
Minutes of the 14th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 22 November, 2012
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	BERGMAN	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service			X	
Mr	BLACK	Steve	NSW Maritime Authority				Darryl Lennox
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				Ray Frater
Cllr	FREEWATER	Peter	Gosford City Council				
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Hon	LLOYD	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association			X	
Mr	MACDONALD	Tim	Gosford City 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	X		
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative		X		
Mr	STUBBS	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association	X			
Mr	VON ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative	X			
Mr	TAYLOR	Chris		X			
Mr	PEARSON	Brian		X			

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6:15pm and Mayor Steve Russell welcomed the attendees and guests (Peter Tate, Justine McLaren, Cheryl Marvell, Chris Taylor, Brian Pearson, Broniek Karcz (Dangar Island League) and Ray Frater (standing in for Melissa Frater)).

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cr Anisse, Gosford City Councillors, David Booth, Peter Bergman, Jim Lloyd, Marcel Green, Melanie Field, Rebecca Mooy, Rolf Norington, Ingrid Segovia and Simon Rowe.

3. PRESENTATION

Peter Tate – Brooklyn WWTP Numerical Modelling & Validation

- Overview of the three numerical modelling activities – i) why the modelling was done, ii) field work and iii) how the modelling/monitoring will feed into future operations.
- In 1997, a Government review showed that 70% of onsite systems fail to meet public health and/or environmental standards.
- Under the Priority Sewerage Program, stage One Brooklyn & Dangar Island systems have been completed and Stage 2 planning includes West Hoxton, Douglas Park and Galston.
- The current average flow is 3.2 l/sec and 8.2 l/sec is the design capacity.
- Numerical modelling has been undertaken but has not been validated yet. The model is; an approximation, it does not incorporate all of the processes, and is applicable only in specific time scales.
- Outfall Dilution Studies were used to validate the numerical model for the Brooklyn discharge by injecting Rhodamine WT dye into the treated wastewater stream, then measure dye concentrations in the field. Two studies: ebb and flood tides. Monitored the river waters over a tidal cycle (about 6 hours).
- Results showed that the Rhodamine WT concentration peaked at about 13 mtrs depth. 90,000 readings were conducted. The results are better than the modelling. Greater dilutions means that the outfall is performing better than expected.
- Collected samples from Brooklyn WWTP (one sample every 10 minutes) and at 7 sites in the river (3 replicates). Results from these two water quality surveys showed; Faecal coliforms, enterococci and ammonia in undiluted wastewater were less than the river values, 3rd May 2012 – total phosphorus, soluble reactive phosphorus and nitrite were all close to, the river values and 8th May 2012 – nitrite was close to the river values
- No distinguishing diluted treated wastewater values from the river data.
- Brooklyn sampling measurements are: 1) Wastewater flow – continuous 2) Nutrients and indicator bacteria – 6 days and 3) Toxicity testing – monthly
- The Hawkesbury Nepean modelling is scheduled for completion in mid 2013. The model extends from Pheasants Nest and Broughton Pass in the Southern Highlands to the ocean.
- The results - the model and observations agree. The model is appropriate for the purpose for which it was used
- Questions:
 - o Is there any heavy metal testing included in this model? No, it is virtually impossible for heavy metals to pass through the membrane.

-
- Concern about Oestrogen discharge? Again, impossible to pass through the microfiltration.
 - Need to test against vertebrates.

Chris Taylor – (ROYLAT) – The Economic Benefit of Public and Private Assets on the Hawkesbury.

