

Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 27 February 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Wyong Office Level 2 Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong	
Date:	27 February 2019	
Time	Started at: 3.05pm	Closed at: 5.18pm
Chair	Councillor Doug Vincent	
File Ref	F2018/00098	

Present:

Mayor Jane Smith (left 5.10pm), Councillor Doug Vincent, Councillor Louise Greenaway (left 5.15pm), Councillor Jilly Pilon, Michael Campbell, Doug Darlington (left 5.07pm), Robert Davies, Graham Hankin, Marlene Pennings, Samantha Willis

External Representatives present:

Neil Kelleher – Office of Environment and Heritage (left 5.07pm)

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (arrived 3.41pm, left 4.31pm), Peter Ham – Unit Manager Waterways and Coastal Protection (left 4.31pm), Scott Duncan – Section Manager Land Use and Policy (left 4.55pm), Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways (left 4.31pm), Matthew Barnett – Team Leader Catchment Operations, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management and Projects (left 4.49pm), Emma Hawkins – Senior Strategic Environmental Planner (left 4.31pm), Nicole McGaharan – Ecologist, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Apologies and Acknowledgement of Country

No apologies were received

Mayor Jane Smith opened the meeting at 3.05pm and undertook an Acknowledgement of Country.

It is noted this meeting was brought forward as some staff had to attend a Climate Change Workshop.

Item 2 Disclosure of Interest

Mayor Jane Smith previously declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest as a founding board member of the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre, which is supporting a proposal for research project in Tuggerah Lakes.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 19 December 2018.

The Advisory Group reviewed the Action Log.

Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

No feedback was received.

Item 8 was moved forward after this as agreed by the Advisory Group.

Item 5 Central Coast Sustainability Strategy

Emma Hawkins (Senior Strategic Environmental Planner) provided a presentation on the Central Coast Sustainability Strategy that is being developed by staff. The presentation included the scope of the strategy including themes and indicators, the methodology, and timelines.

Relating to this, there is a [Central Coast Sustainability Survey](#) open until 17 March 2019.

Item 6 2019/20 Budget (Action 27)

Item deferred to next meeting.

Item 7 Development Controls and Porters Creek (Action 34)

Scott Duncan (Section Manager Land Use and Policy) provided a presentation on the development controls in place for Porters Creek Wetland (PCW).

Action: A presentation on the Stormwater Management Plan currently under review for the PCW catchment to be provided at a future meeting.

Action: Staff to liaise with the relevant Council section on the reclassification of PCW from operational to community land and report back to the Advisory Group.

Item 8 Narrabeen Lagoons and Tuggerah Lakes

Vanessa McCann (Team Leader Estuary Management and Projects) provided a presentation on the management arrangements in place for Narrabeen Lagoon and Tuggerah Lakes. The presentation explained how the Plan of Management model that Narrabeen Lagoon uses would not be appropriate for Tuggerah Lakes due to the differences in the systems.

It was noted that Tuggerah Lakes is in comparatively good condition compared to other estuaries, and is responding well to long-term management. The Advisory Group agreed that community understanding of the estuary needs to be improved to avoid negative assumptions, and that better education and communication are required, particularly through social media platforms.

The Advisory Group was shown a [Map of Projects](#) that is publicly available on Council's website.

The Advisory Group noted concerns about the methodology of the Office of the Environment and Heritage (OEH) Beachwatch State of Beaches Report, especially considering timeframes. Staff advised that an internal State of Beaches Report is being developed.

Action: Staff to review presentation slides for distribution to the Advisory Group and all Councillors.

Action: Staff to circulate the Estuary Management Plan snapshot to the Advisory Group for feedback. Advisory Group members to identify key issues and aspects to be considered for potential education/communication programs.

Action: Staff to liaise with Connected Communities to explore options for increasing community awareness and education on the quality of Tuggerah Lakes, such as creating a short video that addresses key issues of estuary management, debunking myths, and FAQs.

Action: Melanie James (Waterways Officer) to be invited to the next meeting.

Item 9 Tuggerah Lakes Foreshore Wrack Harvesting Strategy

Item deferred to next meeting.

Item 10 General Business and Close

Frustrations were raised that the topic of the 2019/20 Budget has been deferred the last two meetings due to running out of time.

Action: An extraordinary meeting to be held before the next meeting to discuss Items 6 and 9. *(Note: The Advisory Group Convenor was not present for this Action, and is unable to make staff available for an additional extraordinary meeting)*

The meeting closed at 5.18pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday 1 May 2019**
 2pm – 4pm
 Central Coast Council Wyong Office
 Level 2 Committee Room