

# Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 7 November 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Wyong Office Level 2 Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong	
Date:	7 November 2019	
Time	Started at: 4.03pm	Closed at: 6.05pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00098	

## **Present:**

Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Doug Vincent (arrived 4.30pm), Michael Campbell, Doug Darlington, Robert Davies, Graham Hankin, Samantha Willis

## **External Representatives present:**

Sarah Conacher – Department of Primary Industries (Fishing), Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

## **Council Staff present:**

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer, Donna Payne – Advisory Group Support Officer (left 5.01pm)

## **Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies**

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Apologies Received: Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Jilly Pilon, Marlene Pennings

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

## **Item 2 Disclosures of Interest**

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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.

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### Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

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The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Records from 28 August and 26 September 2019.

The Advisory Group discussed the Action Log.

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### Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

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No feedback was provided.

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### Item 5 Update from Department of Primary Industries (Fishing) (Action 52)

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Sarah Conacher (Department of Primary Industries - Fishing) provided a presentation on seagrasses and features of a healthy ecosystem. Sarah invited questions from the Advisory Group regarding wrack and seagrass mapping in Tuggerah Lakes. Sarah advised *zostera* leaves are longer in Tuggerah Lakes than anywhere else in NSW, which is likely linked to high nutrient levels and turbidity in the lake.

It was noted that seagrasses are a key feature of the lake as they provide habitat for important fish species (e.g. Dusky Flathead spawn in *zostera* and Garfish spawn in floating wrack). Seagrass loss occurs globally at a rapid rate and is due to a number of factors.

Sarah also highlighted the importance of saltmarsh in a healthy ecosystem as it assists with the natural cycle of wrack and the lake.

**Action:** Sarah Conacher (Fisheries) to provide most recent seagrass maps to Council staff when available.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate link to [Fisheries Spatial Data Portal website](#) showing seagrass maps.

**Action:** Sarah Conacher (Fisheries) to forward commercial fishing stats (namely collection amounts and number of operators) to Advisory Group Support Officer for circulation to Advisory Group members.

**Action:** Sarah Conacher (Fisheries) to forward info on prawn numbers in Lake Munmorah following the power plant closure to Advisory Group Support Officer for circulation to Advisory Group members.

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to circulate copy of Sarah Conacher's presentation to Advisory Group members.

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### Item 6 Protection of Porters Creek Wetland Update

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Staff provided an update on the protection of Porters Creek Wetland, and noted that works are currently on hold for the airport as per previous Council resolutions. Further clarification is required as to what 'works' entails. It was commented that although Porters Creek Wetland is linked to the airport and Warnervale Employment Zone (WEZ), protection of the site shouldn't be pushed aside while works are on hold.

Janine McKenzie (Unit Manager Business Enterprise) was briefly phoned to clarify some points about the airport. It was noted the current runway length is 1,196m, and the max length as per *Warnervale Airport (Restrictions) Act 1996* is 1,200m.

**Action:** Councillors Jane Smith and Doug Vincent to seek a meeting with Janine McKenzie (Unit Manager Business Enterprise) and other relevant staff to define boundaries of the airport and education precinct, with a view to progress protection of Porters Creek Wetland. Information to be relayed back to Advisory Group members via email in preparation for a Notice of Motion to the first Council meeting in December.

Sarah Conacher advised that Fisheries are currently doing works to map where encroachments occur with regard to airports and wetlands.

Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets) advised that staff are considering engaging a consultant to explore how to better manage the Porters Creek wetland with consideration of historical issues and various other external pressures and invited feedback from Advisory Group members about the approach.

The Advisory Group noted its support of staff preparing a scope of works and seeking advice from an appropriately qualified consultant to develop a revised Porters Creek Floodplain Restoration Conservation Management Plan.

## **Item 7                      Update on Floodplain Risk Management Project (Standing Item)**

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Peter Sheath (Section Manager Waterways) provided an update on the Floodplain Risk Management Project, showing a table of current projects and their status.

The Advisory Group noted the below Council resolutions from the 28 October 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting, with regard to adoption of the Wyong River and Ourimbah Creek Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans (FRMSP).

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| 1029/19 | <i>That Council defer consideration of this item until a site inspection has been conducted with those interested Councillors and members of the Catchments and Coast Committee – Tuggerah Lakes.</i> |
| 1030/19 | <i>That Councillors and members of the Catchments and Coast Committee – Tuggerah Lakes be invited to identify relevant sites.</i>   |

The below sites were identified by Advisory Group members:

- Pioneer Dairy (South Tacoma)
- University of Newcastle, Ourimbah (lower carpark and Burns Road)
- Wyong Nursing Home

**Action:** Advisory Group Support Officer to confirm interest with Advisory Group members and Councillors regarding site inspections and update as information becomes available.

**Action:** Advisory Group members to email any additional suggested sites to Advisory Group Support Officer by Monday 11 November. (AGSO to send reminder)

Regarding Action 51 (Killarney Vale/Long Jetty FRMSP), it was noted that internal engagement is underway and Advisory Group members were invited to forward any additional feedback to staff for noting.

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### **Item 8                    End of Council Term**

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This item has been added to agendas for all Advisory Groups and Committees in preparation for the end of Council term in September 2020, as Advisory Groups and Committees may be placed on hold once caretaker mode is engaged.

It was noted that in at least former Gosford, Advisory Committees continued through the end of the Council term until the new Council determined otherwise. Councillor Jane Smith noted she will be discussing this further with the Director Governance to clarify.

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### **Item 9                    General Business and Close**

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- a) Coastal Conference: Councillor Jane Smith congratulated and thanked staff for their involvement in the Annual NSW Coastal Conference, which occurred 30 October 2019 – 1 November 2019 in Terrigal. It was noted that the event will be occurring in Byron Bay in 2020.
- b) Grant opportunities: the Advisory Group noted consideration should be given to inviting a Federal Government representative to future Advisory Group meetings, given their involvement in funding.
- c) Flooding in Chittaway Point: Graham Hankin shared that Chittaway Point residents have approached Council regarding ongoing flooding issues believed to be linked to road height and are seeking support for their campaign.

**Action:** Councillors will submit a Councillor Request regarding flooding in Henry Street Chittaway Point, requesting that staff further investigate the matter and consider options to reduce the frequency of flooding of the road by raising the road height.

- d) Luke Sulkowski (Unit Manager Natural and Environmental Assets) advised that a draft works program is being developed to apply for a grant for Tuggerah Lakes under the Environment Restoration Fund (\$4.7mil over four years). The deadline for grant submission is 28 November 2019 and updates will come to the Advisory Group as available.
- e) Bycatch of wrack: Sarah Conacher (Fisheries) advised the State Government is interested in working with Council to investigate bycatch of wrack and impacts of the wrack harvester.
- f) Peter Sheath (Section Manager Waterways) advised the Minister for Energy and Environment is currently seeking advice on parcels of land to add to the national parks system.

The meeting closed at 6.05pm

**Next Meeting:            Wednesday 18 December 2019**  
**2pm – 4pm**  
**Central Coast Council Wyong Office**  
**Level 2 Committee Room**