- Early in 2012, Ross McPherson asked for an economic valuation of Lower Hawkesbury River assets. Assets included; marinas, wharves, boat ramps, pontoons, carparks, boat/fish wash facilities, public facilities, sea walls, moored boats etc.
- The study quantifies the economic benefits of the estuary. These values include; benefits of living on the water to real estate, (scenery value vs access issues) aquaculture, oyster and fishing industries and businesses.
- NearMaps has been used to do aerial boat counts and the values have been determined using “replacement value” estimates. Boat sizes were broken down into sizes – up to 6m / 6-12m / 12+m.
- Estimated values so far:
 - Cowan Creek – Berthed \$104m / Moored \$16m
 - Berowra – Berthed \$24m / Moored \$18m
 - Brooklyn – Berthed \$56m / Moored \$44m
- Harry Recher raised concerns about the Terms of Reference – Why does Council want this information on boats outside the Shire and what will the information be used for?
- Peter Coad explained that Council was undertaking the study for 3 reasons, (i) to acknowledge the economic value of the estuarine assets, (ii) to be able to justify support for estuarine industries which contribution to NSW economy & health and (iii) to inform asset management planning (namely replacement costs).
- Broniek Karcz pointed out that Ipart had an analysis of Hawkesbury assets and Chris confirmed that they have access to this information. Gaining access to RMS and Gosford Council Asset Plan information was also suggested.

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence:

No committee correspondence received.

Matter arising from previous meeting, 23rd August 2012:

ACTION 201214: Ingrid Segovia provided a written update on the progress of the Brooklyn Public School outdoor learning area. The stonework and landscaping is almost complete and Ingrid will bring photos to the next meeting.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 23rd August, 2012 were accepted.

MOTION 201218: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 23rd August 2012, should be accepted. Moved by Andrew Fenwick, seconded by John Andrews. Carried unanimously.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Action 201204: The Team Leader – Estuary Management to request information from National Parks regarding the management of local Aboriginal artwork. **Ongoing.**

Action 201206: Tim Macdonald, Gosford City Council, to update the LHEM Committee on the progress of the Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point connection to the Brooklyn Wastewater Treatment Plant. **Ongoing.**

Tim Macdonald, Gosford City Council had no further information against this action. Tim Macdonald will provide updates to the committee as relevant.

Action 201208: Peter Coad, Team Leader – Estuary Management, to report to the LHEM committee on actions undertaken to reduce dogs on Bradleys Beach. Options to consider include writing to Dangar Island residents, increased compliance and improved signage. **Ongoing.**

Action 201208 was addressed in General Business.

Action 201209: Melissa Frater to report to the LHEM committee on preparation being undertaken for the 2012 Bridge to Bridge race. **Ongoing.**

Ray Frater reported that preparations for the Bridge to Bridge race were well under way. Provisions to protect seagrass included (i) marshalling boats away from seagrass beds, (ii) staging the event at high tide and (iii) enforcing penalties for boats that did go into seagrass areas.

Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council

Water Quality Monitoring Probe Data

- Observation of probes at Calabash Bay showed that cool water drops to the Estuary bed.
- Elevated chlorophyll levels were occurring during night-time.
- Daily rainfall is now displayed.

Real time temperature, salinity and swimming mapping

- The swimming conditions map is now operational.
- Probe data can also be accessed via the site – it gives you the past 2 weeks' data. Patonga water level and Hornsby rain gauges show live data.
- The site was released with the new water quality report card.

OEH Funding

- Rejected:
 - Kangaroo Point seawall and foreshore rehabilitation (\$80,000)

-
- Kangaroo Point to Seymours Creek boardwalk (\$262,120)

Successful:

- Real time estuarine health monitoring in the Hawkesbury estuary (\$55,000)
- Environmental status of sediments in the Hawkesbury estuary (\$70,000)

Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 155,313L pumped out this year.
- 721,856L pumped out since 2008.

Wisemans Ferry Unity Poles

- Unity Poles were opened in conjunction with the new BMX track. The poles are represent reconciliation and are painted by Ferry Artists.
- Wisemans Ferry Public School, McDonald Valley Public School and Spencer School involved.

Hawkesbury Foreshore Clean Up

- Graham Johnson's massive input to the foreshore clean up was acknowledged. Corporate days have been held.
- Broken Bay Oysters donated \$200 to help out with the costs.
- Dave Lyons (NSW Maritime) has assisted by removing abandoned boats.
- Mike Fish raised issues about the amount of litter alongside the F3/Pacific Hwy truck parking area. Mike Fish requested that the committee write to RMS to highlight the rubbish concerns.

MOTION 201219: Team Leader – Estuary Management, to send a letter to NSW Roads & Maritime Services and Gosford Council on behalf of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee regarding the continuing rubbish accumulation along the F3 Freeway from Deerubbin Reserve to Cheero Point.

