:45pm