

Manning River Estuary CMP Reference Group Meeting

Date	Wednesday 21 July 2021	Time	1 – 2.30pm
Venue	Zoom	Note-taker	Alisha Madsen
Chair	Crs. Len Roberts and Katheryn Smith		
Invitees	Chris Scott, Kirsty Hughes, Peter Neal, Peter Bignell, Ian Crisp, Sam Nicholson, Peter Longworth, John Harris, Noel Piercy, Dean Moore (TfNSW), Rye Gollan (HLLS), Neil Kelleher (DPIE – zoom), Josh Chivers (NPWS); Joedie Lawler (PT LALC) MCC: Paul De Szell, Gerard Tuckerman, Louise Duff, Prue Tucker, Alisha Madsen, Drew Morris.		
Observers	Members of the Old Bar-Manning Point CMP Reference Group were invited to participate as observers via zoom. Present: Greg Crisp, Mel Rosamond, Brett Lee		
Apologies	Andre Uljee, Chris Scott, Noel Piercy, Sam Nicholson, Peter Neal, Peter Bignell, Peter Longworth, Dean Moore (TfNSW), Rye Gollan (HLLS), Josh Chivers (NPWS); Joedie Lawler (PT LALC) Gerard Tuckerman (MCC), Drew Morris (MCC).		

Meeting items

	Item	Facilitator
1	Welcome and Housekeeping / Acknowledgement of Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the Old Bar/ Manning Point Reference Group 	Chair
2	Presentation: Update on Manning River Estuary and Catchment Management Program (ECMP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the Manning River ECMP Planning Area commences 2 km inland and does not cover the entrances. Noted the rationale for this: The Old Bar - Manning Point and Open Coast Coastal management programs (CMPs) will address more specialised coastal processes such as beach erosion and inundation. Noted the Manning River ECMP has a strong focus on the coastal management areas listed in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018, as required by the Coastal Management Act. Noted the Manning River ECMP takes a Whole-of-Catchment approach as recommended by the reference group and other stakeholders. 	Louise Duff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an overview of the 10-year budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 5,896,583 – MCC Enviro Rate, Stormwater Rate \$ 4,145,000 – Hunter LLS and DPI Fisheries (MEMS) <u>\$ 9,233,167</u> - DPIE Coast and Estuary Program <u>\$ 19,274,750</u> • Provided an overview of Key Actions in the ECMP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote community stewardship ○ Restore coastal wetlands ○ Address floodplain drainage and remediate Acid Sulfate Soils ○ Restore riparian vegetation ○ Promote sustainable agriculture • Provided an overview of the public exhibition program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6-weeks 3 June – 13 July ○ Posters, fliers, media release, social media ○ Have your say web page ○ Webinar ○ Drop-ins: Taree, Wingham, Gloucester ○ Consultation with Community and Industry Groups • Provided advice on how submissions were reviewed, responded to and reported on. • Advised that all submissions and Council’s response were attached to the Council report for the Council meeting on 28th July 2021 available here: Meeting Agendas and Minutes - MidCoast Council (nsw.gov.au) 	
<p>3</p>	<p>Overview and discussion of submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 26 submissions received, 21 expressed broad support • Discussed submissions made by reference group members including Tony Wales, Kirsty Hughes and John Harris and thanked them for their contributions. • Gave an overview of agency letters of support from Hunter LLS as the biggest partner, Biodiversity Conservation Trust, NPWS, Crown Lands, Transport for NSW • Broad discussion on Actions 2.05 and 2.06 that will be led by Transport for NSW to implement the recommendations of the Manning River NSW Entrance Taskforce • Discussed community group submissions from Friends of Browns Creek, Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare, Gloucester Environment Group, Manning River Action Group. • Gave an overview of submissions on key themes: entrance modifications, irrigation and extraction, stormwater management. 	<p>Louise Duff</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted a full risk assessment for proposed entrance modifications will be conducted by the project proponent at the appropriate stage of the project. Council and Hunter LLS are seeking private landholders with riparian zones and coastal wetlands to partner on remediation projects. John Harris is interested, involved in riparian restoration upstream of Wingham. <p>Action – LD follow up with JH.</p>	
4	<p>Round table general discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brett Lee: Old Bar Sand Bar Replenishment Group. Interested in sand replenishment. Tony Wales: Sought reassurance Littoral Rainforest will be covered in the OBMP CMP. Louise Duff confirmed this is required under the Act. Tony Wales: concerned about delay in OBMP CMP. Louise Duff apologised on behalf of Council and advised a new Coastal Management Officer will be recruited so planning can recommence. Alisha Madsen: looks forward to commencing implementation of the ECMP. Cr Len Roberts: let's consider combining the reference groups when they are reconstituted after the next Council election. Ian Crisp: Endorses the plan overall. Oyster industry supports landholder restoration projects. Noted concerns about the science that underpins the plan, especially re climate change impacts, entrance modification. Would like more information on the Technical Working Group. LD advised that all sections on climate change were prepared by consultant Dr. David Wainwright from Salients consulting. John Harris: Noted concerns about Madera vine invading the riparian zone, Carp invading the river, bi-catch and impacts on aquatic fauna associated with the potable water offtake – the type of screen can reduce bi-catch. <p>Action: LD will consult with Water Services regarding the offtake screens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirsty Hughes: looks forward to implementation. Mel Rosamond: concerns about the river entrance, now is the time to address issues. Prue Tucker: The ECMP represents an extraordinary amount of work with thoughtful actions. 	All
	<p>Thank you to the Manning River ECMP Reference Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul De Szell: thanked the committee for bringing their expertise. Louise Duff: thanked the committee for contributing. Enjoyed the input and meeting everyone and working together. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr. Len Roberts: acknowledged this committee took the project from go to wo through fire, drought and COVID. The group enabled everyone to have their say. Noted we are in a transition phase now, with an implementation committee to come. 	
5	<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Katheryn Smith: thanked the committee and noted that the amended ECMP will be presented to Council for adoption on Wednesday 28th July 2021, 10th item on the agenda The Reference Group members and meeting attendees will receive an email with links to the document, Council report and the attachments. The email will include information on how to book a public forum and speak to the council. If adopted by Council the next steps are to finalise agency letters of support, submit the ECMP to Minister Hancock for certification and apply for Coast and Estuary grant by 17 August. There will be a launch event for the program planned for September. Next meeting to be advised 	Louise Duff
	Meeting closed: 2.30pm	