

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2024
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.

Our adopted vision for Lake Illawarra is *“to protect and enhance a diverse ecosystem, respect and protect our cultural heritage, foster a strong sense of community and encourage economic opportunities.”*

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	Coastal Officer's Report		5:40pm	Trudy Costa WCC
7	Presentation – Results of the Lake Illawarra Catchment Water Quality Monitoring program		6:00pm	Carl Tippler Habitat Innovation Management
8	Presentation – Update on progress of the Entrance Options Study	Yes	6:30pm	Isabelle Ghetti Sarah Payne WCC
9	Agency/Community Updates		7:00pm	All
10	State Government Grants		7:20pm	All
11	Next Meeting		7:25pm	Chair
12	Close		7.30pm	Chair

BUSINESS PAPER

WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2024
B1 TRAINING ROOM
SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL



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 from the meeting held on 21 February 2024 are attached to the meeting agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group meeting from 21 February 2024 are endorsed as accurate.

ATTACHMENTS – Draft Minutes Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group February 2024

ITEM 6 PRESENTATION – COASTAL OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Grant funding update

Councils have been successful in obtaining funding under the implementation stream of the NSW Government 2023-24 Coastal and Estuary Grants Management Program including:

- \$151,771 for water quality and ecological health monitoring of Lake Illawarra and its catchment (WQ7)
- \$330,000 for the enhancement of Lake Illawarra's Banks and Habitat (EV1, EV3)

- \$100,000 to integrate the outcomes of the Risk Based Framework Lake Illawarra Study into Wollongong and Shellharbour City Council's Planning Frameworks (WQ1)

Councils acknowledge and thank the NSW Government for their ongoing support.

Flood events update

An enormous debt of thanks is owed to the numerous teams involved with flood cleanup efforts. The event brought to light the benefits that CMP actions have achieved over the last few years in terms of rehabilitation and stabilisation of creek beds, removal of large litter items from around the foreshores and collection of water quality monitoring data for both catchment and main body of lake.

A summary of updates following the 2023-2024 CMP Implementation Plan is provided below.

Implement a Risk Based Stormwater Management Framework for the Lake Illawarra Catchment (WQ1/WQ4)

- WCC and SCC project "Integrating the outcomes of the Risk-Based Framework into Wollongong and Shellharbour's Planning Frameworks" has been awarded funding through the NSW Coast and Estuaries Grants round and will commence in July. Councils have commenced a recruitment process to engage an Environmental Project Officer – Stormwater for a twelve-month position to support delivery of stormwater management responses recommended under the framework.
- The Lake Illawarra Risk Based Framework stormwater performance targets have been adopted within WCC's Tallawarra Lands DCP. These measures will ensure best practice water sensitive management on future development sites at this location.

Reduce sediment loads to tributaries of the Lake by improving compliance with erosion and sediment controls for development sites (WQ5)

- Compliance officers continue to work in urban release areas to enforce the use of environmental protection measures on building sites. A survey sent recently to builders and developers in the industry received a total of 50 responses and generated useful feedback for improving Council processes.
- Survey responses have been used to develop an educational infographic and fact sheet for Builders and Contractors as part of the next stage of the Lake Illawarra Community Engagement and Participation program and grant (PM3).
- In March 2024 the EPA released the *Environment Protection Legislation Amendment (Stronger Regulation and Penalties) Bill 2024* that includes stronger penalties and fine amounts for polluters. Offences relating to water pollution, littering and illegal dumping can incur an on the spot fine of \$30000 for corporations, which includes minor breaches from construction activities.

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

- Carl Tippler from Habitat Management and Innovation will present on the outcomes of the Catchment Health Water Quality Monitoring program from December 2021 – March 2023. This study provides a detailed snapshot of the condition of waterways in the Lake Illawarra Catchment at sites representative of major land uses that may influence water quality.
- The Catchment Health and Water Quality monitoring program will continue until June 2026.
- Recreational water quality monitoring of the Lake through the Beachwatch program has shown similar primary and secondary recreational water quality compliance to previous years.

Improve litter management for the lake (WQ8)

- New environmental protection measures have recently been adopted within WCC's Tallawarra Lands Development Control Plan. Measures include a ban on the use of styrofoam waffle pods during construction to minimise the risk of this pollutant entering waterways and the lake.

Investigate and manage potential pollution sources including contaminated sites that contribute to poor water quality in the lake (WQ9)

- The EPA have recently undertaken water and sediment quality testing in the lake, sampling for a range of heavy metals and pesticide contaminants associated with land use pressures in the catchment. The outcomes report will be shared with Councils in the coming months.

Provide ongoing coordinated management of the Lake, which will require ongoing support for existing staff resources (PM1)

- Staff from both Councils are preparing the Business and Implementation Plan for the upcoming financial year for presentation to the Group at the next meeting.
- In the coming weeks, Group members will be invited to attend a one-on-one check in with the Coastal Officer to discuss any issues of concern and provide feedback on CMP Implementation.

