

Minutes

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday 12 June 2024

Venue:

Murwillumbah Auditorium, Murwillumbah Civic Centre, Murwillumbah

Time:

9.00am

Present:

Rhonda James (Chair), Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor), Cr Nola Firth (9.30am), Lindy Smith, Robert Quirk, Dan Ware, David Cranwell, Graeme McIlveen, Fletcher Mingramm, Joanna Gardner (Committee Members); Jane Lofthouse, Tom Alletson, Debbie Firestone, Jordan Vickers, Nicole Skorupski (Minutes) (Tweed Shire Council).

Apologies:

Larry Woodland, Adam Andrewartha, Ian Berger.

Welcome to Country: Rhonda James

Notes of Previous Meeting 10 April 2024:

No quorum reached, however notes from meeting were taken and circulated to committee members.

Business Arising:

BA1. Growth Management Housing Strategy

Thanks to all Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee members and constituent groups for their submissions.

Agenda Items:

A1. Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Debbie Firestone, Program Leader Climate Change and Sustainability, presented an update on Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, including the background to the climate change risk assessment, greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation program.

In addition to the work currently being done by Council, the State Government is developing guidelines for regional Disaster Adaptation Plans (DAP). The Northern Rivers is one of the first areas to develop a plan. There will need to be synergies between the plans, and this will assist with grants and where our best opportunities are to collaborate.

Dan Ware suggested inviting the Reconstruction Authority to present to the committee on regional Disaster Adaptation Planning.

A question was raised in relation to timeframe on implementation of actions, due to the immediacy of some issues relating to climate change. Council is asking internal asset managers to revise risk statements and to start to think about what their highest priority adaptation actions are. Part of the process is to provide an overview from each department on what they are doing so there is an awareness and understanding of adaptation actions across the organisation.

Tom and Jordy met with Strategic Planning Unit on the issue of Coastal Hazard – Tidal Inundation, noting that flood and tidal inundation planning and policy development are closely related. Staff will coordinate the planning response framework for flood and coastal hazard risk management.

Moved: Lindy Smith

Seconded: Joanna Gardner

RESOLVED that a Council staff member from the Coast and Waterways Program attends the Floodplain Management Advisory Committee meetings on an ongoing basis.

Unanimous

Debbie noted a Climate Change Adaptation Project Reference Group has been established to assist with progressing the strategy.

A2. Hastings Point Headland Management Plan – possible approaches to key issues and areas

Consultants have developed draft options for managing some of the key issues at Hastings Point Headland. Staff are seeking feedback from the Committee, prior to finalising a Draft Management Plan that can be taken to public consultation. Jordy presented issues and possible solutions for management precincts.

Feedback provided by committee member:

- Peninsula Drive and Cudgera Spit
 - Potential to increase parking in road reserve and expand 'open space' presented. It was confirmed that land identified for parking is Council road reserve, and this option is likely feasible, funds permitting.
 - Potential to re-organise/ increase parking and create additional open space area was endorsed.
- Cudgera Creek Foreshore
 - There is a concrete slab near the bridge referenced as a boat ramp, however this area is not a maintained boat ramp. Concrete slab and sign will be removed.
 - Looking at interpretive signage for 'fish traps', Jordy has worked through the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to get temporary signs up.
 - Parking formalisation being undertaken by Parks and Active Communities Unit.
 - Option for additional toilet in area flagged, but reasons for dismissal of this option provided.
 - Erosion of north bank creek. People access the creek bank (not much beach width) and are lightly but continually damaging vegetation through this access. Management recommendation for this area is to continue surveillance, support and rehabilitate the vegetation.
- Cudgera Creek Boardwalk (Oyster Reef and southern parkland)
 - Additional fencing to prevent disturbance of cultural material noted.
 - Future access over the midden presented. Design work still to be done but intent will be to provide a minimally elevated platform for foot traffic and additionally manage scour from overland runoff through the area.
 - Larger boardwalk option not supported.
 - New toilet facility – possibility replaced within relative proximity to existing facility but removed from immediate littoral rainforest vegetation zone.
 - Comment that any design elements using rocks should use local geology, not sandstone. All in agreement and will be incorporated into design statements.
- Yugari Drive Day Use Area
 - Ensure created parking spaces do not interfere with littoral rainforest and buffer area. Main intent is to formalise the surface more.
 - Showers – these will be relocated out of the littoral rainforest area to a more central spot closer to beach access and closer to the creek access corridors.
 - Parking to be increased and improved.
- Camp Site
 - The option of reconfiguring campsites is being investigated.

- High value of the site to people who historically use the camping area noted. Consider public and environmental benefits of changes to the campground footprint.
- Current position of Coast and Waterways team is that the northeast area needs to be public all year round, and the creek side vegetation needs to be expanded in width, plus more amenable access through the site to the general public during camping season. To achieve this, a reduction in sites may be required.
- Consider how to make the allocation of camping sites here more equitable.
- The management plan could present a campground footprint with further consideration on how this is to be achieved.
- **Headland**
 - Three options are being considered for management of the road leading to and on top of the headland. These will consider parking and traffic flow.
 - **Option 1** – Least change (resurface road) - Resurface road and leave the area as it is.
 - **Option 2** - Minor change (yellow line). Maintain Yugari Drive as is and place a yellow line on the southern side to prevent bottlenecking of vehicles and maintain access.
 - **Option 3** – Most change (pull back cul-de-sac). Which includes removing the cul-de-sac from the seaward side of the headland and pull the road back to terminate in a turning circle at the existing the crest.

