

MINUTES

LAKE ILLAWARRA CMP IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

11 JUNE 2025



MEMBERS PRESENT

Cr Ann Martin, WCC Chair	Chris Stewart, WCC staff
Cr Deidre Stuart, WCC	Isabelle Ghetti, WCC staff
Mayor Chris Homer, SCC	Trudy Costa, WCC staff
Jessica Lintern, SCC staff	Todd Hopwood, WCC staff
Luke Musgrave, SCC staff	Sue Trevisi, WCC staff
Carla Ganassin, NSW Dept of Primary Industries Fisheries	Rebekah Lambert, Community Representative, Wollongong LGA
Professor Kerrylee Rogers, Independent Scientific Advisor	Alexander Sherley, Community Representative, Wollongong LGA
Nathan Harrison, Sydney Water	Mitchell Clark, Community Representative, Shellharbour LGA
Professor Brian Jones (alternate Independent Scientific Advisor)	Tracy Baron, Community Representative (alternate), Wollongong LGA

Online Attendance

Aara Welz, Illawarra Aboriginal Local Lands Council	Grant Nelson, DPHI Crown Lands
Murray Gibbs, Local Land Services	Daniel Wiecek, DCCEEW
Graham Towers, DHI	Peter Hawkins, TfNSW

ITEM 1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed new and existing Members.

ITEM 2 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GROUP MEETINGS

WCC Manager Customer – Business and Integrity gave a presentation regarding the Code of Conduct for Committee Members. The group is an advisory group and interactions with staff should take place in a professional manner with regards to the Code of Conduct. Meetings of the Committee are by nature ‘closed meetings’ with observers and guests attending only as invitees and subject to approval of the chairperson. The presentation is provided as **ATTACHMENT 1**.

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ITEM 3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cr Lou Stefanovski, Warren Goodall, Nathan McBriarty and Chris O'Connor.

ITEM 4 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 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

ITEM 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes from 19 May 2024 were received and accepted.

MOVED by Mayor Homer, SECONDED by Professor Brian Jones.

ITEM 7 GROUP INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made at the commencement of the meeting on-line and around the table.

ITEM 8 COASTAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Lake Illawarra Coastal Environment Officer provided an overview of the Lake CMP and its Governance framework, including the role of the Implementation Group and the current Terms of Reference. A snapshot update was circulated to the group and was accompanied by more detailed updates on key actions from the 2024 – 2025 Implementation Plan in the presentation.

During the presentation, Cr Ann Martin requested a Councillor Briefing regarding the Windang Playground once the options have been considered.

Group members are asked to please complete the [Lake Illawarra CMP Implementation Group survey June 2025](#) by Friday 20th June. Members are also invited to email through any suggestions on locations for future Group walk and talk sessions, or community groups they would like invited to present at future meetings.

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The [Coastal Officer's presentation](#) is also provided as **ATTACHMENT 2**.

The [CMP Snapshot June Update](#) is also provided as **ATTACHMENT 3**.

ITEM 9 GROUP MEMBER UPDATES AND DISCUSSION OF ACTIONS FOR 2025 - 2026

DCCEEW

DCCEEW were keen to be involved in the planning for Warrawong Parklands designs, led by the Department of Planning Housing & Infrastructure, in order to ensure good environmental outcomes are achieved and follow environmentally friendly seawall guidelines incorporated in the CMP.

Crown Lands

It was explained that since the Lake Illawarra Authority was disbanded several years ago, Crown Lands became responsible for certain lands and assets within Lake Illawarra including its reserves and crown roads surrounding the Lake, and also inherited jetties, boat ramps and the like.

It was further added that during this period, repairs, maintenance and improvements to these assets have occurred, including removal of unsafe and/or unused assets.

The focus has also included the RA1 Action (manage foreshore and waterway recreational infrastructure).

Work around the FB1 Action (undertake bank assessments and riverbank works) has also progressed.

Crown Lands is currently completing works at -

- Yallah Reserve (management maintenance works).
- Kanahooka Jetty and Dixons Wharf.
- Kanahooka Boat Harbour.
- Kanahooka Boat Ramp (removal of debris and clean up).
- Berkeley Boat Harbour (engineering works and design for failing seawall and removal of derelict wharf).

Projects for the next financial year are planned, ie Berkeley Boat Harbour Masterplan, however this will depend on funding.

Local Land Services

For the next financial year, LLS (Berry office) are planning an extension of their advisory service, therefore we will be going out to landholders to ascertain their interest in revegetation workshops and plant identification, which will be very valuable for this Program.

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Cr Martin shared that completed studies established that some of the pollutants entering the Lake derived from farming practices.

Cr Martin added that it would be beneficial that Local Land Services support farmers and property owners to fence around the edges of creeks, in order that this issue does not continue.

The group were advised that unfortunately there is presently no funding for on ground works for farmers.

