

# Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons Meeting Record 21 March 2019

Location:	Central Coast Council Gosford Office Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford	
Date:	21 March 2019	
Time	Started at: 2.05pm	Closed at: 4.18pm
Chair	Mayor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00097	

**Present:**

Mayor Jane Smith, Ian Carruthers, Andrew Jones, Michael Kilp, Jenny McCulla, Adrian Williams, Samantha Willis, Michael Alsop (non-voting)

**External Representatives present:**

Neil Kelleher – NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Richard Murphy – NSW Office of Environment and Heritage

**Other Attendees:**

Emily Clegg - Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, David Mylan - Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Ray Moore - Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Roz Fuller - Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Tony Horwood - Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Anne Maree Kreller (UNSW PhD Student – Observer)

**Council Staff present:**

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning, Peter Ham – Unit Manager Waterways and Coastal Protection, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection, Melanie James – Waterways Officer, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways, Warren Brown – Waterways and Coastal Management Officer, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management and Projects, Kelly Drover – Advisory Group Support Officer

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**Item 1            Apologies**

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Councillor Troy Marquart

The Chairperson, Mayor Jane Smith, declared the meeting open at 2.05pm and undertook an Acknowledgement of Country.

## **Item 2                    Disclosure of Interest**

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The Mayor called for any declarations of interest.

Andrew Jones declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as Director of Terrigal Ocean Tours who run Whale watching tours out of Terrigal Haven.

Mayor Jane Smith declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as she is involved with the Waterwatch program.

## **Item 3                    Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record of 13 December 2018.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

It was noted the following action from the Meeting Record of 13 December 2018 hadn't been included in the Action Log:

*Action: Staff to provide Advisory Group members with a list of priority projects identified in the respective CZMP's, which the Group may consider recommending for inclusion in future budgets.*

**Action:** List of Priority Projects to be circulated to Committee prior to the next meeting and to be included on the agenda for the June meeting.

## **Item 4                    Update on Avoca Lagoons**

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Warren Brown – Waterways and Coastal Management Officer provided an update on the Avoca Lagoon Catchment Audit which has commenced in consultation with Office of Environment and Heritage.

We are consulting with various Universities who have a large amount of information and data. Samantha Willis will provide Vanessa McCann with details of a Waterwatch contact who may be able to provide additional information.

**Action:** The Committee requests staff to provide a Communications Plan at the next meeting.

## **Item 5                    A Short History of Coastal Management at Ettalong and Umina**

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Warren Brown – Waterways and Coastal Management Officer gave a presentation on the history of Coastal Management at Ettalong and Umina and the current holistic management program project with Office of Environment and Heritage.

## **Item 6                    Lagoons Water Quality – Progress and Next Steps**

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This topic was covered in Item 4.

## **Item 7                    Development of Coastal Zone Management Plans**

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Ian Carruthers raised the issue that a Central Coast Coastal Management Program needs to be completed by 2021 and it is a large and complex task requiring intermediate steps such as a sea level rise policy and hazard mapping.

The Committee had a discussion around the current Coastal Zone Management Plan and hazard lines, exempt and complying development SEPP and mapping around coastal vulnerability areas.

**Action:** Staff to report back to a future meeting regarding the Committee's role with regard to the Coastal Management Program development.

## **Item 8                    Vision for the Committee**

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The Vision for the Committee was included in the 12 month Action Plan at the Inaugural Meeting of the Committee.

It was discussed that the role of the Committee is already identified in the Terms of Reference.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to distribute Terms of Reference to the Committee for any feedback or ideas on the Role or Vision of the Committee.

## **Item 9                    Presentation from Terrigal Haven Supporters Group**

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At the 25 February 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved in part:

**144/19                    *That Council invite representatives from Terrigal Haven Supporters Group to present at the next Coasts and Catchments Committee for Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons on 21 March 2019.***

Roz Fuller spoke on behalf of the Advocacy Group for Terrigal Haven Supporters.

The main topics raised by the group included:

- The perception of Terrigal's 'unsanitary' ocean water.
- Terrigal was not included in the August 2018 \$45 million budget to improve coastal water quality.
- In the 2018 NSW State of the Beach report, only 2 of 127 NSW ocean beach were rated as poor, one of which was Terrigal.

- Since 2010 every report has rated the water quality at Terrigal beach and Lagoon as Poor or Very Poor.
- The Poor assessment is based on National Health and Medical Research Council's *Guidelines for managing risks in recreational water*. A Poor water rating means that the chances of a swimmer contracting a gastrointestinal or respiratory condition at Terrigal Beach and Lagoon exceeds the safe limits as set by the Guidelines.
- Terrigal Haven is not included in the State of the Beaches reports because it is not sampled by the Beachwatch program.
- Seven stormwater drains flow directly into the southern end of Terrigal Beach, right onto the toddler's rock pool and next to the Haven beach.
- Terrigal Haven Supporters Group held a forum on 13 February 2019 to find out the community concerns and received a large number of suggestions.
- Many local businesses including Crown Plaza, cafes and real estates have raised concerns about the perceived health risks and their economic consequences.

Melanie James - Waterways Officer gave a presentation on Water Quality investigations and Terrigal Audits including some of the following topics:

- There is a Partnership Program between Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Beachwatch team.
- Council staff are following up on poor results (Terrigal is now the focus of a catchment audit along with other sites).
- Explanation of the extensive network of stormwater pipes in the catchment.
- Explanation of the process involved in isolating potential sources of pollution – that this is an incremental process.
- Current and Future sample tests.
- Internal pipe camera surveys are already being done at the Haven.
- Working with Councils' Water and Sewer and Roads teams to assist in getting samples.

## **Item 10                    General Business and Close**

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At the 25 February 2019 Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved in part:

- 145/19                    *That Council establish a Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee under the Coasts and Catchments Committee for Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons to review existing information and examine ways to improve water quality. Membership of the sub-committee will include representatives form community groups, relevant agencies and staff. The initial term of the sub-committee would be for a 12 month period.***

The Committee discussed and endorsed a draft Terms of Reference for the Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee.

**Action:** The adopted Terms of Reference be reported to Council as soon as practicable.

The meeting closed at 4.18pm

**Next Meeting:**            **Thursday 20 June 2019**  
                                 **2pm – 4pm**  
                                 **Central Coast Council Gosford Office**  
                                 **Level 1 Committee Room**  
                                 **49 Mann Street, Gosford**