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Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the  
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2009  
Mooney Mooney Workers Club

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ATTENDANCE

Graeme Dunlavye	NSW Maritime Authority
Andrew Fenwick	Fenwicks Marina
Mike Fish	Community Representative
Melanie Field	NSW Food Authority
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
Jim Lloyd	Community Representative
John Andrews	Community Representative
Terri Latella	Gosford City Council
Peter Freewater	Gosford City Council
Ana Rubio	Community Representative

OBSERVER

Rob Moxham	Broken Bay Oysters
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PRESENTERS

Tim Gippel- Senior Policy Officer- NSW Industry and Investment  
Maree Abood- Manager - Office of Hawkesbury Nepean

APOLOGIES

David Miles	Boat Owners Association
Steve Black	NSW Maritime Authority
Arthur Michos	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
David Booth	Community Representative
Scott Carter	Innovation and Industry NSW
Stan Rees	Land and Property Management Authority
Alex Muir	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Emma Collins	Community Representative
Rolf Norington	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative
Melissa Frater	Community Representative & Bridge to Bridge Rep
Harry Recher	Community Representative
Justin Pigneyguy	Hawkesbury River Commercial Boating
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch

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Mick Smart  
Peter Draper

Vice Chairperson- Hornsby Shire Council  
Gosford City Council

ABSENT

Steve Russell  
Peter Bergman  
Axel Van Zelewski

Community Representative/ Hornsby Shire Council  
NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change  
Community Representative

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Meeting started at 18:00

## 1. WELCOME

Cllr McMurdo welcomed

- Cllr Terri Latella
- Cllr Peter Freewater
- Graham Dunlavy- filling in for Steve Black (Maritime)
- Tim Gippel- Senior Policy Officer- NSW Industry and Investment
- Maree Abood- Manager - Office of Hawkesbury Nepean

Note: the meeting was recorded to assist with minute preparation – no objections were received by members to the meeting being recorded.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from-

David Miles	Boat Owners Association
Steve Black	NSW Maritime Authority
Arthur Michos	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
David Booth	Community Representative
Scott Carter	Innovation and Industry NSW
Stan Rees	Land and Property Management Authority
Alex Muir	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Emma Collins	Community Representative
Rolf Norington	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative
Melissa Frater	Community Representative & Bridge to Bridge Rep
Harry Recher	Community Representative
Justin Pigneyguy	Hawkesbury River Commercial Boating
Simon Rowe	Oceanwatch
Mick Smart	Vice Chairperson- Hornsby Shire Council

It was noted that Peter Draper, Gosford City Council, will no longer be on the committee due to a change in position. His contact details are to be removed from the membership list.

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2009, were accepted.

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**Motion 200911:** Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2009, should be accepted.

Forwarded by Mike Fish, seconded by Andrew Fenwick. Carried Unanimously.

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Peter Coad reported on actions resulting from previous meeting

**Action 20091:** Team Leader - Estuary Management to distribute Hornsby Shire Councils advice on pecuniary interest to committee members.

Forwarded by Rolf Norington, seconded by Justin Pigneyguy.

**Result:** Complete 23/09/2009 document reference No. D01247291.

**Action 20092:** Team Leader - Estuary Management to contact Maree Abood of the Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean to discuss potential collaboration and invite them to attend the next LHEMC meeting.

Forwarded by Jim Lloyd, seconded by Tim Macdonald.

**Result:** Complete 23/09/2009. Maree Abood invited, document reference No. D01247344.

**Action 20093:** Team Leader – Estuary Management to distribute information to the community regarding the works being carries out at Singleton Mill Rd.

Forwarded by Mary Howard, seconded Rolf Norington.

**Result:** Complete. Team Leader – Estuary Management reported that letters have been sent to residents notifying them of works. Secondary weed control is currently being undertaken at the majority of the sites.

**Action 20094:** All committee members to provide the Team Leader- Estuary Management (Peter Coad) with relevant details to form an email network for the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Program.

Forwarded by Mike Fish, seconded by Justin Pigneyguy.

**Result:** Complete. In addition, Team Leader - Estuary Management will prepare a form to gain consent from committee members to have their contact details (including email) distributed to the Committee.

