



Lake Illawarra
ESTUARY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

MEETING HELD
5.30PM WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2020
WCC Hosted via Skype

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Cath Blakey (WCC)	Councillor Dom Figliomeni (WCC)
Annie Marlow (Community Representative)	Councillor John Murray (SCC)
John Davey (Community Representative)	Councillor Ann Martin (WCC)
Col Wilton (Community Representative)	Andrew Monk (Roads & Maritime Services)
Danny Wiecek (DPIE - Environment)	Kerrylee Rogers (UOW)
Carla Ganassin (Fisheries)	Paul Knight (ILALC)
Graham Towers (DPIE - Planning)	

IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Lee (SCC)	Mark Roebuck (WWC)
Philomena Gangaiya (WCC)	Sasho Srbnovski (WCC)
David Fitzgibbon (WCC)	Wayde Peterson (SCC)
Renee Winsor (WCC)	Jessica Faustini (WCC)
Grant Meredith (SCC)	Dieter Jabs (WCC)
Andrew Sunny (WCC)	Chris Stewart (WCC)

ITEM 1 - WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed committee members and thanked them for their attendance. Apologies to those having technical difficulties.

ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf Deon Voyer, Jay Runming and Jodi Edwards.

ITEM 3 - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the Land.

ITEM 4 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interests were declared.

ITEM 5 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 FEB 2020 AND BUSINESS ARISING

1. Recommendation: The minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee meeting held on 26 FEB 2020 be endorsed as accurate.

MOVED: John Davey

SECONDED: Councillor Ann Martin

ALL IN FAVOUR

Business Arising: No business arising.

ITEM 6 CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Items received: Letters of support for CMP addressed in Project officer update.

Items sent: Draft CMP sent to Minister.

2. Recommendation: Correspondence in and out is acknowledged by the LIEMC.

MOVED: Cr Dom Figliomeni

SECONDED: Cr John Murray

ALL IN FAVOUR

ITEM 7 REZONING APPLICATIONS – LAKE CATCHMENT AND FORESHORE

Grant Meredith (SCC) spoke to the report at attachment two with no reports to table.

Chris Stewart (WCC) spoke to the report at attachment one. As per the LIEMC's request at a prior meeting Council is trying to provide more information on West Dapto Planning Proposals, Neighbourhood Plans and DA's. No changes to Planning Proposals since last meeting. Neighbourhood planning – There must be a neighbourhood plan in place before DA's can be approved. Council adopted a Neighbourhood Plan for Haynes Lane precinct. A Neighbourhood Plan has been received for Stage 5 near Marshall Mount. DA's have been a little quiet, but Council is well placed in approvals.

No questions.

ITEM 11 MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS – COUNCIL BASED - UPDATE

Mark Roebuck, Manager Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning WCC tabled the report at attachment four and was not asked any questions by the Committee.

There are approx. 20 projects described in the attachment covering broad range of programs adjacent to the lake including road resurfacing works, new footpaths, shared paths around the lake, carpark, draining, etc. There will be an exhibition in early June / July of the draft Operational Plan and Delivery Program and WCC welcomes feedback from LIEMC members.

Cr Ann Martin alerted the Committee to the stormwater section of the attachment and mentioned that there are several items in there including a couple of GPT's related to the lake.

Wayde Peterson, Group Manager Asset Strategy SCC tabled the report at attachment three and was not asked any questions by the Committee.

Exhibition has closed for the SCC Operational Plan, but comments and feedback are still welcome. Cr Ann Martin asked if there was anything in it that referenced the lake directly. There are several GPT's being refurbished around the lake.

Cr Blakey asked the location of the GPT refurbishment. Wayde will provide exact locations back.

ITEM 8 PRESENTATION – Water Quality

Philomena Gangaiya presented attachment five, the monitoring report on Water Quality. Monitoring has been carried out By WCC since October 2013 with funding support from SCC and NSW Government. In previous reports the trends have been similar so this year it is just a summary report looking at the most important parameters – ecosystem health and recreational health.

