

Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 18 December 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Wyong Office Level 2 Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong	
Date:	18 December 2019	
Time	Started at: 2.01pm	Closed at: 3.27pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00098	

Present:

Councillor Jilly Pilon, Councillor Jane Smith, Michael Campbell, Doug Darlington, Robert Davies, Marlene Pennings, Samantha Willis

External Representatives present:

Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (left 2.38pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection, Matthew Barnett – Team Leader Catchment Operations, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management (arrived 2.55pm, left 3.26pm), Paul Donaldson – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Rudy VanDrie – Planning Engineer Hydrology, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies Received: Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Doug Vincent, Graham Hankin, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways

Councillor Jane Smith completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

Doug Darlington declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as he had done so previously, as a resident of Long Jetty with regard to the Killarney Vale/Long Jetty Catchments Floodplain Risk Management Study.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 7 November 2019.

The Advisory Group discussed the Action Log with the below updates noted:

Action 36: Update on Stormwater Management Plan to come to future meeting (April 2020)

Actions 60, 61 and 62: Council Resolutions regarding protection of Porters Creek Wetland from 11 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting supersede actions (mark as closed)

Action 68: Meeting held – Notice of Motion on Porters Creek Wetland went to 11 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting as noted above (mark as complete)

Action 71: Action was followed up – Mayor liaising with Roads Transport Drainage and Waste to resolve (mark as closed)

Action: Staff to proceed with identifying and inviting additional representation from Federal government to future Advisory Group meetings.

Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

No feedback was provided.

Item 5 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management (Standing Item)

Rudy VanDrie (Planning Engineer Hydrology) provided a presentation on current flood and stormwater management projects, including updates on pending Floodplain Risk Management Plans (FRMPs).

Some key points were as follows:

- Internal consultation held 4 December 2019 for Wallarah Creek and Killarney Vale/Long Jetty FRMPs.
 - Recommended options were generally supported by staff
 - Some proposed options included flood education initiatives and strategies, variable freeboards and modifications to LEP, kerb and guttering options
 - Director approval to be sought to go to Council for public exhibition – expected early 2020
- Site visit held 12 December 2019 for Wyong River and Ourimbah Creek FRMPs in accordance with Council Resolutions from 28 October 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.
 - Concerns noted about Pioneer Dairy and University of Newcastle (Ourimbah Campus) sites and the options proposed in the FRMPs. Noted that there was general agreement that option related to Pioneer Dairy should be reviewed.
- Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) upgrades happening in Gorokan and Blue Haven.

Action: Staff to present on actions related to Pioneer Dairy, University of Newcastle (Ourimbah Campus), and Tuggerah Street Lisarow options and locations at the next meeting.

Item 6 Update on Protection of Porters Creek Wetland

Staff provided an update on the protection of Porters Creek Wetland, following resolutions from Council at the 25 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting ([Item 6.7, resolutions 1213/19 to 1219/19](#)). It was noted that the resolution of Council requires that the conservation agreement to protect Porters Creek wetland is in place by end of March 2020.

Item 7 Coastal Management Programs (as per 28 August 2019 meeting)

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Coastal Protection) provided a verbal update on the Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) project. It was noted that CMPs need to be completed by end of 2021.

Paul Donaldson has joined Council as a Senior Estuary Management Officer and will be assisting with the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Scoping Study. Scoping Studies are expected to run over the next six months.

Neil Kelleher (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – DPIE) noted Council is in a good position for the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Scoping Study due to work already completed in area and existing Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan (TLEMP).

Establishment of Expert Panel is expected to go to Cabinet in February 2020. The Advisory Group acknowledged the funding provided by the NSW Government to put in place the Expert Panel.

Action: Angus Ferguson (DPIE) to be invited to next Advisory Group meeting to provide overview of works completed by the Environment, Energy and Science team and progress on objectives of the TLEMP (what is working and what isn't), with a view for the Advisory Group to consider items to be recommended as priority in the 2020/21 Operational Plan.

Action: Update on education/comms initiatives to come back to Advisory Group regarding Waterways videos on the Council website.

Item 8 Release of the 17/18 Waterways Report Card

Vanessa McCann (Team Leader Estuary Management) provided a presentation on the 2017/18 Waterways Report Card for ecological health. It was noted the report card measures environmental condition not swim safety, which is measured as part of the Beachwatch Program.

Some key points noted were as follows:

- Monitoring and reporting has occurred in Tuggerah Lakes since 2011.
- The 2018/19 report card is expected April 2020, and 2019/20 is expected November 2020 (annually thereafter).
- Grades are determined by measuring what is affecting water quality and how the system is responding (short-term and long-term).
- Currently monitor southern end of Lake Macquarie, Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Water and coastal lagoons. Lower Hawkesbury and freshwater catchments will be included in 2018/19 report card.
- Results for Tuggerah Lakes are largely good. Of the 16 sites three received an excellent grade, nine received a good grade, and four received a fair grade.
- In 2017/18 there were a number of efforts to improve estuary health including:
 - Over \$5mil invested in estuary improvement projects.
 - Over \$1mil of grant funded improvement works delivered in Tuggerah Lakes catchment.
 - 128ha of natural area rehabilitation completed.
 - Three new stormwater improved devices installed and 418 maintained.
 - 967T of sediment and pollutants removed before it reached waterways.
 - 14,855m³ of seagrass wrack removed from Tuggerah Lakes.
 - 80 Landcare groups supported and various engagement/education initiatives delivered (eco-tours, information sessions, short film screenings, school visits, four new eBooks)
- Healthy waterways need healthy catchments, meaning ecological health is everyone's responsibility.

- Monitoring undertaken will help inform management actions through implementation of CMPs.

Action: Presentation on 2017/18 Waterways Report Card to be distributed to Advisory Group members.

Action: Further to Action 66, Fisheries to provide comparative data for aquatic life numbers (in addition to prawns) in Tuggerah Lakes over time, with view to understand concerns raised by community members about a perceived decline.

Item 9 General Business and Close

It was noted that staff will be convening a group of key stakeholders to discuss dredging in The Entrance in accordance with resolutions from the 9 December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate resolution regarding dredging in The Entrance from 9 December 2019 to Advisory Group members for their information.

The meeting closed at 3.27pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 26 February 2020**
 4pm – 6pm
 Central Coast Council Wyong Office
 Level 2 Committee Room