Moved by Mike Fish and seconded by John Andrews

Tim Macdonald / Warren Brown – Gosford City Council

- Tim pointed out that the issue of rubbish was raised 18 months ago, and more bins were installed and services were increased, but keeping on top of the rubbish is beyond Council's capacity.
- Gosford Council is working with Ocean Watch (EMS) and Brisbane Water Oyster Growers.
- Warren advised that the HNCMA grant for \$7,530 has been received for Richard Woodbury Reserve Bush Regeneration work.
- Improvements have been made to Deerubbin Reserve carpark and landscaping.
- A funding application has been made to RMS for \$450k for a 'better boating' program grant.

Rebecca Mooy – Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

- **Local Land Services and CMA amalgamations** - The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority is merging with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management

Authority and will be further amalgamated with Livestock Pest and Health Authorities. It's business as usual for the HNCMA until further information becomes available.

- **Landcare Week Event highlights on the Hawkesbury River** - Source to Sea Paddle down the Hawkesbury 5-9 Sept 2012. Over 60 Landcare Volunteers participated over the 5 days.
- **National Landcare Conference – Delegates visit the Hawkesbury Estuary** – 30 delegates visited the Broken Bay Oyster Farmers' sheds at Mooney Mooney and continued to the River to explore Patonga.
- **Coastal Volunteering DVDs** – 3 short films have been commissioned to inspire more volunteers. Will be completed by the end of 2012.
- **Workers on Water (WOW) - Floating Landcare in the Hawkesbury estuary** – Three Floating Landcare activity days saw over 50 volunteers participate at Sandbrook Inlet, Hungry Beach and Milson's passage. They collected 6 cubic metres of litter from Sandbrook Inlet, focussed on weed removal at Hungry Beach and 30 volunteers cleared about 20 bags of weeds from Milsons Passage. The 2013 Floating Landcare Activity Calendar will be available from the HNCMA in mid December 2012. It will include some weekend day and weekday activities. To register, please contact Rebecca Mooy.
- **Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Action Planning** – the latest update will be available from 19th November 2012 at <http://hn-cap-chat.com.au>
- **Tim MacDonald** mentioned a recent announcement about the future of Catchment Management in NSW with Sydney CMA and Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA joining under Livestock, Pest & Health. In 13 months, CMAs will cease altogether so the ability to get funding will be in jeopardy. It was suggested that this matter be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION 201220: Team Leader – Estuary Management, to distribute information to members regarding the formation of Local Area Services, which incorporates the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Bradleys Beach Proposal

- Discussion was held regarding the value of having a wildlife refuge at Bradleys Beach – Dangar Island. The migratory bird survey indicates that this is an important habitat.
- Stan Rees (LPMA) and Peter Coad mentioned that given Bradleys Beach is an important migratory bird habitat that the site be formalised as a wildlife refuge with appropriate signage. Members discussed the validity of such an idea.
- Broniek Karcz advised that this concept has not been put to the Dangar Island League yet, and he that be done before any further progress. Mayor Steve Russell suggested that Peter write to the Dangar Island League to explain the concept.

ACTION 201221: Peter Coad to talk to Dangar Island League regarding the signage / wildlife refuge concept for Bradleys Beach.

B. Bridge 2 Bridge – Sunday 2nd December 2012 @ 9:00am

-
- Ray **Frater** advised that in 1961, the Bridge 2 Bridge took 1hr 33min – and in 2011 it took 30mins.
 - Participants are to assemble at Bradleys Beach.
 - 169 boats entered this year.

C. Committee Membership Renewals 2013

- Peter Coad advised that the 3 year LHEMC membership expired in July 2012. Following the election, membership to the LHEMC will be readvertised.
- Peter encouraged all existing members to re-apply.

D. Other Business

- Mary **Howard** mentioned the commencement of the prawn season and said that there have been significant catches already. This indicates the beginning of an exceptional season thanks to the rainfall last year.

E. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held 6pm, Thursday 21st March 2013, at the Brooklyn Community Centre.

Mayor Steve **Russell** wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

9. CLOSE

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