Estuary health shows similar patterns to past reports, showing the lake extremes have poorer water quality. There is also higher concentrations of chlorophyll and nutrients in summer than in the cooler months. Water quality seems to have improved compared to previous years, but this can be attributed to drought / less catchment runoff entering the lake. Last summer was driest of last 10 years so even though the water quality appears to have improved this is just because there is less runoff from the catchment in the lake.

Recreational health – this is the first time the lake has been monitored for recreational health. Three sites were monitored Kanahooka, Purry Burry and Skiway Park. Tests were done for primary contact (risk of ingesting while swimming) and secondary contact (risk of contact while boating etc). Most of the 22 occasions were pretty good being higher than 60%, this is also a correlation with the rainfall.

We must look at it in more average rainfall to understand the real status of the lake. Ongoing testing will show whether the CMP is making a real difference to the lake condition. Recommend monitoring continue.

Questions

Cr Ann Martin – Are the Councils covering the monitoring cost?

PG: No state funding in the last year or so, only councils funding it. We applied for a grant but it wasn't successful.

Danny Wiecek commented that the grant couldn't be funded due to the CMP not being certified yet. We were hopeful with the plan so close they would put on a reserve list but that didn't happen. We should have a good chance next time

Cr Cath Blakey with a question for Danny Wiecek - If there were no CMP's certified did they give out any funding?

DW: Yes, to the previous CZMP's that were certified. WCC has one for open coast but not the lake.

Cr Dom Figliomeni – Thanks Philomena, is there any work that monitors sand build up around Reddall Park / Windang or anything to see if there's a problem with sand drift?

PG: No work done as part of this project but there is an action in the CMP to undertake regular bathymetry to see what the changes are to the lakebed. That was one of the other unsuccessful grant applications from last year.

Cr Figliomeni –Do we have any historic data on the lake depths around there?

Danny Wiecek – Yes, we a few recent surveys and there has been a lot of sand build up, so we have surveys that show the changes where it's scouring and where it's building up.

Kerrylee Rogers - There has been some work with UOW students on this. Sediment is moving all the time and it is difficult to monitor changes over time.

Cr Figliomeni – Unusual that there are no trends.

KR – Rates of accretion change and we can't assume that a place will always accumulate sediment because conditions change – shifts everything.

Cr Cath Blakey – Do the residents get this water quality information?

Cr Ann Martin – This would be good to inform residents about what is going on and maybe we can send out a little snapshot to them about it.

LIEMC agree it's a good idea.

Col Wilton – Philomena, you might want to look at water quality in the swimming lagoon of Reddall Parade. The water isn't circulating there and gets very stagnant.

PG – There is not testing as a part of this program, but it is being tested under beachwatch – lagoon beach. Check the [Beachwatch website](#).

Cr Cath Blakey – Is that testing done using a smart meter?

PG – No collection of a discrete sample and tested in the lab. This is the only way to test for E. coli.

John Davey - Why is middle of the lake still low when extremes are better.

PG - The greatest impact on the catchment is at the extremes so they will improve more.

John Davey – Why is the water quality in the centre of the lake lower now than from a couple of years ago?

PG – It depends on a range, so it is up to slight differences and there isn't much difference between good and very good.

ITEM 10 UPDATE - WINDANG BRIDGE

Andrew Monk, Corridor Maintenance Planner, RMS reports that things are not going too badly. RMS have been assessing short- and medium-term options internally and working with MHL. This stage is ending, and the options will go for internal review and then go to the interagency working group. From there it will go to public consultation. Continuing to monitor scour under the bridge, some scour occurring but at a slower rate than earlier. Reduced scour may well be as a result of the drought reducing outflow through the lake.

Questions

Cr Cath Blakey – Do you have a rough timeline?

AM: No not at this stage.

ITEM 8 PRESENTATION – Mangroves

Carla Ganassin and Danny Wiecek update the LIEMC on mangrove monitoring in line with one of the CMP actions.

Background – There were only a couple of mangroves in the lake prior to 2007. Mapped mangrove extent again in 2016 with uni student. A big chunk mapped in Duck Creek and the Entrance Channel. There has been concern about mangrove expansion and impacts of this on saltmarsh. What's driving the change - Bigger and constant tidal range is creating a good environment for mangroves.

