



Manning Estuary Coastline and Catchment Advisory Committee

Minutes, Thursday 8 August 2014 at 8am in Council's Administration Centre

Welcome and apologies:

Elaine Pearce, Greg Crisp, Dean Moore.

(BN/PL)

Present: Cr Robyn Jenkins (Chair) (CrRJ), Cr David Keegan (from General Business a.) (CrDK), Laura Black (LB), Tanya Cross (GTCC.TC), Ric Slatter (RS), Martin Angle (MA), Neil Cadden (NC), Peter Longworth (PL), Kirsty Hughes (KH), Silas Sutherland (SS), Tina Clemens (TC), Bill Nelson, Chris Scott (CS), Mayor Paul Hogan (MPH), Greg Crisp (from General Business b.)

Previous Minutes

Endorsed

(MA/BN)

Business Arising

a. Sediment Tracing

Tracing elements have been placed and are to be monitored over a 12-18month period.

Correspondence

General Business

a. Crown Lands Approval

Licensing process has been reviewed as follows:

Trade & Investment Crown Lands' requirements for licencing and approvals for various activities on Crown land. Note the time frames are indicative only. Some applications may take more or less time depending on workloads, need for external referrals, complexity of proposals and departmental priorities. In all circumstances below clients should contact the Department in the first instance to discuss their projects and what may be required.

Clients must also seek the Department's approval in principle before applying for any funding or progressing projects that include activities on Crown land. This will enable the Department to assess the appropriateness of the proposal and whether the proposed use can be authorised prior to commencement.

Please also refer to the Crown Lands web site: <http://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/>

Letter Of Authority - (1 month to process)

A Licence by way of Letter of Authority (LOA) can be issued to voluntary groups or individuals for temporary low impact activities on Crown land to carry out environmental or training activities and involves no fees or charges. Examples of the types of activities the LOA process applies to includes:

- Environmental protection works
- Foreshore stabilisation not involving the erection of structures
- Hazard reduction/ bush fire prevention
- Education and Training
- Eradication of noxious weeds
- Regeneration area
- Study and conservation of native flora and fauna

An LOA does not apply where there is a need for a DA, commercial activity, significant earthworks or approvals from other agencies. The Department is in the process of preparing a LOA Fact Sheet and Application form for client use.

Short Term Licence – (1 month to process)

Proposals or activities that are beyond the scope of a LOA but are relatively minor low impact 'events' may qualify for a Short Term Licence. Application fee for a Short Term Licence is \$32.80 and a minimal rent is charged at the discretion of the Department. Examples of these activities include:

- Sporting events (Mountain Bike Club rides, fun runs, orienteering event)
- Community events (festivals, one off market days)
- Entertainment event (fireworks display)
- Filming

Clients are required to complete the attached Licence Application Form and the Department will issue an invoice for the Fees and Charges.

Licence – (3 months to process)

All other activities and occupations on Crown land will require a Licence or other Tenure from the Department. The application fee for a Licence is \$383.60 and minimum statutory rent of \$456.00 (subject to CPI) or more will apply. For additional information on fees and charges please see the Crown Lands Web site:

http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown_land/fees_and_forms

Examples or activities that will require a Licence include:

- Extractive industries such as dredging
- Water front structures – jetties, pontoons, boat ramps
- Depot sites
- Buildings/utility services/pipelines
- Foreshore improvements/boardwalks

Head Licencing

Where Public Authorities have multiple structures or occupations of Crown land such as gravel pits, boat ramps and jetties then a Head Licence may apply for similar uses. As per the information above Licence application fees and rents apply however additions or subtractions from the Head Licence may be done through an amendment of the Licence with a fee of \$151.00.

b. Environmental Levy

GTCC successful in attaining a 5% special rate variation (Environmental Levy) approved for 2014/15 – 2018/2019 to implement the Environmental Action Plan. Revenue will be approx \$1.3M/year. Of interest to MECCAC, 50% funding will be allocated to projects under the Estuary & Water Quality theme, also 20% to Dredging & Foreshore Improvements. Much of the time so far has been spent on liaising with government agencies such as LLS, landholders & community groups to progress potential projects.

