
Minutes of the 31st Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 25th May 2017
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mrs	AITKEN	Robin	National Parks & Wildlife		X		
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	HUGHES	David	Affiliate members - Community Representative	X			
Mr	KARCZ	Bronek	Community Representative		X		
Dr	LIM	Leong	Community Representative		X		
Mr	HAM	Peter	Central Coast Council		X		
Ms	MARVELL	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation			X	
Mr	MACDONALD	Tim	Office of Environment & Heritage	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			

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mrs	RYLAND	Julie	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Ms	SCARSBRICK	Joanne	Community Representative		X		
Ms	SHORTER	Cybele	Community Representative Dangar Island		X		
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		

Observer: Jill McDiarmid from the Lower Hawkesbury River Residents Association

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 18:16. Meeting was chaired by Cllr **Tilbury**. Julie **Ryland** welcomed Jill **McDiarmid** who joined the meeting as an observer. Jill is a committee member of the newly formed Lower Hawkesbury River Residents Association of which Tim Irwin is the President and Michelle Armstrong is the Vice President. This Association was formed, initially, to represent the residents of Little Wobby Beach, Cogra Bay & other residents of the Lower Hawkesbury who do not have a collective representation, in relation to projects and plans for the Lower Hawkesbury. The Association is interested in ongoing and any one off issues that may arise from time to time, that may affect our communities or that we can contribute to.

2. APOLOGIES

Robin Aitken, Cllr Anisee, Andrew Fenwick, Carla Ganassin, Leong Lim, Wendy McMurdo, Andy Myers, Mick Pattison, Justin Pigneguy, Simon Rowe, Joanne Scarsbrick, Cybele Shorter, Suzanne Stuart and Axel Zelewski.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interest were declared

4. PRESENTATION:

A presentation was given by Tim **Macdonald** from the Office of Environment & Heritage on the 'Changes to the NSW Coastal Management Framework'. This presentation was followed by an update on 'What we have achieved so far and what comes next in relation to the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan' presented by Ana **Rubio**. Key points of each presentation have been listed below:

'Changes to the NSW Coastal Management Framework':

- Recent changes to legislation: Coastal Protection Act 1979 will be replaced by the Coastal Management Act 2016 was passed through Parliament (<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=3291>)
- Coastal Management Framework revised and sent for public exhibition (consolidate 3 SEPPs & divides the coastal zone into four management areas (coastal wetlands & littoral rainforest area; coastal vulnerability area; coastal environment area and coastal use area)- each of them have their own development controls- check OEH website for details
- Draft Coastal Management Plan (CMP):
 - New manual developed (still in draft)
 - Geographical scale: whole or any part of the coastal zone
 - Must identify: coastal management issues; actions required to address issues; how and when those actions are to be implemented, and funding of actions
 - Council must consult with the community and public authorities
 - Draft CMP adopted by council then submitted to the Minister for certification
 - A CMP must be reviewed at least once every 10 years
 - A copy of a CMP must be available for inspection by the public
 - Implemented through IP&R framework and land-use planning system
 - Public authorities are to have regard to a CMP
 - Development of CMP:
 - Stage 1- Scoping Study involves:
 - Determining the strategic context, purpose and scope of CMP
 - Determining where action is required (Council to develop maps of vulnerability – areas where focus should go)

- A performance review of existing management
- Preparing a Scoping Report (i.e. knowledge gaps; risk analysis)
- Undertake any detailed studies of vulnerabilities and opportunities
- Response identification and evaluation
- Preparing, exhibiting, finalising, certifying and adopting a CMP
- Implementation, monitoring, evaluating and reporting
 - Stage 2- Detailed studies of vulnerabilities and opportunities
 - Stage 3- Response identification and evolution
 - Stage 4- Finalise, exhibit, certify and adopt the CMP
 - Stage 5- Implementation, monitoring and reporting
- Where to from here: Consolidate and build on efforts to date
- OEH funds will be available for 50% of cost for scoping studies – can apply at any point
- 2021’s goal is to have a new CMP

Mary **Howard** raised that water quality monitoring programs are hard to fund. She questioned if OEH will be funding monitoring program in the future. OEH will potentially fund monitoring programs that are highlighted as part of the Scoping Study during the development of CMPs.