Aerial photos from 2008 and 2017 show we have lost a lot of saltmarsh and have extensive mangroves and mudflats. Tidal range has created water levels too great for SM and mangroves are thriving.

What's the impact on the whole lake - Prioritisation map created and shows where mangroves may grow and where we want to save saltmarsh.

At this point in the presentation Danny Wiecek dropped out and it was suggested we hold this item over until the next meeting.

ITEM 12 LAKE ILLAWARRA OFFICER'S REPORT

Renee Winsor, Environment Planning Manager, WCC spoke to the report as outlined in the Business Paper. Further discussions were held regarding:

- Draft CMP has been submitted for certification – very exciting.
- Pleased to get almost every agency with a supporting letter but still waiting on ILALC and Sydney Water.
- SCC Council adopted draft CMP two weeks ago.
- A couple of media articles were released to complement the endorsement.
- Projects – Natural area projects and grants kicking on.
- Jess Faustini is doing the role of Lake Illawarra Project Manager for now.
- Both Councils still working on MOU regarding the delivery of the CMP – both in agreeance for stakeholder input and will be negotiating TOR and resourcing.

- 8-page glossy for the CMP, presenting a draft “snapshot” will circulate it for the information of the LIEMC. It will be the digestible information for the community at large who don't want to look at the document.

3. Recommendation: That all reports presented during the meeting are received by the LIEMC.

MOVED: Cr Ann Martin

SECONDED: John Davey

ALL IN FAVOUR

ITEM 14 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

Carla Ganassin – Cockles bag limit reduction still going through sign off.

Danny Wiecek – Looking at doing a case study video of Lake Illawarra for other councils to understand range of impacts of opening an estuary with breakwalls. DPIE get a lot of pressure to open other estuaries so want to make a video resource. John Davey and local fisher Barry Ash has contributed.

Question from Cr Cath Blakey – Will this video reveal the bridge cost?

DW – Yes whatever is in the public domain will be highlighted and impacts will be highlighted – had we learned from past issues we may have been more of the front foot. We will try to show that there are many aspects to be considered.

Jess Faustini – Thanks for having me back.

Annie Marlow (received via email after the meeting) – Dear LIEMC, I was looking forward to at least seeing all your lovely faces & hearing your voices at last night's meeting, but I couldn't make the connection work. I did hear a lot through my phone but frustrating when I couldn't properly join in. Jess has kindly offered to include this comment in the minutes.

The Lake's CMP process has been fraught by delays. I thought it had been sent to the Minister weeks ago & have been getting very toey that we hadn't heard from his office. I hadn't realised Shellharbour had postponed its April Council meeting where they were to approve it.

There have been so many delays in getting this plan into operation. What was to be a 3-year process turned into 5 because of a forced delay by state govt & a couple of hiccups by the consultants. Prior there was that dreadful 18 month hiatus when the Lake was in limbo as Council agonised how to manage it after the State govt handed that big responsibility from the LIA to the LGAs with none of the funding. To date there has been 7 years of no proper funding for the Lake & this at a time when its good health has never been under greater stressors coming from the huge urban expansion in its catchment & the changes from permanently opening the entrance. I would urge the 2 agencies that as of last night hadn't sent their letters of support for the draft CMP to Jess, to please, please do so, so she is able to send them onto the Minister's office. When we are dealing with LIEMC business I really hope we are all able to keep in mind that the Lake has been on very lean funding for a long, long time & a certified CMP is the only way to address the shortfall. Many thanks, Annie

Cr Cath Blakey – Attended a presentation on smart meters the other day and how they are using them at another ICOLL to look at the beach berm interface.

Mark Roebuck speaking to it – it's a LiDAR camera used at Puckey's and Shoalhaven Heads with the project being a collaboration between ISJO Councils, private investors and UOW. It aims to use LiDAR to predict when the OCOLL should be opened to prevent flooding during a rain event.

Cr Blakey also asked if there were any budget spikes coming to the end of the financial year for bush regeneration works. This question was taken on notice.

