

Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee Meeting Record 20 June 2019



Location:	Central Coast Council Gosford Office Level 1 Committee Room 49 Mann Street, Gosford	
Date:	20 June 2019	
Time	Started at: 4.06pm	Closed at: 5.31pm
Chair	Mayor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00097	

Present:

Mayor Jane Smith, Councillor Sundstrom, Ian Carruthers, Troy Gaston – University of Newcastle, Petra Horwood – Terrigal Haven Supports Group, Colin Johnson – Office of Environment and Heritage, Neil Kelleher – Office of Environment and Heritage, David Mylan – Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Nada Pantle – Terrigal Urchins Group, Jaimie Potts – Office of Environment and Heritage, Samantha Willis – Central Coast Waterwatch,

Council Staff present:

Scott Cox – Director Environment and Planning, Sara Foster – Senior Advisor Policy and Projects, Luke Sulkowski – Acting Unit Manager Waterways and Coastal Protection, Peter Sheath – Section Manager Waterways, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management and Projects, Kathy Bragg – Senior Governance Officer (left 4.16pm), Warren Brown – Waterways and Coastal Management Officer, Melanie James – Waterways Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

Item 1 Apologies

Richard Murphy – Office of Environment and Heritage, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Coastal Protection

The Chairperson, Mayor Jane Smith, declared the meeting open at 4.06pm and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land statement

Item 2 Introductions

Each member of the Sub-Committee briefly introduced themselves and noted the organisation they are representing if applicable.

Item 3 Disclosures of Interest

Kathy Bragg (Senior Governance Officer) provided a brief overview of Council's Code of Conduct to supplement the information that was sent to Sub-Committee members who had not previously received Code of Conduct training.

The Mayor called for any Disclosures of Interest. No disclosures were made.

Item 4 Terms of Reference

The Sub-Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference resolved by Council on 11 June 2019.

Concerns were noted that as per the Terms of Reference the Sub-Committee only has four hours in which to meet its responsibilities, given the meeting frequency and initial one year term.

Item 5 Initial Outcomes of the Terrigal Water Quality Audit

Melanie James (Waterways Officer) provided a presentation on the Terrigal Water Quality Audit program underway by Council in partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). The presentation included an overview of the issue of water quality in Terrigal, investigation methods, planned outcomes and potential challenges. It was noted that Terrigal met recreational water quality guidelines for the majority of the time, but the goal of the program was to improve this.

Action: Staff to review presentation for distribution and circulate appropriate slides to Sub-Committee members once confirmed.

It was noted that the community commonly reacts to Beachwatch data as opposed to Council data.

David Mylan (Terrigal Haven Supporters Group) raised some concerns about stormwater harvesting infrastructure in Terrigal with the below questions being taken on notice.

1. Does water from the harvesting infrastructure go to sites other than Crown Plaza?
2. Is the water treated before it's transferred?
3. Is the system calibrated accordingly to account for the time water spends in the system before being transferred, and is the pressure appropriate for the number of sites it's transferred to?

Action: Terrigal Haven Supporters Group to provide list of concerns regarding harvesting infrastructure to staff for following up.

Action: Staff to follow up with relevant Council sections to provide responses to the questions/concerns raised by Terrigal Haven Supporters Group.

Staff advised a report on the initial outcomes of the Audit is going to the 22 July 2019 Council meeting.

Action: Report going to 22 July 2019 Council meeting to be circulated to Sub-Committee members once Business Paper is published.

Action: Sub-Committee members to forward any concerns on the 22 July 2019 Council report to Advisory Group Support Officers for collating in preparation for next Sub-Committee meeting.

It was noted that staff are continuing to investigate large dry weather events, particularly following periods of high visitor numbers (eg. long weekends and public holidays).

Jaimie Potts (Office of Environment and Heritage) confirmed that OEH completes offshore sampling to complement Council's sampling, and that a control site exists at North Avoca. OEH are preparing a report which will be provided to Council by August.

Action: OEH report to be circulated to Sub-Committee members once received in preparation for next Sub-Committee meeting.

Staff advised there is a Communications strategy underway to help educate the public as there is currently a lot of misinformation being circulated. Furthermore, signs will be erected at the seven drains site in Terrigal to direct people where to access information on water quality.

Item 6 General Business and Close

Action: Further information on stormwater harvesting to be provided at next meeting.

Action: Update from OEH regarding water testing to be provided at next meeting.

Action: Update from Melanie James (Waterways Officer) to be provided at next meeting.

Action: Staff to investigate aligning meeting schedule with reoccurring Council reports.

The meeting closed at 5.31pm

Next Meeting: **Thursday 19 September 2019**
 4pm – 5pm
 Central Coast Council Gosford Office
 Level 1 Committee Room