
Minutes of the 38th Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 21st March 2019
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	BURNS	David	Community Representative	X			
Ms	BURTON	Tegan	National Parks & Wildlife		X		
Mr	COAD	Peter	Hornsby Shire Council	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			
Mr	KARCZ	Bronek	Community Representative	X			
Mr	HAM	Peter	Central Coast Council		X		
Dr	LIM	Leong	Community Representative	X			
Mr	LEDGER	Robert	Berowra & Districts Community Association – Visiting member	X			
Mr	LYONS	David	Roads and Maritime Authority		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			
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 18:15. Meeting was chaired by Cr **Tilbury**. Cr **Tilbury** welcomed two visiting members from the Berowra Water Progress Association (Graeme Plummer and Jill Gleave). Cr **Tilbury** also welcomed Hornsby Shire Council's staff David Johnston and Julia Morton from Council's Strategy & Place Branch.

2. APOLOGIES

John Andrews, Warren Brown, Tegan Burton, Andrew Fenwick, Ray Frater, Peter Ham, David Lyons, David Miles, Bec Mooy, Mick Pattison, Ingrid Segovia and Cr Waddell.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interest was declared

4. PRESENTATION:

David Johnston and Julia Morton from Hornsby Shire Council's Strategy & Place Branch, gave a brief introduction to the current strategy that Council will take in regards to Brooklyn. Council will take all learnings and outcomes from the Brooklyn Masterplan and will address each key topic at a time. The masterplan overall highlighted: 1) the beauty of Brooklyn's scenery and the need to retain the village atmosphere; 2) zoning requirement needed to facilitate appropriate development; 3) need for a tourism strategy and; 4) need to look into opportunities to create more local employment.

Current community input to the masterplan will be used. David and Julia reassured the committee that they would not start consultation again but will build on to information already collated through the masterplan process. The aim is to leverage better outcomes on projects that are already happening (e.g. lift being installed at the train station, improving current signage around Brooklyn to assist visitors finding walking paths and interesting areas around the town, developing an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy for the shire including Brooklyn). The Community reference group that was created as part of Brooklyn's masterplan will not be reformed instead the new Council team will aim to make themselves more available to gain direct input from the wider community. Currently the team is planning to place themselves in a temporally office around Brooklyn (e.g. one day a week) in order to facilitate this communication.

All committee attendees introduced themselves to David and Julia highlighting aspects of importance for them to consider in future projects around Brooklyn. It was agreed to share David and Julia's contact details:

David Johnston, Strategic Place Manager, (02) 9847 6800 djohnston@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
Julia Morton, Place Manager, (02) 9847 6052 jmorton@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

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. **COMPLETED:** Central Coast Council provided information on the topic from the Mangrove Mountain and Spencer Advisory Committee which consists of council reps, EPA, Office of Water and community (HSC TRIM D07637962)

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. **COMPLETED.** Iain **Fairbairn** provided information to Mary on the St Mary's WWTP location and flow data (HSC TRIM D07639097; D07639093)

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)

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)

Correspondence:

- **7/Jan/2019** – NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMA) 2018-2028
- **22/Jan/ 2019** – Community Update – Summer 2018/19 Warragamba Dam Raising Proposal
- **1/Feb/2019** – Update RAAF Base Richmond PFAS Investigation – update newsletter Jan 2019
- **12/Feb/2019** – Leong Lim sent a copy of Economics issue paper on Managing Australia's Freshwater Resources
- **21/Feb/2019** – Invitation to attend tree planting at Saltpan, Brooklyn
- **26/Feb/2019** – Information about invasive aquatic bryozoan *Amathia verticillata*
- **13/Mar/2019** – Information requested for Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy – webportal and pop-up events
- **18/Mar/2019** – information to committee about Community Environment Program

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Acceptance of minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting on Thursday 22nd November 2018:

Accepted: Chris **Taylor**

Carried: Wendy **McMurdo**.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Hornsby Shire Council

- Internal re-structure in Natural Resources Branch:

Julie Ryland and the sustainability team has been moved from the Natural Resources branch into Strategy & Place. Currently, Mark Hood is acting in Julie's old position as Natural Resources Strategy manager who oversees the estuary work.

Donna Fitton has moved to the 25,000 Tree Project officer and Jean-Philippe Kecman is filling in for Donna dealing with Brooklyn bushcare, floating landcare and managing reserves around Brooklyn and along the estuary.

