

Minutes

Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee Meeting held Wednesday 1 December 2021

Venue: South Sea Islander Room – Tweed Heads Civic Centre

Time: 9am

Present: Rhonda James (Chair); Mayor Chris Cherry (11am); David Cranwell; Jane Lofthouse; Tom Alletson; Lindy Smith; Peter Comerford; Sam Dawson; Carl Cormack; Jonathan Yantsch; Ian Berger; Zoe Immisch; Ben Fitzgibbon; John Harbison.

Informal: Sian Nivison (Transport for NSW Maritime); Mark Kingston; Louise Bennett; Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes).

Apologies: Eli Szandala; Scott Hetherington; Robert Quirk; Joanna Gardener; Cr Katie Milne.

Acknowledgement of the Bundjalung Nation and South Sea Islanders

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved: John Harbison

Seconded: David Cranwell

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held 13 October 2021 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Business Arising:

BA.1 Council resolution regarding Chinderah drainage issues in adoption of TCWC August Minutes

Tom informed the committee that the ELT had altered the wording on the section of Minutes A4. Cudgen / Chinderah drainage which was subsequently reworded in the adopted Council resolution.

The committee discussed the West Kingscliff development, noting amended planning proposals were to be submitted.

BA.2 Letter to Crown Lands Commissioner

A letter was sent from Council's General Manager to the Crown Lands Commissioner highlighting the significant delays in Crown Land license processing, noting the effect this has on projects, including safety, environmental and community impacts.

The response from the chief policy officer at Crown Lands acknowledged Crown Lands license delays and confirmed additional effort would be put into processing licenses.

Since then, one substantial Crown Land license has been approved with thirteen licenses awaiting approval. Tom thanked Lindy for her valuable suggestion on this.

BA.3 Tweed Estuary CMP update – response from Transport for NSW Maritime.

Sian Nivison (Manager, Northern Region - NSW Maritime) attended the meeting to address the response provided as part of the CMP consultation process.

Sian acknowledged the comments from the last meeting minutes and the concerns raised by the committee.

The key message was that the wording “evidence based studies and not merely subjective observations”, is in fact a standard response by NSW Maritime made on CMP’s. Due to the implications in this response the wording will be reviewed for future responses.

With reference to the Tweed River local boating plan being superseded, Sian confirmed that this had occurred. The mechanism for review and consultation with community on boating issues had not yet been determined.

NSW Maritime are investing funds to gather data to better manage regional waterways, including installing cameras to assist with statistics on vessel movements. These cameras will record a vessel passing and its approximate length. Mobile cameras will also be used in hotspots. Signage at boat ramps will be able to record ramp usage.

Peter inquired as to whether the previous work that had already been done on the CMP, relating to community consultation and river character zones, would be used for any new RMS policy on vessel regulation on the Tweed River. Sian confirmed that they would be in consultation with the local community and any stakeholders that would be impacted. At present they are considering a methodology for community consultation and assessment of environmental impacts of any proposed changes.

Agenda Items:

A1. 2021 Water Quality Report

Tom presented the 2020/21 Water Quality Report, put together primarily by Heidi Fletcher. Story Maps program was used which presents the data, video, maps in a scrolling display.

Tom gave an overview of report. The aim was to distil the data and present them to the public in a format that was simple, visually pleasing and succinct. Sections of the report included information on the river community and river users as well as information on river health grants and sustainable agriculture.

A2. Tweed LEP amendment – Conservation zones update.

Mark Kingston (Project Officer - Biodiversity Policy) gave an update on the proposed Environmental C zones.

Methodology

1. Determine candidates for C Zones (40 hectare Minimum)
 - C2 - Environmental conservation zones
 - C3 – more flexible – complements general rural land management
2. Verify criteria
3. Determine the primary use of land
4. Refine proposed C Zones and develop planning controls
5. Community consultation – WE ARE HERE
6. Formal planning proposal.

Landholder and community consultation will commence in February 2022 for at least two months. The Draft C zone map viewer will be made available to the public enabling them to click on their Lot number and a summary is displayed of criteria attached to property.

A3. Concept development application for land at Cudgera Creek Road, Cudgera Creek (proposed agricultural food hub).

Rhonda presented concerns to the committee on a proposed development within the catchment of Cudgera Creek, a Food Hub on Cudgera Creek Road.

This development will cover 5.3 hectares and the facility will involve production and packaging of foods. The concern for local residents is the resulting impact on the flood plain, estuary water quality as well as noise and excessive earthworks.

As the development is over \$30 million this will go to the Joint Regional Planning Panel for assessment. Rhonda requested that the committee consider raising concern on the potential significant impacts of this development on estuary water quality.

The committee acknowledged that the recommendation would not be presented to Council until February 2022 which is after the closure date of 15 December for comments, however it was decided that a record of the committees concern should be conveyed to Council.

Moved: Lindy Smith

Seconded: Peter Comerford

RECOMMENDED Council notes this committee has significant concerns about the potential impact of the proposed food hub development on local waterways including Cudgera Creek.

A5. Waterways Program – works program 2022

Deferred to the next meeting.

A6. Meeting dates 2022

- 9 February
- 13 April
- 8 June
- 10 August
- 12 October
- 14 December

The new Council will review the Council advisory committees and may change the dates.

Outstanding items:

O1. Gold Coast Airport Ecological Monitoring

Tom confirmed a letter has been sent to Marion Charlton at Gold Coast Airport requesting copies of ecological reports. Recent conversations with the airport ecological officer confirmed that there would be a response in the next few weeks.

O2. Cobaki Lakes Saltmarsh Rehabilitation

Nothing to report. There has been no formal reply back from the Department.

O3. Preliminary investigation into sand shoal upstream of Hastings Point Bridge (Cudgera Creek)

Tom completed preliminary investigations using aerial surveys which indicated the sand shoal has increased in size over past years. An estimate of costs and the potential for the outcome of any works to have a very limited life span before reverting, makes the project expensive and limited in benefits.

Jonathan advised that the DPIE (Fisheries) favoured a minimal intervention approach to this type of issue as it is a natural process. Noted that the issue would need to be clearly defined. If estuarine water quality is the problem this should be addressed at source rather than rely on increased tidal exchange.

Tom informed the meeting that unless otherwise directed he would not proceed any further with investigations.

O4. Jack Evans Boat Harbour – long term erosion management plan.

Jonathon Yantsch advised that there has been a proposal for a dredging and sand nourishment program in front of the Seascape apartments by the body corporate. The proposal is lacking in some detail so has been returned to the proponent for more information. If Council was considering sand placement for erosion control it would be good to work with Seascape to ensure any dredging was part of a consolidated plan. Noted that Council had not considered dredging for sand nourishment at this stage.

General Business:

GB1. Jane attended the official handing over of Crown land management for the eastern portion of Fingal Headland to the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council. This is the first time in NSW a Local Land Council has been given this opportunity.

GB2. Peter had been advised of people sleeping in Bruce Chick Park at Stott's Island. This can be reported to Council for attention by the Regulatory Unit.

GB3. Rhonda phoned Katie to express the committee's thanks for her tireless work and contributions over the past years both on the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee, as Councillor and as Mayor.

Action: Tom to write letter of thanks to Katie on behalf of the committee

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee will be held February 9 2022.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A3. Concept development application for land at Cudgera Creek Road, Cudgera Creek (proposed agricultural food hub)

That Council notes this committee has significant concerns about the potential impact of the proposed food hub development on local waterways including Cudgera Creek.