

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN HEADS ESTUARY TASKFORCE

Meeting Date: Monday, 20 November 2017
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr Mitchell Pakes - Chairperson
Clr Amanda Findley
Clr Nina Cheyne
Clr Joanna Gash
Clr Patricia White
Clr Mark Kitchener
Clr Bob Proudfoot
The Hon Gareth Ward - MP
Mr Phil Guy
Mr Mike James
Mr David Lamb
Mr Stephen Short
Mr Bob Williamson
Ms Robyn Flack

Others Present:

Russ Pigg – General Manager
Phil Costello – Planning Environment and Development Group Director
Kelie Clarke – Environmental Services Section Manager
Alasdair Stratton – Natural Resources and Floodplain Unit Manager
Ray Massie – Coast and Estuaries Officer
Michael Strachan – Infrastructure Manager
Dr Rafael Carvalho – University of Wollongong

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr Alldrick, Clr Wells and Gerald Groom

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (David Lamb / Phil Guy)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce held on Monday 20 March 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

PRESENTATIONS

Research Findings Shoalhaven River Sediment Transport – Dr Rafael Carvalho

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Dr Rafael Carvalho.

Mr Rafael Carvalho tabled a report and a copy will be sent with the minutes.

REPORTS

SH17.6 Update on Taskforce resolutions

HPERM Ref:
D17/375925

Mr Phil Guy said that the grant application for River Road should have been given to the community with more time to comment.

Kelie Clarke advised that dredging could not be included in the grant application because it was outside of the scope of the grant guidelines. Mr Guy requested that Council investigate if any State Government Grants available for dredging and pursued as a priority.

Mr Guy was unsatisfied with the statement that it is unsustainable for all boat ramps to be used in all weather conditions.

Mr Guy suggested that the boat ramp in Wharf Road be rebuilt to a regional standard. Council have applied for a Better Boating Upgrade, however it is not explained by Council if this is a complete dig up or an upgrade of the facility.

Mr Guy also said that the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce was thankful in relation to the status of the River Road Embankment and that Council had lodged a grant application.

Mr Guy continued & said that the Entrance Management Plan has always been part of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce's Committee Objectives. It has always been advised that reviewing this Plan is a matter of gaining funding. It was discussed at a meeting approximately two years ago that the Plan failed to support actions required. At that meeting the Hon Gareth Ward MP advised that there were numerous grants available subject to a certified Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) or Coastal Management Program (CMP). Council have an adopted Coastal Zone Management Plan but not a certified one.

Council sort certification on the adopted CZMP and the list of requirements requested from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) was very comprehensive. Currently there are no resources in the budget, however, Council is looking at trying to make it happen. The Taskforce was advised that the timeframe for turnaround is very short (six months) and it has taken almost 12 months to get this feedback.

Kelie Clarke was questioned as to whether she felt any of the additional requirements prior to certification were unreasonable from OEH, Kelie advised the main concern was that it was expected that a complete additional round of community consultation was required, it is believed by staff that Council should only be required to put it on public exhibition.

The Hon Gareth Ward MP requested Kelie Clarke to list her concerns regarding OEH's requirements for Gareth to take up with the Minister directly.

Kelie Clarke confirmed that the delay of the River Road grant application was due to the community's uncertainty about the WRL conceptual design, and a further workshop was held with SHET and CCB representatives to work through their concerns and the process. The grant

guidelines were clear that different works could not be included and the overall budget could not be substantially increased. It is up to Council if it chooses to pursue this as a separate issue.

In regard to the Entrance Management Plan, Council's Floodplain & Stormwater Engineer, Mir Abdus Subdan, gave an update of the review of the Entrance Management Plan. Council has successfully obtained a grant to undertake an updated Lower Shoalhaven River flood study and risk management plan, which includes the review of the Entrance Management Plan. This study will take approximately 3 years and the Entrance Management Plan will be reviewed as part of this project once the flood study has been completed.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Taskforce receive the report for information.

RESOLVED (Phil Guy / Gareth Ward)

That the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce receive the report for information with the additional comments from Mr Phil Guy.

CARRIED

SH17.7 Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Task Force recommendations - report on financial and resourcing implications

**HPERM Ref:
D17/262657**

The Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce was advised that until the Coastal Zone Management Plan is certified or a Coastal Management Program is developed and certified that none of the other issues can be rectified, this should be a priority.

The Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce would like to see the commencement and completion of the Entrance Management Plan with community consultation based on current data, with the community incorporated within that plan during community consultation.

Note: Cllr Gash left the meeting, the time being 4.57pm.

The Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee evaluated the traditional Estuary Management Plan. Council is committed to reviewing the plan, but it is unknown whether the Entrance Management Plan will be covered. The next step would be to put up a budget bid to Council to consider allocating additional resources required.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

1. That Council receive the report on financial and resource implications of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce recommended objectives for information; and
2. Council continue to work with the Shoalhaven Heads community to develop River Road Foreshore Precinct to address coastal erosion, as per the options identified in the Draft NSW Water Research Laboratory Assessment of Coastal Management Options.

Recommendation (Phil Guy / Gareth Ward)

That Council

1. Receive the report on financial and resource implications of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce recommended objectives for information; and
2. Continue to work with the Shoalhaven Heads community to develop River Road Foreshore Precinct to address coastal erosion, as per the options identified in the Draft NSW Water Research Laboratory Assessment of Coastal Management Options.
3. Seek certification of its Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) and develop a Coastal Management Program (CMP) based on current data, not only historical data.

GENERAL BUSINESS

SH17.8 Additional Item - Update Proposed Works for the Boat Ramp

Michael Strachan advised that Council applied for the Better Boating Now Program. It is being assessed.

Note: The Hon Gareth Ward MP left the meeting, the time being 5.02pm.

Council is confident that the outcome will be positive.

Further consultation with the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce will take place at a later stage.

The concept plan has been prepared and this involves consultation with a number of users.

The Committee responded that the application be put forward to name the Shoalhaven Heads Reef, drop off point. The Committee believes that the three boat ramps will be used to maximum ability during peak periods.

It was also clarified that the statement that the level of service is unsuitable for all weather conditions is due to financial sustainability.

Note: Cllr Gash returned to the meeting, the time being 5.04pm.

Cllr Pakes wished the Committee a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.05pm.

Cllr Mitchell Pakes
CHAIRPERSON