- Accelerated LEP Review

In May last year, the Greater Sydney Council (GSC) Regional Plan (Sydney – A Metropolis of Three Cities) and its associated district plans were released. A suite of recent reforms to the EP&A Act were enacted to require councils to give effect to the regional and district plan priorities and actions through their LEPs.

Councils across Greater Sydney have gone through an LEP Health Check with the GSC to map these priorities and actions, assess how they are reflected in LEPs, and identify gaps. Mostly, the Health Check identified a high degree of alignment and some gaps particularly in the housing and sustainability domains such as a 10-year housing strategy, the Green Grid, climate change adaptation, and low carbon precincts. Councils that have recently merged or had their boundaries altered, such as Hornsby, are required to have further LEP and DCP amendments addressing these gaps finalised by 1 December 2019.



The Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) is 20-year vision for land use that will give effect to regional, district plans and Community Strategic Plans.

It will do this by:

- Identifying community priorities and special characteristics that contribute to local identity
- Using engagement to determine how strategic land use policy goals are physically expressed
- Describing how goals will be delivered, growth and land use change managed, monitoring and reporting
- Informing LEP/DCP changes and synthesising strategic planning (master / precinct planning, housing strategy, industrial lands study etc.)
- Assessing future land use, infrastructure and service requirements
- Pivotal role in strategic planning system – a ‘bridge’ between scales
- A unifying document, drawing together state, regional, district and local strategies
- Key resource to understand how strategic plans will be implemented and evolve
- Provides greater coherence and integrates existing strategic planning work with statutory system

Further information about LSPS: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/About-Us/Departmental-events/Planning-Connects/The-Local-Strategic-Planning-Statement-LSPS-rationale-purpose-and-practical-use>

The LSPS document outline requires as a minimum:

1. Context (sets the basis for strategic planning)
2. Planning directions, priorities, goals (synthesises strategic policies)
3. Action Plan (provides the link between strategic and statutory planning)

4. Implementation (links to Council's delivery and operating plans, annual and end of term reporting)

As part of this process a number of strategies are currently being developed in Council to inform the LSPS:

- Demographic Analysis
 - Childcare Centers Demand Review
 - Affordable Housing
 - Medium Density Demand Review
 - Seniors Housing
 - Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan
 - Comprehensive Heritage Review
 - Hornsby Town Centre Visioning and Place Principles
 - Hornsby Town Centre Review
 - Economic Development & Tourism Strategy
 - Environmental Sustainability Strategy
 - Water Sensitive Hornsby
 - Urban heat Mapping
 - Climate Change Adaptation DCP Criteria
 - Urban Forest Strategy
 - Biodiversity Management Plan
 - Rural Lands Strategy
 - Walking and Cycling Plan
 - Play Plan
 - Engagement Strategy
 - Local Strategic Planning Statement
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- Whole of Hawkesbury River/Estuary Coastal Management Program (CMP)

Funding from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has been secured to engage a consultant to assist with the development of Stage 1 Scoping Study as part of the overall Hawkesbury River/System Coastal Management Program (CMP).

A brief is currently being developed seeking for proposals from consultants to assist the six councils (Hawkesbury City Council, The Hills Shire Council, Hornsby Shire Council, Central Coast Councils, Ku-ring-gai Council, Northern Beaches Council) along the Hawkesbury to develop the scoping study.

Once the consultant is engaged a work plan will be developed including meetings with community and key stakeholders. Meetings with the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan Committee will be organised depending on the approach used by the consultant.

- Unusual sightings on the estuary

A number of unusual processes have occurred during the summer season (2018/19). These processes might not be linked but they all occurred during summer:

- This summer has been once again hotter than usual with water temperatures in January reaching $28.35^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1.02$ and air temperatures $28.51^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 6.28$. Twenty-one (21) days exceeded 40°C during the summer months
- There have been unusual high levels of Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) at Courangra during December corresponding with the turn of the low tide and resulting in red discoloration. Proactive sampling was undertaken by Council to investigate the blooms. We found that the red discoloration was specific to certain areas between Spencer and Laughtondale and that nutrient levels were higher within the red discoloration area than outside this area. The

algae involved in the red discoloration was *Heterocapsa triquetra*, which is a common species in the Hawkesbury but this is the first time that has reached high densities resulting in discoloration.

