

AGENDA

TO BE HELD 5.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 2021
ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL



The Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee provides advice feedback and support to Wollongong and Shellharbour City Council's in developing implementing and monitoring a coastal management program and projects for Lake Illawarra, that are primarily focused on protecting estuary health.

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 and Business Arising	Yes		Chair
6	Correspondence In and Out	Yes		Jess Faustini (WCC) (Environment Strategic Project Officer, WCC/SCC)
7	Rezoning Applications – Lake Catchment and Foreshore	Yes		Chris Stewart (Manager City Strategy, WCC) Natalie McGregor (Manager Environment, SCC)
8	Major Capital Works – Council Based Update	Yes		Chris O'Connor (WCC) Matthew Apolo (Group Manager Built and Natural Environment, SCC)
9	Update – Natural Areas Grant Implementation Progress		5:50pm	Matt Watts (Natural Areas Officer, WCC) Jade McGuinness (Natural Area Supervisor, SCC)

QUORUM – HALF + 1 MEMBERS (INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH COUNCIL)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cr Dom Figliomeni	Wollongong City Council	Colin Wilton	Community Representative SCC LGA
Cr Cath Blakey	Wollongong City Council	Graham Towers	DPIE – Planning (ex-officio)
Cr Ann Martin	Wollongong City Council -CHAIR	Danny Wiecek	DPIE – Environment, Energy and Science (ex-officio)
Mayor Marianne Saliba	Shellharbour City Council	Ben Tax	DPIE - Crown Lands (ex-officio)
Cr John Murray	Shellharbour City Council	Carla Ganassin	NSW DPI (Fisheries) (ex-officio)
Cr Peter Moran	Shellharbour City Council	Andrew Monk	Transport for NSW (ex-officio)
Jodi Edwards	Aboriginal Community Representative – SCC AAC	Jason Carson	South East Local Land Services (ex-officio)
Sharralyn Robinson	Aboriginal Community Representative – WCC ARG	Dr Kerrylee Rogers	Independent Scientific Advisor (ex-officio)
Annie Marlow	Community Representative WCC LGA	Dr Brian Jones	Independent Scientific Advisor (ex-officio)
Wayne Cooke	Community Representative WCC LGA	Paul Knight	Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (ex-officio)
John Davey	Community Representative SCC LGA		

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Jessica Faustini	Acting Environmental Project Officer – Lake Illawarra, WCC	Cheryl Lappin	Senior Strategic Planner, SCC
Renee Winsor	Environment Planning Manager, WCC	Wayde Peterson	Group Manager Asset Strategy SCC
David Green	Land Use Planning Manager, WCC	Andrew Lee	Acting Manager Environment, SCC
Chris Stewart	Manager City Strategy, WCC	Grant Meredith	Group Manager, City Development, SCC
Andrew Heaven	Acting Manager Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning, WCC		

10	Update – Windang Bridge		6:20pm	Andrew Monk (Corridor Maintenance Planner, TNSW)
11	Update – Catchment Water Quality Monitoring		6:30pm	Caren Taylor (Environment Officer, SCC)
12	Lake Illawarra Officers Report		6:55pm	Jessica Faustini
13	Committee Member Updates (Round Table)		7:05pm	All
14	Other Business		7:20pm	All
15	Thank you and Where to From Here		7:25pm	Chair
16	Close		7:30pm	Chair

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Lake Illawarra
ESTUARY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

MEETING HELD
28 July 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Ann Martin (WCC)	Mayor Marianne Saliba (SCC)
Cr Cath Blakey (WCC)	Councillor Peter Moran (SCC)
Cr Dom Figliomeni (WCC)	Paul Knight (ILALC)
Jason Carson (LLS)	Nathan Harrison (Sydney Water)
Carla Ganassin (DPI Fisheries)	Graham Towers (DPIE Planning)
Annie Marlow (WCC)	Col Wilton (SCC Community Rep)
Daniel Wiecek (DPIE –EES)	John Davey (SCC Community Rep)
Andrew Monk (Transport for NSW)	Dr Brian Jones (UOW)
Nicole Dibben (DPI –Crown Lands)	

