

MINUTES

LAKE ILLAWARRA CMP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP 24 MAY 2023



MEMBERS PRESENT	
Cr Ann Martin, WCC, Chair	Chris Stewart, WCC staff
Cr Linda Campbell, WCC	Isabelle Ghetti, WCC staff
Cr Elisha Aitken, WCC	Trudy Costa, WCC staff
Mayor Chris Homer, SCC	Allison Broad, SCC staff
Cr John Davey, SCC	Ellen Dreghorn, WCC staff
Cr Lou Stefanovksi, SCC	Sarah Payne, WCC staff
Jessica Lintern, SCC	Jess Whittaker, WCC Community rep
Nathan Harrison, Sydney Water	Colin La Flamme, WCC Community rep
Matthew Taylor, DPI Fisheries	Jack Brooks, Brooks Community Engagement
Rowan Chick, DPI Fisheries	Lance Brooks, Brooks Community Engagement
Carla Ganassin, DPI Fisheries	Warren Goodall, SCC Community rep
Aara Wells, ILALC	Sharon Tomamichel, SCC Community rep
Brian Jones, UOW	Geoff Murphy, DPI Fisheries

Online Attendance	
Danny Wiecek, DPE	Jeremy Morgan, WCC
Matthew Apolo, SCC	Peter Hawkins, TfNSW
Graham Towers, DPE	Helen Wheeler, DPE Crown Lands
Emily Messer, DPI Fisheries	

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ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and members introduced themselves.

ITEM 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of –

- Mike Archer

ITEM 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and thanked Elders, past, present and emerging for their care of Country, recognising that this land has never been ceded, and always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

ITEM 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest declared.

ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

The Minutes from 15 February 2023 were received and accepted.

MOVED by Warren Goodall SECONDED by Mayor Chris Homer.

ITEM 6 PRESENTATION / REPORT – PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

Project Officers from Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council thanked Brooks Community Engagement for their time and effort in their research and engagement with the community and stakeholders, and all members of the Implementation Group for their participation in the project.

Members were provided with an overview of CMP projects as follows:

- The 12-month period for the Terms of Reference for the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group were to be reviewed and a draft copy with proposed amendments had been distributed to members together with a survey regarding the operation and membership of the group. It would be appreciated that any feedback be provided to Trudy Costa by 7 June 2023.
- Members and volunteers were encouraged to continue with the Lake Walks as a way to informally discuss CMP implementation around the Lake.

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- An update was provided on the funded EPA litter prevention program that has focused on six hotspot sites around the lake. Techniques used were additional promotional signage, the implementation of increased larger scale clean-ups as well as education and enforcement activities showing successful results. Members were also reminded of the upcoming Litter Clean-up event on 3 June 2023.
- Further fieldwork will be completed by Hydrographic and Cadastral Pty Ltd consultant to survey shallow areas of the Lake's perimeter to complete the Bathymetric Survey. Once complete, this data will be compared to past mapping surveys to analyse changes in the depth of the Lake over time.

Implementation Group Feedback

- There is a need to clean up areas with low access / visibility (i.e. northern shore of Koona Bay, back of Bevan's Island etc).
- The importance of seagrass as habitat was discussed. Gradual removal with minimal disturbance to the seagrass base is required.

(Attachment 1)

ITEM 7 PRESENTATION / REPORT – NSW FISHERIES FRDC ESTUARINE COCKLE PROJECT

The Department of Primary Industries Research Scientist provided an overview of the current known biology of the estuarine cockle species *Anadara trapezia* that inhabits the lake. They have a new project funded with objectives to collect data on population growth, their environment and harvesting to run an ecological Risk assessment. Information regarding the designation of commercial catch quotas can be accessed via NSW DPI website at [Total Allowable Catch Determination - NSW Estuary General Hand Gathering Fishery](#)

Implementation Group Feedback

- Establishment of the species quota was discussed. Fisheries engage an independent body to determine the quota. The decision is available in a public report.
- The likely impacts (positive and negative) upon the species from opening of the Lake entrance was discussed.
- Compliance Team patrols are based upon a risk based matrix. Operation 'Stingray' has resulted in significant enforcement action. A reduction in illegal activity has been witnessed.
- Fisheries confirmed that the species can collect contaminants (heavy metals) similar to oysters.

(Attachment 2)

ITEM 8 PRESENTATION / REPORT – NSW MARINE DOMESTIC WATERFRONT STRUCTURE STRATEGY

A representative from the Department Primary Industry of Fisheries provided an update on the Domestic Waterfront Structure Strategy – Landowner's consent. The aim of the initiative is to develop an estuary-wide strategy for infrastructure such as jetties, pontoons and boat ramps to streamline and integrate assessment processes of new domestic waterfront structures to reduce the cumulative threats and risks to the marine estate associated with these types of development. In particular, the strategy identifies the suitability of waterfront lots for landowner's consent. Once finalised, the Strategy will be sent to the Marine Advisory Steering Committee.

