

Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 26 August 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	26 August 2020	
Time	Started at: 2.02pm	Closed at: 4.04pm
Chair	Councillor Doug Vincent	
File Ref	F2018/00098	

Present:

Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Doug Vincent, Doug Darlington, Graham Hankin, Robert Davies, Samantha Willis

External Representatives present:

Sarah Conacher – Department of Primary Industries Fisheries (left 2.16pm), Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (left 2.31pm), Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Council Staff present:

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Catchments to Coast (left 2.33pm, joined 3pm), James Lawson – Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning, Parissa Ghanem – Team Leader Floodplain Management, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management (left 3.15pm, joined 3.30pm), Paul Donaldson – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Councillor Jilly Pilon, Marlene Pennings

Councillor Doug Vincent welcomed the Advisory Group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were noted.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

Item deferred to follow discussion of wrack (General Business) and Item 8, as Sarah Conacher (DPI Fisheries) and Neil Kelleher (DPIE) had to leave the meeting early for other commitments.

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 24 June 2020. Councillor Louise Greenaway noted she was absent without apology for the last meeting and apologised for this.

Graham Hankin requested the flood projects being considered for grants (as noted in Item 5 of the previous Meeting Record), be noted as part of this Meeting Record.

Councillor Doug Vincent asked for an update on flood markers as requested at the previous meeting. Staff advised they have met with SES and BOM staff to discuss the matter and are still considering options. An update and concept plans will come to the next meeting, noting Graham Hankin will provide an example for consideration.

Action: Graham Hankin to email flood marker proposal to Advisory Group Support Officer for passing on to staff for consideration, with view to bring concept designs to next meeting.

Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

No feedback was provided.

Item 5 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management

Peter Sheath (Section Manager) provided a presentation on current flood and stormwater management items in the northern LGA, noting updates for Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plans (FRMSP).

The below key points were noted:

- Flood project update:
 - Wallarah Creek and Killarney Vale/Long Jetty FRMSP: public exhibition complete. 7 submissions received for both drafts – staff will review submissions and prepare report for Council consideration.
 - Lake Macquarie Overland Flood Study: almost complete – consultant is reviewing data and considering comments by Council and other organisations (SES and DPIE).
 - Northern Lakes FRMSP: summary of consultant shortlisted options provided. Document to be placed on public exhibition in October 2020, following opportunity for Advisory Group members to provide comment via email (by Friday 4 September 2020). Noted it's important for name to correctly reflect scope – suggest adding sub-heading "Plan in response to overland flooding".
 - Staff noted challenges with progressing FRMSP due to length of time taken for adoption and requirement to meet milestones for grant funding. Opportunities are being considered by staff about how to fast track process.
- Grant applications pending with DPIE for following projects:
 - Review and update of Tuggerah Lakes Flood Study
 - Development of Tuggerah Lakes Flood Safe Strategy
 - Adaptation planning for Chittaway Point and Chittaway Bay
- Porters Creek Wetland: consultant engaged and data review underway. Monitoring program to be designed and implemented with regard to protection works.
- Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) update: Gorokan GPT now complete. 20/21 projects include install at Gwandalan, upgrades in Blue haven and Buff Point, SQID designs at Blue Haven and San Remo. Noted above ground devices are much easier to clean and maintain than below ground.

- Kangy Angy flood modelling: report is being prepared for Council regarding rail facility – noted similar study was recently completed by Transport NSW.
- Noted there is often information/presentations repeated across the two Catchment and Coast Committees (North and South) – suggested it may be worthwhile to hold combined meetings to cover shared interests. Also noted possibility of a designated Floodplain Management Committee.
- Importance of meeting grant milestones was raised with regard to adoption of FRMSPs. If milestones are not met in time and Council adoption is delayed, DPIE may not provide funding approval.

Action: Advisory Group members to review Draft Northern Lakes FRMSP as previously provided by email, and provide any comments by Friday 4 September 2020.

Action: Staff to provide presentation on Kangy Angy Transport NSW Flood Study at next meeting.

Action: Convenor and Chairs for Catchments and Coast Committee to meet offline to discuss options for combined meetings of the Advisory Groups.

Item 6 Update on Coastal Management

Item deferred due to insufficient time. Vanessa McCann (Team Leader Estuary Management) provided a quick update on key items as below.

- Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan has been released: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/news/media-releases/summary-report-on-outcomes-tuggerah-lakes-estuary-management-plan-emp> (further info to be provided at next meeting).
- Water Report Card won NSW Local Government's RH Dougherty Award for category "reporting to your community" (for LGAs over 70,000 people).
- The Advisory Group acknowledged work undertaken with regard to education about Tuggerah Lakes and estuary management.

Action: Staff presentations to be circulated to Advisory Group members for their information (consider providing audio commentary for presentations missed).

Item 7 Update on Dredging

Item brought forward to follow Item 5. Followed by Item 6 (deferred).

Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Environmental Management) provided a brief verbal update on dredging at The Entrance.