Cr Martin suggested that this may be a partnership opportunity.

TfNSW

TfNSW were a supporting partner for a number of Actions in the CMP, adding that the Entrance Options Study is one of the major Projects for the EC1 Action.

The main Project progressing at the moment is the Windang bridge protection works.

In 2019 settlement was observed in Windang Bridge due to scouring around the piers. A large amount of rock was placed around the piers to ensure this did not continue. A third of the works have been completed with the remainder progressing. There is also other work underway to clean and improve the structural integrity of those piers with cathodic protection systems in place to protect their reinforcement.

Independent Scientific Advisor (alternate)

Research on the amount of pollution is being continued in the Griffin Bay area, which is decreasing quite significantly, continues with results hopefully to published by next year.

NSW Dept of Primary Industries Fisheries

Fisheries continue with their compliance action on the Lake in relation to cockle harvesting and unauthorised waterway structures in the catchments as well.

A scientific study continues regarding the relation between fisheries catches and seagrasses, not only in the Lake but other estuaries in NSW.

The Seagrass Mapping Program down the Coast progresses as does work progressing development applications that contributes to the work of the Group.

As part of the Marine Estate Management Program, a Fish Friendly Council Program will be launched in September 2025 which targets best practice work methods and includes works crews, planning and environmental staff.

It was commented on the large amount of funding necessary to progress actions around the Lake moving forward.

Sydney Water

Sydney Water is currently undertaking a Planning Study to look at works to improve wet weather sewer overflow performance.

Key priorities within Wollongong and Shellharbour include some assets that have flow paths into Lake Illawarra.

Two other major reviews being undertaken by Sydney Water are –

1 IPART Submission

This is currently on exhibition and closes in 12 days.

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2 *Environment Protection Licences Review*

This is being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Authority and defines the environmental performance and monitoring of all waste water assets. It was further explained that this was to ensure that wastewater remains in pipes and progresses to the treatment plant for appropriate treatment prior to discharge.

SCC staff

Questions were raised on behalf of Shellharbour City Council's Community Representative

Q1 The TOR state a minimum of 4 meetings per year. The Council elections were held on 14 September 2024, however neither Council advertised for nominations for this committee until a few months ago. Why was there such a significant delay and is this acceptable?

The last meeting of the full Implementation Group was in August 2024 and the Executive Committee met in February 2025. It is difficult for us to have 4 meetings a year during an election year due to the process that we have to go through for both Councils, and periods of Council closure. We will look at reviewing the Terms of Reference in future to consider the EOI process and include a note that there will be four meetings a year aside from election years.

Q2 If there were 50 or so options identified in the Entrance Options Report, what methodology was used to limit the public options to 5? Having read the report I suspect that there would be other options that may be more palatable.

In stage 1 of the study, 50 Options were initially identified and a multi-criteria assessment was used to score and rank these options and consider some gateway criteria.

The top ranking options and some additional alternatives were considered during the life of the Project and those other options have been discounted due to either technical efficacy, associated environmental implications or approval pathways and costs.

Information is available on both Council's website.

The Preliminary Options Assessment Report is available on Shellharbour Let's Chat page and also Lake Illawarra's CMP Project Page.

WCC Community Rep

Landcare and Intrepid Landcare are undertaking various tree planting projects in the Illawarra and at Berkeley. The groups could consider programs and plantings further up in the catchment to improve risk of erosion and poor water quality.

Alternate WCC Community Rep

It was questioned whether the sand from the dredging project mentioned in the Coastal Officer's presentation could be moved to Windang.

DCCEEW responded that the sand dredged from the Lake would contain muds and silt and unlikely to be compatible for the foreshore. The quality would not be safe, would wash away quickly and create turbidity issues in that location.

Suggested that during engagement sessions with the community, explanation should be provided around the different agencies and their responsibilities in relation to the Entrance Options Study.

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The group discussed that there was a community assumption that Council is responsible for the Bridge, Lake and its surrounds.

WCC Community Rep

The question was raised about representation from Emergency Service Management within the Group.

It was stated that there is Emergency Management representation on the Floodplain Risk Management committee which is separate from this Committee.

It was suggested that this Committee be informed by a presentation on the Flood Risk Management Study and Plan project at a future meeting.

Manager City Strategy WCC

Given the foreshore stabilisation issue at Windang, Council is also looking at the potential of removal of the remainder of the playground and exploring options and potential locations for a temporary and permanent playground.

ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2025.

ITEM 11 CLOSE

The Meeting closed at 7:25 pm.

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ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
9	Cr Ann Martin suggested partnership opportunity to determine responsibility for the territory at the top of the escarpment needing fencing around the creek edges, to avoid further pollutants entering the Lake by cow and deer.		
9	Cr Ann Martin requested that during Community Engagement Sessions, Officers provide awareness to community members regarding the responsibilities of different Agencies regarding the Bridge, Lake and its surrounds.		