



Lake Illawarra
ESTUARY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

MINUTES

MEETING HELD
5:30PM WEDNESDAY
13 NOVEMBER 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Ann Martin (WCC)	Nathan Harrison (Sydney Water)
Councillor Cath Blakey (WCC)	Carla Ganassin (DPI Fisheries)
Councillor Peter Moran (SCC)	Graham Towers (DPIE)
Annie Marlow (Community Representative)*	Brian Jones (UOW)*
Col Wilton (Community Representative)*	Paul Knight (ILALC)
John Davey (Community Representative)*	Sharralyn "Aunty Shas" Robinson (Aboriginal Community Representative)
Danny Wiecek (DPIE)	Andrew Monk (RMS)

IN ATTENDANCE

Kristy Blackburn (WCC & SCC)	Renee Winsor (WCC)
Andrew Lee (SCC)	Grant Meredith (SCC)
Jessica Faustini (WCC)	Wayde Peterson (SCC)
Philomena Gangaiya (WCC)	Chris Stewart (WCC)
Mike Dowd (WCC)	

* see item 5 for the status of these members.

ITEM 1 - WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed committee members and thanked them for their attendance. Introductions were made around the table.

ITEM 2 - APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Mayor Marianne Saliba, Councillor Dom Figliomeni, Kerrylee Rogers, David Green, Jason Carson and Wayne Cooke.

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 28 AUGUST 2019 AND BUSINESS ARISING

1. **Recommendation:** That the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee meeting held on 28 August 2019 are endorsed as accurate with the addition of the statement “Wollongong City Council is relying on the public to report pollution incidents; however, most people are unaware of this because Council doesn't publicize it” to Item 15 Other Business.

Minutes unable to be endorsed at this time. Held over until next meeting.

The term of the LIEMC Community Representatives and Scientific Advisors lapsed on October 31, 2019. For the purposes of this meeting these member' were invited to fully participate in discussions. It was noted that they could not move or second items or vote.

Council reports requesting that the above member terms be extended for 12 months until 31 October 2020 or until the Lake Illawarra CMP is certified, will be presented to WCC at their meeting on 9 December and to SCC at their meeting on 17 December.

Business Arising:

- The issue of mangroves has been held over for a few meetings. John Davey requests to put mangroves on the agenda.
- Request to put West Dapto on the agenda – held over.
- White's Seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*) was listed as 'endangered' under Schedule 4 of the FM Act on 1 November following final determination by the Fisheries Scientific Committee.
- The LIEMC Code of Conduct is on the agenda for the current meeting.

ITEM 6 - CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

Items received:

- Statement from Kerrylee Rogers, Independent Scientific Advisor re Mangrove management in Lake Illawarra.

ITEM 7 - REZONING APPLICATIONS – LAKE CATCHMENT AND FORESHORE

Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy WCC spoke to the WCC report at Attachment 1.

A question was raised after this update around the relevance of this as a standing agenda item.

Graham Towers, DPIE explained that catchment development was outlined as a key threat to Lake Illawarra and these updates keep the LIEMC informed of planning approvals within the catchment. Details such as stormwater retention basins, other controls and/ or green corridors are not provided at this stage. There is potential for the LIEMC to brainstorm how to add value to this agenda item as it is hard to understand impacts to the Lake until more detail is provided.

It may become clearer after David Fitzgibbon, West Dapto Manager provides an update at the next meeting.

ITEM 8 - MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS – COUNCIL BASED – UPDATE

Mike Dowd, Manager Infrastructure WCC spoke to the report at Attachment 2.

Annie Marlow asked Mike to confirm that the artwork at the Hooka Point jetty will be preserved as a part of the project works.

Entrance Channel

Windang Bridge– WCC met with RMS last Friday regarding Windang Bridge. RMS is seeking permission to extend the scope of pile reinforcement works further south due to scouring spreading in this direction since works have taken place. WCC is also looking to do protection works near Judbooley Parade due to erosion occurring and sinkholes starting to form. RMS wants to work collaboratively with WCC.

