

MINUTES

LAKE ILLAWARRA ESTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT
5.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, 9 AUG 2017



PRESENT	
Mayor Marianne Saliba (Chair) SCC - part	Danny Wiecek (OEH)
Cr Ann Martin WCC	Stephanie Kermode (Sydney Water)
John Davey (Community Rep)	Jason Carson (LLS)
Col Wilton (Community Rep)	Graham Towers (Dept of Planning)
Paul Knight (ILALC)	Dr Kerrylee Rogers (Scientific Advisor)
Annie Marlow (Community Rep)	Dr Brian Jones (Scientific Advisor)
Steven Savic (Community Rep)	Jillian Reynolds (Fisheries)
	Andrew Monk (RMS)

IN ATTENDANCE	
Kristy Blackburn WCC and SCC	Kathleen Packer SCC
Tony Miskiewicz WCC	Tuesday Heather SCC
Jason Brown WCC	Grant Meredith SCC
Philomena Gangaiya WCC	Andrew Williams OEH
Rob Dixon (UoW)	Rob Williams (ex Fisheries)

- 1 WELCOME**
The Chair welcomed Committee members and thanked them for their attendance and for their participation over the first term of the Committee. It was acknowledged that this is the last meeting of this term of the Committee.
- 2 APOLOGIES**
Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cr David Brown, Cr Peter Moran, Mike Dowd and Jodi Edwards.
- 3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
No declarations of interest were received.
- 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 May 2017**

Recommendation: That the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee meeting held on 10 May 2017 be endorsed:

MOVED: Brain Jones

SECONDED: Cr Ann Martin

ALL IN FAVOUR

Action items progressed as per Business Paper.

6. CORRESPONDANCE IN AND OUT

Correspondence In	Description	Action to be undertaken
Letter dated 26 July 2017 from Dept of Industry (Lands).	Advising that Crown Lands will not participate as a member of the LIEMC in its second term.	Kristy to seek reason for decision then follow up.
Letter dated 28 July 2017 from Cardno on behalf of Bridgehill Pty Ltd.	Providing an update re proposed modifications to the Concept Approval for Tallawarra Lands and inviting comment.	Kristy to respond saying LIEMC would like to be kept informed and expressing concern re extension of concept plan into foreshore reserve and E3 zoned lands.

Correspondence Out	Description
None	

Significant disappointment was expressed in relation to the Crown Lands withdrawal notification. It is considered vitally important that Crown Lands are a member of the LIEMC and have appropriate input into meetings. Taking the matter up with The Department of Premier and Cabinet was considered, but a chance to explain the decision will be provided before taking the issue further.

Paul Knight provided an update of discussions held at the most recent Tallawarra Community Liaison Group meeting. He stated that the Bridgehill manager expressed an interest in developing the site to high standards for the benefit of all. Kristy will continue to attend the CLG meetings and provide updates to the LIEMC as relevant.

7. REZONING APPLICATIONS – LAKE CATCHMENT AND FORESHORE

This is a standing agenda item and allows WCC and SCC to provide basic information on rezoning applications within the Lake Illawarra catchment for the Committee's information. Jason Brown, Acting Manager Environment Strategy and Planning, WCC stated that the attachment detailed the current status of each of the WCC based planning proposals, he clarified that proposal 5 included an offset site on the escarpment as shown.

A SCC report was not submitted.

8 MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS – COUNCIL BASED - UPDATE

Kathleen Packer, Group Manager Parks, Aquatics, Landfill and Stadium, SCC spoke to the relevant sections of the attachment Shellharbour City and Wollongong City Council Proposed Capital Works Program Lake Illawarra. She confirmed that the Reddall Pde works will be undertaken later – once a Master Plan for the site was completed and that those funds would be transferred to works ready to be undertaken at Skiway Park. The LIEMC would have the opportunity to provide comments into the planning process.

Mike Dowd was a late apology and the WCC section of the report was taken as read.

9. UPDATE ON LAKE ILLAWARRA WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

Philomena Gangaiya, Environmental Strategy Officer, WCC presented the findings of the Lake Illawarra water quality monitoring program that she manages on behalf of WCC and SCC with support from UoW and OEH. Other entities such as EnergyAustralia, OEH and Manly Hydraulics also undertake their own water quality sampling and analysis. It is important that the water quality condition of Lake Illawarra can be determined over space and time and that the management of the lake is underpinned by robust water quality analysis.

Analysis from the 10 land based and 5 in water sites demonstrate that seasonal and catchment influences have a significant impact on water quality. High Nitrogen is found in the NE section and high phosphorus is found in the SW section. The overall Estuary Health condition was Good – Fair during 2016/17 rather than Very Good – Good as it was during 2015/16. It is theorised that increased rainfall (and hence increased catchment inputs) have played a role in this decline.

