

Catchments and Coast Committee Tuggerah Lakes Meeting Record 29 April 2020



Location:	Skype Meeting
Date:	29 April 2020
Time	Started at: 2.17pm Closed at: 4.41pm
Chair	Councillor Doug Vincent / Councillor Jane Smith
File Ref	F2018/00098

Present:

Councillor Louise Greenaway, Councillor Jilly Pilon (left 4.25pm), Councillor Jane Smith, Councillor Doug Vincent, Doug Darlington, Robert Davies, Samantha Willis

External Representatives present:

Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (left 4.26pm), Richard Murphy – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (left 4.27pm)

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning (left 4.25pm), Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways, Parissa Ghanem – Team Leader, Floodplain Management and Senior Planner, 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: Michael Campbell, Graham Hankin, Marlene Pennings

Councillor Jane Smith welcomed the Advisory Group and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and connection to land statement.

Item 2 Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures were noted.

Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record

The Advisory Group confirmed the Meeting Record from 26 February 2020. It was noted there was a minor typographical error in the apologies section, however this has been corrected and updated on Council's website.

The Advisory Group discussed the Action Log with the below updates noted:

Action 36: still pending – consultant to undertake review yet to be confirmed

Action 51: still pending – public exhibition yet to take place

Action 73: action to be closed – noted report going to 11 May 2020 Council meeting

Action 78: still pending – staff have written to nursing home but response is yet to be received

Item 4 Feedback from Previous Meeting

It was noted the last meeting was very informative, particularly regarding the protection of Porters Creek Wetland.

Item 5 Update on Flood and Stormwater Management (Standing Item)

Parissa Ghanem (Team Leader Floodplain Management and Senior Planner) provided a presentation, identifying status of current floodplain projects in the northern part of the LGA.

The below key points were noted:

- Lake Macquarie Overland FS: Final draft prepared by consultant and currently under review by Council and external organisations.
- Long Jetty/Killarney Vale FRMSP and Wallarah Creek FRMSP: Director approval was provided for public exhibition prior to COVID-19 outbreak, however project is now on hold given current situation, pending Council decision and Comms advice about how to proceed with projects.
- Ourimbah Creek FRMSP and Wyong River FRMSP: Report going to 11 May 2020 Council meeting to seek adoption so that recommended actions can be implemented.
- Northern Lakes FRMSP: Detailed assessment of options is complete and final draft is under review by Council.
- Flood Gauging Network Audit: Final draft prepared and reviewed by Council with minor amendments being implemented by staff.
- Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs): Upgrades are underway in Gorokan and Blue Haven. Consultants and contractors have been engaged and works are expected to be complete in June 2020.

It was noted there are challenges with public exhibition during the current climate, and it is not ideal to simply place items online without further engagement. Staff are currently drafting an engagement plan for Director review. Wollongong City Council have a good example of virtual engagement:

<https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/Fairy-Cabbage-Tree-Creeks-fs>

Comments were made that the Advisory Group has a valuable role in community education. It was noted that flooding cannot be 'fixed', but is something to be managed – recent events suggest this messaging needs to be improved. Reiterated that staff are working on engagement plan and improving community education.

The Advisory Group supports staff proceeding with public exhibition of projects, and request staff continue to explore options for online engagement.

Item 6 Update on Coastal Management (Standing Item)

Ben Fullagar (Section Manager Coastal Protection) provided a presentation on coastal management, noting recent events and project updates.

The below key points were noted:

- February 2020 storm event: large coastal storm coincided with spring tide resulting in widespread flooding across Central Coast.
- Considerable erosion has occurred at Budgewoi Beach, Hargraves Beach, Shelly Beach and The Entrance between June 2019 and February 2020. Sites are dynamic and continue to be monitored by staff.
- Update on Scoping Studies:
 - Open Coast and Coastal Lagoons: contract has been awarded for works to commence, expected to be complete September 2020.
 - Lower Hawkesbury/Brisbane Water: scoping study has commenced between six neighbouring Councils (later stages of study expected to come back to Catchments and Coast Committee Brisbane Water and Gosford Lagoons).
 - Tuggerah Lakes Estuary: scoping study has commenced in-house, considerable internal knowledge will bring value to study.
- Expert Panel: membership has been approved by Cabinet and announcement is anticipated shortly.

Item 7 Reported Commercial Wild Harvest Landings for Tuggerah Lakes

The Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) provided two graphs to report commercial wild harvest landings for Tuggerah Lakes for the Advisory Group's information as requested. The graphs were circulated via email on 20 April 2020.

Discussion deferred to next meeting – meeting invite to be issued to Fisheries.

Item 8 Dredging of The Entrance Channel

Peter Sheath (Section Manager Waterways) provided a presentation on dredging at The Entrance channel. There was a hydrographic survey conducted following the February 2020 flooding event on 9 March 2020, and works have been undertaken in the interest of public safety.

Council's future actions are guided by the current Estuary Management Plan and Floodplain Risk Management Plan, as well as relevant licenses from EPA, Crown, and Fisheries.

It was suggested that staff liaise with Peter Scanes (DPIE) regarding his team's study of the entire estuary, as the work may be beneficial to staff investigations.

Action: Staff to consider the information previously provided by Graham Hankin via email regarding berm management, and provide response back to Advisory Group.

Item 9 Update on Education/Comms Initiatives

Vanessa McCann (Team Leader Estuary Management) provided an update on education and comms initiatives for the waterways team. It was noted a new educational video on Tuggerah Lakes is now available on Council's YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/162u8qqB78g>

Vanessa is also working with her team to update the Love our Living Lakes website.

It was also noted that grant funding has been received to allow recruitment of an Environmental Communicator, whose role will run alongside the Expert Panel and work with existing Council projects. A DPIE grant has also been applied for to secure funding for flood education.

Item 10 General Business and Close

It was previously requested that updates on protection of Porters Creek Wetland be a standing item on agendas, however was missed on this agenda. The topic will be added to future agendas.

The meeting closed at 4.41pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 24 June 2020
4pm – 6pm
Location TBC