IN ATTENDANCE

Leslie Reid (SCC)	Chris Stewart (WCC)
Natalia McGregor (SCC)	Matthew Apolo (SCC)
Trish McClure (WCC)	Martine Fraser (WCC)
Renee Winsor (WCC)	Ben Stewart (SCC)
Jessica Faustini (WCC/SCC)	Snez Maljanovska (WCC)
David Fitzgibbon (WCC)	Caren Taylor (SCC)
Matt Watts (WCC)	Chris O'Connor (WCC)
Jade McGuinness (SCC)	

ITEM 1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed committee members, and thanked them for their attendance.

ITEM 2 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Councillor John Murray, Kim Dalebi, Belinda Davis and Kerry Lee Rogers from University of Wollongong.

ITEM 3 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the Land.

ITEM 4 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

ITEM 5 Confirmation of Minutes and Business Arising

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee meeting held on 26 May 2021 are endorsed as accurate.

MOVED: Councillor Ann Martin
SECONDED: Councillor Dom Figliomeni
ALL IN FAVOUR

Business Arising – Jessica contacted Tallawarra Power Station, after the request from last meeting, to ask them to give a presentation to this committee. They weren't in a position, but we can approach them for the next meeting.

Madam Chair – stakeholders (airport users) have an issue with the power station – if they would like to make a variation, need to meet the caps of requirements, this committee looks after the lake and others that use the skies are impacted, need to have a better understanding and where it is up to and where it's in the approval stage.

ITEM 6 Correspondence In and Out

This is a standing agenda item. Correspondence received by the LIEMC or sent on behalf of the LIEMC since the last meeting 26 May 2021.

Letter from Leanne Stevens, Shellharbour City Council have forwarded two draft plans of management, ie., Hooka Park and Ski Way Park. Any comments should be directed to Leanne Stevens in the next two weeks.

ITEM 7 Rezoning Applications – Lake Catchment and Foreshore

Chris Stewart (WCC) spoke to the report at attachment three:

- Copy of report that has been circulated in terms of noteworthy events since we last met. A planning proposal for BlueScope land at West Dapto, large parcel of land - 215 hectares proposed. Report to Council 19 July 2021 and Council resolved to advance the planning proposal, gateway determination and put on exhibition.
- Councillors also dealt with a planning proposal at Cleveland Road, north and south, large parcel of land - 352 hectares, proposing almost 3000 lots. Council resolved to seek additional information from proponent, once received will put that on gateway and on exhibition.
- Work done on a neighbourhood plan at Bong Bong Road, following rezoning do a strategic plan, will require a neighbourhood plan before accepting development applications and development consents. Is scheduled to go to Council next week and is on the current agenda, seeking to finalise and adopt that neighbourhood plan.

Questions

- Councillor Cath Blakey, is there any outcome on Wongawilli McDonalds case?
- Chris Stewart – listed for hearing 27 July 2021, Courts resolved their decision, judgement will be handed down and will get update to provide information.

Natalia McGregor (SCC) spoke to the report at attachment four.

- Last year two planning proposals were put to Council in September:
 1. Rezoning at Corner Croome and Tongarra Road, Albion Park – Council resolved to proceed to allow function centre to be permissible on the land;

2. Second submission – resolved not to prepare a planning proposal - not to rezone part of the cemetery to residential, refer to further information in the handout.
- Second submission for a planning proposal located in Tullimbar, southern end to rezone 75 hectares of existing rural land, to a mix of low density, residential, large lot residential and environment management and SP2 for infrastructure. This was referred to the committee for comment, prior to formal exhibition period, which has now been completed. A number of issues were raised during the exhibition of the planning proposal as well as outstanding matters, which are being considered and assessed for further report back to Council in the coming months.

ITEM 8 Major Capital Works – Council Based – Update

Chris O'Connor spoke to the report at attachment six.

