
Minutes of the 5th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 23rd September, 2010
Brooklyn Community Centre
2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn

ATTENDANCE

John Andrews	Community Representative
Warren Brown	Gosford City Council
Steve Diffey	Sydney Water Corporation
Andrew Fenwick	Fenwicks Marina
Melanie Field	NSW Food Authority
Marcel Green	Industry and Investment NSW
Kristy Guise	Hornsby Shire Council
Mary Howard	Community Representative
Steve Jones	Broken Bay Oysters Association
Jim Lloyd	Community Representative
Tim Macdonald	Gosford City Council
Wendy McMurdo	Chair - Hornsby Shire Council
David Miles	Boat Owners Association
Rebecca Mooy	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

APOLOGIES

David Booth	Community Representative
Mike Fish	Community Representative
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Arthur Michos	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Rolf Norington	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative
Harry Recher	Community Representative
Stan Rees	NSW Department of Land and Property Management
Simon Rowe	Ocean Watch Australia
Ana Rubio-Zuazo	Community Representative
Ingrid Segovia	Community Representative
Alex Von Zelewski	Community Representative

ABSENT

Peter Bergman	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Steve Black	NSW Maritime Authority
Emma Collins	Community Representative
Melissa Frater	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee
Terri Latella	Gosford City Council
Justin Pigneguy	Hawkesbury Cruises
Steve Russell	Hornsby Shire Council

Meeting started at 18:10

1. WELCOME

CLlr McMurdo welcomed the following people to the meeting:

- Diane **Campbell** Hornsby Shire Council, Manager - Bushland and Biodiversity Management Team
- Marcel **Green** new representative for Industry and Investment NSW
- Steve **Jones** attending in place of John Stubbs, Broken Bay Oysters Association representative
- Kristy **Guise** Hornsby Shire Council, returned from leave.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from-

David Booth	Community Representative
Mike Fish	Community Representative
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Rolf Norington	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative
Harry Recher	Community Representative
Stan Rees	NSW Department of Land and Property Management
Simon Rowe	Ocean Watch Australia
Ana Rubio-Zuazo	Community Representative
Axel von Zelewski	Community Representative

3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

4 ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 24 June, 2010 were accepted.

Motion 201009: Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 24 June, 2010, should be accepted.

Forwarded by Andrew **Fenwick**, seconded by David **Miles**. Carried Unanimously.

5 PRESENTATION

Presentation by Diane **Campbell**, Manager of the Bushland and Biodiversity Management Team, Hornsby Shire Council.

Projects currently being undertaken by the Bushland and Biodiversity Team relevant to the Estuary Management Program include:

- One Tree Reach wetland acquisition
- Wisemans Ferry cemetery and historic walk proposal
- Bar Island conservation projects
- Estuarine bird survey
- Rural lands incentive scheme
- Various bush regeneration projects

Warren **Brown** noted Gosford City Council's (GCC) interest in the estuarine bird survey project.

Action 201010: The **Team Leader Estuary Management** to forward Gosford City Council's interest in participating in the estuarine bird survey to Hornsby Shire Council's project manager Alex Fraser.

Action 201011: Members who have a particular interest in any of the Bushland and Biodiversity projects outlined should forward their interest or any relevant information to Peter **Coad**, Team Leader Estuary Management.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A. Tim Macdonald & Warren Brown - Gosford City Council

Woodbury Reserve Regeneration Program

A local yoga association received 2 grants from the HNCMA, with the assistance of Gosford City Council. The latest grant will allow interpretive signage to be installed regarding the work undertaken with the initial grant monies. Spencer Primary School is also involved in this program.

Derrubin Reserve Revegetation

The rock fillets installed at Derubbin reserve are successfully preventing bank erosion.

Oyster Harvest Areas

Brisbane Waters and Patonga are open for harvesting. There is still *Alexandrium* present in Porto Bay. Water quality is analysed fortnightly for phytoplankton and monthly for toxins.

