

MINUTES

LAKE ILLAWARRA CMP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP 21 AUGUST 2024



MEMBERS PRESENT

Cr Ann Martin, WCC Chair	Chris Stewart, WCC staff
Cr Elisha Aitken, WCC	Amanda Schipp, WCC staff
Mayor Chris Homer, SCC	Trudy Costa, WCC staff
Cr John Davey, SCC	Ellen Dreghorn, WCC staff
Jessica Lintern, SCC	Jess Whittaker, WCC Community rep
Carla Ganassin, DPIRD Fisheries	Colin La Flamme, WCC Community rep
Brian Jones, UOW	Aara Welz, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
Warren Goodall, SCC Community rep	Jennine Primer, WCC staff
Sharon Tomamichel, SCC Community rep	Phillip Crawford – Coequal

Online Attendance

Danny Wiecek, DCCEW	Eilysh Thompson - LLS
Graham Towers, DPHI	

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ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked attendees for their contribution to the group and hoped to see them at the next meeting.

ITEM 2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of –

- Cr Linda Campbell
- Grant Nelson
- Sarah Payne
- Nathan Harrison

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 has and always will be Aboriginal Land.

ITEM 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

The Minutes from 22 May 2024 were received and accepted.

MOVED by Jessica Whittaker SECONDED by Colin La Flamme.

ITEM 6 HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL TERM OF LAKE ILLAWARRA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Lake Illawarra Project Officer thanked Councillors, Community Reps and the Scientific Advisor for their contribution and commitment to the group during the term of this Committee. This commitment and vision to protect the Lake has contributed to enhancing a diverse ecosystem embodied with our CMP objectives.

The Expressions of Interest for next committee membership will commence in the near future. The membership needs to be endorsed by the new Councils. Further, consultation with the Aboriginal community is to take place to ensure we have fair representation or ongoing dialogue to inform future CMP actions.

Members were requested to complete the Terms of Reference survey, attached to the calendar invite.

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Implementation Group Feedback.

Wollongong City Council's Project Officer provided an overview of achievements:

- The [Coastal Management Plan](#) (CMP) ¹is in its 4th year of implementation and since 2020 approximately \$2,126,489.00 from the Coast and Estuary Program has been awarded for CMP projects as well as additional funding through shared arrangements and partnerships.
- Programs developed include the annual implementation plan, governance framework established, fauna monitoring program, litter reduction program and the community engagement program contributing to community participation such as the planting of the saltmarsh lake. The Luv the Lake program also won the Keep Australia Beautiful Award.
- Studies have included the ongoing monitoring of water quality with completion of the Bank Management and the Bathymetric Survey of the lake. It was announced the Flood Risk Management Study and Plan and Cultural Values and Threats Study are due to commence. On the website the Entrance Options Study had been launched as well as is a timeline published so community members can register for updates and can be accessed here:

[Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study | Our Wollongong \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

[Lake Illawarra Entrance Options Study | Let's Chat Shellharbour \(letschatshellharbour.com\)](#). Wollongong City Council has a building compliance officer committed to enforcing sediment controls impacting the environment.

These all contribute to the success of ecological restoration and revegetation and habitat improvements around the lake.

The CMP had actions that require adaption and management of foreshore assets which may be impacted by outcomes of the Entrance Options Study. The 5-year review will consider these impacts and prioritisation of actions in the next CMP.

The NSW Department Climate Environment Energy and Water Officer provided an outline from a Statewide perspective:

- Lake Illawarra was the first to lodge a CMP under the new Coastal Management Framework and second in the state to be certified and the benchmark for other CMPs.
- Works over the last 4 years have included revegetation for managing erosion and repairing of drainage that impact creeks that flow to the Lake.
- The State Gov't has committed to run the Coast and Estuary Program to at least 2029/30.

It was commented that the community would benefit by publicising finalised projects on the website across both local government areas. Trudy Costa advised that progress on implementation of CMP actions is reported through the integrated planning and reporting process.

¹ CMP actions are outlined in Chapter 6

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ITEM 7 PRESENTATION / REPORT – YOUTH FILE FESTIVAL AND MAKING OF “THE WATERHOLE”

The Short Film Festival was promoted and is to be held at 5:00pm to 8:30pm on 7 September 2024 at Lakeside Reserve, Kanahooka.

Phillip Crawford spoke about the use of storytelling and the Map Memory and Place Project undertaken in 2007/8.

Lake Illawarra Map Project Link provided below:

[lakeillawarramap - YouTube](#)

A series of short stories with historical images were presented prompting suggestions by the group for public education around the Lake these included:

- Short film screening sessions to be included in community engagement and be held at Windang Community Centre
- QR codes and signage with links to the MAP stories be displayed.

The implementation group discussed the merits of a grant application for new version of these stories.

ITEM 8 GROUP MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

- *Scientific Advisor*

UOW students have been working on saltmarsh and seagrass areas. WHS concerns raised by the University has restricted use of a boat to access areas of the Lake.

- *WCC Community rep*

Thanked staff and the opportunity to work with the group.

- *SCC Community rep*

Mentioned that residents from the Windang side were still querying why there wasn't a concrete barrier on the promenade despite the infrastructure not being suitable for the area due to tides. It was questioned if anyone had an update on the car park barricade however, TfNSW were not in attendance to provide comment.

- *SCC Community rep*

It was asked that genuine commitment to the group be considered when selecting members for the next committee.

- *Cr Aitken*

Commented it was a great opportunity to be involved and suggested that if we could communicate more broadly so that the community would have more ownership of the Lake.

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- *Cr John Davey*

Acknowledged successful works that had taken place on Picnic Island.

- *Cr Ann Martin*

Raised concerns on the impact of people living in caravans and sanitation at Kully Bay. It would be important to see how these spaces interact with the Lake and for Councils to keep Minister Scully aware of implications.

It was suggested that the new committee consider the following:

- Recreation opportunities in and around the lake.
- An update be provided on the Berkeley Boat Harbour Masterplan.
- Maps showing up to date land ownership and tenure be completed.
- Public display of the stories from the Lake Illawarra Memory and Place Project.

ITEM 9 OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Homer had received images of fallen trees at the playground side of the lake entrance in last 48 hours.

WCC had a weekly program monitoring the site after the rain event in April and would investigate the following day.

Public access through the Jetty by the Lake caravan park to the foreshore is subject to landowner access protocols given the private ownership.

Danny Wiecek confirmed that the fencing at either end of the public foreshore has been removed. It was recommended that further discussions take place between Crown Lands and the caravan park owner / residents to encourage public access to the foreshore.

ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Implementation Group is scheduled to be held on 20 November 2024. However, is to be confirmed as it is subject to completion of delegates for Committees and Reference Groups once the new Council is elected.

ITEM 11 CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 7:05pm.

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ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
6	Expressions of Interest to be advertised	Trudy Costa	
6	Feedback to Terms of Reference Survey	All	
7	Lake Illawarra Map project link to be distributed	Trudy Costa	
8	Crown Lands to be advised of concerns relating to foreshore access through the Jettys By the Lake Caravan Park	Trudy Costa	