
Minutes of the 10th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 24th November, 2011
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representatio n	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
Mr	ANDREWS	John	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Mr	BERGMAN	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service			X	
Mr	BLACK	Steve	NSW Transport Roads and Maritime Services		X		Darryl Lennox Hendrik Clasic
Prof.	BOOTH	David	University of Technology Sydney & Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences			X	
Mr	BROWN	Warren	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	GREEN	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture			X	
Ms	COLLINS	Emma	Community Representative			X	
Ms	MARVELL	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation		X		
Mr	FENWICK	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina	X			
Ms	FIELD	Melanie	NSW Food Authority	X			
Mr	FISH	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	FRATER	Melissa	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee	X			
Cllr	FREEWATER	Peter	Gosford City Council		X		
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative		X		
Hon	LLOYD	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association			X	
Mr	MACDONALD	Tim	Gosford City Council	X			
Cllr	MCMURDO	Wendy	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	MICHOS	Arthur	Office of Environment & Heritage			X	
Mr	MILES	David	Boat Owners Association		X		
Ms	MOOY	Rebecca	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority	X			
Mr	NORINGTON	Rolf	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative		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		
Ms	RUBIO-ZUAZO	Ana	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	RUSSELL	Steve	Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Mr	STUBBS	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association	X			
Mr	VON ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative		X		

1. WELCOME

Cllr **McMurdo** welcomed David **Edwards** from the University of NSW, Darryl **Lennox** and Hendrik **Clasie** from Transport and Maritime Services and Ray **Frater** from the NSW Water Ski Federation.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from: Steve Black, Peter Freewater, David Miles, Rolf Norrington, Simon Rowe, Axel Von Zelewski.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

4. PRESENTATION

David Edwards, University of NSW – Effects of boat wash on bank erosion in the lower Hawkesbury River

Conclusions:

- Erosion rates unsustainable
- Clear links between boating activities and bank erosion
- When boats ‘loop around’ the problem is exacerbated
- Bank erosion increases with increased boating activity
- Boat wakes are an issue on the Hawkesbury River, especially from wake boarding and recreational boats
- Slower boats cause increased wave height

Potential Management Options:

- Ban or restrict certain activities
- Choice of foreshore structure is important. That is, rock walls are not as good as riparian vegetation at decreasing wave velocities generated from boats

Discussion held regarding soil type v sediment size, vessel type and size (displacement v planing hulls), rates of erosion, where eroded material is being deposited, what is retaining the foreshores and options for property owners to remediate foreshore.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence:

Letter to The Hon. Barry O’Farrell MP stating the committees objection to the proposed closure of Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre, 2nd November 2011 (D01795720).

Letters to Mr Matt Keen MP, Mr Chris Holstein MP, The Hon. Greg Pearce MLC and The Hon. Chris Hartcher MP regarding the LHEMCs concern over Sydney Waters application to alter licence conditions for the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant (D01782118).

Responses from Mr Matt Kean MP and Mr Chris Holstein MP regarding the LHEMCs concern over Sydney Waters application to alter licence conditions for the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant (D01795705, D01795702).

Letter from the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority to NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant – Modification to Condition 63.

Letter from the NSW Department of Primary Industries to NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant – Modification to Condition 63.

Matter arising from previous meeting, 22nd September 2011:

ACTION 201105: HSC to forward boating maps and seagrass stickers to CEN for distribution during the ‘Love the River’ campaign. **Complete.** HSC delivered maps and stickers to CEN 22/11/11.

ACTION 201106: CEN to contact Melissa **Frater** regarding promotion of CEN activities and Waterwatch at the 2011 Bridge to Bridge Ski Classic. **Complete.** Discussion held between Jen Dwarthe and Melissa Frater.

ACTION 201107: HSC to advertise “Love the River” launch as part of the Hawkesbury Estuary Program media campaign. This advertising will be distributed to the Advocate, Bush Telegraph, Hills News, Northern District Times and to committee members. **Complete.** "Love the River" ads in Bush Telegraph 13/09 and council columns 18/09, 19/09 & 20/09.

MOTION 201108: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 19th May 2011, should be accepted. **Complete.**

ACTION 201109: GCC to contact Chris Holstein about support for funding oyster lease clean-up operations. This follows on from Action 201005 “That Gosford Council seeks formal support for the removal of derelict oyster leases in the Lower Hawkesbury estuary from: the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee; Broken Bay Oyster Growers; Mooney Mooney/Cheero Progress Association; Hawkesbury Nepean CMA; NSW Maritime; Gosford Council; Hornsby Council; NSW Industry & Investment. These letters of support are to be provided to Gosford City Council as part of an oyster lease clean-up proposal to DECCW” (meeting 24/06/2010). **Ongoing** – GCC will progress this at an appropriate time.

ACTION 201110: HSC to distribute information to committee members about the HNCMA’s “what’s your favourite place?” website. **Complete.** Information forwarded to committee members 14/10/11.

MOTION 201111: That the **LHEMC** write to Greg Pearce, Matthew Kean, Chris Holstein and Chris Hatcher stating the committees concerns regarding the Brooklyn Waste Water Treatment Plant. The committee requests that delegation meet with local members to discuss the Committees concerns.

These concerns include:

1. Inadequate consideration of alternate treatment options
2. No data provided to substantiate negligible impacts from the proposed licence modifications

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3. Failure of Sydney Water to provide adequate information to address community concerns
 4. Due diligence of the plant design

Complete. Letter sent 30/09/11 (D01782118). A subsequent meeting was held between Chris Holstein, Matthew Kean, Peter Coad and Cllr Steve Russell.