The below key points were noted:

- Grant provided under "Rescuing our Waterways" program.
- EPA previously issued prevention notice in November 2018 noting sand couldn't be removed from The Entrance Channel to Karagi Sandspit. Main concern was total suspended solids and turbidity being transferred to ocean waters (chemical or physical change being caused to receiving waters can be considered pollution).
- EPA advised prevention notice lifted as of 7 August 2020 along with terms of revised licence provided.
- Royal Haskoning and coastal engineers engaged to develop dredging program – expected to physically commence in September 2020 pending approvals.

- Staff exploring option of establishing dewatering area within channel to allow dredged sand to be used for beach nourishment at North Entrance Beach following recent erosion emergency.
- Noted consideration must be given to Little Tern habitat in region, as species is endangered.
- Staff noted with the significant environmental constraints, the program is likely to look different to previous programs and that staff are finalising plans in order to maximise delivery within these constraints.

Item 8 Coastal Erosion Update – The Entrance North

Item brought forward to follow wrack update (General Business). Followed by Item 3. It was proposed this item would be returned to for an update on coastal erosion, but there was insufficient time.

Neil Kelleher (DPIE) provided an overview of protective work options and coastal stabilisation techniques as requested at the previous meeting.

The below key points were noted:

- In extreme cases storm waves can strip sand from beach and expose toe structure, resulting in reduction of beach amenity.
- Protective work options include:
 - Seawalls: structure built parallel to beach along shoreline to limit coastal erosion and impact on properties. Different materials and format can be used depending on requirement.
 - Sandbags (geotextile containers): often suggested as cost effective and easier to construct than other options, but not effective on open coast due to coastal waves.
 - Groynes: structure built perpendicular to beach to trap sand carried by longshore drift.
 - Offshore breakwaters: structure built parallel to beach but some distance offshore – may be above water or submerged. Purpose is to limit waves hitting shore, but may cause downdrift erosion.
 - Beach nourishment: mechanical placement of sand on receding coastline. May be undertaken in conjunction with other methods. Requires identification of sources that will allow regular maintenance of beach sand volumes. Vegetation can be incorporated (doesn't provide barrier for waves, but helps keep windblown sand on beach).
 - Noted that modelling can be undertaken to examine options
- Link for some videos about coastal management:

<https://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/living/environment/environmental-education/natural-connection>

Action: "Coastal Erosion Update – The Entrance North" to be added to agenda for next meeting, or staff to circulate memo/presentation for Advisory Group information.

Item 9 General Business and Close

a) *This Item was brought forward to follow Item 2. Followed by Item 8.*

Wrack update: Sarah Conacher (DPI Fisheries) advised Fisheries are investigating options to issue community groups with permit to allow removal of wrack in Tuggerah Lakes. Noted there will be conditions that apply and many things to consider (i.e. limits on wrack to be removed, applicable sites, by-catch, training to ensure correct procedures). Expected that permit will be provided for initial term of 12 months, subject to review by Fisheries. Council's role in matter is to be determined, but suggested Council may be able to assist with wrack collection and disposal.

Action: Sarah Conacher (Fisheries) to provide draft permit to Advisory Group for review, prior to further discussion at the next applicable Advisory Group meeting.

- b) Suggested that a link to Floods Near Me NSW App be shared on Council's website given it's a valuable resource that reproduces live data from BOM.

Action: Staff to explore option for including Floods Near Me NSW App on Council's website.

- c) Concerns noted that the cliff near Norah Head Lighthouse is being undercut with regard to rock fall and tourists visiting area. Matter already raised with Crown Lands – Staff support meeting with Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Management Board and Crown Lands to discuss matter offline if required.
- d) Several policies were referred to Council for revocation at the 24 August 2020 Council Meeting as part of the Policy Project. Councillor Jane Smith requested the following two policies come to the Advisory Group for consideration:
- Section 149 Certificate - Natural and Other Hazards Encoding Policy
 - Setbacks Policy for Creeks, Rivers & Lagoons

Action: Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate meeting papers about policies being considered for revocation to Advisory Group members for review, and add item to agenda for next meeting.

- e) Complaints have been received from a community member regarding access to FRMSP on public exhibition at libraries. Staff advised they have tried to contact the community member multiple times and will continue to follow up to ensure access to plans is provided. Staff also advised they already planned to personally visit this community member and support them in understanding the FRMSP.

Action: Staff to follow up with community member regarding access to FRMSP to ensure feedback is captured as part of public exhibition process.

- f) Good news story: water clarity in Budgewoi Lake has improved drastically.
- g) The Chair requested meeting frequency be reconsidered, given time often runs out in meetings. It was noted the Advisory Group already meets every second month, and increased meetings would have a significant impact on staff resources. Matter to be further discussed between Convenor and Chair as part of meeting action from Item 5.

The meeting closed at 4.04pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 21 October 2020**
 4pm – 6pm
 Location TBC