Comments:

- Is the Hastings Point cultural plan consistent with these changes? Jordan advised it doesn't mention vehicle parking on the headland but does note it being a significant place for viewing opportunities and carrying story lines between places.
- The current approach is to put the draft plan of exhibition with the three options described above including the costs/benefits of each option.
- Suggested a staged or temporal approach to keep ideas open for the future.
- Suggestion was made to look at the access paths to the beach either side of the hill. Tom advised that there is a recommendation in the plan to harden the surface and prevent erosion on both paths.

A3. Upper Catchment Riparian Rehabilitation works – current priority sites and funding opportunities

Tom presented the flood recovery restoration project opportunities compiled by Matt Bloor.

Local Land Services – Riverbank Rehabilitation Project (RRP)

- The RRP was developed in response to 2021 and 2022 flood events.
- Project includes targeted riverbank rehabilitation works in 11 catchments including the Tweed.
- The project supports impacted waterways and rural landholders in two key areas:
 - undertaking targeted riverbank rehabilitation works to protect high value rural agricultural, cultural and environmental natural assets.
 - providing advice to landholders on riparian management and erosion control.
- The Project is working with the Soil Conservation Service to deliver all on-ground works.
- All works undertaken in this project will:
 - take a reach-based and targeted approach to works,
 - be considered best practice in riverbank management,
 - focus on the protection of rural, agricultural cultural and environmental asset protection, and
 - Target on-ground works to restore ecosystem functionality and diversity that protect beds and banks from high flow events.

Sites have not been finalised but will ideally align with Council's River Health Grants to ensure revegetation is undertaken and maintained beyond the LLS project. Shortlisting of 8 sites and work will commence over the next 6-12 months.

Caring for Catchments – North Coast Region Landcare Network

- The project aims to improve catchment health, build flood resilience and enhance biodiversity through riparian revegetation and reforestation.
- Approx \$5m available across Clarence/Richmond/Brunswick/Tweed catchments.
- Aim is to restore and protect waterways by planting up to 240ha of native vegetation along 8km of cleared river and streams over 3 years.
- This project is funded by the Australian Government through the Emergency Response Fund and administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority's Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-23.
- EOI's close 1 July 2024
 - Council will apply to revegetate a large bank erosion site in the Tweed River weir pool and a restoration project to recover degraded sites on the Tweed River downstream of Mt Warning Road bridge.

Watershed initiative – Rous County Council

- 2-year project funded through Regional NSW
- Projects include soil health improvement on Macadamia farms, riparian restoration and catchment revegetation, redesigned floodplain drainage and natural flood mitigation (landscape rehydration).
- Tweed projects (funding to be confirmed) include:
 - \$300,000 to revegetate 3 sites - 1.5ha at Eungella (Oxley River); 1.5ha Pipeclay Creek (Rous River catchment) & 1ha Doon Doon (Greers Creek)

Urban catchments initiatives funding

Council has submitted a large application with a focus on vegetation management and rehabilitation around the Terranora catchment, as well as a flagship site which is the riverbank at Chinderah.

A4. Pottsville and Wooyung issues

Condition of access from the northern end of Ambrose Brown Park. Beach access point at the northern end of Ambrose Brown Park, noted that the condition has worsened and has a low/boggy area and potentially unsafe for public access. Tom advised that he would follow up with placement of fill material.

Carparking along Wooyung and incursions to littoral rainforest. Vehicles and campers are pushing further into the area, request to block it off and prevent illegal camping.

Jane advised the Natural Area Team has been blocking track accesses along this stretch of coast. The most effective way to prevent vehicle ingress is to place large rocks however this is not possible on the corner due to road safety.

A5. Fishing debris and sea bird injuries in Tweed waterways

Tom presented an email from Mary Grant (seabird specialist with Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers) about fishing debris and targeted education. Tom asked the committee for suggestions that could be explored on this issue.

Suggestions:

- Media education and images of damage the fishing debris is causing.
- Campaign using multimedia with repetitive messaging.
- Team up with Sea Bird Rescue and Department of Primary Industries (DPI) (Fisheries) to do a campaign.

Approach DPI Fisheries to support more campaigns and activities in the Tweed, using one of their established programs for better practice.

Minutes

Moved: Nola Firth
Seconded: Graeme McIlveen

RESOLVED:

That Council officers contact the Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and OZ Fish to develop a collaborative education strategy around reduction of fishing debris and wildlife injury in the Tweed.

Unanimous

General Business:

GB1. Meeting Arrangements

Considering the low attendance at the April meeting, Tom requested feedback on the meeting arrangements including the notification process, location of meetings and receiving of minutes and agendas. It was suggested all details be provided in each reminder. Feedback to be forwarded to Tom.

GB2. Jack Evans Boat Harbour seawall

Tom advised DPI has commissioned a survey on the existing condition of the seawall that can be used to design repair works. There has been nothing further communicated to Council at this time.

GB3. Coastal Management Hazard study

The Coastal Management Hazard Study will shortly be distributed to committee members for review. There may be a presentation at the August meeting.

GB4. Council Elections

The next meeting will be the last meeting for the current committee, with the Council elections being held on 14 September. Expressions of Interest details for the Tweed Coast and Waterways Committee will be provided at the August meeting. All items from the meeting on 14 August will be carried over to the new Council term.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Tweed Coast and Waterways Advisory Committee will be held Wednesday 14 August 2024.

The meeting closed at 12.09pm

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S COMMENTS:

Nil.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nil.