

# AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2023  
WOLLONGONG ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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.

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	Project Officer Report		5:40pm	Trudy Costa WCC/Allison Broad SCC
7	Presentation/Report – Bathymetric survey		6:00pm	Julia Palmer WCC
8	Presentation/Report – Entrance Options study		6:20pm	Chris O'Connor WCC
9	Presentation/Report – Community Report Oak Flats Sailing Club		6:50pm	Kevin Gillis Oak Flats Sailing Club
10	State Government Grants - Upcoming Opportunities		7:05pm	Chair
11	Group Member Updates (Round Table)		7.10pm	All
12	Other Business		7:25pm	All
13	Next Meeting			Chair
14	Close		7.30pm	Chair

# BUSINESS PAPER

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2023  
WOLLONGONG ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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

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This item is a standing Agenda Item. Introductions will be made for new members and staff present.

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### ITEM 2 APOLOGIES

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This item is a standing agenda item.

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### ITEM 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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This item is a standing agenda item. The Chairperson will provide an Acknowledgement of Country.

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### ITEM 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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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.

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That any conflicts of interests in relation to the agenda, or the business of the Committee, be declared and noted in the minutes.

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### ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

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This is a standing Agenda item. The minutes and business arising of the held 24 May 2023 meeting are attached to the meeting agenda.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group meeting held 24 May 2023 are endorsed as accurate.

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## ATTACHMENTS – Draft Minutes Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group May 2023

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### ITEM 6 PROJECT OFFICER REPORT

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

#### 1. Update on Review of Terms of Reference

- Thank you to all group members who completed the TOR survey and provided written feedback on the revisions. The Project Management team has reviewed the comments and is considering provision for the inclusion of additional community membership to increase social and economic representation in accordance with the aims of the CMP. Additional feedback is being sought from the Aboriginal Reference

Group (WCC) and Aboriginal Advisory Group (SCC) and further updates on the revised terms will be provided at the next committee meeting.

- The Implementation Group would like to extend its thanks to the Community Representatives and the Scientific Advisor for their service during the initial twelve-month term of the Group. Under the revised Terms of Reference, members seeking to be reappointed to the role are asked to contact the Group chairperson to register their interest and receive approval from each respective Council. Subsequent appointments to the group will extend for the remaining term of the elected Council.

## 1. Vision of the Lake Illawarra CMP

- At the last meeting there was some clarification sought around the vision and purpose of the CMP for stakeholders. A summary of the strategic aims and long-term strategy for the management of Lake Illawarra is provided on page 9 of the document as follows:
  - To protect and enhance the natural processes and environmental values of Lake Illawarra including natural character, scenic value, biological diversity and ecosystem integrity and resilience,
  - To support the social and cultural values of the coastal zone and maintain public access, amenity, use and safety,
  - To encourage and promote plans and strategies to improve the resilience of the Lake to the impacts of an uncertain climate future including impacts of climate change,
  - To ensure co-ordination of the policies and activities of WCC and SCC and public authorities relating to Lake Illawarra and to facilitate integration, and
  - To support public participation and greater public awareness, education and understanding of Lake processes and management actions.
- The actions and strategies in the CMP were developed to target threats and to preserve community values and uses of the lake. These values and threats were identified during community consultation undertaken for this CMP as detailed in the *Community Uses, Values, Threats and Opportunities: Lake Illawarra* study (BMT, 2020b).
- The values underpinning CMP strategy areas are:
  - Water quality, which is the most valued aspect of the lake,
  - views / How the lake looks,
  - native wildlife,
  - access to the Lake Foreshore,
  - recreational Facilities,
  - healthy Vegetation in the Lake.
- Greatest perceived threats include:
  - water pollution,
  - catchment development,
  - entrance channel changes.
- While the actions in this CMP have a strong focus on maintaining ecological health, these actions underpin the maintenance of social, recreational and economic values associated with the Lake to ensure its sustainability into the future.

## 2. Update on overall status of the CMP

- Significant progress was made across a number of CMP actions in year 2 of its implementation thanks to the hard work of all staff and agencies involved. The Project Management team has compiled an interim summary report that will be presented at the meeting. A review of priority actions for the new financial year has been undertaken by the PMT, and an implementation plan for 2023-2024 will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

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

- The final Community Engagement and Participation Strategy and monitoring toolkit for Lake Illawarra has been delivered by Brooks Consultants and will be made available on Councils' websites.
- The first year of the program will include a Lake Walk and Talk, Hotspot Kiosk, Citizen Science training opportunities and the development of an online Lake Illawarra hub.
- During year 1, there will be a particular focus on engaging builders and the development industry to support work being undertaken to improve compliance with erosion and sediment controls for

development sites (WQ5). Councils will host a Builders BBQ and develop new updated educational materials for distribution and display on construction sites.

### *Bathymetric Survey of Lake Illawarra (FB3)*

- The final report comparing depth changes in the Lake since 2008 has been received and a summary report will be prepared to communicate outcomes with the community.
- Julia Palmer from Wollongong City Council will present on the outcomes of the study and its implications.

