
Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 25th March, 2010
Mooney Mooney Workers Club
5 Kowan St, Mooney Mooney

ATTENDANCE

Peter Bergman	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
Axel Van Zelewski	Community Representative
Rolf Norington	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative
Melissa Frater	Community Representative & Bridge to Bridge Rep
Harry Recher	Community Representative
David Miles	Boat Owners Association
Steve Black	NSW Maritime Authority
Arthur Michos	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
David Booth	Community Representative
Stan Rees	Land and Property Management Authority
Warren Brown	Gosford City Council
Andrew Fenwick	Fenwicks Marina
Mike Fish	Community Representative
Mary Howard	Community Representative
Wendy McMurdo	Chair - Hornsby Shire Council
Peter Coad	Hornsby Shire Council
John Stubbs	Broken Bay Oysters
Ingrid Sigovia	Community Representative
Tim Macdonald	Gosford City Council
Steve Diffey	Sydney Water Corporation
John Andrews	Community Representative
Ana Rubio	Community Representative

APOLOGIES

Scott Carter	Innovation and Industry NSW
Melanie Field	NSW Food Authority
Steve Russell	Community Representative/ Hornsby Shire Council
Jim Lloyd	Community Representative
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Alex Muir	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch
Mick Smart	Vice Chairperson- Hornsby Shire Council

ABSENT

Terri Latella	Gosford City Council
Emma Collins	Community Representative
Justin Pigneyguy	Hawkesbury River Commercial Boating

Meeting started at 18:00

1. WELCOME

Cllr McMurdo welcomed Warren Brown, Gosford Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from-

Scott Carter	Innovation and Industry NSW
Melanie Field	NSW Food Authority
Steve Russell	Community Representative/ Hornsby Shire Council
Jim Lloyd	Community Representative
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Alex Muir	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch
Mick Smart	Vice Chairperson- Hornsby Shire 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 26th November, 2009, were accepted.

Motion 201001: Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting on the 26th November, 2009, should be accepted.
Forwarded by Ingrid Sigovia, seconded by Anna Rubio. Carried Unanimously.

Following the acceptance of the previous minutes there was some discussion about the removal of waste barge from Refuge Bay.

Peter Bergman discussed DECCW's view that the removal was primarily based on environmental protection.

- The barge was initially installed for recreational boat users and but over time it was being used by residents and commercial business to dump waste.
- There was concern for the OH&S of waste removal contractors.
- DECCW has no plans to reinstate or put bins on beaches.
- Recent rubbish pickup along beaches found minimal waste.

Peter Coad reported on actions resulting from previous meeting

Action 200912 Team Leader- Estuary Management to arrange an on-site meeting to identify disused oyster sites that are then presented to NSW Industry and Investment to be considered for clean-up potential.

Forwarded by Mary Howard seconded by Terri Latella. Carried

Result: On site meeting occurred and response sent to NSW Industry and Investment. Document reference No D01331722 and D01369142.

Action 200913 Team Leader- Estuary Management to email copies of the Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy.

Forwarded by Tim Macdonald, Seconded by Ingrid Sigovia

Result: Completed 16/12/2009, document reference No D01307132.

Action 200914 Team Leader- Estuary Management to distribute maps outlining the area of responsibility of the Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean.

Forwarded by Terri Latella seconded by Peter Freewater.

Result: Presentation and maps distributed to committee members 15/01/2010, document reference No D01320884.

Action 200915 That the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee write to the Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean in support of progressing the Riverkeeper program as a matter of priority and the Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean report to the Committee on progress made in establishing a Riverkeeper.

Forwarded by Peter Freewater seconded by Ingrid Sigovia.

Result: Letter sent to Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean 3/02/2010, document reference No. D01331762.

Action 200916 For Gosford City Council to investigate options for rubbish removal and monitoring at Deerubbin reserve and to report to the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee on this investigation.

Forwarded by Mike Fish seconded by Terri Latella.

Result: Tim Macdonald explained that Gosford Council's waste management team are very active in Deerubbin Reserve. They service the bins daily in summer and 3 times a week in winter. Tim also explained that it was not suitable to have bins under the F3 as access is difficult and there area OH&S issues for Council staff. Council has received complaints from local residents regarding having no litter bins near/under the F3 bridge where they tend to do a lot of fishing. This area comes under the jurisdiction of the RTA and any complaints should be forwarded to them.

Action 200917 - Team Leader - Estuary Management to write to Pat Woolley, Brooklyn, Mooney Mooney, Lower Hawkesbury Branch, Australian Labour Party to refer her to NSW Sport and Recreation in relation to Beach restoration at Little Wobby.

Forwarded by Terri Latella, Seconded by Peter Freewater.

Result: Email sent to Pat Woolley and Gosford Council with advice for the proposal to restore Little Wobby. Document reference No. D01308203.

Action 200918- That the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee write to DECCW and NSW Maritime expressing concern for the removal of the waste

barge at Refuge Bay and request reinstating the barge. If the barge is not to be reinstated then a monitoring program is to be instigated to ensure rubbish does not accumulate.

Forwarded Mike Fish, seconded Terri Latella.

Result: Letter sent to NPWS and Maritime, document reference No. D01308488. NPWS response D01361433 and Maritime response D01308488.

Action 200919 - That the Little Wobby seagrass information pack be distributed from the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee as presented to the Committee meeting (26th November, 2009).

