

# MINUTES

## LAKE ILLAWARRA CMP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

15 FEBRUARY 2023



### MEMBERS PRESENT

Cr Ann Martin, WCC, Chair	Jeremy Morgan, WCC staff
Cr Elisha Aitken, WCC	Chris Stewart, WCC staff
Mayor Chris Homer, SCC	Matthew Apolo, SCC staff
Cr John Davey, SCC	Allison Broad, SCC staff
Carla Ganassin, DPI Fisheries	Jessica Lintern, SCC staff
Warren Goodall, SCC Community rep	Lusiana Vulatha, SCC staff
Colin La Flamme, WCC Community rep	Martine Fraser, WCC staff
Jess Whittaker, WCC Community rep	Trudy Costa, WCC staff
Morgan Brading, NPWS	Jack Brooks Brooks Community Engagement Pty Ltd
Daniel Wiecek, DPE	Lance Brooks Brooks Community Engagement Pty Ltd
Peter Hawkins, TfNSW	

### Online Attendance

Malcolm Robertson, Crown Lands	
Graham Towers, DPE	
Helen Wheeler, Crown Lands	

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### ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed Committee Members, and thanked all present for their attendance.

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### ITEM 2 APOLOGIES

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Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of –

- Cr Lou Stefanovski
- Michelle Olsen
- Brian Jones
- Mike Archer
- Cr Linda Campbell
- Sharon Tomamichel

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### ITEM 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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The Chair acknowledged traditional owners of the land and thanked elders, past, present and emerging for their care of Country and of that this land has never been ceded, always was and always will be.

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### ITEM 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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There were no Declarations of Interest. The Chair reminded group members of the agreed Code of Conduct for the group.

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### ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

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The Minutes from 19 October 2022 were received and accepted.  
MOVED by Cr Elisha Aitken, SECONDED by Morgan Brading.

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### ITEM 6 PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

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Trudy Costa, WCC Environmental Project Officer - Lake Illawarra, introduced herself to the group and spoke to her presentation providing committee members with an update on current activities and issues concerning CMP projects, including the upcoming twelve-month review of the Terms of Reference of the Implementation Group. Group members were informed that a survey would be circulated for them to complete that would inform the evaluation and review.

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Information in the report was received and noted by committee members. A copy of the presentation has been included as an attachment to the Minutes (Attachment 1). Feedback and questions were discussed and noted as follows:

- In addition to new sections of Shared Pathway being considered between by WCC, Shellharbour Council has planned works on a new section in the Koono Bay Area along Shearwater Dr.
- As part of proposed foreshore remedial works at Windang, (referred to in agenda Item 8) Crown Lands have mapped a pedestrian pathway. The committee agreed a shared pathway around the Caravan Park would greatly benefit the community.
- It was suggested that Lake walks around the foreshore be reinstated for committee members.
- It was highlighted that litter is accumulating in low lying tidal areas along some sections of the southern foreshore. These sites can be reported to the Project Officer to be actioned by future community and council cleanup efforts.
- Clean Up Australia Day activities have been planned by NPWS at Berkeley Nature reserve, with opportunities for committee members to be involved.

### ITEM 7 PRESENTATION / WORKSHOP – CMP ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

This Item was presented by Jack Brooks and his colleague, Lance Brooks, from Brooks Community Engagement Pty Ltd. Brooks introduced their company and gave an overview of their approach to building successful community partnerships. They presented a number of successful case studies and discussed potential strategies that could be used to engage members and user groups from the Lake Illawarra Community, including hotspot kiosks in high pedestrian traffic areas.

Information in the presentation was adopted and noted by committee members. A copy of the presentation has been included as an attachment to the Minutes (Attachment 2). Suggestions from the group were received as follows:

- The location of the hotspot kiosks should be positioned to allow engagement with users of the Lake at boat ramps, at children's parks and along walking paths, but also look to connect with stakeholders that were not regular users of the lake. Seeking input from locals, business owners and visitor groups would be most valuable.
- There has been a history of proactive and creative community engagement and events held around Lake Illawarra e.g. Southside festival. These could inspire future activities.
- Educational and engagement campaigns should address specific threats to the Lake, including entrance problems, loss of shorebird habitat, mangrove growth, the accretion of the sandbank around Bevans Island and commercial fishing.
- Networks within the room could be utilized to contact ILALC in regard to engaging the Aboriginal Community and seeking input from Traditional Owners.
- The combined expertise and knowledge of committee members should be used to inform development of strategies. Committee members can assist by completing a follow-up feedback survey and working closely with Jack and Lance as they progress their proposed strategies.