ACTION 201703: There was uncertainty about the organisations and programs that are currently monitoring the waters of the Hawkesbury River. Ana **Rubio** will collate information on monitoring programs currently testing water quality in the Hawkesbury River (this includes the area managed by the Hawkesbury City Council)

‘LHEMP – What we’ve done so far and what comes next’

- The Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan (LHEMP) was finalised and adopted by both Hornsby and Gosford (at the time) Councils in 2008
- During the development of the plan there was extensive community and stakeholder consultation in particular under three workshops: management situation; risk analysis and strategy formulation
- 148 strategies were developed for the plan- the breakdown was:
 - 27% Planning-related: ensuring planning instruments include best practice and provisions for sustainable development
 - 25% Research-related: undertaking program to monitor estuarine health and prepare for climate change
 - 20% Capital works/on-ground works: installing infrastructure and undertaking regeneration programs to protect estuarine assets
 - 15% Education-related: engaging riverside settlements to implement sustainable practices
 - 11% Compliance-related: encouraging riverside settlement sustainable practices
- Council keeps records in an informal way of the actions undertaken each year for the implementation of the estuary plan. This analysis will need to be undertaken using a more robust approach as part of the Scoping Study to be developed as part of the CMP. Based on our notes most of the strategies have been implemented:
 - There are approximate 9% of the strategies that might not have been achieved fully.
 - We have implemented the highest number of strategies related to the ‘Research’ category; followed by ‘Education’; ‘Planning’; ‘Capital Works’ and the least of actions implemented were for the ‘Compliance’-related strategies
 - Since 2004 Council has received close to \$2.8M in external grants (this excludes Council’s cash contribution which in most cases is a 50:50). During this period

Council has applied for 90 funding applications to implement the LHEMP; 50 applications of which were accepted for funding.

- Council has also been recording additional information (occurrences of pollution events, algal blooms, assessments, etc..) related to some of the strategies that can be used for quantitative assessments of the implementation of the LHEMP

Mary **Howard** brought up observations on changes in the water quality of the upper reaches of the Hawkesbury River – it appears that turbidity levels are different and water is fresher (i.e. less salt) than usual.

ACTION 201704: Ana **Rubio** will present water quality data collected at the monitoring stations in the estuary during this financial year. The information will be presented as anomalies as it is the best way of seeing if recent years have been different from the historical averaged data.

ACTION 201705: The committee suggested that Sydney Water could be approached for a presentation on their latest water quality testing and modelling of environmental flows for the Hawkesbury. Ana **Rubio** will approach Sydney Water to engage them to present at an upcoming meeting.

- Where to from here? Discussions with the committee took place in regards to best approach to move forward in developing a CMP from the LHEMP. In order to do this the group was encouraged to think about:
 - the geographical scale (i.e. Windsor to Broken Bay, current extent covered by the LHEMP, a combination of small scale plans that focus in areas like Dangar Beach, Sandbrook inlet, etc..)
 - stakeholders to involve – it was highlighted that many of the organisations that are members have not attended many meetings
 - communication methods to use across different associations that represent estuary river settlements
 - structure of the future plan- a large plan or a combination of small plans
 - how to integrate certified CZMP by the Hawkesbury City Council –some of their action will be related to the Lower Hawkesbury

ACTION 201706: Ana **Rubio** to disseminate among committee members the Hawkesbury City Council’s Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) highlighting those strategies that are directly related to the Lower Hawkesbury.

Chris **Taylor** reminded the committee the amount of work that Ross McPherson from Hornsby Shire Council has done through the years on estuarine-related projects. Chris suggested that Ross should be involved in any future consultation on the new CMP

ACTION 201707: Ana **Rubio** to contact Ross McPherson to present at upcoming LHEMP Committee meetings about Ross’ overview on the changes that have occurred in the Lower Hawkesbury – in particular in relation to water quality.

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION 201701: Hawkesbury City Council to provide latest information on water quality, in particular algal results, for the Windsor area. **Complete:** Michael **Pattison**, from the Hawkesbury City Council, shared the latest information on water quality including algal results collected by NSW DPI Water (HSC TRIM D07197927).

ACTION 201702: Cllr Tilbury to share email with information received about the design for the upgrade of the Dangar Wharf. Council's Asset Branch was also contacted in order to find out latest information from the successful contractor. **Complete:** Information was forwarded to the committee. Works on-site will start early in the financial year depending availability from the contractor (HSC TRIM D07231271).

