

## Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee Meeting held Wednesday 10 February 2021

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

**Time:** 9am

### **Present:**

Cr Katie Milne; Rhonda James (Chair); David Cranwell; Jonathan Yantsch; Jane Lofthouse ; Bill Hoskins; Tom Alletson; Lindy Smith; Bruce Peate; Hamish Brace; Robert Quirk (from 10.54am); John Harbison; Ben Fitzgibbon; Frances Smith-Wright (Minutes).

### **Apologies:**

Mayor Chris Cherry; Marama Hopkins; Tracey Stinson, Peter Comerford

### **Acknowledgement of Country.**

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**Moved:** David Cranwell

**Seconded:** Robert Peate

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held 9 December 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

### **Business Arising:**

#### **BA1. Cudgen Creek Boat Ramp safety concerns (Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association)**

Tom advised he spoke with Darren Holm – RMS Senior Boating Safety Officer for the region. He was aware of the issues and was available to work with stakeholders.

Committee members to be involved with a working group to be established by the Kingscliff Community Association are Tom Alletson, Cr Chris Cherry and Bruce Peate. Bruce also suggested Mark Longbottom (Fishing Club).

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **A1. Tweed Estuary Coastal Management Program update**

Tom has received the final document ready for certification. Finalising the project involves a few additional steps.

1. Tom to write to NSW agencies that are named in the document to ensure there are no objections to any actions listing that support agency.
2. Tom to prepare the report for Council and request that the CMP be adopted.
3. Following adoption by Council the CMP be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government for Certification.

**Moved:** Robert Peate  
**Seconded:** Hamish Brace

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopts the Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program and forwards it to the Minister for Local Government for Certification under the *Coastal Management Act 2016*.

### **A2. Tweed Coastline Coastal Management Program update**

Consultant briefs on Hazard studies are currently being prepared and will be issued over the next couple of months:

- 1.Cliff instability study,
- 2.Coastal erosion hazard zone update, and
- 3.Inundation of coastal creeks and coastline.

### **A3. Waterways facilities – asset management planning**

Tom highlighted the extent of the infrastructure managed by the Waterways Program, and work ongoing in the preparation of an asset management plan. An overview was presented of facilities, asset values, replacement value and annual maintenance costs. It was noted that in addition to facilities maintenance there is a significant schedule of major repairs and replacement.

There was some discussion on the inherent dangers of boat ramps and that although pressure cleaning was undertaken regularly they are in a harsh environment.

Hamish noted feedback from the community that maintenance levels on waterways facilities should be raised.

Katie queried, in light of limited funding, whether we should review the extent of the waterways facilities provided.

Tom advised that closure and removal is reviewed as an option for each item of major infrastructure coming up for renewal, however the Tweed waterways are definitely not over serviced with access assets, and nearly all facilities are well used and highly valued by the community.

Jane indicated that due to the high cost of long term maintenance, there is a reluctance to take on new facilities.

Bill F brought up the subject of Fingal Head boat ramp and the extent of maintenance that was needed due to it being slippery, oyster shells in cracks and large gaps in the ramp.

Discussion on instigation of user-pays system for boat ramps for non-Tweed residents to raise funds for maintenance with locals issued passes.

Tom noted that a decision to instigate paid boat ramps would need to be a corporate and political decision due to the technology, politics and governance involved.

Jane noted that this had been looked at several years ago but it needed a cost benefit analysis to check the feasibility and viability. With new technology it may now be more feasible.

Bruce noted that all boat ramps in South Australia have systems where visitors are charged and locals have passes.

Katie suggested we should recommend to council the idea.

**Proposed: Bill Fenelon**

**Seconded: Katie Milne**

## RESOLUTION

Tom Alletson to undertake a preliminary investigation into possible methods of charging for boat ramp access.

### **A4. Canal Management Policy**

Tom discussed the outcomes of the public exhibition of the Canal Management Policy and the intention of providing guidelines on responsibilities of Council and the public in management of vessels and general usage of canals.

