



Lake Illawarra
ESTUARY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MEETING HELD
5.30PM WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Marianne Saliba (SCC)	Jason Carson (South East Local Land Services)
Councillor Cameron Walters (WCC)	Danny Wiecek (DPIE - Environment)
Councillor Cath Blakey (WCC)	Graham Towers (DPIE - Planning)
Annie Marlow (Community Representative)	Andrew Monk (Roads & Maritime Services)
John Davey (Community Representative)	Dr Brian Jones (University of Wollongong)
Col Wilton (Community Representative)	Carla Ganassin (Fisheries)
Wayne Cook (Community Representative)	

IN ATTENDANCE

Kristy Blackburn (WCC and SCC)	Mike Dowd (WCC)
Philomena Gangaiya (WCC)	Carl Hopley (WCC)
David Fitzgibbon (WCC)	Wayde Peterson (SCC)
Renee Winsor (WCC)	Tuesday Heather (SCC)
Luke Messer (Roads & Maritime Services)	Grant Meredith (SCC)

ITEM 1 - WELCOME

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 Dom Figliomeni, Councillor Nathan Cattell, David Green, Kerrylee Rogers and Aunty Shaz (Sharralyn Robinson).

ITEM 3 - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the Land.

ITEM 4 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interests were declared.

ITEM 5 - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2019 AND BUSINESS ARISING

Kristy Blackburn advised of an error in the Business Arising section of the minutes. It was noted that West Dapto needs to be placed on a future Agenda.

Recommendation: The minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee meeting held on 27 March 2019 be endorsed with the adjustment proposed above:

MOVED: Councillor Cath Blakey

SECONDED: Councillor Cameron Walters

ALL IN FAVOUR

Business Arising:

- Action re pollution incident at Lake Heights held over for a few meetings. Annie Marlow raise in general business.

ITEM 6 UPDATED SCC AND WCC CODES OF CONDUCT

The Chair proposed to set this agenda item aside for next meeting. The suggestion was, rather than the Committee signing two codes (the revised WCC and SCC codes of conduct for committees) take the model code and decide what is relevant for the LIEMC. Item set aside to next meeting.

ITEM 7 CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Items received:

- Letter re Tracer Study concerns from EPA to Mike Dowd and cc'ed to the Committee
- Lake Illawarra Tracer Sediment REF Final - WCC
- Lake Illawarra Tracer Sediment Project Scope - WCC
- EPA Fact Sheet - EPA
- Tracer study letter of support - Brian Jones UoW
- Technical response to EPA concerns - WCC
- Cover letter for technical response to EPA concerns - WCC

All of these items will be discussed in item 8. Item 8 postponed until relevant staff are present.

ITEM 9 UPDATE - WINDANG BRIDGE

Andrew Monk, Corridor Maintenance Planner, RMS provided a brief history of the construction of the bridge and the scouring issue, which RMS first become aware of in 2017. As the scour became a major issue in 2019 RMS surveyed under and around the bridge, began monthly safety inspections and placed strain gauges on the bridge.

RMS is currently in the process of placing rock via barge around pile groups 3,4,5,6,7 and 8 at the northern end to secure them. The work is expected to take 3 months and cost \$2.5million dollars. Similar works have been required at Swansea and Foster/ Tuncurry where permanent lake entrances have been created. Weekly inspections will continue and the impacts of the rock placement modelled. It is the opinion of RMS that more detailed modelling of the impacts of the permanent entrance is required within the channel.

ITEM 8 PRESENTATION – ENTRANCE CHANNEL MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND TRACER STUDY UPDATE

Mike Dowd, Manager Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning and Carl Hopley, Building and Facilities Planning Manager (Acting), WCC provided an update on the Lake Illawarra Entrance Channel Management Options and Tracer Study.

WCC stated that the need for a tracer study was due to changes in the way the now permanent entrance channel is behaving and its impact on built, natural, cultural assets as well as public safety, particularly, significant erosion at Windang. The project was discussed with stakeholders including the LIEMC in Jan 2017. Its intent is to understand the functioning of the whole entrance and to inform the management actions of all stakeholders, even though it is fully funded by WCC. Once all of the data is collected, all stakeholders will be involved in the next stage of the project which is to develop actions to manage the entrance channel. This is reflected in the Draft CMP.

Some field work has been completed; however, the proposed tracer study has been put on hold due to EPA concerns regarding the alleged use of plastics in the methodology. Wollongong City Council has responded to the concerns raised by the EPA and has attempted to engage them in discussions re the methodology.

Carl Hopley confirmed that the proposed tracer sediment tracer particles contain a polymer as a binding agent, however this does not meet the definition of a micro plastic. Brian Jones, an LIEMC Independent Scientific Advisor advised that in his opinion the tracer study is unlikely to have any negative impact on the lake.

Danny Wiecek, DPIE advised the Committee that the EPA, after receiving advice from specialist water and eco-toxicology scientists as well as independent marine ecology specialists, did not support the use of plastics being used in this manner because this plastic poses a risk to the marine environment, particularly over the longer term as the tracer degrades and that this was a state-wide policy.

There was discussion regarding whether the tracer study was required in order to fully understand the channel dynamics and whether it needed to be completed prior to the next stage of the project being satisfactorily delivered and erosion prevention actions instituted. The EMC also discussed the behaviour of the tracer in the environment and its subsequent impact (or lack thereof) in the environment post-release.

Annie Marlow suggested a motion “That the LIMEC should request WCC not to proceed with the tracer study without the approval of the EPA because A) potential pollution with unacceptable risk and B) questions regarding the effectiveness of the methodology.” This motion was not supported by The Chair who reminded the Committee that the LIEMC can only provide advice, not instruction, to Councils.