### ITEM 8 REPORT – UPDATE ON BANK EROSION AT WINDANG ENTRANCE

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Trudy Costa, WCC Environmental Project Officer – Lake Illawarra, introduced the Notice of Motion adopted by WCC on 28 November 2022 in response to erosion and changes to the Entrance Channel and Foreshore areas (attachment Report on Windang NoM to February 2023 IG meeting). A copy of the presentation has been included as an attachment to the Minutes (Attachment 3).

Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy WCC, provided a summary of the NoM and remedial actions taken by Council and State agencies. The key recommendation of the report was that a presentation on the Entrance Options Study be provided to a future meeting of the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group.

Information in the presentation was adopted and noted by committee members. Feedback and information from the group was noted as follows:

- Some jetties within the Lake have been identified by Crown Lands for repair or replacement, however replacement of jetties at Windang is not sustainable at this stage given the state of the entrance channel and the existing erosive forces.
- Community members are being encouraged not to swim anywhere East of the Windang Bridge due to dangerous conditions.
- Long and short term options are being considered in the Entrance Study for slowing down the flow of the incoming tidal currents.
- Safe swimming areas are accessible on the southern side of the Lake around Reddall Reserve. The feasibility of creating additional sites on the northern side will be considered.
- The community will be kept informed of the progression of the Entrance Channel study via several communication platforms.

### ITEM 9 PRESENTATION – DREDGING FEASIBILITY

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Matthew Apolo, Group Manager Built and Natural Environment – Shellharbour City Council, advised that enquires around broader scale dredging feasibility were ongoing, with information from key State agencies being pursued. Shellharbour Council had reconsidered some of its goals of dredging and is now considering small discrete projects that would improve navigation to deeper parts of the lake, and actionable under RA5 of the CMP rather than RA6. A future report would be provided to inform committee members where action on RA6 may fit into the overall CMP delivery program.

Information in the presentation was adopted and noted by committee members.

### ITEM 10 GROUP MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

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*Updates were reported by committee members:*

Morgan Brading, NPWS Ranger for Berkeley Nature reserve, highlighted the unique vegetation communities and cultural heritage sites on Gooseberry and Hooka islands and is happy to facilitate a site visit out there for group members. Key activities at the islands include rubbish collection along the foreshore and weed management.

Wollongong Community Representative, Jess Whittaker, enquired as to whether the invasive weed known as Cockspurs coral was present on the islands and whether NPWS was liaising with the Weeds authority management. Morgan Brading informed the group that weed removal was being handled by a contractor and that private landowners would be made aware of the weed and how to remove it.

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Carla Ganassin, DPI Fisheries, reported that the Fisheries Research Team has commenced work on a cockle project to assess the stock structure in general. Sampling gear and approaches are being developed and work is expected to begin in February. Fisheries offered to deliver a presentation on the project to the committee at a future meeting.

Cr Elisha Aitken reported her recent attendance at an NH7 forum where residents were expressed concerns around the growth of *Casuarina* trees blocking their views. The trees had been planted in a sensitive ecological zone and could now not be removed. This item was requested to be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Cr Ann Martin reported on her recent actions intended to slow the process of sale of public land at King Street in Warrawong. Council is running a position that the land should not be sold so close to an election and should be Masterplanned.

Peter Hawkins, TfNSW, informed the group that past rock stabilisation projects at Windang bridge have been successful and the next phase of works will commence next week. A further 16000 tonnes of rock will be added to stabilise remaining bridge piers.

Jess Whittaker acknowledged the work of Jessica Faustini in her time working as the Environmental Project Officer for Lake Illawarra and thanked her for everything she had achieved. Further acknowledgement of the work of previous Environmental Managers, Natalia McGregor and Renee Winsor, was made by Allison Broad.

Crown Lands - Helen Wheeler provided an update over Teams that foreshore revetment and repair in the foreshore area around Jetty's by the Lake was underway and procurement for the hard and soft foreshore works was being progressed by the service delivery renewal team. She also reported that Berkeley Boat Harbour public consultation for the master plan has concluded, and Crown Lands have now received the report. Two draft options have been proposed and are now with the area manager for consideration.

### ITEM 11 OTHER BUSINESS

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The Chair advised the committee of Sherralyn Robinson's resignation from the Group. WCC will discuss the opportunity with the Aboriginal Reference Group and seek expressions of interest for a new Aboriginal Community representative.

### ITEM 12 NEXT MEETING

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To be hosted by WCC on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 5:30pm.

WCC will also host the first meeting of the new financial year in August. Shellharbour will host meetings for the remainder of the 23/24 financial year.

### ITEM 13 CLOSE

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The Meeting closed at 7:05pm

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### ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
6	Staff interested in attending clean-ups or Lake Walks please contact Trudy Costa	TC	