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The ILALC representative offered to provide advice as to cultural heritage matters within the Lake.

Implementation Group Feedback

- It was established that the Strategy applies to licence renewal and new structures.
- An illegal construction activity should be reported to Council. Any adverse environmental impact from illegal works should be reported to Fisheries. A compliance program is currently underway in NSW.
- The social, environmental and economic approach used to develop this Strategy to be considered when developing future management strategies for the Lake.
- It was confirmed that impact upon Aboriginal heritage is a consideration if and when a Development Application is lodged. The Strategy relates to whether Crown Land give consent to the lodging of the application.

(Attachment 3)

ITEM 9 PRESENTATION / REPORT – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION DRAFT STRATEGY

Brooks Engagement provided a presentation to the group on methods and research used to develop a set of twelve initiatives and strategies. These included engagement with the community by means of signage, education, volunteer participation and promoted events.

A Community Engagement and Participation Strategy will be delivered by 30 June 2023.

Implementation Group Feedback

- Water quality and reduced litter were strong themes that emerged from the community engagement, as was the need to promote cultural heritage.
- General discussion was held around the vision and objectives contained on Page 9 of the CMP.
- It was confirmed that assessing the reduction in sediment is both difficult and outside the scope of the Community Engagement Strategy.
- The Group felt that more brochures would be beneficial in terms of community education.
- The Group feel that there has been a shift in the community's sentiment towards the Lake.

(Attachment 4)

ITEM 10 STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS – UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Ozfish are applying for funds to complete saltmarsh restoration works at Burroo Bay in partnership with SCC through the Endeavour Energy Community Grants Program.

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ITEM 11 GROUP MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

- *TfNSW*

The Windang bridge; pile repairs and the addition of cathodic protection had commenced with the site team utilising the site compound for the remainder of the rock protection 2/3 (16,000 tonnes). TfNSW closed tenders early this year but there was an unexpected response from the tender and TfNSW are now reviewing the stabilisation methodology prior to proceeding with the work.

- *DPE – Crown Lands*

In addition to maintenance work or removal being done on the Jetties around the lake, and the Master Planning for Berkeley Boat harbour, Crown Lands Built Assets team is compiling a register of CL managed built assets around the lake for prioritised asset condition assessments. This is part of developing a Total Asset Management Strategy (TAMS) in accordance with the Industry Capital Works framework. This work includes developing an assets database to capture all relevant information.

- *Cr Campbell*

The new minister has met on the King Street land with Paul Scully, the Member for Wollongong and confirmed that the process of a non-sale Expression of Interest has been halted and they are commencing the Master Planning process for that particular site that will remain in public partnership.

- *Community Member WCC*

Cockspur Coral is an ongoing issue with seedlings establishing on the foreshore at Hooka Point.

- *Environmental Manager SCC*

Works scheduled at the Lake Foreshore at Reddall Reserve include the promenade, damaged amenities at the southern carpark and replacement of the picnic shelter next to the kiosk. The kiosk is at the concept design stage and the art trail media release to take place on 29 May 2023.

West of Shellharbour Road the replacement of the culvert opposite the primary school is now complete with Boonerah Point amenities works underway and Cec Glenholmes amenities forecasted.

A number of works have been completed at Oak Flats/Albion Park Rail including replacement of pipes, the Central Park amenities and club refurbishment at Deakin Reserve. The repair/replacement of the Oaky Bridge Wingwall is forecast for the delivery in 2024. Grant applications are being submitted for delivery of the shared path at Shearwater Boulevard.

ITEM 12 OTHER BUSINESS

Love the Lake Event is to take place on 3 June 2023.

WCC are currently looking at extending the bike path along the Lake foreshore.

ITEM 13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Implementation Group is scheduled to be held on 23 August 2023 at Shellharbour City Council.

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ITEM 14 CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
8		T C/A B	
9	Community Engagement & Participation Strategy to be delivered by 30 June 2023	Brooks Engagement	
9	Send the gazetted Lake Illawarra CMP for members to refamiliarise themselves with its Strategy Statement and Objectives (section 1.5). Discuss those at the next meeting of the Lake Illawarra CMP and how they guide our approach to the management mangroves.	T C	
11	Discuss with Natural Area teams concerns regarding Cockspur Coral establishing at Hooka Point.	T C	
12	WCC Manager Infrastructure Strategy & Planning to provide update of assets at next meeting	J M	