

Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting Record 20 February 2020



Location:	Central Coast Council Wyong Office Level 2 Committee Room 2 Hely Street, Wyong	
Date:	20 February 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.07pm	Closed at: 6.02pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2019/01200	

Present:

Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Chris Holstein, Councillor Jane Smith, Ken Brookes, Daryl Mann, Pamela McCann, Michael Redrup

Council Staff present:

Jamie Loader – Director Water and Sewer, Luke Drury – Section Manager Water Services and Design, Satpal Singh – Senior Engineer Water Resource Planning, Greg Horvath – Project Manager, Water Resource Planning, Donna Payne – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Mayor Lisa Matthews, Councillor Kyle MacGregor, Gary Murphy – Chief Executive Officer, John Asquith

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

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Smith called for any disclosures.

No disclosures were received.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Committee confirmed the Meeting Record of 16 December 2019.

The Committee will review the Action Log as per Item 4 of the agenda.

Item 4 Response to Actions – Water Management Advisory Committee – 16 December 2019

Luke Drury – Section Manager, Water Services and Design provided an update on outstanding action items of the Action Log. The Response to Actions information document was forwarded to committee members prior to the meeting for their review.

The following points were noted:

- Item 3: Those committee members not present for this meeting may want to comment on the information provided by staff on the historical production and usage of recycled water on the Central Coast
- Item 4: Complete
- Item 5: Remains open pending NSW DPIE publication due for release after March 2020.
- Item 6: Remains open. Confirmation of previous advice regarding project timing was provided. Feedback from the review will be provided at the next meeting.
- Item 7: Complete
- Item 8: Complete. Report to Council currently being prepared as per previous Council Resolution.
- Item 9: Complete (added to agenda as a standing item). Committee members to advise if the report was missing any relevant details.

Item 5 Water Supply System Status Report – 5 February 2020 (standing item)

Satpal Singh – Senior Engineer, Water Resource Planning discussed the Water Supply System Briefing Note that was distributed to committee members for review prior to the meeting and provided the key points via a PowerPoint presentation.

The briefing note outlined the status of the region's current water storage levels, water restriction triggers, Hunter Water storage levels and transfers, groundwater, rainfall, the seasonal outlook for rainfall and temperature (issued by BoM), drought indicators, a forecast of the Hunter's William River streamflow and water consumption.

Key points noted were:

- The transfers to Hunter as per agreement have ceased with Hunter Water Storages recovering above 60%.
- Level 1 Water Restrictions will be cut-off when Mangrove Dam reaches the recently revised trigger level of 55%.
- Communication should be made with the community acknowledging the good work to date in conserving water, but also to highlight we are on a different system to Sydney and the Hunter region, with different trigger levels and storage capacity per person.

Action: Education Officer to be invited to a future meeting to provide an update of activities undertaken to date.

Item 6 Proposed Objectives for Integrated Water Resource Project

Greg Horvath – Project Manager, Water Resource Planning provided a summary of the draft objectives that were detailed in the Central Coast Integrated Water Resource Plan Objectives document (CC IWRP) that was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting for review, to consider as part of the Central Coast Integrated Water Resource Plan.

The CC IWRP is working towards compliance with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW (DPIE) in Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines and to enhance water security and long-term water planning for the benefit of both the Central Coast and Hunter regions.

Action: Committee to review the draft objectives discussed and provide feedback to Advisory Group Support Officer who will compile into one document and forward to Water and Sewer Staff. Feedback required to the Advisory Group Support Officer (AGSO) by Friday 13 March 2020. The AGSO will combine all comments into one document and forward to Water and Sewer staff.

Item 7 Draft Drought Management Plan / Request for Endorsement

Luke Drury – Section Manager, Water Services and Design discussed the final draft of the Central Coast Council Drought Management Plan that was provided to the committee prior to the meeting for review.

The Drought Management Plan's purpose is to provide guidance to staff when managing drought events and to inform the community of the issues surrounding drought management and the role the community can undertake in such circumstances.

Action: Staff have requested the Water Management Committee review the Draft Drought Management Plan and forward any comments or questions to the Advisory Group Support Officer (AGSO) by Friday 13 March 2020. The AGSO will combine all comments into one document and forward to Water and Sewer staff.

Action: Staff have been asked to include a WAC update on WSP rules at the next meeting.

Item 8 General Business and Close

- Ken Brookes requested an update on algae management in our water storage facilities. Daryl Mann pointed out identifying where the over-supply of nutrients is coming from and how we can control outbreaks that may occur. Jamie Loader provided an overview but confirmed further information will be provided.

Action: Water and Sewer Staff to provide further information on algae management procedures in our water storage facilities and how we identify outbreaks that may occur.

- Michael Redrup asked for clarification on who is reviewing the key indicators relating to temperature and 'DO' profiles.

Action: Water and Sewer staff to come back to the committee with a report that will assist in ascertaining if this information is useful.

- Councillor Smith noted that Sydney Water have a Neutral or Beneficial Test assessment (NorBE) that helps to identify potential risks that proposed activities in the catchment may have to water quality. The possible impacts on both surface and groundwater are considered as part of the neutral or beneficial water quality assessment. It was asked whether Central Coast Council have a similar assessment covering catchment impacts.

Action: Councillor Smith requested a discussion surrounding Catchment Management at a future meeting.

Action: Staff to write to Local Land Services (LLS) and request an update on what resources are being put into activities and management in our drinking water catchment. David Green (LLS) to be invited to a future meeting to present this information.

- Pam McCann asked if there is a section in the Drought Management Plan that details works that should be done to make the system more resilient. The existence of the Water Resilience Committee was discussed and the three working groups (Drought Preparedness, Innovation, Communications/Engagement/Education). Potential gates for Mangrove Creek Dam Spillway were raised as an example of this.

Action: Water and Sewer staff to provide an update on resilience improvements currently underway and being investigated as part of the Integrated Water Resource Project.

- Luke Drury proposed the following agenda items for the next meeting scheduled for April 2020.
 - Discussion of key considerations for planning for an enduring supply for the central coast
 - Review of proposed community engagement approach for IWRP
 - Provide and update on IWRP activities
 - Provide update on desalination readiness assessment

Suggested future Agenda Items are:

- What savings can we make on Demand Management, other than restrictions
- Catchment management in relation to our water supply

The meeting closed at 6.02pm

Next Meetings: **Wednesday 15 April 2020**
 4pm – 6pm
 Central Coast Council Wyong Office
 Level 2 Committee Room

Thursday 18 June 2020
4pm – 6pm
Central Coast Council Wyong Office
Level 2 Committee Room

Wednesday 12 August 2020
4pm – 6pm
Central Coast Council Wyong Office
Level 2 Committee Room