

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2023
B1 TRAINING ROOM
SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL



The Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group oversees and where needed, provides advice on the implementation of actions within the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program. The Group acts as a platform for relationship building between all stakeholders, with the shared aspiration to ensure that Lake Illawarra's ecological, social, and economic value is maintained and improved now and into the future.

Item	Subject	Attachment	Time	Presenter
1	Welcome and Introductions		5.30pm	Chair
2	Apologies			Chair
3	Acknowledgement of Country			Chair
4	Declarations of Interest			Chair
5	Confirmation of Minutes	Yes	5:35pm	Chair
6	Project Officer Report and Implementation Plan		5:40pm	Trudy Costa WCC/Allison Broad SCC
7	Presentation – Coastal Conference 2023: Key Learnings for the Lake		6:00pm	WCC/SCC/DPE Staff
8	Presentation – Mangrove Monitoring Update		6:20pm	Daniel Wiecek DPE
9	Discussion – Group Vision Statement		6:40pm	Warren Goodall SCC
10	Presentation – Community Business Compleat Angler Boat Hire and Fishing		6:50pm	Craig Rushby Compleat Angler Illawarra
11	State Government Grants - Upcoming Opportunities		7:00pm	Chair
12	Group Member Updates and Discussion (Round Table)		7.05pm	All
13	Other Business		7:25pm	All
14	Next Meeting			Chair
15	Close		7.30pm	Chair

BUSINESS PAPER

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This Business Paper has been prepared to assist with the running of the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group meeting and provides an outline of the relevant items for discussion.

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ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

This item is a standing Agenda Item. Introductions will be made for new members and staff present.

ITEM 2 APOLOGIES

This item is a standing agenda item.

ITEM 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

This item is a standing agenda item. The Chairperson will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

ITEM 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

This is a standing agenda item to allow for members to declare any conflicts of interest relevant to the agenda and/or generally to the business of the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program Implementation Group.

RECOMMENDATION

That any conflicts of interests in relation to the agenda, or the business of the Committee, be declared and noted in the minutes.

ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

This is a standing Agenda item. The minutes and business arising of the held 23 August 2023 meeting are attached to the meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group meeting held 23 August 2023 are endorsed as accurate.

ATTACHMENTS – Draft Minutes Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group August 2023

ITEM 6 PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee members with an update on current issues and projects relevant to the Committee for information purposes only. These items will generally not require a decision by the Committee but may provide information for future decisions or discussion. There will be time for urgent questions.

1. Update on Review of Terms of Reference

A revised ToR (Attachment 2) to support implementation of the CMP has been developed following a review of the governance structure and effectiveness of the Group. No significant change to membership or operation is proposed. Minor changes have been made to the ToR to provide clarification relating to -

- Responsibilities and function of the Group.

- Composition of the Group.
- The appointment of members.
- Meeting agenda, frequency etc.

The following actions are proposed to address suggestions received by Group members. These actions do not require changes to the ToR.

- Members highlighted the need of the Group to increase communication of information to communities on what is being done to care for the lake. This will be addressed through the development of an online hub as an action in the Lake Illawarra Community Engagement and Participation Strategy.
- Members expressed the desire for additional Group representation to support the social and economic values and implementation of actions of the CMP, particularly Action RA4 - Build on the Tourism opportunities for Lake Illawarra. Destination Wollongong and Tourism Shellharbour will be invited to participate on Project Control Working Groups to implement various actions according to the timeframes of the CMP. Additionally, through the Lake Illawarra Community Engagement and Participation Strategy, community groups and local businesses connected to the lake will be invited to present to the Group during quarterly meetings to foster partnership and communication.

It should be noted that the current membership arrangements for the Group are not affected by the review. As per the revised ToR, an expression of interest process will be used to appoint community and scientific advisors in late 2024. The revised Terms of Reference for the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group (Attachment 2) will be reported to Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council for adoption.

2. Update on overall status of the CMP

Significant progress towards a number of CMP actions was made again this quarter. Three major grant applications have been submitted under the DPE Coasts and Estuaries grant program, the outcome of which will be known later this year. A summary of highlights and achievements is provided below.