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

- Wollongong City Council intends to use public land along the Lake Illawarra foreshore to create a connected shared path infrastructure which ties into the wider regional cycling and walking network.
- A consultant has been procured to prepare a masterplan for new sections of shared pathway connecting Primbee and Windang, Tallawarra and Haywards Bay, Haywards Bay and Shellharbour and further over Macquarie rivulet.
- Council is seeking feedback from committee members as to priority sites for additional public access and conservation, as well as sites of high value or sensitivity that may need be protected from recreational access. Please provide any written feedback to Cole Hendrigan ([chendrigan@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chendrigan@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)).

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

- The interagency technical working group along with Council Executives have shortlisted a number of options for more detailed cost-benefit analysis and modelling.
- Stage 2 involves more detailed multi-criteria analysis to finalise the preferred option(s) report.
- Community engagement and updating will commence according to the communications strategy developed by both Councils.

### *Rehabilitate vegetation and manage public access along foreshores and banks of the Lake, its tributaries, islands and broader low-lying areas (EV1)*

- Cockspur's coral seedlings have been reported in very high densities threatening endangered saltmarsh and swamp oak communities around Hooka Pt following heavy rain events in 2022-2023. Council has been in contact with the Illawarra District Weeds Authority regarding the future management of this issue. South East Region Local Land Services are currently recruiting a pest plant biosecurity officer who will work with Council officers to understand the range and distribution of adult plants in the catchment and assist with developing a control plan for sensitive habitats under threat.
- Revegetation and weed control will continue across 90 hectares of foreshore sites included in a grant funded program of works around the lake, along with additional saltmarsh protection at two key sites. The Natural Areas teams of both Councils will continue maintenance and secondary stage planting of native tubers to restore ecological function of endangered foreshore vegetation communities.
- Ozfish\*, with support from Landcare Illawarra and Shellharbour City Council, have an Endeavour Energy Community Grant to restore low-lying saltmarsh vegetation in Burrow Bay-Oak Flats. The project will focus on the foreshore east of the Jetty and has several objectives; (i) to promote seagrass wrack to wash ashore in this area rather than to accumulate in the Bay's surface waters, (ii) assist in bank stabilisation of the foreshore; (iii) support saltmarsh restoration works as well as foster natural rehabilitation into the future (iv) promote fish habitat for estuarine and oceanic fish in their early life stages. This collaborative project will engage volunteers across organisations with a series of planting 'events' over the next financial year.

\*Ozfish an Australian wide not-for-profit organisation that supports our waterways, recreational fishing and fish habitat restoration.

### *Prepare and implement an estuarine macrophyte mapping and monitoring program (EV4)*

- Since the opening of the Lake's entrance in 2007, shifts in the distribution of aquatic macrophytes and other endangered ecological communities have been observed around the lake foreshores. In 2016 UoW in partnership with DPE - Coasts and Estuaries mapped the current distribution of mangroves within the lake, with a particular focus on the expansion of mangroves since 2007. Building upon this work, a

foreshore prioritisation map identifying saltmarsh as high and medium priority in terms of focusing protection and where any management of mangroves would best be considered was developed (Williams and Wiecek, 2017) and included in the CMP.

- DPE undertake monitoring of these high priority saltmarsh sites to determine if mangrove encroachment is having an impact on the saltmarsh, with the previous survey conducted in May 2020. The results of recent monitoring completed in recent weeks will be discussed.

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

- The technical report and estuary health report card for the period May 2022-April 2023 has been completed. The analysis of estuary health showed nine of the eleven sites were rated as good or very good. For the first time, an overall grade for the Lake Illawarra as a whole was calculated, and the Lake received a “Good” rating or a B grade.
- The recreational water quality (primary and secondary recreation contact) of three sites within the Lake sites had higher percentage compliance than the previous year and reflects the lower rainfall over the 2022/23 summer period. This is the final year of the grant with sampling to continue for both the estuary health and catchment water quality program.

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## ITEM 7 PRESENTATION – BATHYMETRIC SURVEY

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This item will be presented by Julia Palmer, Project Support Officer, Wollongong City Council. Hydrographic and Cadastral Survey Pty Ltd was engaged to conduct a bathymetric survey of Lake Illawarra and its major tributaries (CMP action FB3) and conduct a comparative assessment with bathymetric survey data collected in 2008. This presentation will report on the outcomes of the study, including changes in the lakebed following the opening of the entrance channel.

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## ITEM 8 PRESENTATION – ENTRANCE OPTIONS STUDY

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This item will be presented by Chris O'Connor, Infrastructure Governance Manager, Wollongong City Council. The presentation will report on the status of the Lake Illawarra Entrance Options program (CMP action EC1) including works and progress to date, steps to be implemented in phase two, and upcoming actions and stages of the of community engagement program.

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## ITEM 9 PRESENTATION – OAK FLATS SAILING CLUB

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This item will be presented by Kevin Gillis, local historian and longstanding member of the Oak Flats Sailing Club. Kevin will give a brief history of the club and speak about the services they offer to the community and who their outreach is.

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## ITEM 10 STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS - UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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### ITEM 11 GROUP MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

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

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### ITEM 12 OTHER BUSINESS

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This item is a standing agenda item. It is an opportunity for any member to raise business directly relating to the functions of the Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group.

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### ITEM 13 CLOSE

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This is a standing agenda item. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm Wednesday, 22 November 2023

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