The Canal Management Policy is being finalised and a report will go to Council in March for adoption.

### **A5. Estuary Erosion Management Update**

Tom provided updates on the river bank erosion stabilisation projects at:

- Riverside Drive, Tumbulgum
- Tweed Valley Way, Condong
- Tumbulgum Road, Tyngah

All projects have incorporated fish habitat features and are examples of best practice in road protection works.

Also advised on future works including:

- Flagship Habitat Action Grant –Stott's Island and Murwillumbah. There are 46 high risk sites, which have been classified into 6 work areas. Designs have been completed and cost estimates for construction are approx. \$3.2 million.
- Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grants program - \$600,000 application to the Federal Government to address erosion affecting the Tweed Valley Way.
- Federal Government Fish Habitat Restoration Grant – Browns cow paddock, design and approvals complete - construction in 2021.

Jonathan commended Council on their work on river banks using best practise and proactive approach in improving fish habitat and fish passage.

Hamish suggested sending a commendation to the Engineering Division recognising them for embracing the changes to construction methods and innovation to improve environmental outcomes.

**Action:** Tom and Jane to compose commendation to Council's engineering staff on behalf of the Committee.

## **Outstanding Items:**

### **OM1. Gold Coast Airport Ecological Monitoring**

Tom has had several conversations with the Airport Environment Officer. He was fully aware of requests and had no fundamental objections to providing the monitoring reports and looking to provide these in April.

## **General Business:**

### **GB1. Australian Stream Management Conference**

Tom informed the committee that the Conference would be held at SALT, Kingscliff on 1 to 4 August 2021.

Call for Abstracts has been issued and Tom to assist with field trips. If anyone is interested in getting more information please contact Tom.

### **GB2. Mooball Creek**

The Pottsville Community Association provided a management plan for Mooball Creek Estuary and Foreshore to Geoff Provest (which was forwarded to Council). It included a list of projects that could be considered for design and future funding. Council responded to Geoff Provest on matters raised, and suggested the response be passed on to the Association.

David advised that he believes that the Pottsville Community Association plan needs further development and input from staff, and acceptance by Council. Projects need to be designed to a level at which accurate cost estimates for works can be prepared.

Jane advised that a coastal creeks recreational access plan has been included as part of the Tweed Coast Management Program. It was acknowledged however that a recreational access management plan would be one of many sub-plans to be funded and resourced, and unlikely to happen until 2022. Opportunities to address recreational access issues in Mooball Creek must continue to be pursued as some facilities are in poor condition.

### **GB3. Jack Evans Boat Harbour**

An email from Peter Comerford was tabled regarding the request to provide dive steps into Tweed River at Jack Evans Boat Harbour. There is considerable difficulty for divers to access the river without steps.

Tom advised that the approvals process for the steps had commenced and Council would seek grant funding from the 2021 NSW Crown Reserve Improvement Fund and other grant opportunities. Dive clubs and operators are also encouraged to search for funding opportunities. Tom to advise Peter of this update.

### **GB4. NSW Coastal Conference**

Conference to be held at SALT, Kingscliff 17 to 19 November 2021.

## **GB5. NSW Water Quality Survey**

Bruce encouraged people to fill in this survey (via Facebook link) that is being held by NSW Government. Tom to send link out to Committee members.

## **GB6. McLeod's Creek Coastal SEPP mapping**

An update was requested on this matter by Robert Quirk. Tom referred to the Estuary Management Plan Action List A4 and noted no action had been commenced on this yet. Jane added that a planning proposal process was required to change mapping therefore it was more efficient to do several changes at once.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held 14 April 2021.

The meeting closed at 11.05am

### **Executive Leadership Team Comments:**

#### **A1. Tweed Estuary Coastal Management Program update**

Comment/Nil

### **Executive Leadership Team Recommendations:**

#### **A1. Tweed Estuary Coastal Management Program update**

That Council adopts the Tweed River Estuary Coastal Management Program and forwards it to the Minister for Local Government for Certification under the Coastal Management Act 2016.