Tracer Study – WCC has reached out to the Department of Premier and Cabinet to facilitate a meeting between them, the EPA and other stakeholders. The LIEMC will continue to be updated on progress. WCC has also asked WRL to provide a revised scope of works for the Entrance Channel minus the tracer study. The need to do initial remediation works for immediate protection is understood by WCC.

Col Wilton asked Mike Dowd what need was there for a model when WCC already knows where the sand is being eroded. Andrew Monk from RMS explained that a model was essential for gaining a whole of system perspective, to understand the consequences of any works done in the area. Mike Dowd explained that in order to get funding from any funding body WCC must demonstrate a robust planning process and part of this is done using modelling.

Col Wilton also asked why funding responsibility of the entrance study has fallen to WCC. Mike Down explained that foreshore funding is the landowner's responsibility and that DPIE is a potential funding partner. However, WCC was not eligible to apply for grant funding to do the entrance study due to not having a certified CMP.

Cr Cath Blakey asked Andrew Monk if RMS has plans to reengineer the bridge. At this stage there are no plans due to the uncertainty around the entrance itself. RMS has conducted research that suggests for the channel to equalise it would need to be 5000m², it is currently 600m². Before moving forward, the implications of this research must be fully understood.

Wayde Peterson from SCC spoke to the SCC Report at Attachment 3. Noted was the completion of Skiway Park works, which will be opened on Monday. The entire promenade was refurbished.

Col Wilton asked when the Reddall Parade boat ramp was scheduled to be repaired, to which Wayde Peterson informed the committee it was currently under design and to be implemented next financial year.

John Davey asked about the Boonerah reserve toilet blocks and for it to be included in the SCC report for the next meeting. Cr Peter Moran added that SCC has three standard templates for amenity buildings and one will be going in at Boonerah Point next year.

ITEM 9 - CODE OF CONDUCT

Kristy explained that recently both WCC and SCC have updated their Code of Conduct for Committee members. Councillors and staff are bound by their respective codes and the remaining committee members were encouraged by both Councils to agree to comply with the Model Code set by the Office of Local Government. John Davey suggested he would not like to sign a code that does not allow community representatives to talk to the media, not on behalf of the Committee but as a representative, as this will be in conflict with the selection criteria. This activity is not prohibited in the Model Code and it was decided that the Model Code would be adopted. An acknowledgement to sign was distributed and members encouraged to sign and return the form to Kristy.

ITEM 10 - PRESENTATION – LIEMC REVIEW

Jessica Faustini, WCC Environment Cadet, presented the results from the latest LIEMC Review. Most people who answered the survey were satisfied with the Terms of Reference and were confident that the LIEMC had the necessary connections to assist Lake Managers in the successful implementation of the CMP. The survey results will assist staff at both Councils develop new LIEMC Terms of Reference for the CMP implementation phase.

ITEM 11 – 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:

- CMP for Lake Illawarra – John Davey asked if the LIEMC could see the wording regarding new actions being considered for the CMP. Kristy Blackburn advised she was making a presentation on the matter shortly.
- Other items – Col Wilton will prepare information for Daniel Dunstan, Senior Traffic Engineer at WCC who is coordinating a project to prepare a masterplan for an “around the lake pathway”. Annie Marlow asked if the masterplan will be done before the CMP and Kristy Blackburn said it would not be completed before the CMP and that Daniel was very interested in ensuring the plan was in line with the CMP.

ITEM 12 – UPDATE – DRAFT SUBMISSIONS IN REPLY REPORT

Kristy Blackburn, Lake Illawarra Project Officer, WCC and SCC outlined the status of the draft Submissions in Reply Report including information on several new actions being drafted as a result of community comments received during the draft CMP public exhibition. New actions being drafted include two relating to dredging, one related to tourism and one related to litter.

One of the new dredging actions being considered has to do with small scale opportunistic dredging to improve recreational amenity around boat ramps and it was suggested that stormwater outlets should also be included in this action. The second dredging action involved investigating larger scale dredging, which would involve cost/ benefit analysis and business case requirements for such events. Carla Ganassin would like to be informed of any changes to the draft dredging actions. Several Committee members expressed their concern about

impacts from contaminated sediments and acid sulfate soils being stirred up during dredging as well as impacts on water quality and habitat. Both small and large-scale dredging would need to have all appropriate environmental approvals and controls in place before being undertaken.