- OEH's logger at Sackville also reported high levels of Chl-a. This was associated to visual blooms of blue green algae blooms of *Microcystis*
- An increased abundance of the bryozoan *Amathia verticillata* occurred. *Amathia* is a fouling species that blooms easily and prefers growing on artificial surfaces in urbanised estuaries. It started appearing in Sept/Oct and remained till the end of summer. *Amathia* is listed as a low-priority invasive bryozoan species that was introduced to Australia in 1970s and so far has been reported formally in SA and north of QLD. Throughout intensive consultation of estuarine users, we gathered that the bryozoan has spread from Wisemans Ferry to the mouth of the estuary. In particular, *Amathia* bloom has significantly impacted the commercial trawlers by clogging their nets. Council notified NSW Biosecurity about the bloom who requested information about the spread and period during which the bloom was observed.
- A number of small mullaway fish were seen with mouths and spinal deformities. Fisheries was notified and samples were collected in order to investigate possible infectious diseases associated with the abnormalities. Results indicated that was no specific evidence of a causative infectious agent. Fisheries notified EPA about the results in order to follow with testing for environmental causes.

- MoU –water quality data sharing

An MoU has been drafted by OEH, Sydney Water, Water NSW, Central Coast Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Northern Beaches and Hornsby Shire Council with the aim of designing an integrated approach to water quality sampling along the Hawkesbury Estuary. The MoU will allow for data sharing of water quality data among these organisations to assist with better management of the estuary.

Hawkesbury City Council started during 2018-19 summer a water quality monitoring program in partnership with OEH Science unit:

- 6 sites between Windsor and Wisemans Ferry
- Sites chosen not to overlap with Sydney Water testing sites
- Produce an estuary health report card
- Variables pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, clarity (turbidity and secchi disk), chlorophyll-a, TSS & nutrients. Ad-hoc algal sampling due to recent blooms
- Monthly for 3 years – install additional data loggers

- Funding obtained for oyster growers

Oyster growers in the Hawkesbury secured funding through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Julian Leaser MP and David Littleproud. The funding will assist the industry in producing Triploid Pacific Oysters in a hatchery in Tasmania in a way that will allow for quicker integration of the genetics related to Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) survival. If this technology works will allow the Hawkesbury oyster industry to recover quicker from the 2014 POMS outbreak by integrating the latest POMS survival genetics in their stock. A workshop with key stakeholder, hatchery operators, fisheries and growers will be organised to discuss the project plan and its implementation. Growers will receive the new stock at the start of winter.

- Saltpan reserve – tree planting

A planting event was organised as part of the 25,000 Tree project. \$2 people (mostly locals) attended. A total of 643 plants were planted on the day that included 242 trees. Another 5 planting events will be organised in this area including local schools and community during 2019.

Central Coast Council – no report as they were an apology

Sydney Water

Committee members requested at the meeting in November that Sydney Water will give a brief update at the meeting on any projects that could be of value to the committee.

Iain **Fairbairn** gave an update on the strategies that Sydney Waters used during the storm-related black-out in February that impacted Hornsby area for almost 1.5 days. The black-out impacted operationally the sewer treatment plants. This is the first time that both plants were affected during such long period of time. Sydney Water's strategy for this situation is to use large artificial sediment pools that have the capacity of holding ~5 Million litres in order to retain untreated waters during the black-out.

National Parks and Wildlife Service - no report as they were an apology

Greater Sydney Local Land Service - no report as they were an apology

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business

-Cybele **Shorter** enquired about the plan to connect Kangaroo Point with Brooklyn using a boardwalk. Current work in the area is limited to widen Brooklyn road in order to incorporate a shared walking/cycling path. Plans for the construction of a boardwalk in particular around Seymours creek area is still under review. The current Economic Development and Tourism Strategy that is underway will consider the best approach of connecting Brooklyn with Kangaroo Point and will provide advice accordingly.

Future Meetings

No meetings are scheduled for the rest of 2019 as Hornsby Council in partnership with the five neighbouring councils will soon be engaging a consultant to undertake Stage 1- the scoping study- towards a Hawkesbury River System Coastal Management Program. The committee will be engaged as per needs-basis during the development of the scoping study.

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 8:30pm