
Minutes of the 20th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 15th May 2014
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	ARNOLD	Robert	Community Representative	X			
Mr	BROWN	Warren	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	BROWN	Stephen	M S B	X			
Mr	BURNS	David	Community Representative		X		
Ms	BURTON	Tegan	National Parks & Wildlife	X			
Mr	COSGROVE	Tom	Visitor				
Mr	FENWICK	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina		X		
Mr	FISH	Mike	Community Representative		X		
Ms	FRATER	Ray	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee	X			
Mr	GREEN	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Mr	KARCZ	Bronek	Community Representative		X		
Cllr	KEAN	Matt	Speaker –	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		
Cllr	MORRIS	Hilary	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	MOXHAM	Rob	Commercial Representative – Oysters Farmers		X		
Mr	PELOSI	Gus	Office of Environment & Heritage		X		
Mr	PHILIPP	Hjalmar	Community Representative	X			
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		

Dr	RUBIO	Ana	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Ms	SHORTER	Cybele	Community Representative Dangar Island	X			
Cllr	STRICKSON	Jeff	Councillor - Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	TAYLOR	Chris	Roilat	X			
Cllr	TILBURY	Nathan	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Mr	VAN DER NEUT	Dane	Community Representative		X		
Mr	VAN ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative		X		

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6:20pm. Peter Coad explained that Cllr Anissee would be late and that he would chair until his arrival.

Peter welcomed all and thanked everyone for coming and welcomed Tom Cosgrove and Cllr Hillary Morris - Gosford City Council.

2. **APOLOGIES:** David Burns, Andrew Fenwick, Mike Fish, Marcel Green, Bronek Karcz, Tim McDonald, Cheryl Marvell, Rebecca Mooy, Rob Moxham, Gus Pelosi, Justin Pigneguy, Simon Rowe, Cllr Jeff Strickson, Cllr Nathan Tilbury, Alex VanZelewski.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 13th March 2014 were accepted.

Accepted: Cllr **Anissee**

2nd: Chris **Taylor**

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTER ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

ACTION 201401: Peter **Coad** to send Fisheries Resources Annual Report and Dane's presentation to all committee members. **Complete:** Information was sent 28th April 2014 (HSC Ref: D02954171)

Cllr Anissee thanked Peter and took over Chair duties.

MOTION 201402: The LHEMC writes to the NSW DPI and members of Parliament within the Hawkesbury noting support for the sustainable management of fisheries in which commercial fishers are recognised for their contributions. Further, the committee notes the concerns of the fishers and seeks NSW DPI include social economic and environmental concerns in their deliberations regarding NSW Fisheries reforms for the Hawkesbury River. **Ongoing:** A report to Councils June meeting is required to enact the letters.

ACTION 201315: Peter **Coad** to respond to the letter from Dangar Island resident re education about Migratory Birds. **Complete:** Will do as part of community consultation for signage design.

ACTION 201405: Tim **Macdonald** to distribute LEP information to all **Complete:** LEP information was sent 17th March 2014 Council Ref: D02906869.

ACTION 201406: Cllr **Tilbury** to follow up with the NSW RFS 10/50 rule proposal and report back to committee. **Complete:** No further information has been given on the proposal. Peter Coad will request the Bushland Management Advisory Committee to follow up on the issue and report to LHEMC on any information obtained.

Peter **Coad** asked Tegan if she has any further information to add regarding the 10/50 Vegetation clearance rule proposed by RFS – Tegan responded that she does not. No further information has been given on the proposal.

ACTION 201404: Cllr **Tilbury** to find out the status of whether or not the pump out facility will be opened or closed and report back to the committee. **Complete:** Facility operation is being discussed as part of the upgrade work at Kangaroo Point. Any change to the facility operation would only occur after public consultation.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ana Rubio – Hornsby Shire Council