- Formally adopted the Major Capital Works Program in late June 2021 – no material changes to the program since this committee reviewed, there are two updates:
 1. Fred Finch Park netball court realignment project – has received State Government funding, now in a position to progress construction of works, how and when works will be delivered, will be worked through in the next couple of months.
 2. William beach carpark and footpath upgrade project – some potential approval requirements need to be worked through to progress the works, programmed for delivery for the current financial year. Waiting on some advice to see how long it will take to secure the approvals, before firming up a delivery timeframe.

Matthew Apolo spoke to the report at attachment five.

- Much the same as last reported, current COVID restrictions has only impacted two of the projects:
 1. Deacon Reserve Sailing Club
 2. Esplanade – Timms Road, Oak Flats stormwater renewal, which will be impacted by the current construction restrictions, which will be eased in the next couple of weeks and will be assessed from there.
 3. Reddall Reserve play equipment still being delayed by Aboriginal Heritage considerations.

Questions

Annie Marlow – Question for Chris O'Connor – Are they Aboriginal Heritage matter approvals causing delays at William Beach?

Chris O'Connor – Not across the detail of the approvals specifically, my apologies.

ITEM 9 Update - Natural Areas Grant Implementation Progress Matt Watts (WCC)

Matt Watts, WCC Natural Areas Officer, provided an update on the progress of the 2019 Coast and Estuary Grant for natural area works at Primbee and Heritage Park, which is implementing actions EV1 and EV2 in the Lake Illawarra CMP.

- Heritage Park, a neglected reserve is now mostly clear of weeds in the canopy, and it is possible to see through to the nearby road.
- Natural areas work to encourage a change of practices ie not mowing up to the lake edge. This can reduce mowing and provide buffer.
- Brooks Creek – create buffer to the swamp oak floodplain forest.
- Drainage Creeks – past maintenance has been to slash straight down to the edges, quarterly mower, regenerated the edges and inside the creek providing habitat and filtration.

- Focus on larger creek systems with permanent water, photograph - Williams beach, removed weed trees and lantana, 7500 plants in creek line and another further three year grant, and looking at another 10,000 plants.
- Blocking and protect areas that are easily accessible along Brooks Creek and Fred Finch Park, reduced access, salt marsh and species growing across the track. The work they have been doing in reducing access to Trail bikes and four wheel drives – using concrete bollard and planting system.

Questions

Cr Martin – Concrete bollards - do we precast them ourselves?

Matt Watts - No concrete company provides them at \$20 a block.

Cr Martin - Is it possible to talk to the manufacturer to get relief imagery on the side of the blocks?

Madam Chair said that is an issue for Shellharbour Council, also asked how do you ensure when putting in concrete bollards, that you are providing accessibility for people who are impacted by wheelchairs or stroller?

Matt Watts – The formal pathways have access open, and there are gaps for people to walk through on the dirt trails, making it difficult for trail bikes, enabling access to riders etc. so they don't have a clear run making it difficult for their access.

Cr Blakey – Asked about Hooka Park needle grass issues.

Matt Watts advised it is regularly treated every September.

John Davey – Asked about the outlook / future for Heritage Park site. Is there an act of plan of management or likely chance for funding to continue remediation?

Matt Watts informed the group that the decision needs to come from management. Matt is going to manage as natural area for the moment, making sure that it doesn't go back to the original state, pending further outcome of this site.

Jade McGuinness (Natural Area Supervisor, SCC) provided an update on the progress of the 2019 Coast and Estuary Grant for natural area works at Horsley Creek, which is implementing actions EV1 and EV2 in the Lake Illawarra CMP.

- The works covered three zones, with each of the zones had their own challenges. Weeds including asparagus and madeira vine were targeted and resulted in a significant reduction of the weeds along Horsley Creek. This has led to the restoration of the remnant species along the lake edge, return of health of Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest.
- Challenges – access from trail bikes and kids on bikes, this is a spot for illegal dumping and have had campers as well.
- By increasing the amenity of the area, have been seeing an surge in people accessing this area, and walking their dogs because of lock down. Instead of having these areas with weeds, we are now opening them up and people can use them again.