Forwarded Terri Latella, seconded Peter Coad.

Result: 75 Seagrass kits sent to Little Wobby Residents 11/02/2010, document reference No. D01336840.

- **5. PRESENTATIONS**

Peter Coad presented the idea of conducting Catchment tours to show members activities undertaken as part of the estuary management program in the Hornsby Shire. Specifically, capital works, research, education initiatives.

The following areas were proposed:

- Parsley Bay, Brooklyn and Kangaroo Point
- Crosslands and upper catchment remediation
- Wisemans ferry and Singleton Road.

The committee were in favour of three separate half day tours, to be conducted on weekends in 2010. Peter Coad will circulate proposed itinerary and dates.

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A. Mr Peter Coad- Hornsby Shire Council

New probe deployment in the Hawkesbury:

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory have been engaged to deploy 5 probes with CHLa, Salinity and Temperature. New CHLa probes have been installed at Laughtondale and Courangra Point. Gonyah Point and a new location South of Bar Island are to be deployed by June 2010.

Impacts of Climate Change

NSW Industry and Investment and the Centre for Water research (University of Western Australia) have been engaged to carryout a study on the impacts of climate change. They will focus on seagrass, mangrove, saltmarsh and wetland species. They will consider 2030 scenarios and 2050 sea level guideline set by NSW government.

Land Capability assessment

CSIRO have been engaged to carry out a Land Capability assessment as part of the National Research flagship program (Climate adaptation).

Aim: to address key 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 estuarine 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

The project is expected to run for 2 years and will commence in April 2010.

On-site sewage management demonstration site

A new toilet block is being installed at Crosslands Reserve. It is proposed that this will be a demonstration site for on-site sewage management for river settlements.

Boating Maps with seagrass beds

New boating maps have been printed with the addition of seagrass beds. Maps are available from NSW Maritime and HSC front desks. An electronic version can be downloaded from the HSC estuary website (www.estuary.hornsby.nsw.gov.au).

Kangaroo Point pumpout facility

There have been no equipment faults recorded or reported in 2010. 329,466L have been pumped out since 2008, 40,422L this year.

Living on the edge brochure

Brochure has been finalised and will be printed in April. Brochure will be distributed at events such as the Estuary Open Day and will be available from Hornsby Council's Environment Customer Service.

Issues considered include;

- Seagrass, saltmarsh, mangrove
- Foreshore vegetation
- On-site sewage treatment
- Seawalls

Real time salinity mapping

Manly Hydraulics Laboratory have been engaged to produce daily updated salinity and temperature maps of the Lower Hawkesbury. Swimming locations, oyster leases areas, estuarine vegetation will be identified.

Derelict Boats

Antoun Civil Engineering have been engaged. Works are to commence this financial year and should take approximately 6- 8 weeks to complete.

2010 Estuary Open Day

The 2010 Estuary Open Day will be held on 8th May at Fenwicks Marina, Brooklyn. 17 organisation have committed to exhibit including; government, local industry and recreation groups.

Laughtondale recreational fishing site and foreshore protection

NSW Landscapes have been engaged to consolidate vehicle access and install bin stands at a road side site at Laughtondale. The aim of the project is to protect foreshore vegetation, improve waste collection and provide an entry point for recreational fishing.

Bush regeneration

Bush regeneration contracts 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

Hornsby Council has purchased a property at One Tree Reach with the assistance of external government funding. Peter Coad to investigate a question about the area being cyclone fenced.

B. Tim Macdonald- Gosford City Council

Tim Macdonald introduced Warren Brown who will be taking Peter Draper's role At Gosford Council.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Oyster lease inspection – Tim Macdonald

On Saturday 6th of March, representatives of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee and Broken Bay Oysters (BBO) spent ½ a day looking at oyster leases in the proximity of Mooney Mooney. Issues were discussed pertaining to oyster lease management and clean up. From this discussion, it was agreed that Gosford Council would investigate financial opportunities to assist oyster farmers to clean up disused sites. Further, it was agreed that support from NSW Industry and Investment would be required to assist with any cleanup activities undertaken.

B. Terms of reference climate change amendment – Tim Macdonald

Gosford Council resolved to review the terms of reference for committees to take Climate Change into consideration. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

C. Future meetings and presentation requests

Peter Coad called for suggestions of presenters at future meetings. It was suggested that Aldo Steffe from NSW Industry and Investment should be invited to speak.

D. Contact and information distribution

Contact lists for committee members will be distributed by Peter Coad.

E. RTA truck park hazard management – Mike Fish

Mike Fish has been liaising with the RTA with regards to spill hazard management at the new F3 RTA truck park on the Northern side of the Hawkesbury River. Residents were concerned that many trucks will be parked 100m from the river and any leaks or spills could potentially reach the river. Mike explained that control measures and emergency response has been considered. NSW Fire Brigade (Berowra) have inspected the site to familiarise themselves with the area. There is also a large store of bunding and other spill containment material in the vicinity.

F. Other Business

Discussion was had relating to a lack of suitable commuter mooring locations in the Brooklyn and Gosford Council areas. Commuters from Gosford LGA predominantly use facilities in the Brooklyn area. To relieve pressure from the Brooklyn area, Gosford Council are scoping a site at Deerubbin reserve between Milson Island Jetty and the boat ramp.

8. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 20:24.