

## Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 14 December 2022

**Venue:** South Sea Islander Room, Tweed Heads Civic Centre

**Time:** 9am

**Present:**

Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor), Cr Nola Firth, Jane Lofthouse, Rhonda James (Chair), Matthew Bloor, David Cranwell, Lindy Smith, Sam Dawson, Peter Comerford, Grahame McIlveen, Adam Andrewartha, Ian Berger, Eli Szandala, Scott Benitez Hetherington, Marcello Sano (on-line), Robert Quirk (on-line), Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes).

**Apologies:**

Tom Alletson, Larry Woodland, Joanna Gardener, Marama Hopkins, Pat Dwyer, Ben Fitzgibbon, Carl Cormack, Jonathan Yantsch, Brian Bycroft.

### Acknowledgement of the Bundjalung Nation

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**Moved:** David Cranwell

**Seconded:** Adam Andrewartha

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday 12 October 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

**Business Arising:**

**BA1. Correspondence from Council to NSW Government regarding riverbank rehabilitation funding**

Replies from the NSW Government (MP Saunders and Provest). Matt Bloor read through the letter for the committee. No funding available.

Robert Quirk informed the committee that the Flood Risk Management Committee would be updating the Tweed flood model in consultation with Council and community.

**BA2. Water quality monitoring at Wommin Lake and Wommin Lagoon**

Testing has started but needs to have considerably more data over a longer period to analyse results.

**BA3. Foreshore Erosion at Terranora Inlet, John Follent Park on Keith Compton Drive**

As recommended at the last meeting, Council resolved to write to the NSW Minister for Transport highlighting the major concerns of the community regarding foreshore erosion at Terranora Inlet, along Keith Compton Drive, and the urgent necessity for this to be addressed using sand dredged from the adjacent Terranora Inlet navigation channel. The recommendation was accepted by Council and the letter has been sent.

**BA4. Mid-Tweed River flood erosion management**

Graham provided a copy of a letter of support from Tweed Heads and Coolangatta Rowing Club sent to Murwillumbah Rowing Club in relation to funding for construction of a new access facility on the Tweed River.

## Agenda Items:

### **A1. Update on mid-Tweed River rehabilitation projects**

Matthew gave an update on the rehabilitation projects. This involved an erosion mapping exercise and report on rehabilitation priorities as well as concept designs for selected sites. The report was finalised in November. It has been confirmed that the river is at risk of straightening during future flood events if rehabilitation works are not undertaken. Local Land Services are potentially funding some rehabilitation works in 2023. Funds up to a total of \$650,000 may be available.

The timeline to finish is mid to late 2023. A Crown Lands license application for the project has been submitted, but not yet granted.

### **A2. Artificial reef pilot proposal for Jack Evans Boat Harbour – Envirotech Education**

Matthew presented a proposal from Envirotech Education to Council to put artificial reefs (fish habitat units) into Jack Evans Boat Harbour. These small interlocking structures would provide increased habitat complexity on sandy seabed areas within the boat harbour, close to the river mouth rock training walls.

Peter questioned the functionality and benefit of the proposal. He recommended to the committee that it request more details on the proposal. The proposal was discussed, and it was resolved that the committee would like to see feedback on the proposal from NSW Fisheries.

**Action:** *Envirotech Education's proposal is to be emailed to members for review.*

**Moved:** Peter Comerford

**Seconded:** Lindy Smith

**RESOLVED** that Council staff advise Envirotech Education to contact NSW Fisheries to seek feedback on the design, feasibility and approval process of the proposal and provide that feedback to Council. It was generally agreed that the committee supports the idea in principle, but requires more detail before endorsing it to Council, or considering the level of support that Council could provide.

### **A3. Tweed Conservation Strategy – Scott Benitez Hetherington**

Scott presented on the development of the Tweed Conservation Strategy, the framework, workshops held and outcomes from the community survey. The strategy will have a 5 year work program and include targets and monitoring measures.

Next steps:

- Draft strategy submitted to Council for public exhibition – March 2023.
- Opportunities for Voluntary Conservation Agreements
- Integrate relevant actions / outcomes with Coastal Management Program

Committee feedback included:

Rhonda – must acknowledge other strategies and where it sits within their priorities. Scott confirmed liaising with DPIE with reference to threatened species.

Sam- Include targets for land clearing and revegetation projects both private and public. Institutional continuity – monitoring projects over the years and how successful they are. Passive tourism- day trippers in high numbers not contributing to the community and adding increasing pressure on the natural environment.

## **A4. Tweed Sustainable Agriculture program – Eli Szandala**

Eli gave a presentation on the Tweed Sustainable Agriculture Program.

The goals of the program are to reduce impact on the environment from agriculture, improve soil, biodiversity, water and sustainability. A key objective is to raise the profile of better land management in agriculture.

- Tweed Shire is 130,000 hectares
- 50% is agriculture
- Of which: 30,000 ha is grazing land and 10,000 ha is cropped land
- Landholders are a big stakeholder

Program delivery involves:

- One on one engagement
- Education and capacity building
- Policy development for sustainable agriculture
- Applied research
- Implementation is dependent on external grants and in-kind contributions from land holders.
- Includes a 'Small Grants Program' complementing TSC's River Health and Biodiversity grant programs. Grants go towards such things as fencing / biological controls.
- Monthly farm "walk and talk"
- Landholder's networking
- Future drought fund project. Working with graziers to improve land management and drought preparedness
- Field days showcasing activities. Pasture field day and Water for Livestock Day.
- Biochar produced from charcoal given to livestock and has shown a 25% increase in milk production.
- Dung Beetle introduction.

The Sustainable Agriculture webpage on the TSC website provides great resources for farmers.

Graham mentioned that landowner attitude was changing, and that agricultural land management was a secondary interest for many newcomers. Different perceptions on the environment.

Sam indicated that introducing paddock management was important, especially replacing paddock trees. Discussion was had on the agritourism and regenerative bushland management.

Eli confirmed there has been improved focus on environmental objectives by land holders as well as on income.

## **A5. Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee – Priorities for the forthcoming term**

Due to time constraints, there was no general discussion on priorities on the forthcoming term. It was suggested prior to the next meeting that members put forward what they would like to see prioritised this year over and above the scheduled priorities. The Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Plan can be used to find actions for the next term.

**Action:** *Upload Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Plan to website and send link to committee.*

### **Outstanding Items:**

#### **O1. Cobaki Lakes Saltmarsh Rehabilitation**

No updates available.

### **General Business:**

#### **GB1. Gold Coast Airport – PFAS – Lindy Smith**

Lindy gave an overview of the PFAS report provided by Gold Coast Airport, noting concerns about the monitoring. Seasonal data should be collected.

# Minutes

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee will be held  
Wednesday 8 February 2023

The meeting closed at 12pm.

**EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:**

Nil.

**EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Nil.