ITEM 10 Update – Windang Bridge

Andrew Monk, Transport for NSW (TNSW) reports that Transport are continuing with the planning work, REF is waiting on final design to be completed, progressing with those things. Underwater pile inspection of the bridge, completed over the last month and showed some sediment loss continuing the southern side, need to place rock in those areas soon.

There has been a full bathymetry survey of the channel in the last week to get better picture where things are going to and what is happening around the entrance channel. Transport note the questions about the compound, and are currently assessing whether it's better to remove or sign post that.

Questions:

Cr Figliomeni asked - The signposting is the concern regarding the compound, it is concern from locals in relation to it being there for such an extended period.

Andrew Monk - He will continue to pass on community concerns to the project management team.

ITEM 11 Presentation / Update – Update – Catchment Water Quality Monitoring

Caren Taylor (Environment Officer, SCC) gave a presentation on SCC's catchment water quality program and how the program is being updated to align with the Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program.

- For the last five years SCC has sampled four times per year, as well as a permanent device installed in Macquarie Rivulet. Currently the program regularly to monitor visual changes in catchments and monitors chemical and physical parameters of the waterways at six sites in the lake catchment. This helps to understand how the catchment is changing, and to quickly pick up any abnormalities.
- Ultimate objective of updating the program is to build on existing monitoring and ensure all the projects are integrated in this space, they are feeding and aligning with each other and meeting key objectives of the risk-based framework within CMP and the Shellharbour City Council Community Strategic Plan.
- EX03 permanent water quality monitoring sounds have recently been installed into Macquarie Rivulet, as part of the Smart Waterways Project. These devices are in heavy duty casings to protect them as they get hammered around the waterways. They will assist Council to remotely monitor the quality of water entering Lake Illawarra on a continual live basis. They provide data on Illawarra vision dashboard that can be exported into database to do analysis.
- Shellharbour City Council are working with DPIE on developing more specific LGA catchment guidelines and moving away from broad water quality guidelines. This move forward will help to understand the water quality results and comparing them to guidelines that are more specific for our catchment.
- In the past, monitoring has prompted certain management decisions to be made, such as wetland sediment clean out and identifying algae issues as well as working with natural areas to address adversity in the system.

Questions

Cr Blakey – Nick McLaren raised an issue with the sediment dam in north Macquarie Rivulet, does it work as intended?

Ben Stewart provided advice back to Nick, the basin was specifically built for the development in that area, serves a purpose to capture the runoff in that development site and for the sediments that may have migrated to natural water ways. The desludging regularly occurs, and was a controlled activity, Council subdivision staff monitor that. That was the outcome and went back to EPA and they were satisfied with the response.

Cr Blakey – Does SCC have waffle pod control actions like Wollongong?

Ben Stewart – There are a waste management activities and other fencing requirements not sure of condition specifically says waffle pods, happy to provide this out of session to share.

John Davey – Are you monitoring the corresponding levels in the lake?

Martine Fraser – The lake is monitored (estuary health monitoring program) and includes lake edge sites and in lake sites, there are 11 in total. Turbidity has been monitored at all 11 sites since 2013, the latest report can be found at the Wollongong Council Website on the Lake Illawarra page. The Lake Illawarra Water Quality Program is jointly funded by SCC and WCC, WCC recently attained grant to do catchment monitoring in the Wollongong LGA area, will start in the next year.

