
Minutes of the 4th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 24th June, 2010
Mooney Mooney Workers Club
5 Kowan St, Mooney Mooney

ATTENDANCE

John Andrews	Community Representative
Steve Black	NSW Maritime Authority
Andrew Fenwick	Fenwicks Marina
Mike Fish	Community Representative
Tim Macdonald	Gosford City Council
Wendy McMurdo	Chair - Hornsby Shire Council
David Miles	Boat Owners Association
Rolf Norington	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative
Justin Pigneyguy	Hawkesbury River Commercial Boating
Harry Recher	Community Representative
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch
Ana Rubio	Community Representative
Axel Van Zelewski	Community Representative
Peter Coad	Hornsby Shire Council
John Stubbs	Broken Bay Oysters

APOLOGIES

Peter Bergman	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
David Booth	Community Representative
Scott Carter	Innovation and Industry NSW
Steve Diffey	Sydney Water Corporation
Melanie Field	NSW Food Authority
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Mary Howard	Community Representative
Rebecca Mooy	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Steve Russell	Community Representative/ Hornsby Shire Council
Mick Smart	Vice Chairperson- Hornsby Shire Council
Warren Brown	Gosford City Council

ABSENT

Emma Collins	Community Representative
Melissa Frater	Community Representative & Bridge to Bridge Rep
Terri Latella	Gosford City Council
Jim Lloyd	Community Representative
Arthur Michos	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
Stan Rees	Land and Property Management Authority
Ingrid Sigovia	Community Representative

Meeting started at 18:10

1. WELCOME

Cllr McMurdo welcomed Colin Bransgrove, Executive officer, Marina Industries Association of Australia and Alan Barrett, Manager- BIA Divisions NSW.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from-

Peter Bergman	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
David Booth	Community Representative
Scott Carter	Innovation and Industry NSW
Steve Diffey	Sydney Water Corporation
Melanie Field	NSW Food Authority
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Mary Howard	Community Representative
Rebecca Mooy	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Steve Russell	Community Representative/ Hornsby Shire Council
Mick Smart	Vice Chairperson- Hornsby Shire Council
Warren Brown	Gosford City Council

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 on the 25th March, 2010 were accepted.

Motion 201002: Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting on the 25th March, 2010, should be accepted.
Forwarded by David Miles, seconded by Mike Fish. Carried Unanimously.

The were nil actions arising from previous meeting

5 PRESENTATION

Marina Industries Association of Australia (MIAA) Clean Marinas program

Presentation by Mr Colin Bransgrove, Executive officer- Marina Industries Association of Australia (also in attendance; Alan Barrett Manager BIA Divisions- NSW Boating Industry Association)

The following information was presented;

- Background to the Marina Industries Association of Australia
- Relationship of the MIAA with other boating groups
- Background to the Clean Marinas program
- Future directions for the Clean Marinas program

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A. Mr Peter Coad- Hornsby Shire Council

Laughtondale (Singleton Road) recreational fishing site and foreshore protection

On the 29th May, 2010 members of HSC Bushland Management Advisory Committee and the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee inspected recent on-ground works along Singleton Road and met with local commercial fishers. On-ground works included landscape works at recreational fishing sites and bush regeneration activities along Singleton road and Wisemans ferry.

2010 Estuary Open Day

The 2010 Estuary Open Day was held on the 8th May at Fenwicks Marina, Brooklyn. 17 organisations exhibited which included government, local industry and recreation groups. Further, 12 stalls and 5 boats were available for inspection. Approximately 200 people were present and positive feedback was received about the day.

Bar Island probe deployment in the Hawkesbury

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and Hornsby Shire Council with assistance from Broken Bay Oysters installed the Bar Island water quality probes. This probe is one of five within the Hawkesbury River that measure Chlorophyll-a, salinity and temperature. Refer to (<http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/projects/hscsal/>) and (<http://mhl.nsw.gov.au/projects/berowra/latest.php>)

On-site sewage management demonstration site

The installation of the new toilet block has been finalised at Crosslands Reserve as a demonstration site for on-site sewage management. Interpretive signage has also been installed to explain key energy and water saving features of the facility.

Living on the edge brochure

The “Living on the edge” brochure has been finalised and printed. It was distributed to river residents at the 2010 Estuary Open day and as Council officers undertake inspections of on-site sewage treatment systems on riverside settlements. The brochure is also available from Hornsby Councils’ Environment Customer Service and website www.estuary.hornsby.nsw.gov.au.

Real time salinity and temperature mapping

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory have continued to prepare daily updated salinity and temperature maps of the Lower Hawkesbury. Swimming locations, oyster leases areas, estuarine vegetation will also be identified on the maps. Problems have occurred with the data feeds which are now resolved and a hydrology model had to be built for the Crosslands reserve area. HSC is currently considering thresholds for advising on safe swimming conditions on the relationship between salinity and enterococci.

Derelict Boats

Antoun Civil Engineering have been engaged and have a new start work date (5th July, 2010). A letter box drop to Brooklyn residents will be undertaken to provide project information. Once started, work will take 4-6 weeks to complete.

Recreational Needs Analysis

Currently community consultation is being undertaken for the recreational needs analysis project. This study the following objectives.

1. Understand the needs of water based recreational activities;
2. Determine sustainable limits for recreational activities;
3. Identify requirements for existing / new facilities, and suggest restoration or removal of infrastructure
4. Prepare an action plan with recommendations and priorities for works.

