

## Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 8 June 2022

**Venue:** Virtual meeting

**Time:** 9am

**Present:**

Rhonda James (Chair); Mayor Chris Cherry; Cr Nola Firth; Tom Alletson; Jane Lofthouse; David Cranwell; Marcello Sano; Lindy Smith; Robert Quirk (11am); Joanna Gardener; Jonathan Yantsch; Bruce Peate; Sam Dawson.

**Apologies:**

Peter Comerford; Marama Hopkins; Ian Berger; John Harbison; Ben Fitzgibbon; Carl Cormack; Bill Hoskins; Larry Woodland.

### Acknowledgement of the Bundjalung Nation

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**Moved:** David Cranwell

**Seconded:** Mayor Chris Cherry

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee meeting held Wednesday 13 April 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

**Business Arising:**

**B1. TSC submission to the NSW Flood Enquiry**

Tom provided a brief overview of the main headings and recommendations from the submission.

Discussion on updating of flood modelling, status of voluntary house purchasing and desire to see government funds spent on mitigation and preparedness to help reduce expenditure on recovery. Noted that the Federal Government has committed \$200 million annually toward disaster readiness to be matched by States and Territories.

Tom to send a copy of Council's submission to committee members.

**B2. Outgoing letter to Katie Milne**

Letter of appreciation has been sent to Katie Milne.

**B3. Response from Minister for Transport David Elliot regarding dredging of Terranora Inlet and nourishing the beach at Keith Compton Drive.**

Tom provided an overview of a response from David Elliot, NSW Minister for Transport to Geoff Provest, following an appeal to the NSW Government to dredge Terranora Inlet for the purpose of nourishing the beach at Keith Compton Drive. In summary the letter advised that there was no budget available for the NSW Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) to dredge the channel.

# Minutes

Noted that the Tweed Sand Bypass is doing a bathymetric survey of the lower Tweed River as part of its monitoring program.

Tom reiterated the significant scale and impact of erosion of the area. There was discussion of the cost of dredging including studies required for approvals and permits.

## Agenda:

### A1. Waterways Program – project updates and works 2022

Tom provided overview of the current planning, strategic and on-ground works program.

<u>Planning and strategy development</u>	
<b>Tweed River Estuary CMP</b>	Complete. Submit for certification and continue to implement. *Update TCWC at August meeting.*
<b>Bray Park to Uki geomorphic investigation and river training prioritisation.</b>	Consultant appointed. Lidar survey late June, site prioritisation late this calendar year.
<b>Hastings Point management plan.</b>	Planned commencement by development of community engagement strategy in August.
<b>Anchorage Harbour Governance and Business Plan</b>	Currently with consultant for external review.
<b>Upper catchment management strategy</b>	Timing and scope uncertain. But should be done.

<u>Onground works</u>	
<b>Complete Browns stage 2</b>	Earthworks complete this week. Fencing late June. Revegetation to follow.
<b>Cudgen Creek</b>	Ed Parker Park stabilisation. Sutherland Point stabilisation.
<b>Anchorage Harbour</b>	Revetment repair underway and timber boardwalk contract signed.
<b>Old Fingal Boat Harbour</b>	Erosion stabilisation and access stairs late 2022.
<b>Quan's Lane erosion stabilisation</b>	Later 2022
<b>Diver Access stairs and rowing club access</b>	Projects being developed with service providers (stairs) and rowing club
<b>Mooball Creek</b>	Erosion stabilisation and access
<b>Boating facilities</b>	Multiple flood damage repairs and new canoe launch at Stott's Channel.

Noted that community engagement will be very important in development of the Hastings Point Headland Management Plan. Use of signage on site would assist in getting message to users of any proposed changes.

Discussion on lack of State-led catchment management planning. Jonathan noted that the North Coast Local Land Services Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-26 (draft) was recently on exhibition.

Tom will provide an overview at the next meeting on the status of various initiatives and previous planning documents for catchment management in Tweed. Rhonda noted that a strategic document for the upper catchment was essential.

David asked for update on the Mooball Creek training walls, Tom noted that design work was underway.

Discussion on damage to riparian areas in the last flood event, robustness of riparian plantings and preferred species. Noted that this was very site specific.

## **A2. Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee community nomination**

Reminder for current members to get nominations in as community / industry representatives on this committee.

## **A3. Fingal Peninsula lagoons – environmental conditions and tidal flushing**

Tom outlined information from Larry regarding observations about Wommin Lake and Wommin Lagoon on Fingal Peninsula getting shallower and sediment more silty. Jane noted that there were previous studies to look at increased / additional opening of the Lake and Lagoon. These studies to be brought to next meeting for discussion.

## **A4. Dugong sighting!**

Tom noted that the Tweed Laboratory staff saw a dugong in the lower Tweed River. Unsure whether it is a resident or visitor on holiday from north of the border.

## **A5. NSW Coastal Conference – highlights**

Various topics were covered at the conference including community engagement, community action, research outcomes, case studies from industry and government. Tweed presentations included Fingal Head community action, Kingscliff seawall, Tweed sand bypass and Robert Quirk presented on carbon capture in cane.

Noted that the coffee cart had disposable cups. Jane to provide feedback on this to Mantra and conference organisers.

## **Outstanding Items**

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

No update available.

## **General Business**

### **GB1. River Restoration Funding**

Tom provided advice that river restoration funding of \$18.46 million had been announced for rural landholders impacted by recent flooding (2021 and 2022) for long-term rehabilitation of flood damaged riverbanks. Tweed is *not* included in the list of eligible waterways.

Tom noted that North Coast Local Land Service has committed a one-off \$200,000 to river rehabilitation activities on the Tweed River but that this should not preclude Tweed from accessing additional funds available.

Robert advised that he has recently been appointed to the NSW Agriculture Ministerial Advisory Group (AgMAG). The first meeting had just been held but there was not the opportunity to raise the funding for Tweed in the meeting. Mayor Cherry congratulated Robert for his appointment to the Advisory Group.

**Moved:** Robert Quirk

**Seconded:** Joanna Gardener

**RESOLVED** that Tom Alletson make the General Manager aware that funding of \$18.46 million from Local Land Services has been announced but that Tweed was not on the list. The General Manager be requested to bring this omission to the attention of our NSW Members of Parliament to lobby for the inclusion of the Tweed River catchment on the list of eligible waterways.

## **GB2. Kingscliff Flooding**

David requested an update on the actions discussed at the last meeting about the flooding of Kingscliff and future impacts from floodplain filling for development. Tom will seek an update on items discussed. Noted that this is a complex issue and there will not be a quick or simple response.

## **GB3. Mooball Creek foreshore works**

David asked about progress on works to address access at a number of sites on the east bank of Mooball Creek, upstream of the bridge. Tom noted that Council has some funding from the NSW Estuary Management Program to work on these sites, and that David could review designs etc.

## **GB4. Gold Coast Airport and pollution concerns**

Lindy advised that she had been undertaking research on PFAS contamination at Gold Coast Airport and surrounds. This highlighted real concerns about the levels of PFAS in the local wetland environmental and level of impact on biodiversity.

## **GB5. Chinderah stormwater drain and maintenance**

Bruce asked for an update on the survey of the Chinderah drain and blockages within the drain. Concern about the ability for the drain to cope with additional flows from the Kings Coast development. Tom to get an update from the Roads and Stormwater team.

## **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee will be held Wednesday 10 August 2022. This is to be confirmed dependant on new committee being appointed by Council.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:**

## **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**