
PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Mike Cusato (Chair)
Alan MacIntyre (Community Rep.)
Bob Jolly (Community Rep. - Lake Cathie)
Kingsley Searle (Oyster Industry & Community Rep – North Shore)
Laurie Lardner (Community Rep.)
Patrick McEntee (Community Rep.)

Staff:

Melissa Watkins (PMHC)
Blayne West (PMHC)
Gordon Cameron (PMHC)
Jesse Dick (PMHC)

Agencies:

Michael Northam (DPI - Fisheries)
John Schmidt/Nicholas Denshire (Office of Environment & Heritage)
Andre Uljee (Maritime Division - RMS)
Maria Frazer (State Emergency Services)
Michael Stubbs represented Paul Burg (State Emergency Services)
Michael Barberie represented Tina Clemens (Lands Department)
Geoffrey James represented Shane Robinson (National Parks Wildlife Service)

Other Attendees:

Chris Thomas (Advisian - consultant)
Lih Chong (Jacobs - consultant)
Mark Edenborough (PMHC - Stormwater)
Caroline Ortel (Office of Environment & Heritage)

The meeting opened at 2.00pm.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was not delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

That the following apologies be accepted:

Councillor Rob Turner (Deputy Chair)
Maria Doherty (PMHC)
Paul Burg (State Emergency Services)
Tony Troup (Oyster Industry)
Tina Clemens (Lands Department)
Shane Robinson (National Parks Wildlife Service)
Matt Dawson (Maritime Division - RMS)

Council staff to follow up with Paul Hyde and Adrian Button to confirm whether they still wish to be active members of the committee noting that Adrian Button has recently moved to Queensland and the Hastings Fisherman's Co-op has closed.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS

That the Minutes of the Coast, Estuary & Floodplain Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting held on 31 July 2018 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

09 IMPACTS OF THE RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE DECISION OF COUNCIL ON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Committee members agreed to bring Item 9 forward for discussion.

There was robust discussion on various aspects of the report.

Committee members strongly disagreed with the new policy direction on the basis the 900mm sea level rise requirement has been in place for many years and change will create uncertainty. The committee noted that there will be many wide ranging implications as a result of the new policy direction.

Chair Cusato proposed to discuss the recent decision with Councillors and Staff.

Mellissa Watkins proposed a further briefing with Councillors and Staff.

CONSENSUS

That the Committee recommend Council review the decision/report.

06 HIBBARD PRECINCT FLOOD STUDY - DRAFT REPORT

Chris Thomas (Advisian) provided a detailed presentation on the report. The presentation was well received by the committee.

Kingsley Searle noted importance of Connection Creek on flooding in the lower Hastings catchment.

Gordon Cameron discussed the next stage of the project after the flood study (ie. The management study).

CONSENSUS

That the Committee recommend to Council, that the draft Hibbard Precinct Flood Study (2019) be placed on public exhibition for not less than 28 days.

08 LAKE CATHIE FISH KILL

Committee members agreed to bring Item 8 forward for discussion.

There was general discussion on various aspects of the report.

Bob Jolly queried whether Council had been in contact with the media to explain the current situation, especially considering the formulation of the new community action group. Melissa Watkins confirmed that Council had been contacted by the media on numerous occasions and Council had provided information on the management issues of the lake system.

Kingsley Searle questioned how quickly Council can initiate an opening if required. Gordon Cameron confirmed that machinery can be mobilised within days, however optimum conditions are unlikely to be present for a low level opening regardless of how quickly an

opening can occur.

CONSENSUS

That the Committee note the report on the Lake Cathie Fish Kill.

07 NORTH BROTHER LOCAL CATCHMENTS FLOOD STUDY - DRAFT REPORT

Mark Edenborough (PMHC – stormwater) provided a background to the project.

Lih Chong (Jacobs) provided a detailed presentation on the report. The presentation was well received by the committee.

Gordon Cameron discussed the next stage of the project after the flood study (ie. The management study).

CONSENSUS

That the Committee recommend to Council that the draft North Brother Local Catchments Flood Study (2019) be placed on public exhibition.

Item - 08 Lake Cathie Fish Kill - has been moved to another part of the document.

Item - 09 Impacts of the Recent Climate Change Decision of Council on Floodplain Management - has been moved to another part of the document.

10 ACTIVE COAST, ESTUARY & FLOODPLAIN PROJECTS STATUS UPDATE

Jesse Dick presented the report.

CONSENSUS

That the Committee note the status of the active Coast, Estuary and Floodplain projects.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.01 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Patrick McEntee and Alan MacIntyre both advised the committee of poor health and confirmed their wish to continue on the committee.
2. Laurie Lardner noted Thor Aaso's resignation from Council and queried whether a new Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) officer would be employed to replace Thor. Gordon Cameron confirmed that Blayne West has taken this role.

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3. Laurie Lardner confirmed that this would be his last meeting and would be resigning from the committee. Laurie Lardner spoke highly of the committee and its achievements for the community over the past years. Specifically the ASS program and the change to dredging activities in the estuaries. Laurie Lardner also commended Councillor Lisa Intemann for her work in this area and her contribution on previous committees. Councillor Cusato & Gordon Cameron both thanked Laurie Lardner for his attendance over many years and confirmed that his contribution was greatly valued and that his resignation will be a loss for both the committee and the community as a whole.
 4. Jesse Dick noted that new memberships to the committee may be required due to absences created since the Coast & Estuary and Floodplain committees merged in 2015. Gordon Cameron noted a good spread of members across the main estuary areas, however more experience in flooding would be useful. Council will consider the membership of the Committee and will advertise for expressions of interest for new committee members with an interest in floodplain management – ie. one each from the Camden Haven and Hastings floodplains in particular.

11.02 FORESTRY OPERATIONS, LORNE STATE FOREST

Gordon Cameron at the request of Tony Troup noted the Forestry operations occurring within the Lorne State Forest, particularly at Cold Nob Road. Gordon Cameron confirmed that Blayne West has raised this issue with NSW Forestry and a response will be provided at the next meeting.

11.03 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT USE IN LOCAL WATERWAYS

Gordon Cameron noted that there has been reports from the community about personal watercraft use (Jet Ski's) within local waterways. Andre Uljee (RMS) requested that Council ensure that state government agencies be made aware when issues arise that they are responsible for managing. Melissa Watkins confirmed that Council aims to contact agencies as soon as issues arise so that they can be involved. However this issue stemmed from a Councillor request on a matter that had occurred over 12 months ago which only came to light via a community strategic planning meeting held earlier in the year.

The meeting closed at 4.51pm.