Land Capability assessment

CSIRO are continuing with the Land Capability assessment as part of the National Research flagship program (Climate adaptation). Currently data and information is being forwarded to CSIRO to assist with this project.

Impacts of Climate Change

Industry and Investment NSW and the Centre for Water research (University of Western Australia) are mid way through their project which considers the impact of climate change on seagrass, mangrove, saltmarsh and wetland species. They will consider 2030 scenarios and 2050 sea level guideline set by NSW government. The project has encountered problems with the LiDAR data which is currently being rectified.

Kangaroo Point pumpout facility

There have been no equipment faults recorded or reported in 2010. 367,089L have been pumped out since 2008. The total pumped out for 2010 is 78,045L.

Bush regeneration

Bush regeneration contractors have continued to work at the following sites adjacent to the Estuary

- Brooklyn Park
- McKell Park
- Kangaroo Point
- Singleton Road
- Seymours Creek
- Sam's Creek
- Bar Island
- Berowra Creek Crosslands

Brooklyn Harbour Seagrass Markers

Seagrass marker buoys and marker poles have been installed to protect seagrass Beds within Brooklyn Harbour.

B. Tim Macdonald- Gosford City Council

Plans of Management review

In line with Strategy 2d of the LHEMP Gosford Council is undertaking review of plans of management for all parks and reserves (both national and council managed), to ensure estuary assets are preserved (including habitat values for native animals, animals listed under the TSC Act 1995, prescribed burning and bushfire suppression undertaken according to park/reserve fire management plan, etc).

Gosford City Council zonings for saltmarsh - DLEP Process

Gosford City Council has prepared and exhibited its revised draft Gosford Local Environmental Plan 2009 (DLEP 2009). The new DLEP has proposed E2 zonings on all privately owned land parcels containing saltmarsh. Further, this zoning has removed agriculture as a permissible activity, however existing use rights for legally approved agriculture.

The E2 zoning will also support Strategy 6a of the LWEMP - Minimise clearing of vegetation on privately owned land, via new LEP template (eg Clause 5.9) and existing biodiversity strategy.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Terms of reference

At the Gosford City Council meeting (6th October 2009), it was resolved (minute number 2009/697) (Part D) that; *"A review of the terms of reference for all advisory Committees of Council be undertaken to ensure inclusion of climate change response responsibilities where relevant."*

In response to this resolution, it was requested that the Lower Hawkesbury estuary management Committee consider the following draft term of reference to be considered for adoption: *"In undertaking the Committee's duties, include sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation actions as a response to climate change. In the implementation of this duty ensure consistency with Council's Climate Change Policy"*.

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

Forwarded by Tim Macdonald, seconded by Harry Recher. Carried Unanimously.

B. Contact information distribution

Members contacts were distributed to Committee Members. Information was also presented with regard to the members site on HSC webpage where future meeting dates and previously minutes and agendas will be made available.

C. Peat Island Sewage concerns

Discussion was had with regard to sewage disposal options on Peat Island. This discussion was based on concerns that a proposed change in land ownership and/or landuse will alter sewage treatment in the area. Concerns were also raised with regard to the adequacy and capacity of sewage treatment and the associated potential population growth within this area. It was resolved that further information be sought on the matter

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.
Forwarded by Rolf Norington, seconded by Harry Recher. Carried Unanimously.

D. Oyster lease update – Tim Macdonald

Broken Bay Derelict Lease Clean Up

Tim Macdonald, Gosford City Council, provided an update on options for supporting an oyster lease clean-up. Financial assistance could be gained by waivering the waste levy which is administered by DECCW. This waiver could be achieved by highlighting the community good that would be gained from clean up operations.

Gosford Council staff have been in discussions with NSW I&I representatives confirming that any claim for Waste Levy exemption would need to meet the criteria set in the Waste Levy Guide, highlighting Community Good (including the degree of volunteer labour committed, achievement to date). To assist in confirming that the exercise will achieve "Community Good" it is recommended that formal support be provided by numerous bodies including:

- Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
- Broken Bay Oyster Growers
- Mooney-Mooney/Cheero Progress Association
- Hawkesbury Nepean CMA
- Gosford and Hornsby Councils
- Industry and Investment NSW (who will also need to determine priorities for removal/hardship considerations)

NSW I&I (Ian Lyall) are happy to provide a letter of support.

Once formal support has been sought we will then liaise with DECCW and suitable waste facility operators to seek waiver of the fees.

A mechanism for funding the remaining fees will need to be identified prior to executing the request for waiver of fees.

Motion 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

Forwarded by Rolf Norington, seconded by David Miles. Carried Unanimously.

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.

Forwarded by Mike Fish, seconded by David Miles. Carried Unanimously.

E. Discussion group forum

A discussion group forum was proposed to the committee as a means for facilitating conversation about specific issues of concern. It was considered that these groups would have a minimum of 5 people and be facilitated by Council Staff member. The meeting format would be based on discussion and a summary of key points with resulting motions being presented to the LHEMC meeting for consideration. Members were flexible in terms of the meeting location and timing (e.g. weekday vs. weekend, daytime vs. night).

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

F. Commuter Berthing Proposal at Kangaroo Point

Members were informed that a planning proposal which seeks to permit the construction of a commuter berthing facility at Kangaroo Point, Pacific Highway, Brooklyn is on public exhibition. Members requested that information be distributed on the proposal.

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 Committee.

G. Water and ground water sharing plans

Members were informed that the NSW Office of Water had their water and ground water sharing plans available for comment.

8. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 20:31.