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

- Youth film making workshops were held over the holidays in both Wollongong and Shellharbour LGAs.
- The date and location for the outdoor film screening of contest winners will be Saturday 7th September at Lakeside Drive Reserve, Koonawarra starting at 6pm.
- Films commissioned by three agencies will also be screened at this event, along with our own short films developed to promote the work of the CMP.
- A detailed update on the films commissioned by Sketchbook TV, Bus Stop and Coequal, prizes and judges for the competition will be provided to the group.
- Upcoming events on the Engagement calendar will be Lake Walk and Talks in the June/July holidays and one-on-ones catch ups with Group members and the Coastal Officer.
- A report on the impact and reach of activities conducted as part of the year 1 of engagement program will be compiled at EOFY.

Establish a Lake Illawarra Asset Management Working Group that provides coordination services for agencies that manage assets around the Lake Illawarra foreshore (PM4)

- Asset management staff from both Councils and government agencies continue to meet as required to progress active CMP projects and priority tasks. Stormwater assets and their management will be a focus of the upcoming grant funded project to “Integrate the outcomes of the Risk Based Framework Lake Illawarra Study into Wollongong and Shellharbour City Council's Planning Frameworks (WQ1).

Undertake a bathymetric survey of the entire Lake and tributaries up to the tidal limit (FB3/EV3)

- A short, two-page summary presenting the outcomes of the recently finalised Bathymetric study has been prepared for the community and will be published following final design stage.

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

- Councils are working collaboratively with DPI Fisheries and the University of Wollongong to support an Honours student project and preliminary assessment of recreational cockle fishing in the lake. A large volume of data has been generated from interviews with community members and creel surveys will continue until the end of June.
- A synthesis of literature and data from previous studies to inform a fauna monitoring program for fish, bird and invertebrate communities inhabiting the lake is being prepared. Findings to date indicate fish community records represent the largest knowledge gap, with no studies on fish communities having been conducted since 2007. The study will collate known records and provide recommended methodology to assess community patterns based on prioritised risk and indicators for fish communities.

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

- The impact of cockle harvesting on seagrass beds in the lake is being investigated through collaborative works with researchers from the University of Sydney in June. Drone surveys will be used to assess bed health and fragmentation in heavily targeted sites.
- Damage assessment and investigations by both Councils following recent floods have revealed the success of CMP actions and foreshore rehabilitation works in reducing the impact of erosion in tributaries in the catchment. Numerous photographic examples demonstrating the stabilising effect of restored

riparian areas have been collated and highlight the interminable efforts and work of our Natural Areas and Bushcare teams.

- Councils have been awarded funding to commence vegetation restoration and foreshore protection works at Muddy Bay, Fred Finch Park, Wollamai Point, Purry Burry Park and Korrungulla.

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

- The final masterplan for works on new sections of shared pathway has been received from consultants and is being reviewed by Council staff. The report includes holistic site analysis mapping and considers future opportunities and constraints for different alignment options and activity nodes where the shared pathway could contribute to the broader connected cycleway network system for the region.

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

- A management options Synthesis report has been prepared by WRL and is being reviewed by the Project Control Group. The next stage of the Entrance Options Study will involve threat assessment workshops and detailed discussions of options with stakeholder groups and partner agencies.
- Crown Lands have released a technical study prepared by the University of New South Wales Water Research Laboratory (WRL) investigating water flows and erosion of the Windang Foreshore. The report also investigated several engineering options to prevent further erosion and maintain the present position of the bank for the next 20 years. It concluded that while foreshore protection would prevent further landward erosion, significant deepening of the channel immediately off the foreshore will continue as long as there are strong tidal currents flowing through the channel. The report is available on the Crown Lands website: [Assessment of geomorphic changes, hydraulics and potential foreshore stabilisation options at Windang, Lake Illawarra \(PDF, 10.7 MB\)](#)
- The Community Inform stage of the engagement and communications program will commence in late May.

ITEM 7 PRESENTATION – RESULTS OF THE LAKE ILLAWARRA CATCHMENT WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

This item will be presented by Carl Tippler, Principal Scientist at Habitat Innovation and Management. As part of Wollongong City Council's water quality monitoring program, Habitat Innovation and Management were engaged to assess waterways throughout the Lake Illawarra Catchment. A summary of the findings from waterway monitoring conducted from July 2022 to August 2023 from 21 sites will be presented.

ITEM 8 PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE LAKE ILLAWARRA ENTRANCE OPTIONS STUDY

This item will be presented by Isabelle Ghetti, Environmental Planning Manager at Wollongong City Council. An overview of key outcomes of a Synthesis report detailing the Stage 2 options modelled to date will be provided, along with next steps toward finalisation of the study.

ITEM 9 AGENCY/COMMUNITY UPDATES

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

ITEM 10 STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS

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

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING

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

ITEM 12 CLOSE
