

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN HEADS ESTUARY TASKFORCE

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 19 July 2022
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:03pm

The following members were present:

Clr Serena Copley - Chairperson
Clr Patricia White
Clr John Wells
Clr Greg Watson
Clr Mark Kitchener
Clr Tonia Gray (remotely)
Mr Gareth Ward – MP – joined at 4:28pm and left meeting at 5:30pm (remotely)
Mr Brian Allen
Mr Gerald Groom
Mr Phil Guy
Mr David Lamb (remotely)
Ms Robyn Flack
Mr Rob Russell
Ms Jessica Zealand (remotely)

Others present:

James Ruprai – Director City Development
Mr Michael Roberts – Manager – Environmental services
Nigel Smith – Coastal Management Program Coordinator

The meeting was opened by an Acknowledgement of Country by the Chairperson.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Nil.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Robyn Flack / Phil Guy)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED

SH22.9 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Mr Phil Guy raised the following items for discussion from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 15 March 2022.

1. SH22.1 – Pre-dredge Feasibility Studies - Progress Update
 - Flora and fauna assessment has recently been reviewed and finalised by Council.
 - The pre-dredging feasibility studies and outcomes are intended to be workshopped through the Coastal Management Program (CMP) for management assessment.
 - The CMP will provide the opportunity for funding for dredging if it is determined feasible as a result of the pre-dredging feasibility studies that have been undertaken. The Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) have advised that there is no further funding available at this stage for this project following the completion of the pre-dredging feasibility studies.
 - Council is hopeful that the CMP will be finalised and adopted mid to late 2023 depending on review and feedback from State Government Agencies, as well as ministerial sign off.
2. SH22.2 – River Road, Shoalhaven Heads Foreshore Precinct Rehabilitation Project Progress Report
 - Mr Phil Guy advised that these works were proposed to be completed by end of the 2021/22 financial year.
 - Michael Roberts advised that Council has been working on these issues. A Statement of Environmental Effects regarding the rectification at the eastern end of the rock revetment has been submitted to Council's Development Services.
 - Mr Phil Guy requested planting along the top of the foreshore as it is still considered outstanding.
 - Mr Phil Guy expressed that there are a number of safety issues at this site which are of concern to the community. These issues include drainage issues, power poles in the middle of footpaths and pole stays covered in tiger-tail markers in dangerous locations near public access, and the eastern end of rock revetment and waterway undermining quite severely.
 - See item SH22.10 - River Road Foreshore Precinct Rehabilitation Project Progress Report below regarding the public safety issues that were raised.
3. SH22.3 – River opening.
 - James Ruprai, Director City Development advised that an internal review has been undertaken.
 - The current processes in place are sound and as effective as they can be in such extreme circumstances.
 - Key finding of the review was the delineation of responsibilities internally which should result in more efficient decision making.

RESOLVED (By consent)

James Ruprai, Director City Development advised that an update will be sought from Council's City Services and the following:

1. Arrange site visits to view public safety concerns at the following locations:
 - a. The viewing platform at the beach which currently has a pole stay with tiger-tail marker tape on it from the platform to the adjacent Endeavour Energy 11kV pole to indicate a hazard.

- b. The uncompleted footpath at the location of ground stay, where there is a power pole directly adjacent to entry to stairwell in centre of rock wall.
 - c. The drainage facility at the western end of rock wall that has completely failed as evidenced by the subsidence of the gabion rock surrounding the stormwater pits.
2. Prepare a one page progress update report to be distributed to members of SHET as far as practicable in advance of the next meeting.

CARRIED

Note: Mr Gareth Ward, MP joined the meeting remotely at 4:28pm.

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

REPORTS

SH22.8 Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce (SHET) - Terms of Reference

HPERM Ref:
D22/282317

James Ruprai - Director City Development advised this Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) was designed to define and guide the group principles and drive the intent of the community's input into this forum. Mr Guy provided a copy of the Draft TOR with amendments made by SHET members. Amendments were reviewed at the meeting.

Recommendation

That:

1. The Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce endorse the Draft Terms of Reference (attached to the report).
2. Draft Terms of Reference be reported to Council for approval and adoption.

RECOMMENDATION (By consent)

That:

1. The Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce adopt the amended Draft Terms of Reference as tabled at the meeting.
2. Draft Terms of Reference be reported to Council for approval and adoption.

CARRIED

Note: Mr Gareth Ward, MP left meeting at 5:30pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

SH22.10 Feedback on Issues Raised

Phil Guy raised the following items for discussion:

1. Flood debris from recent floods and previous floods in March and the delineation between grass, sand, boat ramp and water.

2. Outcome of flood study – community consultation ended 10 July.

Michael Roberts advised that the next stage is incorporation of the flood plan mitigation and the community voice into the Lower Shoalhaven River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.

3. Major erosion and damage to footpath adjacent to River Rd boat ramp.

Michael Roberts advised that these issues have been incorporated into the Statement of Environmental Effects to nourish and appropriately revegetate the site. In terms of public safety, the para-webbing between the concrete path and the eroding foreshore has been passed on to the District Engineer. In terms of putting strategies in place, this matter has been incorporated into the larger works which is the end effect rectification to source sand for this location and revegetate. The timing of this works depends on Regional Planning Proposal and approval which goes through the NSW Planning Portal, which can be tracked publicly with a DA number.

Clr Wells noted that these agenda items should be discussed through the monthly CCB as they are outside of the roles and responsibilities of the SHET.

RESOLVED (By consent)

In relation to the points raised above, Council staff will:

1. Identify the responsible agencies (NSW EPA/DPI Fisheries/Council) for each of the areas of concern and investigate solutions for clean up as priority.
2. Provide a summary of the comments received from the public consultation process, once they have been incorporated into the current working draft of the Lower Shoalhaven River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.
3. Forward the DA number for the works surrounding the River Road boat ramp site to SHET members once the project has been allocated a DA number to enable tracking of the project.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 6:00pm.

Clr Serena Copley
CHAIRPERSON