Monitoring for recreational use is undertaken at Entrance Beach at Lake Illawarra by Sydney Water's Beachwatch monitoring program. Results show that this area exceeded primary contact 25% of the time and secondary contact 6% of the time. Staff are currently investigating the extension of Beachwatch into other sites within Lake Illawarra.

Staff are discussing future monitoring requirements given the halt of OEH funding in June 2018.

10 PROPOSAL RE MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVES AROUND THE LAKE

Danny Wiecek, Senior Natural Resource Officer – Coast and Estuaries, OEH, presented information that he and Rob Williams, former Dept of Fisheries, have been gathering re the presence of mangroves within Lake Illawarra and the potential impacts that they have on the EEC Saltmarsh.

It was shown that a small number of mangroves can be seen on overhead photos from the 70's and mentioned in the literature, before the LIA planted them in the estuary. Since the permanent opening of the lake entrance the amount of mangroves has greatly increased and their distribution expanded, although some areas of the lake it is theorised will never provide a suitable habitat for mangroves.

Danny put forward a map for discussion, showing areas that he and Rob had identified for potentially different management regimes in order to protect saltmarsh. In this proposed framework some areas would be left for mangroves to grow unhindered, some areas would be actively managed re mangrove removal and some would be considered as a higher/ lower priority for management.

There was discussion regarding the impact mangroves are having on saltmarsh vs the impact changed tidal regime is having and if mangrove removal would solve the issue of disappearing saltmarsh at all. There was also discussion re having locals willing to undertake the work in some areas but not others.

It was decided to convene a sub-group of interested LIEMC members and relevant staff to discuss the issue further with a view to generating management actions that could be included in the CMP. Kerrylee, Jillian, Danny, Jason, Col, John, Annie and Tuesday indicated an interest to be involved. The results of the discussion will be presented to the next LIEMC meeting.

Mayor Saliba left the meeting and handed the Chair to Cr Martin.

11 OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF THE LIEMC

Kristy Blackburn, Lake Illawarra Environmental Strategy Officer spoke to the submitted report and presented some highlights from the review into the LIEMC. 12 members and staff responded to the anonymous survey and mostly indicated that they were happy with the various workings of the Committee. Everyone surveyed would be happy to consider joining the LIEMC for its second term.

Some things that were considered to be working well included – balance in agenda items and opportunity for discussion and input at meetings, passionate members, direct discussion with staff and on-site visits. Some things reported as needing improvement – more frequent meetings, extension into catchment activities, lack of Crown Lands representatives at meetings and infrequent attendance by Councillors and Aboriginal reps.

Recognition was paid to Annie Marlow who is the only LIEMC member to have attended every meeting and field trip and thanks offered to Kristy for her role in the smooth working of the Committee.

The survey results and feedback will inform a report to both new Councils including potential recommendations for changes to the LIEMC Terms of Reference for its second term. Recommendations will be provided and decisions sought as soon as possible after the new Councils are elected. It is hoped that the reconvened LIEMC can meet as currently scheduled in mid-November.

12. LAKE ILLAWARRA OFFICER REPORT

Kristy Blackburn spoke to her report as outlined in the Business Paper. She provided additional information regarding the following issues:

- That the Project Management Team was not satisfied with the latest draft reports being provided by the consultant WBM BMT.
- That an opportunity exists for the LIEMC to provide comments into the current review of the WCC DCP Erosion and Sediment Control Management Chapter. This is an important issue for the health of the Lake and as such members will be providing comments back to Kristy for inclusion in a joint response.
- That LIEMC state agency representatives have an important task ahead; making sure that the draft set of management actions contained in the CMP are discussed within their relative organisations and approval facilitated.

13 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

Due to time constraints the opportunity to speak to urgent updates only was provided. None were raised.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

15 NEXT MEETING

This was the last meeting of this term of the LIEMC. Members were advised to look for notifications re the second term of the Committee. It is hoped that the LIEMC can be reconvened in a timely fashion so the next meeting can occur close to the currently scheduled time which is mid November 2017.

16 CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

Minutes confirmed by members via email.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Officer	Status
6	Kristy to seek reason from Dept. of Industry why Crown Lands will not be participating in LIEMC as a member.	KB	Done – decision halted. Jeremy Corke will attend next meeting of the LIEMC.
6	Kristy to write to Cardno saying LIEMC would like to be kept informed of the Tallawarra Lands Concept Plan process and expressing concern re the extension of the plan into foreshore reserve and E3 zoned lands.	KB	Done – letter sent 10 Aug 2017
10	Organise sub-group to meet to discuss management of mangroves	KB	Meeting held 22 Aug.
12	Members to provide comments to Kristy regarding the review of the WCC Development Control Plan Chapter – Erosion and Sediment Control by lunchtime Wed 16 Aug.	ALL	
Held over	That Brian sends the links to relevant student work to Kristy for distribution to the Committee	BJ	