
Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 12th March 2015
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	GREEN	Marcel	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			
Cllr	MORRIS	Hilary	Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	MOXHAM	Rob	Commercial Representative – Oysters Farmers		X		
Mr	MYERS	Andy	Oceanwatch	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	SCARSBRICK	Joanne	Community Representative	X			
Ms	SHORTER	Cybele	Community Representative Dangar Island		X		
Cllr	STRICKSON	Jeff	Councillor - Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	TAYLOR	Chris	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	TILBURY	Nathan	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Mr	VAN ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative		X		
	STUART	Suzanne	Hawkesbury City Council	X			
	PATTISON	Mick	Hawkesbury City Council	X			

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 18:20. Peter Coad noted Cllr Anissee apologies and that he would chair in his absence. Peter welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He then welcomed guests Suzanne Stuart, Mick Pattison from Hawkesbury City Council and Dr Bob Creese from NSW Fisheries Research- DPI.

2. APOLOGIES

John Andrews, Cllr Anissee , Warren Brown, Andrew Fenwick, Ray Frater, Marcel Green, Mary Howard, Broniek Karcz, Leong Lim, Tim McDonald, Cheryl Marvell, David Miles, Cllr Morris, Rob Moxham, Gus Pelosi, Hjalmar Phillipp, Justin Pigneyguy, Ingrid Segovia, Cybele Shorter, Jeff Strickson, Cllr Nathan Tilbury, Axel VanZelewski.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. PRESENTATION:

Dr Bob Creese, Director Fisheries Research, Department of Primary Industries.

Bob presented a summary to the committee with an update on the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Estate Assessment. This assessment extends from Newcastle to Shellharbour and includes the coastal waters of the Hawkesbury River. Bob presented 15 Priority Sites.

For more information: <http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment>

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION 201414: Tim McDonald to send GCC 9th December Peat Island report to LHEMC members. **Complete:** Information sent (Ref#D04094384) sent 4th Dec 14.

ACTION 201415: Peter Coad to source information on flooding / sea level changes that would impact Dangar Island. **Complete:** Refer to Councils website for maps and further information (<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/development-applications/sea-level-rise-map>)

ACTION 201416: Rebecca Mooy to forward information on the Marine Discovery Talks. **Complete:** HSC (Ref #D04450981) sent 13th Jan 2015.

ACTION 201417: Cybele Shorter to forward information on artists visits to Dangar Island. **Complete:** HSC (Ref #D04014521) sent 25th November 2014.

ACTION 201418: Peter Coad to get information from Mary to Lisa Newell regarding Brooklyn Community Survey as an industry representative. **Complete:** Mary's contacts sent to Lisa.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 20th November 2014 were accepted.

Accepted: Chris TAYLOR 2nd: Wendy McMURDO Carried: **Unanimous.**

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ana Rubio – Hornsby Shire Council

Water Quality Probes

- Tracking well- few maintenance issues but sorted promptly
- We are having more blooms lately!
 - 23 Dec 2014 – *Dinophysis*, *Prorocentrum*, *Alexandrium*, *Karenia*
 - 13 Jan 2015 – *Minidiscus*
 - 20 Jan 2015 – *Pseudo-Nitzschia*
 - 19 Feb 2015 – *Dinophysis*
 - 25 Feb 2015- *Cochlodinium*
- New OEH funding application submitted
 - Review of latest scientific literature to update current protocols and response action plans for harmful algal blooms

Oyster Industry

- FRDC funding approved – POMS, closing knowledge gaps to continue farming *C. gigas* in Australia \$400K, July15-Jan18
- Env Trust funding submitted to look at estuarine modelling to understand POMS
- QX disease – high risk year approximately 20% mortality levels in Sydney Rocks at present

Social and Economic Evaluation of NSW Coastal Commercial Wild-Catch Fisheries

- Dr Kate Barclay (UTS Researcher)
- Fisheries Research & Development Corporation funding
- Social interviews - 60 commercial fishermen and stakeholders from the Hawkesbury to the Clarence
- Economic survey – only 40 responses, 6 in the area
- Hornsby Shire Council – member of Steering Committee attended 2nd teleconference Thursday 12th March
- Will assist researched with next round of field trips in the area (22-24 April)



Foreshore Clean-up

Activity Report Summary Hawkesbury (2014) – Final report distributed to Committee members:

- 26 Clean-up outings
- 15 different schools/corporate groups
- 22,112 items disposed
- 19.7 tonnes of rubbish removed
- 41.9 km of shoreline cleaned
- 261 volunteers involved for 1079 hours

New funding 2015

- HSC funds through the Catchment Remediation Rate Program \$23k
- Expected outcomes:
 - 12 field outings in the Hawkesbury
 - Additional corporate field outings
 - 4 school visits - education component

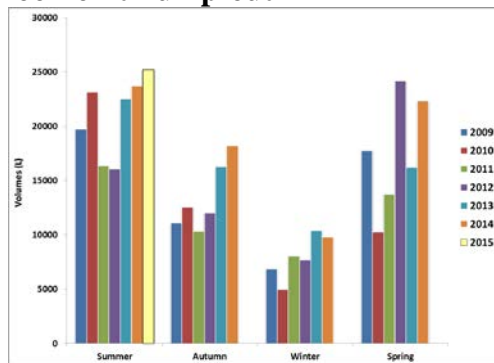
There is additional funding for Brisbane Waters through Gosford Council.

- Clean4Shore NSW Inc has now been certified as a NSW Fair Trading Association
- Future set-up for the program: Macmasters Beach LSC as its own entity

Riparian vegetation work

- Brooklyn Park Riparian Zones
4 Creek lines have been assessed for weed density and planting sites
600 plants on order, planting in April
Contractor 1st visit scheduled for March for bush restoration along foreshore
- Bar Island Project
Contractor 1st visit completed Feb 2015 –assessment & removal of foreshore weeds (ochona, asparagus, verbena, lantana, african love grass) First treatment of *Pereskia aculeata* – Leaf Cactus, this species has been identified by the Weed CRC and listed on the Alert List of Environmental Weeds, will require several herbicide treatments to control.
Community Event 1 completed 25 Feb 2015 – Bar Island Floating Bushcare (13 volunteers - 78hr - to undertake bush restoration works)

Kangaroo Point Pump-out



- Upgrade to dual-system of E-ONE pumps in holding tank

Take the lead - Signs for Dangar Island

- Wooden posts being milled
- Posts will reach Hornsby next week – routing
- Signs will be printed and install on posts
- Signs placed in Dangar Isl (3-4wk)

Community Events

- Explore Hornsby's Local Waterways – 22 March
- 2015 winter bushwalks program – River Walk and Talk – 3rd May – book online.

2015 Estuary Funding Grants – Summary of Submissions

- 2014 Rec Fishing Grant – ‘One Tree Reach Wetland Remediation Work – Stage 3’ (\$35.5K inc \$10k cash contrib) – Submitted – outcome in May 2015.
- 2014 FRDC – ‘POMS - closing knowledge gaps to continue farming *C. gigas* in Australia’ (\$400k, 2yr) – Successful.
- 2015 NSW Environment Trust – Research Grants (\$100K, 1.5yr) ‘Protecting Australian Estuaries from severe virus kills’- Submitted – outcome in June 2015.
- 2015 OEH Estuary Management Grants (\$40K, 1.5yr) ‘Review of NSW harmful microalgal to improve management of estuarine algal blooms’ - Submitted – outcome in Sept 2015.
- 2015 Salty Communities – SCCG funding (\$150K, 1yr), ‘Boardwalk from Kangaroo Point – Seymours Ck’ – Planning to submit on 30th March.

PROGRESS REPORT - Gosford City Council

Tim Macdonald - was unable to attend.

PROGRESS REPORT - Hawkesbury Nepean Local Land Service

Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services

- Summary Brisbane Water / Hawkesbury Estuary foreshore clean up
- Clean4shore program – 12 collections scheduled as there appears to be “less litter”
- Narara Creek catchment with focus on Fegans Bay
- Penguin Sea Birds and Turtle community education talks all went well.
- 2015 Floating Landcare – have commenced in association with National Parks.
- \$10 to \$50K for grants available- Bushcare.

PROGRESS REPORT - National Parks and Wildlife

Tegan Burton – National Parks and Wildlife Services.

- Singleton Road clean up in progress
- Bushcare Camp had 26 vols – would like to make this an annual event.
- Indigenous Works- bringing aboriginal kids from Redfern to do work in clean-ups of Bushcare sites – working really well.
- Gentleman Halt Wharf was deemed a safety issue, so therefore has been demolished.
- Calna Creek Bridge also a safety issue but funding has been found to reconstruct.

Peter Coad invited **Andy Myers and Simon Rowe** to give brief update.

PROGRESS REPORT - Oceanwatch Australia

- Update on NRM Oceanwatch strategy and aims
- Gathering information on estuarine priorities via saltwater community survey.
- Simon gave an update about a wetland workshop/conference he attended – techniques on monitoring mangroves – blue carbon systems – stable isotope analysis
- Oceanwatch is looking for Sydney partners for a grant looking to reuse oyster shells:
 - NSW Oyster Reefs are being lost will rehabilitate some reefs
 - Also as stabilisation shoreline – oyster recruitment.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mike **FISH** asked that the committee writes to Sydney Water regarding the impact on water quality.

Peter **COAD** asked members if they were happy with 4 meetings per year and should it stay at 4?

All those present agreed to keep the 4 meetings.

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- **ACTION 201418:** Peter **Coad** to invite Sydney Water to discuss Peat Island Development and progress on Galston area sewage proposal.
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Other Business

- **Future Meetings**
Next meeting to be held 13th May 2015

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