- 2012/25013 Annual Report
 - Electronic version sent to members
 - Report available
<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/water-catchments/hawkesbury-estuary/reports>
- Campaign Graphics Presented
 - Combine elements into a recognisable graphic device.
 - Stick to the key issues. 'Reason' not 'Reprimand'.
 - Point Of Sale stickers
 - Brochure Mail out to Little Wobby, Dangar and Brooklyn residents
 - Use in festivals, community events, etc
 - In-store ceiling dangler
- Seagrass Buoys Update
 - 10x Aqua marks south of Dangar
 - 3x Aqua marks Brooklyn channel
 - Re-positioned Navigational markers in Kangaroo Point
- Sediment Monitoring
 - Assess the small-scale spatial variability of selected contaminants;
 - Assess the distribution of contaminants in sediment;
 - Assess the quality of sediment referencing ANZECC (2000)
 - Determine temporal changes in contaminant concentrations using data from 2006 (URS, 2007) and 2013;
 - Identify major sources of contaminants
- Erosion Study
 - OEH funding
 - Study site: Wisemans to Spencer
 - Draft Final Report to be submitted
 - Overall summary from researches
'The vulnerability of the riverbanks is comparatively low when compared to other rivers in NSW'
- Vegetation Assessment Estuarine Sites
 - Greater Sydney LLS funded project component of a larger project on rehabilitating foreshore areas in Bar Island, Kangaroo Pt foreshore and Brooklyn Reserve area
 - Vegetation assessment of estuarine sites, management plans and work prioritising
 - Additional assessments: fauna surveys & fire risk
 - 13 estuarine sites

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- Foreshore CleanUp
 - HSC secured \$27K for the program to keep going
 - 30 clean-up events coming up
 - Yesterday Berowra – Report will be submitted tonight
 - Coming up- Sandbrook/ The Gut
 - Willing to work with Hornsby schools
 - Grants Submitted
 - Office of Environment and Heritage – Estuary Management Programs Grants 2014/15
 - Estuarine health monitoring of Hawkesbury's waterways (\$130K)
 - Rehabilitation and management of riparian zones in Lower Hawkesbury Estuary (\$48k)
 - Environmental Trust – Research grant submitted on modelling to anticipate the spread of estuarine pests and diseases
 - Australian Government – DAFF Innovation Grants - Innovations in aquaculture to create a healthy estuary and provide a rescue strategy for sustaining the oyster industry in the face of emerging diseases
 - Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome
 - R&D continues with University of Sydney and HSC
 - Getting close to the end of the QX disease window of infection
 - Sydney Rock Oysters going well
 - Kangaroo Point Pump-out
 - High volumes being pumped in 2014
 - 1,040,000L pumped out since 2008
 - Sign for users to register to receive service updates
 - Take the Lead- Dangar Island Bird sign
 - Features for inclusion on the orientation map
 - Photographs to support stories of Dangar's heritage
 - Suggested walking routes and duration, for island visitors

Apologies - Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council

Apologies – Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Gosford Council Report

Warren Brown – Gosford City Council

- Car Park changes has commenced around foreshore
- Clean Up work established – 3 trips to Lower Hawkesbury /Alison Pt / Kogarah Bay
- Kogarah Bay a rather bad site as only boat access & no garbage service Council is open to ideas on how to manage site – need to engage river folk .
- Over past 3 months Council has taken an estimated 13 tonnes waste out of Brisbane Water which included garbage and bottles dated back to 1946

National Parks and Wildlife Services

Tegan Burton – National Parks and Wildlife Services

- Working Floating Landcare and volunteer support excellent
- Current Projects – Marra Murra Cowan Creek Long Island
- Gentleman's Holt has Lantana and accumulated rubbish which is currently being removed.
- Singleton Road has lantana being removed from foreshore sites.

When asked if NPW give financial support to Grahams clean up effort , Tegan stated that they use the NPW boats/barges etc to pick up the rubbish that Graham has accumulated and support him where possible, although not financially.

Cllr Anissee thanked Dr Rubio , Warren and Tegan for their reports.

Cllr Anissee then introduced Matt Kean

7. PRESENTATION:

Matt Kean MP , Member for Hornsby.

Matt started by thanking Peter Coad Ana Rubio and Wendy McMurdo for the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Committee and its work

Matt stated he has interests in the Hawkesbury River. He has lobbied Sydney Water with regards to increasing the concentration of nutrients to the river. Matt noted the concerns of commercial fishers. Matt asked all present to contact him with any information they feel may help him form a submission on the issue.

Harry **Recher** noted that sustainable fisheries management needs to also include the impacts of recreational fishing.