Recommendation: The LIEMC requests that all stakeholders (WCC, EPA, OEH, Crown Lands, SCC, RMS & Fisheries) meet in order to reach a solution that is acceptable to all.

MOVED: Councillor Cameron Walters

SECONDED: Annie Marlow

ALL IN FAVOUR

ITEM 10 REZONING APPLICATIONS – LAKE CATCHMENT AND FORESHORE

David Fitzgibbon, Acting Manager, City Strategy WCC spoke to the WCC report at attachment 8. SCC advised it had nothing to report.

ITEM 11 MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS – COUNCIL BASED - UPDATE

Mike Dowd, Manager Infrastructure, Strategy and Planning WCC tabled the report at attachment 9 and was not asked any questions by the Committee. Wayde Peterson, Group Manager Asset Strategy SCC tabled the report at attachment 10 and was not asked any questions by the Committee.

ITEM 12 LAKE ILLAWARRA OFFICER’S REPORT

Kristy Blackburn, Lake Illawarra Project Officer, WCC and SCC spoke to the report as outlined in the Business Paper. Further discussions were held regarding:

- Review of the LIEMC – Survey forms are available to be filled out by members and support staff. A link to the electronic form which can be completed anonymously will be provided next week. Responses are due by 25 September.
- Blue Economy – Crowded sourced mapping project which members are encouraged to participate in, LIEMC member Kerrylee Rogers is involved.
- Beachwatch recreational water quality sampling results – First summer results have been analysed and show that the three sample areas were mostly compliant with primary and secondary contact levels, especially in dry weather. The sampling program will continue for the 2019/2020 summer period.

ITEM 13 UPDATE – DRAFT CMP SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO DATE

The Lake Illawarra Draft CMP is on public exhibition from 31 July to 11 September. Two community drop in sessions have been held, 13 August in Dapto which 36 people attended and 14 August in Shellharbour which 28 people attended. The main issues raised at the drop in sessions were dredging of the bays within the lake, commercial fishing, and changes to the lake due to the permanently open entrance channel. 11 surveys were submitted as a part of the two drop-ins.

As of last week:

32 submissions to WCC Banning / reducing commercial fishing = 11 Litter = 8 Dredging of bays/ other areas = 8 Cockles = 4	39 submissions to SCC Dredging of bays/ other areas = 21 Balance of recreation, environment, cult = 9 Banning / reducing commercial fishing = 4
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A public meeting at Oak Flats was organised by committee member John Davey to discuss dredging. Approximately 100 people expressed their concerns re lack of dredging in the draft document. They were encouraged to prepare submissions.

The Project Management Team and consultant are working together to formulate responses which will ultimately inform changes to the draft CMP.

For example:

- Fisheries – the regulation and enforcement of Fisheries issues are managed solely by Dept of Fisheries and as such aren’t included in the CMP. All comments will be forwarded to Dept of Fisheries for their information.
- Balance of recreation/ environment and cultural issues in the CMP - looking at actual budget already in the CMP for each category. 53% of proposed CMP funding is for recreational amenity, 35% for environment, 12% for planning and heritage.
- Dredging - looking at developing an action that will allow smaller-scale dredging for high value recreational benefit with minimal environmental harm. Working with stakeholders across SCC

and WCC as well as Crown Lands and Dept of Fisheries in order to satisfy most people. All dredging activities will be subject to strict environmental controls.

The Submissions in Reply Report will be presented to the LIEMC for endorsement at the November meeting prior to any changes being made to the CMP.

ITEM 14 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

Danny Wiecek - coast and estuary grants program has been announced. Projects within the draft CMP can apply and, if successful, the money will be withheld until the CMP is certified (expected to be mid 2020).

Annie Marlow - Hooka Point saltmarsh is looking good thanks to Fisheries Habitat Action grant. Work is being undertaken that will benefit the area long term.

Councillor Cath Blakey – Waffle Pod pollution issue at West Dapto. Council staff have been working hard for 8 weeks across public and private land to contain it. It will be raised at the local government conference and with the state government with a view to seeking tougher restrictions and alternatives.

John Davey – an observation that there are less and less boats on Lake because it is too shallow and has no fish.

Carla Ganassin – update on cockles – Ministerial Audit is occurring to reduce cockle bag limit from 50 to 20. Not sure when it will be announced but there will be a transition period and public education around the changes.

Mayor Saliba – this is the last LIEMC meeting as Chair. The hosting and chairing duties return to WCC from the Nov 2019 meeting.

ITEM 15 OTHER BUSINESS

Follow-up on action summary item relating to pollution incident at Lake Heights. The contractor was given a verbal warning and has not had any more incidents since that time. Council does rely on members of the public to report incidents as staff cannot be everywhere at all times.

Recommendation: That all reports are received and noted as per the Business Paper and that apologies are accepted.

MOVED: Councillor Cameron Walters

SECONDED: John Davey

ALL IN FAVOUR

ITEM 16 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 13 November 2019 on level 9 of the WCC Administration Building, Burelli Street Wollongong.

ITEM 17 CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 7.53 pm.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
	Put mangrove discussion on the agenda for another LIEMC meeting	KB	Held over
	Put West Dapto update on the agenda for another LIEMC meeting.	KB	
	Keep the LIEMC informed of the status of the White's Seahorse (<i>Hippocampus whitei</i>) determination.	JR	
6	Code of Conduct for the LIEMC to be discussed at Nov meeting	KB	
8	Keep the LIEMC informed re stakeholder meeting to discuss tracer study.	MD	
9	LIEMC members and support staff to complete LIEMC review survey by 25 Nov	ALL	
13	Submissions in Reply Report to be provided to the LIEMC for endorsement at the Nov meeting	KB	