Improve litter management for the lake (WQ8)

- Councils' EPA-funded 'Luv the Lake' litter prevention program recently won first place in the 2023 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Award in the Clean Communities category. The project received specific commendation for its strong community outreach with a diverse range of stakeholders (Ozfish, Seabird Rescue, AUSMAP, Bushcare), the range of events that incorporated education on the negative impacts of litter on the environment, incorporation of citizen science and numerous clean-ups.
- A debt of thanks is owed to all Council teams and community groups who contributed to this wonderful result.

Protecting Lake Illawarra through community engagement and participation program (PM3 / EV3)

- As part of year one actions of the Community Engagement and Participation Strategy, Councils have commenced work on the development of the online hub for Lake Illawarra and new educational materials to support Building and Sediment Control compliance activities, as well as completing an AUSMAP microplastics survey in collaboration with community volunteers.
- WCC staff recently presented at an HIA Industry event at Bunnings Warehouse to raise awareness and provide best practice tips to builders and developers on sediment control building sites in the lake catchment. The event was attended by 60 industry partners (WQ5).
- Upcoming events will include a hotspot educational kiosk and a Lake "Walk and Talk".

Develop and implement a fauna management program including shorebirds, fish and other fauna (MF1)

- Councils are working collaboratively with DPI fisheries to investigate options for a survey of recreational cockle fishing in the lake.
- Work has commenced to develop a fauna monitoring program for fish, bird and invertebrate communities inhabiting the lake. The first stage of the program will involve collating literature and data from previous studies to inform the design and locations of future surveys and monitoring.

- Councils are collaborating with community groups to collect past data of bird communities inhabiting the lake's foreshores.

Undertake targeted action to control damage to foreshore and lake vegetation (EV2)

- Grant funding has been sought under the DPE Coasts and Estuaries grant program to protect foreshore protection works at Muddy Bay, Fred Finch Park, Wollamai Point, Purry Burry Park and Korrungulla. It is anticipated that the outcome of the application will be known in December.

Construct new sections of shared pathway to complete the pathway linkage around the Lake (RA2)

- Wollongong City Council intends to use public land along the Lake Illawarra foreshore to create a connected shared path infrastructure which ties into the wider regional cycling and walking network.
- A consultant has been procured to prepare a masterplan for new sections of shared pathway connecting Primbee and Windang, Tallawarra and Haywards Bay, Haywards Bay and Shellharbour and further over Macquarie rivulet. Updates on this project will be presented by Cole Hendrigan from WCC.
- Shellharbour City Council is working with consultants to plan a network of shared boardwalks and pathways to facilitate community access and use of Koonah Bay, while protecting fragile saltmarsh habitats. Plans are being considered under the Active Transport Strategy.

Monitor entrance channel, investigate and finalise options to manage erosion and accretion changes in the entrance channel (EC1/EC4)

- Stage 2 of the Entrance Options study is underway, with detailed concept designs and modelling scenarios being finalised for the five shortlisted options by the Project Control Group and WRL.
- The Preliminary Options Study and Data Compilation reports are in the final stages of completion.
- Aboriginal Engagement has commenced and future community updating will commence according to the communications strategy developed by both Councils.

Rehabilitate vegetation and manage public access along foreshores and banks of the Lake, its tributaries, islands and broader low-lying areas (EV1)

- Work continues on a community grant funded project to restore low-lying saltmarsh vegetation in Burrow Bay-Oak Flats. Work is supported through an Endeavour Energy Community Grant and will support natural rehabilitation to the vegetation and foreshore east of the Jetty. This collaborative project will engage volunteers across organisations with a series of planting 'events' over the next financial year.
- Cockspur's coral seedlings have been reported in very high densities threatening endangered saltmarsh and swamp oak communities around Hooka Pt following heavy rain events in 2022-2023. Council has met with Illawarra District Weeds Authority to discuss the presence of adult plants in Kully Bay and areas around the catchment, and is working to assess risk to Ecological Endangered Communities in priority areas and assess the future management of this issue.