Apart from drafting a new action, community engagement around litter has been added to PM3. Cr Moran asked if the new litter action addressed wafflepods. Kristy Blackburn said it was addressed under one of the catchment development actions. The wafflepod action needs to be consistent with existing Council resolutions so the current draft will be distributed to Cr Blakey and Cr Moran to ensure this.

ITEM 13 – COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES (ROUND TABLE)

Andrew Monk – Update on the Windang Bridge. So far there has been 6500 T of rock placed, and the original scope was completed this week. The bridge has stopped sinking, however the southern section of the channel is now being scoured. Modelling is being designed by MHL and WSU to understand ongoing impacts to the bridge. One potential solution is to install a causeway to slow down the velocity of the water, but the modelling will need to show if that is a good long-term solution.

Kristy Blackburn would like to know who from SCC are being consulted, and if no one has been in contact they must inform the Council of what is going on. Danny Wiecek noted that DPIE is pushing to form an interagency working group to address the erosion issues. Paul Knight asked if the works will also affect Picnic Island. Andrew Monk responded, saying that the modelling is more about if the rock will stay in place and it is unknown how it will affect Picnic Island at this stage. Councillor Martin would like information on the activities to be available for both WCC and SCC websites.

John Davey – Mangroves. “Put mangroves on the agenda” has been held over for several meetings now and the LIEMC should have a stance on whether mangroves will be allowed to spread or whether they will be controlled around key saltmarsh areas such as Koono Bay. John acknowledges Kerrylee Rogers correspondence but would like to hear from an expert with a counterview.

Danny Wiecek and Carla Ganassin have been on-ground to assess the spread of mangroves and in their opinion encroachment was not evident at this time. Carla went on to explain that mangroves are protected by Fisheries and this issue is not a new phenomenon, however it is new to the Lake due to the permanent entrance. There are several projects being conducted under Marine Estate Management Strategy. Vegetation Management Plans in other areas that specified the removal of urban mangroves for views were met with fierce objection. Carla will closely monitor the mangroves and speak with the Urban mangroves team again and present to the LIEMC at the next meeting.

Kristy Blackburn reminded members that the management of mangroves was already covered under actions EV4 and EV5 of the Draft CMP.

Annie Marlow – Birds of lake Illawarra Brochure. Annie received LLS funding to design a brochure about the values of Lake Illawarra. Lake Illawarra is a great spot for bird watchers, with up to 57% of native birds visiting the Lake. Birds are also a great sign of ecological health of the Lake. With help from WCC and SCC a brochure has been presented to the committee and ideas of when/how to launch the brochure are being sought. Councillor Martin suggested

to do some media and put the brochure in libraries and caravan parks. It was also suggested that the brochure be printed on a sign and put at select locations around the lake with the potential to attach QR codes to each photo to hear what the birds sound like.

Cr Cath Blakey – Ash Ponds. There has recently been an Upper House enquiry into ash ponds due to complex legacy issues around power stations on Lake Macquarie. They are currently asking for submissions on ash pond management if people would like to comment. There was also a clean up at Warrawong Bunnings, a local lady organised it and was on the news. She was very impressed with the Rise and Shine program run by WCC.

ITEM 14 – CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 7:56pm.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Office	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	Held over
	Keep the LIEMC informed of the status of the White's Seahorse (<i>Hippocampus whitei</i>) determination.	JR/CG	Completed
8	Keep the LIEMC informed re stakeholder meeting to discuss tracer study.	MD	Ongoing
13	Submissions in Reply Report to be provided to the LIEMC for endorsement at the Nov meeting	KB	Postponed
5	Endorse the minutes of the previous Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee meeting held on 28 August 2019	ALL	Held over
12	Kristy to send Waflepod action in Draft CMP to Cr Blakey and Moran to get feedback re consistency with Council positions	KB	Sent 20/11
13	Make Update on the Windang Bridge a standing agenda item	KB	Done
13	Carla and Danny to present on Mangroves next meeting	CG & DW	
13	Kristy to send link to comment on Upper House enquiry on ash ponds. www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/pages/inquiries.aspx	KB	Sent 20/11