

## ITEM 5 APPOINTMENTS TO THE LAKE ILLAWARRA CMP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

At its meeting on 31 January 2022, Council adopted the governance structure and Terms of Reference to establish the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program (CMP) Implementation Group (the Group).

The purpose of the Group is to foster communication and productive relationships between the various stakeholders, including the adjoining councils, relevant NSW Government agencies and the community to deliver actions in the Lake Illawarra CMP.

Hosting of the Group will alternate between the Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council annually, with Wollongong to be the host Council for the 2022/23 term. The hosting Council must nominate a Chairperson to facilitate the Group meetings.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) also require Council to endorse two community representatives and one independent scientific advisor to serve on the Group.

This report outlines the selection process undertaken and provides recommendations for the appointment to these positions.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Cr Ann Martin be endorsed as the Councillor delegate to act as Chairperson on the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group for the initial hosting period.
- 2 Colin La Flamme and Jess Whittaker be appointed as community representatives to the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group.
- 3 Dr Brian Jones be appointed as Independent Scientific Advisor to the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group.
- 4 The unsuccessful candidates be thanked for their nomination and interest in assisting in the implementation of the Lake Illawarra CMP.

### REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Group is to facilitate implementation of actions within the Lake Illawarra CMP. It will act 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. This Group supersedes the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee which primarily served to provide stakeholder input into development of the CMP.

The ToR state that hosting of the Group will alternate between Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council annually. For the 2022/23 term of the Group, Wollongong City Council is the host, and a chairperson must be nominated from the Group's Councillor delegates or where necessary elected in accordance with the 'Appointment of Councillor Delegates to Committees Policy'.

The ToR call for the appointment of two Wollongong community representatives and two Shellharbour community representatives as well as an independent scientific advisor. The community representatives need to be endorsed by their respective Council. The recommended independent scientific advisor must be endorsed by both Councils. Shellharbour City Council will consider a report with the same recommendation for appointment of the scientific advisor at their meeting on 17 May 2022.

A public call for representatives on the Group was undertaken as follows -

- Advertisement in the Illawarra Mercury.
- Advertised on both Council's Facebook pages.
- Correspondence sent to specific stakeholder groups (NF7, NF8, UOW Academic Coastal Group).
- Advertisement in Sustainable Wollongong and Sustainable Shellharbour Newsletters.
- Correspondence sent to the WCC Environment and Flood Register of Interest Groups.
- Correspondence sent to former LIEMC representatives.

Applications were received via an online form between 8 February and 18 March 2022.

## PROPOSAL

In accordance with the Wollongong City Council 'Recruitment of External Members to Committees Policy' and the Group's ToR, a selection panel was formed comprised of Cr Ann Martin, Cr Linda Campbell and Council's Environmental Project Officer – Lake Illawarra.

### Community representatives

Wollongong City Council received six applications for the two community representative positions.

The applicants for the community representative positions were assessed against their response to the following selection criteria -

- 1 Demonstrated interest in and knowledge of estuary/ lake management issues.
- 2 Demonstrated capacity and willingness to attend quarterly meetings and actively participate in Group business or activities.
- 3 Ability to contribute positively and constructively within an agreed management framework.
- 4 Demonstrated networks with a cross-section of the local community for the purpose of sharing information and commentary.
- 5 Desire to support and promote an inclusive approach for representation of a diversity of perspectives.
- 6 Resident/rate payer in the LGA for which they are applying.

As a result of the panel's assessment, it is recommended that Council appoint Colin La Flamme and Jess Whittaker as the Wollongong community representatives to the Group.

### Independent scientific advisor

One application was received for the independent scientific advisor position.

The applicant was assessed against their response to the following selection criteria -

- 1 High-level experience in research and/or management of lakes and estuaries.
- 2 Commitment to dedicate time to attend meetings and participate in Group activities where required.
- 3 Demonstrated ability to provide sound scientific advice and a high level of personal commitment while engaged in an honorary position.
- 4 No formal association with Council, government, developers or any other group with a vested interest in the management of estuaries.

As a result of the panel's assessment, it is recommended that Council approve the appointment of Dr Brian Jones as the independent scientific advisor to the Group.

### Chairperson

The Wollongong Councillor delegates were asked to nominate for the position of Chairperson for the initial hosting period. A nominate was received from Cr Ann Martin. As no other nomination was received it is recommended that Council endorse Cr Ann Martin's appointment to this role.

## CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Lake Illawarra CMP Project Management Team, which consists of staff from both Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils have been briefed on the recommendations of this report and are continually involved in the management of the Group.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 1 “We value and protect our environment”. It specifically delivers on the following -

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2022	Operational Plan 2021-22
Strategy	4 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
1.1.2 Manage and effectively improve the cleanliness, health and biodiversity of creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans.	1.1.2.1 Protect and conserve the health and biodiversity of our waterways and coast	Coordinate the Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Lake Illawarra CMP outlines the strategic aims for managing Lake Illawarra and identifies specific actions to mitigate the threats and issues identified for the Lake to be implemented over the next 5-10 years. It facilitates the coordinated and strategic management of the Lake by all responsible stakeholders. In this regard establishment and operation of the Group delivers on CMP action PM2, helping to ensure that a coordinated approach to CMP implementation is taking place across Council and across State Government Agencies, with input from relevant stakeholders.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Establishment of the Group is considered a risk mitigation measure. The absence of a governance element that focused on stakeholder consultation and collaboration would potentially result in delays and create challenges with CMP implementation.

An important function of the Group is to provide a mechanism to communicate with the broader community by sharing information at meetings and improving outcomes through community feedback. Failure to endorse community representatives to assist Councils in communicating and engaging with the community effectively may impact on community support for the CMP and environmental protection and present a reputational risk to Council.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial impacts as membership positions in the Group are voluntary and therefore there is no remuneration.

## CONCLUSION

Wollongong and Shellharbour City Councils have developed and endorsed a governance structure and Terms of Reference to facilitate delivery of actions in the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program.

Establishment of the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group is an integral part of the governance arrangements. Effective stakeholder engagement and collaboration is considered essential to meet the objectives of the Lake Illawarra CMP. This report recommends that a Wollongong Councillor be appointed as Chairperson for the Group during Council’s initial hosting term and the recommended applicants be appointed to the positions of community representative and independent scientific advisor.