**Action 20095:** Team Leader - Estuary Management to contact Aldo Steffe for an update on recreational fishing surveys relevant to the Hawkesbury River.

Forwarded by Mike Fish, seconded by Jim Lloyd.

**Result:** Aldo Steffe is still working on data and will report to the committee as soon as possible.

**Action 20096:** Team Leader - Estuary Management to contact a relevant NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries representative for information regarding the future management of disused oyster leases.

Forwarded by Mike Fish, seconded by Ingrid Segovia.

**Result:** Complete. Tim Gippel- Senior Policy Officer- NSW Industry and Investment invited to present to the committee meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

**Motion 20097:** For Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meetings to be held at Mooney Mooney Workers Club, with the option of meeting at other locations as required.

Forwarded by Rolf Norington, seconded by Jim Lloyd. Carried Unanimously.

**Result:** Noted.

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**Motion 20098:** For the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee to meet quarterly, with a review after 6 months.

Forwarded by Steve Diffey seconded by John Andrews. Carried unanimously.

**Result:** Noted.

**Action 20099:** Team Leader – Estuary Management to distribute Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee member contact details to all members.

Forwarded by Andrew Fenwick, seconded by Rolf Norington.

**Result:** Complete. Contacts emailed 23/09/2009 document reference No. D01247291.

**Action 200910:** For David Miles to replace Mel Steiner as the Boat Owners Association representative.

Forwarded by Melanie Field, seconded by Mike Fish.

**Result:** Complete. David Miles confirmed membership 23/09/2009. Document reference No. D01247340.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Tim Gippel- NSW Industry and Investment.

Tim Gippel presented information on the background of the QX outbreak that occurred in the Hawkesbury in June 2004 and the subsequent impacts on the Oyster industry.

Tim then gave an update on QX recovery.

Hawkesbury River farmers received government assistance to remove and clean up disused oyster leases. This has resulted in an approximate 170 Ha reduction in the oyster lease foot print. Concerns were raised about the extent and adequacy of the clean up.

**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

Pacific Oysters - There has been a move to the sterile triploid, Pacific Oysters that are not effected by QX. The Pacific Oysters are grown with different techniques and don't require the use of tar. This has substantial positive OH&S and environmental outcomes.

Sydney Rock Oysters - Disease resistant Sydney Rock Oysters have been introduced from the Georges River. In addition, Macquarie University is breeding family lines of the Sydney Rocks to improve resilience to QX and marketability of the oysters.

The NSW I&I developed the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy. This document identifies where oyster aquaculture is a suitable and documents and promotes best practice for sustainable oyster aquaculture. This document and supporting information is available from

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/publications/general/nsw-oyster-industry-sustainable-aquaculture-strategy>

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**Action 200913** Team Leader- Estuary Management to email copies of the Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy.  
Forwarded by Tim Macdonald, Seconded by Ingrid Sigovia

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**B. Maree Abood- Manager, Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean.**

Maree gave an overview of the function of the Office of the Hawkesbury Nepean (OHN) which opened in March, 2009 at Penrith.

The 4 main functions of OHN include:

- coordination and assistance in implementing river management plans;
- provision of a single point of contact;
- promotion of public involvement; and
- promotion of effective management of in-stream development.

The OHN utilise two geographic boundaries. Firstly, for development related issues, their boundaries are from the water supply dams to the Brooklyn Bridge (Peates Ferry Bridge). Secondly, for general healthy river dependant ecosystems, they cover the whole catchment. The extent of this is to be confirmed.

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**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.

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The OHN differ from the HNCMA in that the OHM focuses on strategy and coordination of policy where the CMA have a landscape approach focused on on-ground outcomes.

The OHN will have an advisory board and a separate stake holder committee. Local government will be represented at the stakeholder committee. Discussion was had regarding the adequacy of the representation of local Government.

The OHN will administer some 77.4 million dollars for the implementation of the Hawkesbury Nepean River recovery project to be completed in 2011.

Peter Coad noted that the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan has been adopted by both Hornsby and Gosford Councils and should be considered an important document for the OHN's consideration.

It was noted that a river keeper position is a high priority for both the OHN and Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee. This position should be progressed as a priority for both organisations.

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**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.

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Discussion followed on water resources pollution and monitoring river health.