Jessica Faustini has since followed up with Matt Watts, WCC Natural Areas Officer regarding budgets and he has confirmed that there is no budget left over for any extra works. The Natural Areas budget for all of Wollongong is roughly only \$350,000 for the whole LGA and while this is supplemented with budget from Stormwater to manage problem creek lines they are still in need of extra funds. Lack of budget has been identified as an issue and will be addressed by the Open Space and Environmental Services Manager.

Cr Dom Figliomeni – I would like to understand state of the assets on the lake i.e. jetties. Some community concern on whats happening with those assets.

Cr Ann Martin comments that yes this is an ongoing issue within WCC because Crown assets haven't been accepted.

David Fitzgibbon– Good work with the skype meeting.

Graham Towers – The Department is working on a review of the regional plan – in early stages at present. It's not yet clear how it will relate to the lake but will be dealt with through the environment section. Exhibition occurs later in the year.

Cr Ann Martin remarked that it's time to start to think about cultural heritage around the lake and indigenous elements in the regional plan.

John Davey – The monthly lake walks have been on hold and John would like to note that he'd like them reimplemented when possible. He would also like to see update on the entrance channel.

Mark Roebuck – Speaking to the lake entrance works; WCC have a contract in place with a provider and it has been on hold due to a scope review. WCC are relooking at the scope to ensure we are getting value. The multi-agency group meeting is on Friday and they will redefine the scope with all parties present. There should be an update next meeting.

John Davey asks are we still putting plastic beads in or has that been put to bed?

MR – yes that has been put to bed and will no longer include tracer study.

Paul Knight – ILALC is working on Blue Futures with UOW. The area around the lake is being considered but isn't defined. Blue futures are looking at 3 areas with an indigenous overlay over all three. First is an arts-based project focussed on people value our water and focus around the lake. How the lake makes people feel, throw indigenous values into eq and cultural views and get wider community to reflect. 2nd governance and policies and 3rd data collections. Can see it on UOW website.

Philomena – report attachment is still in draft and people can make comments directly to PG. Ann would be helpful if we can pull out user friendly format to go to NF meetings and talk to the report.

Wayde Peterson– Would like to respond to the asset condition comments from Cr Figliomeni. SCC just finished public exhibition of their asset management plan which has assessed the condition of assets around the lake. Wayde will provide the asset condition report to the LIEMC.

Col Wilton – Would like to know where WCC is up to with the Around the Lake Shared Path. Cr Martin says there is a strategic study to look at the potential for works required to finish the link around the lake. Jess Faustini will catch up with staff an organise an update.

Cr Ann Martin – Have been having conversations around ongoing issues at Tallawarra regarding lake foreshore maintenance, cycleways and the closed bridge. Asks if we should invite someone from Tallawarra to the committee. They are wanting to engage a little more within the community. Would also like to thank Dieter and Andrew for helping us at this meeting and well done to everyone.

Chris Stewart – Asking Graham Towers to confirm timing on engagement portal for the Regional Plan. David mentioned that timing is unsure at the moment and he will update us at various meetings.

ITEM 15 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ITEM 16 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held 19 August 2020.

ITEM 17 CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 6:57 pm.

Action Summary

Item	Action	Officer	Status
	Keep the LIEMC informed re stakeholder meeting to discuss entrance channel project.	AH	Ongoing
	Carla and Danny to present on Mangroves next meeting	CG & DW	Held over – technical issues
	Kristy to liaise with both Councils re improved Planning reporting	JF	In prog
	Cr Dom Figliomeni to send photos of Northcliffe Drive pollution incident to Kristy	DF	
	Annie Marlow to discuss Hooka Point scum with Kristy	AM	Complete
11	Wayde to provide additional information on what GPT's are planned to be refurbished under Councils 2020/21 proposed Capital Works program and information on the assessed condition of Lake Illawarra assets included in Council's Asset Management Plan	WP	Complete – presenting August 2020
11	Details on locations of stormwater assets being upgraded	AH	
14	Provide a presentation on smart sensors being used in estuaries such as Fairy Creek	AH	Held over