

# Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee Meeting Record 25 August 2020



Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Date:	25 August 2020	
Time	Started at: 4.11pm	Closed at: 5.15pm
Chair	Councillor Jane Smith	
File Ref	F2018/00097	

## **Present:**

Councillor Jane Smith, Troy Gaston – University of Newcastle, Petra Horwood – Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Colin Johnson – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Neil Kelleher – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (left 5.03pm), Laurie Lewington – Terrigal Sea Urchins, David Mylan – Terrigal Haven Supporters Group, Jaimie Potts – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Peter Scanes – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Samantha Willis – Central Coast Waterwatch

## **Catchments and Coast Committee Members present:**

Andrew Johns

## **Council Staff present:**

Luke Sulkowski – Unit Manager Environmental Management, Ben Fullagar – Section Manager Catchments to Coast, Vanessa McCann – Team Leader Estuary Management, Warren Brown – Senior Estuary Management Officer, Kellie Langford – Senior Coastal Management Officer, Melanie James – Waterways Officer, Arun Looman – Environmental Monitoring Officer, Kristy McQueen – Estuary Management Officer, Zoie Magann – Advisory Group Support Officer

## **Item 1 Welcome, Acknowledgment of Country and Apologies**

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Apologies received: Councillor Jeff Sundstrom

Councillor Jane Smith declared the meeting open and completed an Acknowledgement of Country and Connection to Land statement.

## **Item 2 Disclosures of Interest**

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No disclosures were made.

### **Item 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Record**

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The Sub-Committee reviewed the Meeting Record from 20 May 2020.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the Action Log, noting there are no outstanding actions.

### **Item 4 Update from State Government**

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Colin Johnson (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - DPIE) provided an update on the State Government's involvement in the Terrigal Water Quality Audit.

The following key points were noted:

- Audit is still in Phase 2: Major investigations and cost benefit analysis.
- Multiple reports have been completed in partnership between DPIE, Council and UTS – release dates are yet to be confirmed. The only report released to date is [Microbial source-tracking in NSW coastal habitats \(UTS technical report\)](#).
- The major findings of above report address key questions generated by Audit:
  - Source of enterococci levels are largely human, with limited markers of dog and bird.
  - Water quality is typically good in swimming waters in dry weather.
  - Flowing stormwater from the 7 drains are major entry point for sewage contamination, as well as lagoon when opened following/during rain (note: this report pre-dates remedial work for sewer infrastructure that has since been completed in catchment)
  - In wet weather the sewage signature in stormwater outlets increased and was detectable in adjacent swimming waters and in Terrigal lagoon outflow.
  - Enterococci levels decrease within 3 days following rain.
- Circulation model developed shows that low wave energy and low current speed in the Haven allows fine particles to accumulate on the seabed until removed by big seas.
- Water clarity/turbidity is also being examined. There are two identified causes of turbidity – microalgae and sediments.
- Sediment survey completed to check if pollution is accumulating in sediments – no evidence of harmful contaminants found.
- A summary report is being prepared for community information which will provide brief history of water quality issues, explain when and where water quality is poor, and identify causes of microbial pollution and any other pollution.

### **Item 5 Update on Terrigal Water Quality Audit Program**

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Melanie James (Waterways Officer) provided a recap and update on the Terrigal Water Quality Audit Program and Council's involvement to date.

The following key points were noted:

- There has been significant progress made on sewer network remediation works. Details will be included in the next Audit report in November 2020, but is currently confidential. Noted that stormwater investigations are complex and take time to complete.
- The Audit program is fully funded, and infrastructure issues will be fixed by Council. Additional budget is managed by the NSW Government as part of the partnership investigations.

- Staff reviewed the suggestions made by Terrigal Haven Supporters with regard to opportunities for engagement with the community – responses were provided back to David and Petra with thanks for their ideas.
- The [social pinpoint map](#) continues to be updated, as does the engagement page for the Audit: [www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/tcla](http://www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/tcla)
- There has been a change in project management for the Audit. An Environmental Monitoring Officer (Arun Looman) has been engaged to address the water quality and reporting aspects, and will work with Water and Sewer who are doing the Project Management component.

The Sub-Committee thanked Council staff and the DPIE representatives for their ongoing efforts with the Audit. Councillor Jane Smith also thanked the community members for their interest in improving water quality in Terrigal and working with stakeholders.

## **Item 6                    General Business and Close**

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a) The Sub-Committee noted the below resolutions from the Council Meeting held 27 July 2020:

*702/20                    That Council extend the tenure of the Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee to the end of July 2021, with the next meeting to be scheduled for August 2020.*

*703/20                    That the frequency of future meetings be further discussed at the August 2020 meeting of the Terrigal Water Quality Sub-Committee, and that discussions consider that the frequency of the meeting be changed to twice yearly to align with the twice-yearly report on the audit that is prepared by Council staff.*

The Sub-Committee confirmed they are happy to move to twice-yearly meetings to align with the audit reports as proposed by Resolution 703/20, noting the next meeting would be November 2020 and then May 2021.

b) Petra Horwood noted she is involved in a project to reduce plastic in waterways, with regard to the use of single use coffee cups by businesses in Terrigal (reusable cups no longer in use due to COVID-19). Petra will discuss this matter offline with Councillor Jane Smith as it is not related to work of the Sub-Committee.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm

**Next Meetings:            24 November 2020**  
**4pm – 5pm**  
**Location TBC**

**May 2021 (TBC)**  
**4pm – 5pm**  
**Location TBC**