ITEM 12 Lake Illawarra Project Officer Report

1. Update on Project - CMP for Lake Illawarra

- CMP Implementation Progress Summary – Highlights from attachment seven.
- Finalised water quality report for the 2019/20 sampling period – the results of report have been sent to graphic design team of WCC to design a water quality report card. A copy will be uploaded to the website.
- DPIE Coast and Estuary Grant Applications for 2021 – been in discussion with WCC and SCC and drafting joint grant project applications, drafts including implement actions for PM3 and EV3 to develop and implement participation and engagement strategy for Lake Illawarra. This aims to provide more opportunity for community to assist in implementing actions from the CMP, including participating in citizen science, adding educational signage and development of brochures etc. Drafting an application for FB3, conduct a bathymetric survey of Lake Illawarra, the last survey was completed 2008 and due for another one. Also looking at applying for actions PM1 and IR3, and to put together a total inundation of DCP chapter, will be talking to the right teams to get the accurate information.
- Recently received letter DPIE successful grant funding FB1, to conduct foreshore assessment in Lake Illawarra – total project value \$60,000.
- Action FB1 – grant funding secured, undertake a bank and condition assessment for the foreshores of Lake Illawarra, intention of action is to identify areas of erosion and sedimentation and suggest treatments for those areas. Leslie and Jessica have been in discussions with DPI Fisheries, who are trialling a decision support tool that they have developed to assist with bank management decision making. The project is in the early stages and aims to be completed within a year, hopefully will have a report and a map to share with this committee.
- LIEMC review survey – should be ready in the next couple of days.

2. Other Items

Trish McClure – The Infrastructure and Planning team in WCC have been working on an asset management project. This will involve determining how to quantify all assets around the lake, including all land holders, operators, and maintainers.

Cr Martin – Is that part of the parcel to look at study to look at an eventual opportunity for a bike path around the whole lake, that will feed into this type of study?

Trish replied that there is a link, and before planning new assets, need to work out how we can enable them. This project is a base line mapping exercise for existing assets / land ownership and information gathered will feed into an operations ownership and a maintenance plan for the whole lake to identify gaps.

Cr Figliomeni – Who has responsibility for removal of dead seaweed causing a stench on the foreshore?

Jessica responded, this is a complicated process and requires a Fisheries permit, an REF, and an assessment on the impact to Aboriginal Heritage. SCC have explored this process and it is very resource intensive. In the past, WCC have taken stance and don't remove seagrass wrack. It is a natural process, they shed in the winter and break down by summer or they will blow away, unless there are hard surfaces that prevents them from washing up on the shore, best to leave this process to occur naturally.

Cr Figliomeni - Residents are concerned and particularly if there is sulfuric odour and needs to be addressed.

Cr Ann Martin asked where the smell is coming from?

Cr Figliomeni - Kully Bay along the foreshore, as told by a resident.

Matthew Apolo – just to add SCC have a project where we are removing seagrass wrack around the public use area, particularly Deacon Reserve Sailing Club, where seagrass wrack is affecting the ability for people to use the boatramp and jetty, it is purely to facilitate the intended recreational use of the area.

Chris O'connor – In relation to grant funding opportunities, the Lake Illawarra Entrance Option Study grant application has been successful. WCC have executed a funding deal with DPIE to support delivery of that project, and the Technical Working Group has been re-established and will meet next week.

ITEM 13 Committee Member Updates (Round Table)

Col Wilton – Ski Park kayak launching ramp is dangerous when wet.

Madam Chair - This is a matter for SCC.

Annie Marlow – Report that great things happening at Hooka Creek Saltmarsh area and around the park, thanks to Matt Watts.

Cr Martin – Are there any Crown Lands updates on the jetties that are being repaired.

Nicole Dibben (Crown Lands) – The following are targeted for repair - Tuggerah, Koonawarra and Old Merinda. It is expected the compliance certificate will arrive in the next couple of weeks. In respect of Kanahooka Boat Ramp and Dix's wharf – targeted consultation is proposed to be rolled out 2-3 week. Signage at the ramp will be directed to website to provide feedback.

ITEM 14 Other Business

No other business.

ITEM 15 Thank you and where to from here

This meeting was scheduled to be the last LIEMC meeting before the Local Government Elections, however the elections have now been postponed until December. Council Staff will investigate how this impacts the Committee.

ITEM 16 Close

The meeting closed at 7:02pm.