
Minutes of the 7th meeting of the
Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee
Thursday 31st March, 2011
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			
Mr	BERGMAN	Peter	Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service		X		Kelly Nowak
Mr	BLACK	Steve	NSW Maritime Authority		X		David Lyons
Prof.	BOOTH	David	University of Technology Sydney & Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences		X		
Mr	BROWN	Warren	Gosford City Council	X			
Mr	GREEN	Marcel	Industry & Investment, Primary Industries Fishing & Aquaculture	X			
Ms	COLLINS	Emma	Community Representative			X	
Ms	MARVELL	Cheryl	Sydney Water Corporation		X		
Mr	FENWICK	Andrew	Fenwicks Marina	X			
Ms	FIELD	Melanie	NSW Food Authority	X			
Mr	FISH	Mike	Community Representative	X			
Ms	FRATER	Melissa	NSW Bridge to Bridge Committee	X			
Cllr	FREEWATER	Peter	Gosford City Council			X	
Ms	HOWARD	Mary	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	LATELLA	Terri	Gosford City Council			X	
Hon	LLOYD	Jim	Mooney-Cheero Progress Association			X	
Mr	MACDONALD	Tim	Gosford City Council	X			
Cllr	MCMURDO	Wendy	Hornsby Shire Council	X			
Mr	MICHOS	Arthur	Office of Environment & Heritage	X			
Mr	MILES	David	Boat Owners Association	X			
Ms	MOOY	Rebecca	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority			X	
Mr	NORINGTON	Rolf	Hawkesbury River District Fishermans Co-operative	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			
Ms	RUBIO-ZUAZO	Ana	Community Representative	X			
Cllr	RUSSELL	Steve	Hornsby Shire Council		X		
Ms	SEGOVIA	Ingrid	Community Representative	X			
Mr	STUBBS	John	Broken Bay Oysters Association	X			
Mr	VON ZELEWSKI	Axel	Community Representative	X			

1. WELCOME

Cllr **McMurdo** welcomed Dr Kerrylee **Rogers** from the Office of Environment and Heritage, David **Lyons** from the NSW Maritime Authority, Kelly **Nowak** from the Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Raymond **Frater**, start co-ordinator of the Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Classic.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from:

Peter Bergman	Office of Environment & Heritage NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Prof. David Booth	Community Representative
Cheryl Marvell	Sydney Water Corporation
Cllr Steve Russell	Hornsby Shire Council

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No pecuniary interests declared.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND CORRESPONDENCE

Action 201015: Tim Macdonald and John Andrews to notify the Team Leader Estuary Management, Peter Coad, when NSW State Property Authority has developed a Masterplan for Peat Island land. Complete

Community consultation is being facilitated by the Land and Property Management Authority. Email peatislandfeedback@lpma.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 052 637. Notification of plans for this site will be facilitated via these contacts.

Motion 201016: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 25th November, should be accepted. Complete.

Motion 201017: That a meeting be organised by Councillor Wendy McMurdo between the NSW Ski Federation, Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Association, NSW Maritime, Dangar Island League, Brooklyn Community Association, Police, Rural Fire Service and Hornsby Shire Council to discuss and resolve issues relating to Bridge to Bridge race operations within the Hawkesbury River. This meeting is to work towards a Memorandum of Understanding for future race operations which minimises the environmental impact of the Bridge to Bridge Ski race. Ongoing.

Councillor Mc Murdo informed the committee that a meeting had not yet been organised.

Motion 201018: That Oceanwatch inform the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee of funding opportunities, that may be supported by the committee, to get a map of the Lower Hawkesbury estuary printed. Complete

Oceanwatch has spoken with Mary Howard about how to progress the map production.

Action 201019: Team Leader Estuary Management to request an update from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service on waste management in America and Refuge Bays. Complete (D01640795).

There does not appear to be an increase in the incident of illegal dumping or waste build-up around the foreshore as a result of removing the barge. There is some anecdotal evidence of increased waste disposal via The Basin camping area.

Correspondence

Nil correspondence received.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting, Thursday 25 November, 2010 were accepted.

