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Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
**Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee**  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
Brooklyn Community Centre  
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

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<b>Title</b>	<b>Family Name</b>	<b>Given Name</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Alternate Rep.</b>
Mr	<b>ANDREWS</b>	John	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association	X			
Cr	<b>ANISSE</b>	Antony	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Mr	<b>ARNOLD</b>	Robert	Community Representative			X	
Mr	<b>BROWN</b>	Stephen	MSB	X			
Mr	<b>BURNS</b>	David	Community Representative	X			
Ms	<b>BURTON</b>	Tegan	National Parks & Wildlife		X		
Mr	<b>FENWICK</b>	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina	X			
Mr	<b>FISH</b>	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	<b>FRATER</b>	Ray	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee		X		
Mr	<b>GREEN</b>	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture		X		
Ms	<b>HOWARD</b>	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Mr	<b>KARCZ</b>	Bronek	Community Representative	X			
Dr	<b>LIM</b>	Leong	Community Representative	X			
Mr	<b>MACDONALD</b>	Tim	Gosford City Council	X			
Ms	<b>MARVELL</b>	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation		X		
Ms	<b>MCMURDO</b>	Wendy	Community Representative		X		
Mr	<b>MILES</b>	David	Boat Owners Association	X			
Ms	<b>MOOY</b>	Rebecca	Greater Sydney Local Land Services	X			
Cllr	<b>MORRIS</b>	Hilary	Gosford City Council		X		
Mr	<b>MOXHAM</b>	Rob	Commercial Representative – Oysters Farmers		X		
Mr	<b>PELOSI</b>	Gus	Office of Environment & Heritage		X		
Mr	<b>PHILIPP</b>	Hjalmar	Community Representative		X		
Mr	<b>PIGNEYGUY</b>	Justin	Hawkesbury Cruises	X			
Emer Prof	<b>RECHER</b>	Harry	Community Representative		X		
Mr	<b>REES</b>	Stan	Land and Property Management Authority	X			
Mr	<b>ROWE</b>	Simon	Oceanwatch Australia	X			
Dr	<b>RUBIO</b>	Ana	Hornsby Shire Council	X			

Ms	<b>SEGOVIA</b>	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Ms	<b>SCARSBRICK</b>	Joanne	Community Representative		X		
Ms	<b>SHORTER</b>	Cybele	Community Representative Dangar Island	X			
Cllr	<b>STRICKSON</b>	Jeff	Councillor - Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	<b>TAYLOR</b>	Chris	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	<b>TILBURY</b>	Nathan	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Mr	<b>VAN ZELEWSKI</b>	Axel	Community Representative	X			
	<b>STUART</b>	Suzanne	Hawkesbury City Council	X			
	<b>PATTISON</b>	Mick	Hawkesbury City Council	X			
	<b>MYERS</b>	Andy	Oceanwatch	X			

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## 1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 6:15pm. Peter Coad noted Cllr Anissee apologies and that he would chair in his absence. Cllr Anissee would like to express his thanks to members for the past year.

Peter welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He then welcomed guests Suzanne Stuart, Mick Pattison and Shari Hussein from Hawkesbury City Council, Chris Taylor, Rod McInness from the Catchment Remediation Panel, Andy Myers from OceanWatch Australia and Rodger Woodward a community member.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Tegan Burton, Cllr Anissee, Ray Frater, Marcel Green, Cheryl Marvell, Wendy McMurdo, Cllr Morris, Rob Moxham, Gus Pelosi, Hjalmar Phillip, Harry Recher, Simon Rowe, Joanne Scarsbrick, Chris Taylor, Cllr Nathan Tilbury, Matt Owen.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were accepted. Accepted: Mary **HOWARD**, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Leong **LIM**, Carried: **Unanimous**.

## 5. PRESENTATION:

### **Ms Suzanne Stuart, Senior Strategic Environmental Planner - Hawkesbury City Council.**

Suzanne presented a summary on the pressures and issues (e.g. dredging, land clearing, etc) for Hawkesbury City Council. In response, the Council has developed an Estuary Management Plan which will implement 37 actions in the next 5-10 years. For more information refer to: ([http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/62768/Upper-Hawkesbury-Estuary-Coastal-Zone-Management-Plan-Draft-for-Exhibition-2014-March.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/62768/Upper-Hawkesbury-Estuary-Coastal-Zone-Management-Plan-Draft-for-Exhibition-2014-March.pdf))

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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**ACTION 201410:** Tim **Macdonald** to send web link to Peter Coad when Peat Island documentation is available for public viewing.

**Complete:** Information sent to Committee 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014 – (HSC Ref# D03530692) based on advice from Tim McDonald.

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**ACTION 201411:** Rebecca **Mooy** to forward information regarding Floating Landcare to Peter **Coad** for distribution to committee members. **Complete:** Information sent directly to interested Committee members from the Greater Sydney Local Land Services.

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**ACTION 201412:** Tegan **Burton** to forward information on Bush Regeneration activities in the Lower Hawkesbury to Peter **Coad** for distribution to committee members.

**Complete:** Information sent to Committee members 21st August 2014 – (HSC Ref# D03530659)

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**ACTION 201413:** Peter Coad to enquire about dredging proposed between Windsor & Wisemans Ferry. **Complete:** Information sent to Committee members 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014 – (HSC Ref# D03680987) based on advice from Hawkesbury City Council.

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## **7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **Ana Rubio – Hornsby Shire Council**

Hornsby Shire Council was awarded the 2014 NSW Coastal Management Award for their “Hawkesbury Watch” website. This website is an innovative tool which provides daily information on swimming conditions, estuarine health grades and real time water quality data.

#### **2014 NSW Coastal Management Award**



Photo: HSC and MHL staff with Minister Rob Stokes

#### **2014 OEH Estuary Grants Announced**

Hornsby Council has been advised by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage that it has been awarded \$74,000 for estuary projects. The project breakdown is:

- \$24,000 Rehabilitation and management of riparian zones in Lower Hawkesbury Estuary
- \$50,000 Estuarine health monitoring of Hawkesbury's waterways

#### **Additional grants:**

- 2014 Habitat Action Grant submitted: One Tree Reach Wetland Remediation Work – Stage 3 (\$35.5K including \$10k cash contribution). Currently awaiting for announcement.
- Recreational Fishing Trust grant being considered to address some recreational fishing projects. The potential topics were discussed with the committee include
  - Fish stock assessment to quantify Carp intrusions
  - Hawkesbury phone app – to include fishing grounds, seagrass beds/shallow areas, fishing assets and water quality monitoring sites (probe)
  - Kayak launching ramp at Crosslands
  - Fish cleaning tables

#### **Brooklyn Community Survey**

Members were advised that Council’s community survey in regards to Brooklyn’s future has been launched, refer to: <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/major-projects/brooklyns-future-a-community-survey>

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## **Seagrass Education Campaign**

Letter to Little Wobby & Dangar residents regarding seagrass awareness is awaiting approval. Education events have been held which include:

- Stall at Brooklyn Spring Fair and Stall at Fenwicks Marina Open Day
- Free community talk – on seagrasses and sustainable seafood at @ Hornsby Library by Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre & Greater Sydney LLS with 29 participants

## **Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome**

Start of the disease window of infection – 18 Nov 2014. A FRDC funding application has been submitted in May 2014 to progress research on the disease.

## **Foreshore Clean Up**

Activity Report Summary (Aug-Nov 2014) includes;

- 11 trips in the Hawkesbury area
- 2.5 tonnes of rubbish removed
- 5 small derelict boats and old oyster shed

Hornsby Shire Council, CEN, Greater Sydney LLS, Gosford City Council and MacMasters Beach SLSC are meeting to discuss continuation of project.

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

Project has commenced by researchers from UTS (Dr Kate Barclay). Project details include:

- Fisheries Research & Development Corporation funds
- Half way through 1<sup>st</sup> round of field interviews – 60 commercial fishermen and stakeholders from the Hawkesbury to the Clarence
- Hornsby Shire Council – member of Steering Committee:
- First teleconference Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Invitation to meet with Members of the Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council

## **Kangaroo Point Pump Out**

- Seasonal usage with higher summer readings noted
- Last 2 months higher readings than in previous year
- Pump-out out of service during 2 days

## **Water Quality Probes**

No major issues with probes except for mooring problems at Bar Island after a period of strong winds. Interesting stratification observed after a couple of cold nights and extreme high day temperatures at Berowra Waters probe.

## **Take the lead- Dangar Island Bird sign**

5<sup>th</sup> and final version of signs has been developed. Construction should commence shortly. Thanks to all those involved.

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## **PROGRESS REPORT - Gosford City Council**

### **Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council**

- Brisbane Water EMS with Oyster Industry.
- Coastal Management – hazards and processes were discussed

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• **ACTION 201414:** Tim McDonald to send GCC 9<sup>th</sup> December Peat Island report to LHEMC members.

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• **ACTION 201415:** Peter Coad to source information on flooding / sea level changes that would impact Dangar Island.

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## **PROGRESS REPORT - Hawkesbury Nepean Local Land Service**

### **Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services**

- Coordinating work with the Clean4shore program
- Funding Catchment Action NSW – Assessment panel for projects with both Gosford and Wyong Councils
- Works being undertaken at McMasters Beach, Freshwater Lagoon “Everglades” and Patonga “front” Dunes
- Floating Landcare – 2 remaining dates this year with the 2015 calendar released in December.

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• **ACTION 201416:** Rebecca Mooy to forward information on the Marine Discovery Talks.

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## **PROGRESS REPORT - National Parks and Wildlife**

**Tegan Burton – National Parks and Wildlife Services was unable to attend.**

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**ACTION 201417:** Cybele Shorter to forward information on artists visits to Dangar Island.

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

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## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Peat Island update**
- **Mayor’s Christmas Reception  
11<sup>th</sup> December Café Sorrento (6-8pm)**
- **Estuary program achievements in 2014**  
Peter Coad gave an overview of 2014 and our achievements in 2014;
  - Projects to a value of \$135K were implemented in 2013-14
  - \$78K, NSW State Government (Erosion Study & Seagrass)
  - \$30K, Greater Sydney LLS (vegetation assessment of 14 estuarine sites)
  - \$27K, HSC’s Catchment Remediation program and Waste program (Clean4Shore)
  - Outcomes include

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- 11.2 tonnes of waste removed from the estuarine foreshore by 380 volunteers from the Clean4Shore and Floating Landcare program
  - Almost 2000hrs were invested in bush rehabilitation work targeting 25ha of coastal native vegetation and 11.4ha of terrestrial native vegetation. This work was undertaken by Council staff, contractors and Floating Landcare
  - Vegetation condition assessments were undertaken at 14 estuarine reserves in the Lower Hawkesbury
  - 29km of riverbank was assessed for erosion resilience resulting in immediate management action being required for only 1% of the stretch in the study area
  - 16.3ha of seagrass beds have been protected by refurbishing 12 aqua buoys and by relocating 2 cardinal markers
  - An education campaign was launched at which 1000 brochures and 1300 stickers were disseminated to raise seagrass awareness
  - Ongoing maintenance of 6 water quality probes including additional probe deployed at the entrance to Mullet Creek to assist with research efforts on the Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome in support of the local oyster industry
  - HawkesburyWatch tools freely available: algal bloom monitoring, swimming conditions, estuarine health levels and real-time water quality data
  - 53 onsite wastewater systems were inspected and 204,300L of effluent was collected via Council's boat pump-out at Kangaroo Point

## **Other Business**

- **Future Meetings**

Next meeting to be confirmed

## **8. CLOSE**

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