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## 6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### A. Mr Peter Coad- Hornsby Shire Council

Peter Coad presented an overview of current Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Program activities.

- Land capability study- Currently negotiating with CSIRO to undertake a Land Capability assessment within the Hawkesbury. Applied for DECCW grant for support.
- Recreational fishing rubbish removal - Tangler bins. 10 bins installed, 5 remaining. Vandalised bins will not be replaced at this stage. Mike Fish raised the issue of excessive recreational angler waste at Deerubbin reserve.

**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.

- Recreational needs analysis – Brief is being prepaid by HSC Parks and Landscapes Branch as a result of recommendations from Unstructured Recreation Strategy 2009. Brief to consider sustainable access, locations and facilities.
- Weed control Singleton Road - Letters have been sent to residents notifying them of works. Secondary weed control is currently being undertaken at the majority of the sites.
- Crosslands reserve upgrades - Mostly complete. Signage being developed to promote a consistent message. New demonstration toilet facility being installed in the new year supported by DECCW.
- Recreational fishing site, Singleton Road - Scoping works to restrict vehicle access and improve waste management.
- Derelict Boat removal – Antoun Civil Engineering has been selected as preferred tenderer.
- Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility - 1 fault in the last 3 months. Gates have been locked. Now water access only.
- Migratory Bird Day display - Information display within Hornsby Library 18<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December.
- Seagrass marked on Boating Maps - Seagrass Beds are identified on Boating maps. Signage to be installed at Mooney Mooney.
- Benthic habitat mapping and geomorphic characterisation - is being finalised to characterise the benthic habitat and geomorphology of the Hawkesbury Estuary. This will assist in prioritising remediation options and identify threats to these ecosystems.

### B. Tim Macdonald- Gosford City Council

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Tim McDonald reported on Gosford Council's activities in and surrounding the lower Hawkesbury Estuary.

- Estuary Tour - Hornsby and Gosford Council representatives toured the Estuary identifying common issues for future management.
- Bitou Bush, Juno Point - Gosford Council will provide assistance to NSW Sport and Recreation (formally Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation ) such as helping with grant applications for the control of Bitou Bush on their land near Juno Point.
- Sewerage Treatment - Mooney Mooney was connected to the Brooklyn sewerage treatment plant in September 2009. Some, but not all residents have been connected.

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

### A. Bridge to Bridge Ski Race- Melissa Frater

Peter Coad reported that the Bridge to bridge was run well and congratulated Maritime on the consideration and protection given to sea grass beds.

### B. Beach restoration at Little Wobby- Cllr Wendy McMurdo

Cllr McMurdo briefed the Committee on the potential restoration of the beach at Little Wobby. Cllr McMurdo received correspondence from Pat Woolley, Brooklyn, Mooney Mooney, Lower Hawkesbury Branch, Australian Labour Party. Tim Macdonald noted that this project was to be addressed by the land owner (NSW Sport and Recreation) first. It was noted that the Committee does support initiatives to support restoration of estuarine habitats.

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**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.

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### C. DECC NSW Coastal reforms- Peter Coad

Team Leader - Estuary Management, notified committee members of DECCW coastal reforms for their information.

### D. Other issues

#### **Removal of garbage barge from Refuge Bay - Mike Fish**

Maritime and NPWS funded floating garbage barge located Refuge Bay is to be removed due to repeated dumping of toxic commercial and residential waste.

Graeme Dunlavy explained NPWS's position being, the dumping of toxic waste poses a greater risk to the environment than littering from recreational vessels. Therefore the barge will be removed.

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**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

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reinstated then a monitoring program is to be instigated to ensure rubbish does not accumulate.

Forwarded Mike Fish, seconded Terri Latella.

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### **Seagrass info pack – Peter Coad**

A seagrass information pack is to be distributed to residents at Wobby Beach.

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**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.

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### **Sea Grass Friendly Moorings – Mary Howard**

Mary Howard noted a sea grass friendly mooring had been placed in the trawl ground on the Hawkesbury. She has brought this to the attention of the Estuary Prawn Trawl and Estuary general Fisheries industry groups who will discuss with Maritime.

#### **E. Future meetings**

Future meetings to be held at Mooney Mooney Workers Club

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### **8. CLOSE**

Meeting closed at 21:05.