MOTION 201101: That the minutes of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee meeting Thursday 25th November, should be accepted. Forwarded by David Miles, seconded by Tim MacDonald. Carried unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION

Dr Kerrylee **Rogers**, Environmental Scientist DECCW.
Saltmarsh response to climate change within the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary

Dr Rogers presented on the importance of coastal saltmarsh within NSW and the anticipated response of this community to predicted sea-level rise. Based on a long term data set, using Surface Elevation Tables (SETs), Dr Rogers was able to investigate the changes to elevation and encroachment of mangroves into saltmarsh areas. The SET research indicates that the response of estuarine wetland species to climate change is complex and that elevation changes maybe attributed to below-ground process which alter soil volume, groundwater fluctuations and changes in biomass.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LOWER HAWKESBURY ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Peter Coad – Hornsby Shire Council

Bridge to Bridge Ski Classic

- Currently working with the Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club
- 1st May, Bridge to Bridge Power Boat Race
- As a permit condition for using the Parsley Bay boat ramp race organisers have been requested to
- Brief drivers on the importance and location of the seagrass beds
- Obey maritime markers
- Make the seagrass beds an exclusion zone and recommend the participants are disqualified if they enter the area

CSIRO Land Capability Study

- Modelling almost complete
- Planning and modellers have agreed to model pre-european, current and future land development scenario's (dispersed and consolidated)
- Model outputs will inform planners on how strategic planning decisions will impact estuarine assets as defined within the LHEMP
- Completion date June 2011-04-28

Impacts of Climate Change

- Industry and Investment NSW and Hydronumerics (University of Western Australia) have been engaged
- Focus on seagrass, mangrove, saltmarsh and wetland species
- Consider 2030 scenarios and 2050 sea level guideline set by NSW State Government
- Modelling complete
- The biological response to these modelled inundation times (and other variables) is being considered

Real Time Temperature and Salinity Mapping

- Geo-rectification of maps within Google has proven difficult
- SCA data input formats have changed as too MHLs data server
- Couple of months until completion

Kangaroo Point Pumpout Facility

- 472 739L pumped out since 2008
- 40 872L pumped out in 2011
- Routine maintenance completed 24/03/11
- Phone lines cut on 5/03/11. Fixed by 9/03/11

Estuarine and Migratory Bird Survey

- Field surveys completed by HSC and UNSW Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre
- 5 ground surveys complete
 - Crossland, Fagan Park, One Tree Reach Wetland and the Upper Hawkesbury River around Wisemans Ferry
- 5 boat surveys from September 2010 – March 2011-04-28
- Ground surveys on average had higher bird abundances
- Only recorded 4 migratory species, Cattle Egret, Marsh Sandpiper, White Bellied Sea Eagle, Wimbrel
 - Note low numbers of shorebirds along the NSW coast this season due to extensive inland flooding
- Have applied to DECCW for further funding in 2011-12 financial year

Media Campaign

- Commenced in January 2011
- Ads run to date include:
 - Seagrass boating maps
 - Marine pest information
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Estuarine and migratory bird surveys
 - Kangaroo point pumpout facility
 - Guided bushwalks program
 - Real time water quality monitoring
- Ads run in Bush Telegraph (1/8 page) and also in all 3 council columns; Hornsby Advocate, Hills News and Northern District Times
- Upcoming themes include:
 - Living on the edge
 - World Migratory Bird Day
 - LHEM Committee
 - Parsley Bay Seawall

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- Estuary Management Program website
 - Bush regeneration in estuarine areas
 - Estuary Management Program Annual Report

Clean Up Australia Day

- Held Sunday 6th March
- 18 volunteers registered
 - 9 Asquith Boys High School Students
 - 6 community / LHEMC members
 - 3 HSC staff
- 20 bags of rubbish, an esky, chair and otto bin
- Abandoned boat identified at Dead Horse Bay

Planning Best Practice Guidelines

- Discussion held with Planners who agreed a web based list was most helpful
- Planners will consider how these guidelines and other relevant strategies for the protection of estuarine assets can be included in the standard LEP

Oyster Data Portal

- HSC is a contributor to the University of Wollongong Oyster Data Portal
- Aim is to collate environmental information that is relevant to the sustainability of the oyster industry
- Benefits to other industries as proof of concept project
- There are 4 sites where this project is being applied

Tim Macdonald & Warren Brown – Gosford City Council

W1 & W2 zoning issue of Hawkesbury

-Hornsby and Gosford Council in consultation with the Department of Planning are working on agreeing to an appropriate zoning for the estuary

Oyster Lease Removal

- Project is progressing with partners working on a Project Services Agreement with the HNCMA

Unsewered communities for improved services

Mangrove Creek Bushcare

- Bar Island bush regeneration with saltmarsh
- McMasters Beach river foreshore cleanup program
- Bio-calendar project for Aboriginal seasons. Gibberagong walk 16th April at Bobbin Head

Kelly Nowak – Office of Environment & Heritage, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Clean Up Australia Day

- Site at Gentlemans Halt
- 35 volunteers participated
- 56 bags of rubbish were collected
- lantana is problematic at this site

Composting Toilets on the Twin Beaches

- Marramarra is working well
- The toilets may require more frequent cleaning

Rebecca Mooy- Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Rebecca Mooy of HNCMA presented briefly to the committee on the recently funded coastal community engagement projects within Hornsby and Gosford LGAs. These projects included;

Oyster Lease Clean Up and Removal

- a partnership between Broken Bay Oyster Association, Hornsby Council, and Gosford Council will assist with the removal of derelict oyster lease around Bar Island and Milsons Passage.