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 16th March 2017 were accepted.

Accepted: Chris **Taylor**

Carried: Ingrid **Segovia**.

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 April to May 2017 was sent to members prior to the meeting. HSC presentation only focussed on a couple of key projects:

Bush regeneration and rehabilitation

- Brooklyn Bushcare group meets every 4th Thursday of every month in the coastal fringe opposite to the school. The group is currently looking for more volunteers. Please disseminate. Media releases are currently drafted

2017 World Environment Day and Native Plant Giveaway

- Festival will take place in Brooklyn at Upper McKell Park.
- Same day as River Reasons Festival which will be located in Lower McKell Park.
- Free shuttle bus from SaltPan Reserve
- Activities:
 - The festival will be jam packed with free activities and information stalls.
 - Fantastic frog displays
 - Amazing marine critter touch tanks
 - Colourful kids activities
 - Guided bushwalks (register on the day)
 - Learn about water pollution using a catchment model
 - Learn about native plants, weeds, waste, safe boating, river clean-ups and more...

- Free microchipping for Hornsby Shire dogs: Have your dog microchipped for Free or check/update your details; Dogs must be leashed and owner photo ID (18+) required for microchipping. Free giveaways with Council's Animal Control Officers on hand to answer questions.
- "All Aboard" Estuary Boat Tour: Celebrate World Environment Day and join us on a 40-minute tour by ferry offering a unique insight into the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary (\$5.00 per person).

Warren Brown – Central Coast Council

- Update on amalgamations:
 - Approximately 70km of Coastline – large proportion under Council management
 - Southern Lake Macquarie foreshore
 - Tuggerah Lakes
 - Brisbane Water
 - Wamberal, Terrigal, Avoca, Cockrone and Pearl Beach Lagoons
 - Lower Hawkesbury – northern foreshore and tributaries

Warren's team is under the Group Leader of Assets, Infrastructure and Business > Senior Manager Property and Asset Manager (Peter Stokes) > Unit Manager Waterways and Coastal Protection. This has two sections: Coastal Protection and Waterways. Under these sections there is staff that used to work under: Natural Open Spaces (Coastal and Estuary and Creeks); Environmental Strategies (Flood Engineers and Coastal Engineers); Hydrology; Waterways Coastal; Waterways and Asset Management

Hawkesbury City Council - no report - representative was absent

Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services

- Floating Landcare events in the Hawkesbury and Central Coast keep rolling out, volunteers are still keen in helping and being part of this program
- Bush camp in partnership with NPWS 16-17th June at Gentleman's Halt
- Small community grants in offer up to \$2K
- 2017/18 Clean4Shore will continue in the Hawkesbury and Brisbane Waters. Clean4Shore was awarded a Landcare award
- Small funding to reproduce signs on saltmarsh at Crosslands, Berowra Valley

Tegan Burton - National Parks and Wildlife Services

- NPWS Bushcare events keep being extremely popular – 25 volunteers attending events in June
- Toilets at Gentleman's Halt currently being replaced for hybrid system toilets
- Bush camp in partnership with Sydney Greater LLS 16-17th June at Gentleman's Halt- close to 16 volunteers registered. No problems finding volunteers
- Dolphin sightings in the upper reaches of the Hawkesbury between 12-19th May. Serious concerns about the health of the dolphin as it have been too long in the fresh sections of the Hawkesbury. Sighted at Lower Portland last. Please contact NPWS if sighted again

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business

- Leong **Lim** attended a presentation by Property NSW at the Chapel in Mooney Mooney. Leong thought that the committee will benefit hearing from the proponent of the rezoning – how any proposed development can be achieved with the current sewage facility in Brooklyn with current discharges. John **Andrews** gave a brief update to the committee on what was discussed that night in regards to Peat Island.

ACTION 201708: Ana **Rubio** to send copy of the proposed development document for Peat Island to committee members

John **Andrews** mentioned it may be beneficial to invite the Environment Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission instead to speak at a future meeting.

ACTION 201709: Ana **Rubio** to approach the Environment Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission to attend an upcoming LHEMP Committee meeting

Future Meetings

Next meeting to be held 17 August 2017

Additional meetings for 2017:
16 November 2017

8. CLOSE Meeting closed at 8:20pm