Climate Change Vulnerability

A number of projects are being undertaken in relation to climate change vulnerability. The University of Technology Sydney, Industry and Investment (I&I) NSW and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) are investigating the resilience of seagrass to climate change. I&I NSW have completed mapping and geomorphic characterisation of the lower Hawkesbury river. A draft climate change vulnerability assessment for key natural assets in the Hawkesbury Nepean is being undertaken by I&I NSW.

Action 201012: The **Team Leader Estuary Management** to distribute the Industry and Investment NSW, *Estuarine habitat mapping and geomorphic characterisation of the lower Hawkesbury river and Pittwater estuaries* report to committee members.

Grant Application Support

The HNCMA are requesting expressions of interest for grant projects by the end of October 2010, however they are still waiting on confirmation of the amount of funding that will be available.

B. Mr Peter Coad- Hornsby Shire Council

Calabash Bay Algal Bloom

An algae bloom was reported at Calabash Bay, Berowra Waters. The macroalgae species present was identified as *Schizomeris spp.*, which is not considered a health risk. The bloom was a response to an increase in nitrogen and warm water. It was visible as a bright green, noodle like substance.

Riverside Settlement Mailout

751 information packs were posted to all riverside settlements within Hornsby Shire Council. The pack contained a 'Living on the Edge' information brochure, a NSW Maritime boating map with seagrass areas identified, and an Industry and Investment NSW 2010 Saltwater Fishing Guide. The information pack was sent from Cllr McMurdo on behalf of the committee.

Real Time Temperature and Salinity Mapping

The aim of this project is to produce daily updated salinity and temperature maps of the Lower Hawkesbury, available to the public via website. The models have been assembled and the automation process which updates the maps on a daily basis is being tested.

Oyster Industry & Climate Change Research Project

The University of Wollongong is the lead agency on this research. 'Ensuring that the Australian Oyster Industry adapts to a changing climate: A natural resource and industry spatial information portal for knowledge, action and informed adaptation frameworks'.

Seagrass Research

A University of Technology Partnership Grant project is being undertaken to build a better understanding of seagrass resilience into estuarine management.

Derelict Boat Removal

This project has been complete. A final report has been received and final payment made. The project was a success with all six identified boats being removed without incident. Thank you to all parties involved in this project.

Recreational Needs Analysis

The purpose of this project is to understand the needs of water based recreational activities; determine sustainable limits for recreational activities; identify requirements for existing/new facilities and suggest restoration or removal of infrastructure; and prepare an action plan with recommendations and priorities for works. A draft raft report is being finalised by the consultants.

Land Capability Assessment

The purpose of this project is to address the following questions:

- Spatial – where can (or can't) increasing populations be accommodated?
- Temporal – is there an optimum development sequence which has the least impact on the estuary?
- Resilience – how will estuary assets be affected by spatial and temporal changes in population dynamics?
- Adaption – what temporal and spatial planning provisions or management activities are required to protect estuary assets?

CSIRO has been engaged as part of the National Research Flagship Program (climate adaptation). Draft modelling has been undertaken and initial results are being discussed.

Impacts of Climate Change

I&I NSW and the Centre for Water research (University of Western Australia) have been engaged. This project will focus on seagrass, saltmarsh, mangrove and wetland species. It will consider the 2030 scenarios and 2050 sea level guideline set by the state government. The modelling component of the project is complete and the biological response to these modelled inundation times (and other variables) are being considered.

New Grants

Funding has been secured for an estuarine bird survey (\$25 000) and a land capability study (\$87 500). Both of these projects have been initiated.

Oyster Derelict Lease Clean-up

A project proposal has been sent to the HNCMA for consideration.

Brooklyn Spring Fair

Staff from the water catchments team attended the Brooklyn Spring Fair which was a very successful day. The estuary stall had handouts including sunscreen, boating maps and 'Living on the Edge' brochures. Cllr McMurdo promoted the estuary management program speaking on stage with the compare. Broken Bay Oysters representatives also attended and spoke about QX disease and the oyster industry on the Hawkesbury.

Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

381 943L of effluent have been collected by the facility since 2008. 92 899L has been collected this year. There have been no faults with the pumpout equipment reported in 2010.

Parsley bay Seawall

There is currently a new seawall being designed for Parsley Bay along with new stormwater treatment devices that will be installed in and around the carpark.

Foreshore Vegetation Rehabilitation

Bush regeneration programs have been initiated at the following locations:

- Brooklyn Park
- McKell Park
- Kangaroo Point
- Singleton Road
- Seymores Creek
- Sam's Creek
- Bar Island
- Crossland, Berowra Creek

Webpage Updates – Members Site

There is a new section on Council's Estuary Management Program webpage that had information for committee members. You can access information about the Estuary Management Program, meeting minutes and agendas from previous meetings as well as a copy of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan from this page www.estuary.hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

7. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion 201002: Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting on the 25th March, 2010, should be accepted. Complete.

Motion 201003: That the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee incorporate Gosford City Council's proposal to include climate change as a Term of reference. Complete.

Motion 201004: That the Team Leader Estuary Management write to Sydney Water to request advice on proposed sewage treatment options for Peat Island and surrounding state government owned land. Complete.

Action 201013: Tim Macdonald to contact Pam McCann regarding proposed sewage treatment options for Peat Island and surrounding state government owned land. To be reported to the committee at the meeting of Thursday 25 November 2010.

Motion 201005: That Gosford City 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 Oysters Association
- Hawkesbury Nepean CMA
- NSW Maritime
- Gosford Council
- Hornsby Council
- NSW Industry and Investment

These letters of support are to be provided to Gosford City Council as part of an oyster lease clean-up proposal to DECCW. Ongoing - dependant upon availability of suitable funding.

Motion 201006: That the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee identify potential sources of funding to assist with progression with the removal of derelict oyster leases in the Lower Hawkesbury. Ongoing - dependant upon availability of suitable funding.

Action 201007: Team Leader Estuary Management to make arrangements for discussion group forums on issues of concern as determined by the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee members. Complete -members are requested to identify issues for discussion forums.

Action 201008: Team Leader Estuary Management distribute information on the public exhibition of the commuter berthing proposal for Kangaroo Point to members of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee. Complete.

8. DISCUSSION FORUM REPORT

Bank Erosion.

The first Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee discussion forum was held at Hornsby Shire Council, Council Chambers, Monday 6 September 2010. Discussion was held regarding the location of foreshore erosion, causes of erosion and potential management options for this issue. Identified hotspots were mapped.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a) Discussion was held regarding the potential to charge for the use of recreational areas such as Derrubin Reserve. Cllr **McMurdo** noted that the option had considered previously but is not cost neutral due to the purchase and maintenance of equipment and staff time. Therefore, this was not considered to be an effective revenue raiser.
- b) Tim **Macdonald** suggested a fourth item be added to Section 10 of the committees Terms of Reference, to allow for issues arising outside of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan to be addressed.

Action 201014: Tim **Macdonald** to prepare a proposal to amend Section 10 of the LHEMC Terms of Reference to allow the committee to address issues arising outside of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan for the committee to vote on at the meeting of Thursday 25 November 2010.

- c) Discussion was held regarding state government planning and reforms to coastal zone management. A Draft Coastal Zone Management Manual has been released by NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. Sydney Coastal Councils Group made a submission regarding the manual. Guidelines state that MER (monitoring, evaluation and reporting) needs to be incorporated into plans and will have an impact on the LHEMP.
- d) David **Miles** questioned if the quarry at Wondabine was still in operation. The quarry is still in operation however it is only used intermittently, usually when sandstone is required for restoration works in Sydney.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held Thursday **25 November 2010**, at the Brooklyn Community Centre, 2-4 Dangar Rd, Brooklyn.

Aldo **Steffe** will be presenting the results of the recreational fishing survey undertaken by Industry and Investment NSW.

11. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 19:50.