

Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 18 March 2021



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	18 March 2021	
Time	Started at: 2.02pm	Closed at: 3.47pm
Chair	James Lawson – Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure	
File Ref	F2018/00098	

Present:

Mike Campbell (left 3.08pm), Robert Davies, Graham Hankin, Samantha Willis

External Representatives present:

Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Council Staff present:

Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Catchments to Coast, James Lawson – Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning (left 2.53pm), Parissa Ghanem – Team Leader Floodplain Management, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Paul Donaldson – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country and Apologies

Apologies received: Doug Darlington, Marlene Pennings, Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning, Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management

The Chairperson 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

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 9 December 2020. With regard to the recommendation in Item 6 of the previous Meeting Record, members still have concerns about groundwater issues at Kangy Angy site and note there is a requirement for ongoing monitoring at site.

The Advisory Group discussed the Action Log, noting all outstanding actions were listed for this meeting.

Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

No feedback was provided.

Item 5 Monitoring Groundwater Bores at Kangy Angy Rail Site

Members previously raised concerns about monitoring groundwater bores at the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) rail site at Kangy Angy. TfNSW provided some info which was distributed to members via email on 16 March 2021. Members may send any questions they have regarding the site forwarding to TfNSW.

Item 6 Update on Coastal Management

Item deferred to follow Item 9.

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Catchments to Coast) provided an update on coastal management matters.

The below key points were noted:

- Looking to launch a combined engagement piece on Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) on Your Voice Our Coast on 30 March 2021.
- Updates on Scoping Studies:
 - Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons: final Scoping Study Report to be adopted by end of March 2021. Next steps including consultation to occur throughout 2021 and beyond.
 - Tuggerah Lakes Estuary CMP: currently workshoping with Expert Panel to develop program – this will help direct grant submissions.
 - Info about Lake Macquarie CMP is available online here: www.shape.lakemac.com.au/coastal

The Advisory Group discussed a Vision Statement for the CMPs. They considered examples from other Councils, as well as the following statement suggested by the other Catchments and Coast Committee.

'Achieve a healthy and sustainable coastal zone for the whole of the Central Coast both now and into the future, encompassing natural assets, community well-being and resilience'

Some changes were suggested as shown in **red** below. It was noted the draft Vision Statement would also be presented to the broader community for feedback and may change.

*'Achieve a healthy, **safe** and **environmentally** sustainable coastal zone ~~for the whole of the Central Coast~~ both now and into the future, encompassing natural assets, community well-being and resilience.'*

Item 7 Update on Wrack

James Lawson (Section Manager Environmental Infrastructure) provided an update on wrack collection.

The below key points were noted:

- Provided a recap on info previously presented to Advisory Group about wrack and noted updates will be given on wrack collection program and any changes.

- Noted contract for wrack collection is currently with Australian Environmental Service (AES), who operate in accordance with a Permit under Part 7 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994.
- On track to achieve KPI for collection in 2020/21 (5,400 / 8,000m³), but need to consider how service can be maintained given impact on resources,
- Revisited topic of wrack disposal and reuse – staff are constantly exploring opportunities for cost saving. Wrack has been used for saltmarsh restoration projects at various locations surrounding Tuggerah Lakes. More info about this is available online: <https://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/project-stage/tuggerah-lakes-foreshore-restoration-works>

Item 8 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management

Item brought forward to follow Item 4.

Given the weather and significant rainfall predicted over next few days, Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning) provided an update on current weather and flooding. The below key points were noted:

- Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issued a severe weather warning for rain and damaging winds on 18 March – Central Coast is within warning area. Rainfall predictions and latest river heights are available on BOM website. Website continues to be updated with weather warnings: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/index.shtml>
- Current situation for northern end of LGA is as follows:
 - Tuggerah Lakes is still in normal range. Based on BOM levels it's estimated that minor flood level in Tuggerah Lakes (0.9m) may be exceeded around Monday 22 March. Peak flood level is expected to be at least 0.5m lower than the February 2020 flood.
 - Members monitored Floods Near Me App during meeting and noted lake levels were increasing rapidly so were concerned flood would be experienced sooner.
 - The Entrance channel is currently open and being monitored by staff.
 - Council has a video about [understanding and preparing for floods](#) on website as well as other info on flooding: <https://www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushfires-and-flooding/preparing-flood-emergencies>

Peter Sheath provided a presentation on other flood and stormwater management items. The below key points were noted:

- Map with plotted flood depth indicators was shown to members as requested at previous meeting. Noted this would be distributed to members for closer inspection and feedback.
- Council adopted the Killarney Vale/Long Jetty Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMS&P) and Wallarah Creek FRMS&P at Ordinary meeting held 9 March 2021.
- Lake Macquarie Overland Flood Study is 90% complete – final report is being finalised.
- Flood Gauging Network Audit is now complete.
- Northern Lakes FRMS&P on public exhibition 15 February 2021 to 15 March 2021. Various engagement methods were used including online meetings, mail drop, phone calls, face-to-face info sessions. Submissions now being reviewed for revised draft.
- Members raised concerns that FRMS&P don't identify the kind of flood study (e.g. overland vs lake flooding), which leads to misunderstanding about how flooding occurs. This needs to be more clear.
- 2021/22 DPIE grant applications are currently being prepared for following projects (same as last year):
 - Review and update of Tuggerah Lakes flood study.

- Tuggerah lakes FloodSafe strategy – noted this needs to be reconsidered given current financial situation as implementation of education programs may be delayed.
- Adaptation planning for Chittaway Point and Chittaway Bay.
- Four Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) projects underway for completion by end of June 2021 (2x Blue Haven, 1x San Remo, 1x Buff Point).

Action: Flood depth indicator map to be circulated to members for feedback.

Item 9 Update on Porters Creek Wetland

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Flood Strategy and Planning) provided an update on Porters Creek Wetland on behalf of Rochelle Lawson (Senior Ecologist).

The below key points were noted:

- Showed table of contents for *Porters Creek Wetland and Catchment Stormwater Modelling, Revegetation Plan and Monitoring Plan* currently being drafted to give brief overview of work planned. Updates will be shared with group as available.
- Members had some questions about the conservation agreement for Porters Creek Wetland which couldn't be answered. Members were advised they can email any questions about this for passing onto Rochelle.

Item 10 General Business and Close

- Regarding the proposal to merge the two Catchments and Coast Committees as going to Council on 23 March 2021, members generally supported consolidation but noted concerns about how meetings will be managed given meetings often run short of time. It was discussed there could be option for forming smaller Working Groups to address location specific projects, especially those of a time sensitive nature such as grant funding and adoption of FRMS&P.
- Graham Hankin suggested staff trial a community wrack collection program at Pipe Clay Point. It was noted the Buff Point Shore Care Program was unsuccessful for various reasons, but still a good idea in theory. Staff confirmed they'd like to engage with community more and are waiting for CMPs to progress to explore options.

Action: Graham Hankin to email James Lawson regarding opportunity for wrack collection at Pipe Clay Point.

- Ben Fullagar provided a brief update on The Entrance Management Strategy for Tuggerah Lakes, which Manly Hydraulics Laboratory is currently working on. Part of the project includes delivery of a Flood Information Tool (FIT) to help track coastal conditions with continuous data reporting.

The meeting closed at 3.47pm

Next Meeting: June 2021 (TBC)