Coastal Foreshore Clean Up

- a series of clean up days being coordinated by MacMasters Beach Surf Lifesaving Club involving members of the SLSC, students doing Duke of Edinburgh, Willow Warrior volunteers and partners including National Parks. On the trips down the Hawkesbury the volunteers are collecting rubbish from various beaches from the Hawkesbury River Bridge to the Pittwater. The group welcomes other groups or individuals to get involved with these organised clean ups. Travel is via inflatable raft and Kayaks. To get involved committee members are welcome to contact Graham Johnston on 0411 184 642.

Mangrove Creek Bushcare Group

- Mangrove Creek Bushcare group has been given a small amount of funding to continue their bush regeneration projects at Wendoree Park.

Waterwatch

The Waterwatch Program run by the Coastal Environment Network has been given funds to continue supporting groups and running education days in Spencer, Wendoree Park, and others within the Hawkesbury Nepean Region of Gosford LGA

Patonga Creek Erosion Project

Patonga Creek Erosion Project will also be coordinated by the Coastal Environment Network and is focussing on engaging the local community in bush regeneration, planting natives in their own backyards, raising awareness of garden plants escaping that have become a problem along the foreshore, the importance of native plants for wildlife. Students from the University of Newcastle will also be studying the erosion along Patonga Creek as part of the project.

All of the above projects are due for completion at the end of May 2012.

Invitations to the Gibberagong Waterhole Walk, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Invitations to the Gibberagong Waterhole Walk, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park being held on Saturday 16th April were handed out. This workshop was one of the six workshops funded by HNCMA within the Pittwater Coastal Environment Centres project Seasons and Cycles. To have a look at the biodiversity calendar website go to http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/whats_on/biocalendar/bio_calendar

“I care for the Hawkesbury Nepean”

Stickers were distributed titled "I care for the Hawkesbury Nepean". If you would like more of these stickers they are available free from the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA by phoning 4725 3050.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Peat Island Update

- Community open day hosted by LPMA. To be involved in consultation email peatislandfeedback@lpma.nsw.gov.au
- Concern was raised that development of this land may set a precedent for other State government owned land such as Milsons Island and Little Wobby Sport and Recreation area. Note Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves (can be revoked by a Minister) as they are not zoned as National Parks

B. Seagrass Protection

- Buoys relocated around Dangar Island
- Hire boats and fishing boats are most problematic entering the beds.
- River residents taking short cuts through the seagrass beds are also problematic

C. Dredging

- Government departments need to be more vigilant in approval and compliance of dredging operations
- Silt screens need to be adequate and maintained

D. Foreshore Erosion

- A greater frequency of Large boats are entering the Hawkesbury. Antecedotal evidence suggests this contributing to more foreshore erosion.

E. Mapping Trawl Grounds

- Maps of Prawn trawling areas need to be produced and incorporated into planning instruments
- Commercial fishers require greater opportunity for comment on development (e.g. moorings and jetties) that occurs within trawl grounds.
- Industry and Investment NSW, Marcel Green has maps of Hawkesbury River estuary as part of the EIS process where fishing is permissible
- Rolf Norington suggested maps where trawlers do not operate would be beneficial and would be willing to advise Industry and Investment NSW on such a map.

F. Future Speakers

- Future speakers include Hon. Matt Kean M.P, Industry and Investment, Primary Industries Fishing and Aquaculture

G. Other Business

Brooklyn STP

- Members noted that the Brooklyn STP operations appear to be working adequately
- Concern that additional areas will be connected (e.g. Cowan) and will compromise the current performance of the STP
- Concern that with additional connections, will result in a greater plume area and subsequent increase in the exclusion area.

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- Connections to the STP should be limited

H. Future Meetings

Proposed dates for meetings in 2011: May 19, September 22 and November 24.

The next meeting of the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Committee will be held Thursday **19 May 2011**, at the **Brooklyn Community Centre**.

9. CLOSE

Meeting closed at 8.45pm