

Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee Meeting Record 20 May 2020



Location:	Skype Meeting	
Date:	20 May 2020	
Time	Started at: 5.09pm	Closed at: 6.27pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00097	

Present:

Councillor Jane Smith, Troy Gaston – University of Newcastle, Petra Horwood – Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Colin Johnson – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, David Mylan – Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Nada Pantle – Terrigal Sea Urchins (arrived 5.40pm), Jaimie Potts – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Peter Scanes – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Samantha Willis – Central Coast Waterwatch

Catchments and Coast Committee Members present:

Andrew Johns

Council Staff present:

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Warren Brown – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Kellie Langford – Senior Coastal Management Officer, Melanie James – Waterways Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Councillor Jeff Sundstrom

Councillor Jane Smith declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were made.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Sub-Committee reviewed the Meeting Record from 19 December 2019.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the Action Log. All current actions will be complete as of this meeting, following updates provided by Melanie James (Waterways Officer).

Item 4 Update from State Government

Colin Johnson (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) provided an update on the State Government's involvement in the Terrigal Water Quality Audit.

The following key points were noted:

- Reiterated that aim is to identify sources of pollution and prioritise sites for remediation.
- Important to examine concentration vs loads with regard to bacteria levels, as this determines how bacteria is dispersed in flowing water and sites for prioritisation.
- Noted that bacteria strength in Terrigal Bay depends on what is happening in Terrigal Lagoon as well as rainfall levels (i.e. if lagoon opens when containing high levels of bacteria, this then flows into bay).
- Beachwatch predictions are a valuable source of information and Terrigal Lagoon is one the sites included. It was noted there is a 24-hour delay when samples are taken and results are received.
- Terrigal Bay is already affected by own catchment, particularly during wet weather events, so Lagoon isn't only factor.
- Next report from DPIE expected around September 2020. Will include genomics analysis (Terrigal Beach and Lagoon), sediment sampling, ocean modelling, and benthic metabolism analysis.

It was noted that the Terrigal Haven Supporters Group (THS) has been liaising with the community and passing feedback on to Council. One comment was that Council may consider closing the beach in serious pollution events and adding to vegetated areas to slow flow of runoff from catchment.

Item 5 Update on Terrigal Water Quality Audit Program

Melanie James (Waterways Officer) provided an update on the Terrigal Water Quality Audit Program.

The following key points were noted:

- The team has been working with Water and Sewer to understand timeframes regarding sewer network repairs.
 - Major defects found include: cracked/disjointed/disjointed/collapsed/root ingress in sewer pipes, groundwater infiltration, cracked manholes and illegal stormwater to sewer connections. All are common for aging infrastructure.
 - One collapsed pipe is Ash Street has been identified as direct source of contamination.
 - There has been 15.7km of inspections – 3.61km identified for upgrade, of which 1.15km has already been relined.
- A report went to Council on 24 February 2020 to provide an update on the audit. Available: https://cdn.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Council/Meetings_and_minutes/24february2020-agenda0_0.pdf. Next report is expected September 2020.

- Action from previous meeting was to follow up about sediment and ocean sand in pipes. Staff confirmed the stormwater culverts are working correctly and although there is sand in the pipes, this does not impact functioning capacity.
- Concerns previously raised that stormwater harvester is a source of pollution. It was reiterated that this infrastructure is not causing pollution and is consequently not part of the Audit. Any future service requests or enquiries regarding this will be directed to the water conservation staff, to ensure the Audit stays focused on water quality investigations and works.
- There have been a number of developments with regarding to community outreach and engagement programs.
 - Six popups were held December 2019 to February 2020 at Terrigal Beach and The Haven.
 - Four drop in sessions were held in February 2020 in Copacabana, Wamberal, Terrigal and Erina.
 - Staff are setting up a distribution list to ensure key updates are sent to interested people/groups who register emails.
 - Information continues to be made available through Council's website:
 - <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/tcla>
 - <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/council/news/terrigan-catchment-audit>
 - A number of suggestions have been received from THS and the community – an update on what has been implemented will be provided at the next meeting.

Item 6 General Business and Close

It was noted the initial term of the Sub-Committee was 12 months, meaning the group would cease as of 20 June 2020. Feedback provided by the Sub-Committee has been beneficial to the Audit, as have the community connections established. It was requested that Council consider extending the term of the Sub-Committee to July 2021 to continue fostering community engagement, pending the availability of relevant stakeholders and resources.

Recommendation: That Council extend the term of the Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee until the end of July 2021, pending consideration by the relevant stakeholders.

The meeting closed at 6.27pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25 August 2020
5pm – 6pm
Location TBC