ACTION 201112: HSC to promote Waterwatch on the Council website. **Complete.**

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 22nd September, 2011 were accepted.

MOTION 201113: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 22nd September 2011, should be accepted. Moved by Mike Fish seconded by John Andrews . Carried unanimously.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council

Round 2 of the Office of Environment and Heritage Grants

- Applications were invited for second round grants

Real time temperature, salinity and swimming mapping

- Final data feed tests occurring this week
- Interactive website operation with the next couple of months

Water quality probes

- Unusual data recorded at Berowra Waters
- Problem with instrumentation identified and resolved

Seagrass Stickers

- Stickers distributed to boat hire and houseboat operators
- Brooklyn Marina and Brooklyn Central will place them on their boats
- Potential to work with other operators to make more specific stickers for their requirements
- Rescue organisations also distributing stickers

Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 540 791L pumped out since 2008
- 108 924L pumped out this year
- Fault with hose connector in October; resolved

Migratory Bird Surveys

- More field surveys undertaken by Hornsby Shire Council and UNSW Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre
- Project to be finalised in December

Love the River Launch

- 24/10/2011 at the Anglers Rest, Brooklyn
- Presentations from CEN and Tim Silverwood “Take 3” initiative
- Key messages ‘Keep it clean’ and ‘Watch your wash’
- Recreational fishers are the target audience

Media Campaign

- Commenced January 2011
- Ads run in the Bush Telegraph and all 3 Council Columns; Hornsby Advocate, Hills News, and Northern District Times
- Recent advertisements include:
 - Love the River campaign promotion
 - Availability of the Hawkesbury Estuary Program 2010-11 Annual Report

Oyster Lease Clean Up

- Material to be removed from Bar Island and Milson’s passage
- Currently being collected and transported to tip
- Approximately 5 tonne has been tipped to date

Annual Report

- Complete and available via www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/estuary
- Members provided with a copy

2011 Year in Review

Capital Works

- Parsley Bay Seawall
- Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility
- Foreshore rehabilitation
- Oyster lease clean-up

Compliance

- Riverside settlements onsite wastewater management inspections
- AQIS approval for international oyster export
- Response to algal blooms

Education

- Boating stickers for seagrass identification
- Brooklyn Spring Fair
- Clean up Australia Day
- Guided bushwalks program
- Hawkesbury estuary media campaign
- Underwater Sydney
- World Migratory Bird Day

Planning

- Protection of estuarine habitats within new comprehensive Local Environment Plan (LEP)

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- CSIRO land capability study
 - Sustainable water based recreation facilities plan
 - Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Broken Bay Oysters

Research

- Brooklyn and Dangar Island wastewater treatment plant monitoring
- Estuarine and migratory bird survey
- Estuarine health monitoring
- Remote algal bloom monitoring
- Climate change impacts on estuarine habitats

Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council

- Gosford City Council is looking at the options available for other communities to be seweraged, potentially:
 - Patonga Creek
 - Little Wobby – Kincumber treatment plant via Patonga
 - Bar Point – local treatment
- Results of the Strategic Options Study were released in November and distributed to relevant GCC residents
- Community consultation days were well attended with ~40% of residents in each community attending
- A report is being compiled following the consultation. Gosford City Council is to make a determination early in 2012
- Committee members noted that it would be beneficial for HSC communities to be consulted as appropriate

Warren Brown – Gosford City Council

- The 1990 Wetlands Management Study is being reviewed, updated and expanded
- Council is identifying all individual wetlands
- Wetland assessment will be undertaken to prioritise management options
- The review will identify priority wetlands for potential acquisition

Rebecca Mooy – Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

- CMA undertaking projects to increase coastal community engagement
- 31 projects funded in the Hawkesbury Nepean between 2009-12
- Macmasters Beach Surf Lifesaving Club have been undertaking clean-ups
- CEN Waterwatch program has sites around Spencer, Patonga and Pearl Beach
- Investigation into erosion in Patonga Creek in collaboration with University of Newcastle and Patonga residents
- Bar Island bush regeneration in collaboration with Hornsby Shire Council
- Derelict oyster lease infrastructure clean-up
- Mangrove Creek bushcare group working in Wendoree Park
- Seagrass awareness activities undertaken on Dangar Island with CEN
- Lantana management in the Colo catchment
- Friends of Bungan undertaking weed removal in Pittwater

- Love the River campaign
- Healthy waterways program running workshops for recreational boaters and fishers

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Brooklyn Dangar Island STP

- Committee letters sent to relevant bodies
- Matt Kean supportive of representing the committee
- GCC also made a submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure objecting to the proposed changes

B. Bradleys Beach

- Migratory birds being disrupted by residents, visitors and their animals along the spit at the eastern side of Bradleys Beach
- Potential to erect signage to raise awareness of migratory birds and their requirements
- Similar issue in Brisbane water with Bush Stone Curlew breeding areas which are sign posted

Action 201114: Harry **Recher** to communicate the importance of the rocky spit at the easterly end of Mullet Beach, Dangar Island as a feeding and loafing area for waterbirds, including threatened migratory waders, to the Dangar Island League. The objective of this communication is to obtain community support for erecting signage explaining the use of the spit by waterbirds and waders and to request people avoid the area when birds are present. Harry **Recher** to report back to the committee at its first meeting in 2012.

C. Estuary Program Continuation

- Council currently undertaking a review of all positions providing external services
- Consideration of potential future membership categories:

	Voting Rights	Receives Correspondence	Attends Meetings
Member	Yes	Yes	Yes
Affiliate	No	Yes	Selective attendance
Observer	No	No	Yes

D. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be advised at a later date.

9. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm