
Minutes of the 25th Meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 20th August 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		Dave Lyons
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	PATTISON	Mick	Hawkesbury City Council		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			

Title	Family Name	Given Name	Representation	Present	Apologies	Absent	Alternate Rep.
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		
Ms	STUART	Suzanne	Hawkesbury City Council	X			
Cllr	TILBURY	Nathan	Councillor – Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Mr	VAN ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative	X			
Mr	LYONS	Dave	Roads and Maritime Authority		X		

1. WELCOME

Meeting opened at 18:20. Meeting was chaired by Cllr **Anissee**. Prior to arrival of Cllr Anissee Peter **Coad** welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Cllr Anissee arrived at 18:30 and apologised for his delay. Cllr Anissee introduced Professor Emeritus Edward J. Blakely from University of California expert on sustainable development. Prof Blakely hosted Mayor Russell and other Councillors as part of their Future Cities Tour to New York at which Mayor and Councillors looked at urban sustainable solutions. Prof Blakely is currently visiting Hornsby Shire Council in a sustainable urban planning advisory role

2. APOLOGIES

Warren Brown, Dave Lyons, Tegan Burton, Ray Frater, Marcel Green, Mick Pattison, Gus Pelosi, Stan Rees, Simon Rowe, Ingrid Segovia, Joanne Scarsbrick, Jeff Strickson, Chris Taylor, Cheryl Marvell, Cllr Nathan Tilbury.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests were declared.

4. PRESENTATION:

Peter **Coad** received a last minute cancellation from Chris **Taylor** who was going to give an update on Sydney Water community consultation workshops. This presentation has been postponed to the next meeting

5. CORRESPONDENCE and MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION 201424: Peter **Coad** to write to Sydney Water for information on reticulation capacity noting pressures on the capacity from our increasing population. **On-going:** Peter Coad was waiting for feedback from Chris Taylor's consultation workshops with Sydney Waters. Peter had planned to discuss this action with the committee after Chris' presentation at next meeting - 19th November 2015

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 13th May 2015 were accepted.

Accepted: Mary **HOWARD** Carried: **Unanimous.**

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Ana Rubio – Hornsby Shire Council

Feedback survey of LHEMP meetings

- Aim of the survey is to gain feedback from committee members about the structure and content of the LHEMP meetings – deadline for submissions: 21st August 2015
- Overall results will be summarised in a small report and disseminated among committee members

Estuary Funding Grants

- Successful funding from the recreational Fishing Trust has been achieved to work on One Tree reach Wetland to understand the hydrologic processes of the wetland to ensure optimal management of the site to improve local fish stocks
- Awaiting OEH Estuary Management Grants – HSC submitted one application to undertake a review of the NSW harmful microalgae to improve management of estuarine blooms.

Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Stations

- 2014/15 summary plots of water quality collected by the various real-time monitoring stations are now uploaded to the webportal: <http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/projects/berowra/HistoricalData>
- Berowra/Calabash buoy had to be re-furbished as some damaged (potentially from a boat collision) was found during the last probe change inspection

Hawkesbury Watch webportal

- Additional counters will be added to the swimming maps and estuarine health website in order to inform users of the % of times of certain swimming conditions and % of times that the estuary has a certain health condition

Oyster Industry – By Robby Moxham

- Currently the POMS virus is inactive as we are out of the window of infection. The Hawkesbury industry can only produce some oysters during the free window of infection by co-farming with someone from a virus-free estuary
- Currently Hawkesbury growers are producing 1% of what they used to prior to the disease. A reminder that this is the second time the industry has been hit by a disease in the last 11 years
- Industry is going backwards as there is minimal production and growers can't pay lease fees which are quite expensive. Impossible for industry members to pay fees for 100% unproductive leases. If industry keeps accumulating debt there is little chance that there will be an industry in the future in the Hawkesbury
- Currently you can't leave the industry unless you clean-up your leases, which is an expensive process
- After QX disease industry was given the opportunity to grow Pacific Oysters. Currently there is no alternative

ACTION 201427: The LHEMP committee to be informed on the response to the Mayoral letter requesting waiver of licence fees for the oyster industry. **Complete:** Members notified via email sent 26/010/2016.

ACTION 201428: For Peter Coad to provide Gosford City Council and the Greater Sydney Local Land Service with background information on the Mayoral fee waiver request for the local oyster industry to inform their submissions. **Complete:** Information sent to Gosford City Council and the Greater Sydney Local Land Service on 3/9/2015 (HSC REF # D06548199)

Commercial fishers – By Mary Howard

- NSW Commercial fishing industry is opposing reform proposed by the government
- Fishing times have been reduced from 255 days to 90 days/year, hence reducing income and making the industry not viable.
- Latent effort is an issue
- The number of shares has been set for each fisher. In order to work more in the reduced number of days means that fishers need to get more shares. The Government is not offering more shares hence you need to buy shares off other fishers reducing the number of fishers in the industry
- Fishers need to diversify to become economically viable – they can potentially make a living out of a combination of number of shares for different species
- The Government has offered \$16M (referred to as the Business Adjustment Program) to support the whole NSW industry to both fishers who wish to leave the industry and those who

wish to purchase more shares. This is not enough and the Business Adjustment program is not realistic

- Currently there is lots of lobbying, protesting and media releases
- Young fishers are most vulnerable
- There are future plans of including quotas after the reform
- 87% of seafood is currently imported
- At this time of the year the downstream lobster industry is working well but the upstream prawn industry does not work voluntarily during winter, instead they maintain boats and nets

ACTION 201429: For Peter Coad to forward information on NSW commercial fishers concerns during the industry reform period to the LHEMP committee. **Complete:** Information sent to committee members 21/8/2015 (HSC REF # D06470866)

Foreshore Clean-up

- 2015 program continues. First 6 months approx. 4.5 tonnes waste collected
- We have already undertaken 2x school visits (Asquith Boys and Girls Public School) to disseminate information about the program and to encourage school kids to take part of the Clean4Shore program

Riparian vegetation work

- OEH funded project continues at Brooklyn Park, Kangaroo Point and Bar Island
- New funding from GSLLS to work on Milson Island, in particular managing *Juncus acutus*
- Dangar Beach Council Reserve – HSC has developed a draft planting site plan which will be revised by expert on estuarine bushland revegetation. Plants are currently being grown at the HSC plant nursery

Kangaroo Point Pump-out

- Pump-out volumes keep increasing – in 2014/15 levels reached ~260,000 L/year
- Discussion followed about sewer arrangements between private operators and Council at Kangaroo Point

Take the lead - Signs for Dangar Island

- Signs are finished and were installed – waiting to tidy up the concrete base of the sign at the ferry terminal
- Letters will be sent to all Dangar Island residents to notify them of the installations of the signs, to remind dog owners of the upcoming migratory bird season and to inform them that there might be random dog inspector visits

Community Events

- A catchment tour was organised for the LHEMP committee on the 30th July. Good feedback was received from those members who participated
- Brooklyn Spring Fair- 20th September
- Bush guided walk River: Boat, Walk & Talk – 26th September
- Field Day (March 2016)- part of the 2016 International Coastal Symposium <http://ics2016.org>

Education project

- Discover The Bushland Shire - Activity book
- Booklet has key environmental messages in relation to bushland, water quality, water and energy saving at home, bushfire awareness, native fauna and estuary themes
- Booklet will be distributed at the Brooklyn Spring Fair and Fagan Park Ecogarden Open Day

Council's microsite

- Council has developed a mini website to promote bushwalks, cycling paths, oval and parks and interesting places where to go close to the estuary <http://discoverhornsby.com/>

Tim Macdonald – Gosford City Council

Coastal Management Planning Study and Plan

- Gosford City Council's Coastal Management Planning Study was endorsed by Council on the 26th May 2015. The study presented a series of feasible management options depending on the issues affecting the properties at risk. A total of 320 people were involved in community workshops and a total of 56 formal submissions were received.
- The draft Coastal Zone Management Plan was endorsed by Council on 28th July 2015. This plan presents preferred management options. A community workshop is planned on 9th September 2015 at the Pearl Beach Progress Hall.
- Tim focused his presentation on Patonga Beach that got severely damaged by the April floods. Foreshore is Crown Lands who is providing funding to repair road and foreshore infrastructure (seawall and coastal reserve).

ACTION 201430: Tim Macdonald, Gosford City Council, to provide information to John Andrews regarding sewage management and discharge issues that resulted from the April storms. **Complete:** Information sent to John Andrews 28/08/2016 (HSC REF D06742733)

Richard Woodbury Reserve (Mangrove Creek)

- Restoration of reserve began 6 years ago. LLS has funded bush regeneration and revegetation works
- The challenge of the site is the watering. They have been close to 100% successful with long stem planting of eucalyptus. 50 Blue Gums planted on World Tree Day (26 July 2015) grown in Council's nursery have reached 1.8m height

Rebecca Mooy – Greater Sydney Local Land Services

- Funding provided to Hornsby Council in partnership with NPWS for work in Milsons Passage, Milsons Island and Bar Island
- Clean4Shore project keeps going as per Ana's progress report. We have 6 more months of funding/project
- Site visit to private land with bushland in Laughtondale- there is a bit of Lantana. LLS looking at options to work with land owner
- Floating Landcare events for upcoming months were shared with the LHEMP committee via email sent by Peter Coad (HSC Ref#D06411869)
- LLS keeps working in Biosecurity issues in NSW like rabbit and fire ant control
- LLS has a proposal to have a Green Army team to work on foreshore projects that they have already worked in previously

Tegan Burton – National Parks and Wildlife Services – no report was absent

Andy Myers – Oceanwatch Australia

- Update on large sewer spill in Botany Bay affecting severely the oysters industry
- 5 million litres of sewage was released for 2 hours into the bay after a power outage at Cronulla that led to the failure of a pumping station
- Oyster farmers reported the spill as the raw sewer discharge point was located very close to their land base. The oyster industry is now closed for harvest for 3 weeks minimum.

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- Water has been tested by Sydney Waters and they are saying it is safe to swim but Beach Watch still does not recommend any swimming in the area.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Brooklyn Master Plan

Peter **Coad** notified members that there is a roadmap on how to implement the masterplan. There is going to be a Brooklyn Masterplan project Control Group comprising Council officers, the lead consultant, Mayor Russell and Councillors Anisse, Gallagher and Tilbury. There will also be a Community Reference Group and an Agency Reference Group with membership to be sought by expression of interest. Peter encouraged any members interested in being part of these groups to follow progress from the Council website

Peat Island development

John **Andrews** gave an update on the latest progress on Peat Island development. Currently development plans are with the Department of Planning. It is taking time to complete the gateway process. The Department has concerns about the current boating plans and regarding on-site grave sites found. On the 31st August a meeting between Matt Kean and community representatives will take place to discuss the current plan.

Foreshore Lighting

Leong **Lim** asked RMS to pass on guidelines about lighting for riverfront properties. RMS was unable to give any guidelines

Other Business

- **Future Meetings**
Next meeting to be held 19th November

8. CLOSE There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:30.