Leong **Lim** asked how have NSW DPI fisheries research scientists been involved?? The reforms need to be based on good science.

Tom **Cosgrove** said the Fishermans Co-Op has lost 100's of fisherman over the years as they cannot maintain a sustainable industry The commercial fishers are highly regulated but the market in which they trade has no regulations which support local fishers .

John **Andrews** spoke of Dane **Van der Neut** and his previous presentation and suggested that Matt arrange a meeting with Dane to get further information on the issues surrounding commercial fishing in the Hawkesbury.

Mary **Howard** spoke of the commercial fishing reform and other pressures on the industry which includes marine parks, recreational fishing v commercial interest and said she feels that it requires community understanding. In the last 20 yrs, at least 2000 commercial fishers are gone, 27% of commercial grounds were lost 2002-2004, and 37% of commercial fishing grounds are now marine parks.

The greater community does not understand the specific commercial fishing regulations and fishery shares trading management.

The Hawkesbury has 53 estuary endorsed fishing trawlers with only 28 being active all season. Commercial fishers need to multifish to regulate both good and bad times. 80% of saleable fish is NSW is imported from other states.

The clear message from ALL fisher meetings of recent weeks is to reject this reform. Commercial fishers do not support the fisheries reforms proposal as they are not supported with sound science and economic and social impacts are not considered

Chris **Taylor** said the government is not looking at the big picture, and needs to consider recreational fishing is not being taken into account in these studies yet we have tinnys – trailer boats etc by the 1000's.

Leong **Lim** said the information of commercial and rec fishing impact is very scant and still based on 2007 data.

Cybele **Shorter** said since the severe loss to the Hawkesbury oyster industry, Brooklyn, as a community is suffering – if the reform comes in then it will suffer further.

Cllr **Anissee** said that the reform was meant to improve commercial viability and consolidate the industry using shares trading mechanisms.

Harry **Recher** feels that consolidation will cause high quality fish /lobsters to be sent overseas and prices for produce here will skyrocket.

Hillary **Morris** suggested we not only email Matt with concerns but also Chris Holstein and other local members

Harry **Recher** asked about Peat Island – Matt stated he has made submissions already but there is now a new minister who he will brief as soon as possible and discuss
Matt is aware that both Hornsby and Gosford mayors are in discussion regarding both Peat Island and Kangaroo Point but with all the restructure within government of late it all needs to be readdressed.

ACTION 201408: Peter **Coad** to send Matts contact details to all committee members and to do an informal mayoral letter in response to commercial fishing concerns.

Matt requested that all submissions on commercial fishing reforms be copied to him to study and prepare a submission. Further it was requested that Mary chat with him after the meeting as he would require her help.

Matt also offered to convene a meeting in Brooklyn with the local fishers as required.

Cllr **Anissee** thanked Matt for his time.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Bridge to Bridge Date - Ray stated that the date has been set for 9th November 2014

Foreshore Cleanup -

- Location – Porto Bay building on NPWS (CMA funded) works in 2013
- Total Value \$249,000.00 ex GST
- A WASTE LEVEY EXEMPTION (107.00 / Tonne) may be granted by NSW EPA

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- >400 Tonne of Asbestos fragments, piping and asbestos contaminated oyster shell to be removed
 - Lidoran Group is the asbestos removal contractor, material is being disposed at Gosford City Council landfill - Nagari Road Woy Woy.
 - Works to start Tuesday, 20/05/14 and to be completed by end June 2014
 - A 'One Off' Crown Lands funded project listed Crown Land Contaminated Sites Register
 - many old oyster frames are still to be removed – heavy with asbestos
 - 25th May work starts by Gosford Council - Government Road also has lots of asbestos
- Mooney Mooney seems ok and there is a small site at Kangaroo Point

Harry **Recher** asked is there asbestos at Kogarah Bay. Warren is not aware of any but is aware of a site on western side of Patonga Creek.

Other Business

Mooring Review - comments due prior to 20th June, 2014
Regional Boating Plans.

ACTION 201409: Peter **Coad** to send all committee members information on Mooring Review.

Regional Boating Survey

Discussion was had regarding boat sizes and numbers on the Hawkesbury now and in the future.

Future Meetings

Next Meeting to be held 14th August 2014

8. CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:45pm