Some of the Year 1 (2014/2015) projects include:

- *Sand Tracing Study at Old Bar Beach
- Cattai Wetlands Restoration Project
- *Big Swamp ASS Remediation Project
- *ASS Hotspot/Floodgate Investigation – Moto-Coopernook
- Riverbank Protection/Stabilisation – Wingham, Taree & Harrington
- *Dairy Nutrient Management Project
- *ASS Remediation Project, Harrington
- *Browns Creek Water Quality Improvement Project
- Urban Waterway Improvements – Taree, Old Bar, Wingham & Harrington
- Installation of new GPTs – Old Bar & Taree
- *Harrington Backchannel Hydrological Study
- *Roadside Erosion Control Projects – Dyers Crossing-Nabiac
- *Beach Access Track Rehabilitation – Old Bar & Hallidays Point
- *Saltmarsh Protection/Sharp Rush Control – Lower Estuary
- Manning Coastcare - Bitou Bush Control
- *Dyer's Crossing Fish Barrier/Weir Removal
- Wallis Lake Catchment Management Contribution to GLC
- *Manning River Water Quality/Fish Monitoring Program
- *Dredging Operations – Farquhar Inlet & Harrington Backchannel
- *Bohnock Pontoon & Fish Cleaning Table

*Endeavour Place Boat Ramp – Car Park Reseal

GPT & Boat Ramp Maintenance Program

NB * denotes projects that are subject of funding applications yet to be announced. Those projects that do not receive funding may be put on hold until the following year or when alternative funding can be obtained.

Committee noted success of the Environmental Levy and passed congratulations to Council on achieving.

c. Sustainable Water Cycle Management Committee (MCW)

This group monitors upper catchment activity and oversees the activities of the Water Monitoring Technical Working Group Water, which is currently undertaking a water quality project. The report from which may inform in relation to upper catchment activities that could be included in the GTCC Environmental Action Plan. GTCC staff are involved with the group and work collaboratively with MCW currently.

Action

KH to provide a copy of the report on completion for MECCAC to consider making recommendations to Council regarding project opportunities under the Environmental Action Plan.

d. Committee Chair

Cr Keegan stood down from the Chair and nominated Councillor Jenkins as Chair, seconded by Tina Clemens.

Cr Jenkins accepted and as there were no objections, was elected the Chair.

Members Reports

To be submitted electronically for inclusion.

OBSRG

That the first two paragraphs of the report submitted be accepted and included in the Minutes.

(LB/CrDK)

NB: The OBSRG member concurred and all voted in favour.

“In our search for the best protection of our beach against erosion, we held a public meeting on August 10, and were fortunate enough to have a presentation on the new Palm Beach Off shore reef by Simon Mortensen, the designer. Simon discussed relevant issues of having off-shore reef or other erosion protection means. Having addressed several options Gold Coast have elected on the SRS (submerged reef structure) as the best method.

One hundred and sixteen concerned residents attended to hear the ‘pros and cons’ of off-shore reefs. Mayor Hogan, Deputy Mayor Jenkins and Peter Evans from the Office of Environment and Heritage attended the meeting.”

DPI – Fisheries

Martin advised of a recent letter sent to waterway frontage land owners on Oxley Island advising of correct approval process for undertaking works adjacent to waterways. The letter was accompanied by a brochure tabled at the meeting. See attached.

MCW

Kirsty advised that the MCW mobile water quality monitoring trailer (which has been collecting data to inform our catchment management decisions for several years) is being moved to the Manning River at Bootawa in the very upper reaches of the estuary this summer, to learn more about salt intrusion in very low flow conditions.

Meeting closed at 9.15am

2014 Meeting Schedule

13 November 2014

In the Manning Meeting Room

5 August 2014

Dear landholder

Do you live or undertake works on the banks of a waterway?

NSW DPI recently released a new brochure to help you comply with the laws aimed at protecting our native fish and their habitat. Our estuaries and rivers are vital habitat for a range of species including fish, shellfish, and water birds. They are also an important part of our way of life, supporting industries such as tourism, recreational and commercial fishing and the oyster industry.

However these habitats are under pressure from unauthorised developments, and some inappropriate land management practices. Combined these have resulted in loss of aquatic habitat, sedimentation, erosion and other water pollution issues.

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring our waterways and estuaries continue to be healthy and productive for future generations. The new brochure outlines ways to manage important fish habitats including saltmarsh, mangrove and seagrass areas.

The brochure includes information on recent changes to the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) and associated regulations affecting riverbank works, including dredging activities and the removal of these key fish habitats.

When preparing for works around waterways, it is necessary to consult with relevant agencies including: Department of Primary Industries (DPI) – Office of Water; DPI – Fisheries, and Trade & Investment – Crown Lands. The brochure also identifies the sorts of works which require approvals before being implemented. Further information is available at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/protecting-habitats#rbank> and <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-licensing/Approvals/Controlled-activities/Controlled-activities>

Consultation with DPI – Fisheries during this process, particularly applies to activities that may have an impact on Marine Vegetation. Additionally, the changes to the FM Act make it illegal for livestock of any type to graze and trample marine vegetation - including saltmarsh and mangroves on public water land (Public water land includes Crown Land, or other public land, submerged by water – whether permanently or intermittently).

To find out more, please contact the relevant authorities, which also include Local Government.

NSW Department of Primary Industries - Office of Water	1800 353 104
NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries	1300 550 474
NSW Trade & Investment - Crown Lands	1300-886-235
Local Land Services (www.lls.nsw.gov.au)	1300 735 299