Implement a Risk Based Stormwater Management Framework for the Lake Illawarra Catchment (WQ1)

- WCC and SCC have submitted a grant application to the DPE Coasts and Estuaries grant program for the project "Integrating the outcomes of the Risk Based Framework into Wollongong and Shellharbour's Planning Frameworks". It is anticipated that the outcome of the application will be known in December.

Prepare and implement an estuarine macrophyte mapping and monitoring program (EV4)

- Since the opening of the Lake's entrance in 2007, shifts in the distribution of aquatic macrophytes and other endangered ecological communities have been observed around the lake foreshores.
- DPE and the State Government have conducted monitoring of saltmarsh habitats as part of the CMP to determine the extent of mangrove ingression into high priority areas and assess management implications. An overview of recent survey findings will be presented to the committee.

Implement water quality monitoring programs for estuary health, recreational use and physico-chemical and bacteriological indicators in the Lake and its catchment (WQ7)

- Catchment Health Water Quality Monitoring commenced in December 2021 to provide a detailed snapshot of the condition of waterways in the Lake Illawarra Catchment at sites representative of major

land uses that may influence their ecological condition. A summary report has been received from consultants and the results will be presented to the committee at a future meeting.

- Estuary health monitoring has been continuing every month. Sampling will continue until March 2024, and grant funding has been sought through the DPE Coasts and Estuaries grant program to continue the program for the next three years.
- Over summer monitoring of the Lake will continue as part of Beachwatch program.

ATTACHMENTS – Revised Terms of Reference Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group

ITEM 7 PRESENTATION – COASTAL CONFERENCE 2023: KEY LEARNINGS FOR THE LAKE

Staff from WCC and SCC recently attended the NSW Coastal Conference in Newcastle. This conference brought together over 250 delegates from all aspects of coastal, estuarine and marine management, science and research, and education, planning, policy and law. This item will be a joint presentation from WCC, SCC and DPE staff, who will present an overview of new research relevant to the lake as well as other management learnings.

ITEM 8 PRESENTATION – MANGROVE MONITORING UPDATE

This item will be presented by Daniel Wiecek, Senior Natural Resource Officer – Coast and Estuaries, Department of Planning and Environment. Since the opening of the Lake's entrance in 2007, shifts in the distribution of aquatic macrophytes and other endangered ecological communities have been observed around the lake foreshores. DPE conduct regular monitoring of priority locations to determine will provide an overview of recent survey results showing changes occurring since May 2020.

ITEM 9 DISCUSSION – GROUP VISION STATEMENT

At the August 2023 meeting, Community Representative Warren Goodall raised the inclusion of a vision statement for the committee - *"Our vision for Lake Illawarra is to protect and enhance a diverse ecosystem, recognise our cultural heritage, foster a strong sense of community and encourage economic opportunities."* This item is an opportunity for Group members to discuss and provide feedback on the statement.

ITEM 10 PRESENTATION – COMPLEAT ANGLER ILLAWARRA

The Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group are inviting local business owners and/or or community groups of interest, to present a short 10-minute presentation on their organisation to the Implementation Group to foster the social, economic and sustainable values of associated with Lake Illawarra and to benefit the community. This item will be presented by Craig Rushby, owner of Compleat Angler (Boat Hire and Fishing) Illawarra.

ITEM 11 STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS - UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

This is a standing agenda item to allow for members representing grant funding bodies to provide information on upcoming grant funding opportunities that may be available for the implementation of CMP actions.

ITEM 12 GROUP MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

This item is a standing agenda item. This is a chance for Group members to provide a short update on relevant matters.

ITEM 13 OTHER BUSINESS

This item is a standing agenda item. It is an opportunity for any member to raise business directly relating to the functions of the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group.

ITEM 14 NEXT MEETING

This item is a standing agenda item. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm Wednesday, 21 February 2024.

ITEM 15 CLOSE
