

SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL

SHOALHAVEN HEADS ESTUARY TASKFORCE

to be held on Monday 4th February 2013
commencing at 4:00pm

City Administrative Centre
Bridge Road
NOWRA NSW 2541

23rd January 2013

Dear Member

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the **Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce** to be held on **Monday 4th February 2013**, commencing at **4:00pm** in the City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully

R D Pigg
General Manager

BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. Apologies
2. Report of Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
3. Report of Shoalhaven Water
4. Addendum Reports
5. General Business

MEMBERSHIP – Quorum (1/3)

Clr Guile - Chairperson	Ray Faux
Clr Gash - Mayor	Graeme Philpott
Clr Wells	Allan Richardson
Clr Kearney	Mike James
Clr McCrudden	Matt Vout
Laurie Talbot	Phil Guy
Jessica Zealand	David Lamb
State Member – Gareth Ward MP (Nominee - Paul Ell)	

Cell Phones:

Council's Code of Meeting Practice states, "All cell phones are to be turned off for the duration of the meeting".

Purpose

- Examine options for pursuing a partial or complete opening of Shoalhaven Heads
- Review Councils current Entrance and Estuary Management Plans for Shoalhaven Heads
- Report directly to Council

MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN HEADS ESTARY TASKFORCE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2012 IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1 AND 2, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, BRIDGE ROAD, NOWRA COMMENCING AT 4:01PM

The following members were present:

Clr Guile - Chairperson
Clr Wells
Paul Ell
David Lamb
Mike James
Allan Richardson
Jessica Zealand
Laurie Talbot
Ray Faux
Graeme Philpott

Others Present:

Russ Pigg – General Manager
Gordon Clark – Acting Director Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
Isabelle Ghetti – Acting Policy Planning Manager
Ray Massie – Acting Natural Resources and Floodplain Manager
Ailsa Schofield – Stormwater/Flood Officer
Ben Addison - observer - OEH
Mark Edwards – observer – Crown Land
Phil Guy – proposed member

1. Election of Chairperson

Russ Pigg, General Manager, called for nominations for Chairperson of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce. Nominations were received for Jessica Zealand and Clr Guile.

Ms Zealand declined the nomination.

Clr Guile accepted the nomination

MOTION: Moved: David Lamb / Second: Clr Wells

RESOLVED that Clr Guile be appointed as the Chairperson of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Clr Gash, Clr Kearney, Terry Lillie and Matt Vout.

2. Shoalhaven Heads Entrance Management

File 9825e

MOTION: Moved: Clr Wells / Second: David Lamb

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) The following 6 objectives (i - vi) become standing agenda items for the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce and that staff provide reports on each of these items at future meetings and further issues that are identified by the community:
 - i) Address the current build up of sedimentation and sand levels within the estuary.
 - ii) Investigate the viability of options to create greater flow and movement of water within the estuary, including a Permanent Opening.
 - iii) Update and review the Shoalhaven River Entrance Management Plan to include provisions that restore, maintain and sustain the health of the Shoalhaven Heads estuary; not just for the purpose of Flood Mitigation.
 - iv) Ensure the objectives and actions for sustaining the Shoalhaven River within the Shoalhaven River Estuary Management Plan are effective.
 - v) Challenge the Healthy River Commission assertion in the Shoalhaven Estuary Management Plan (Clause: 4.3.1.2) as unacceptable to the community of Shoalhaven Heads.
 - vi) Formulate a time lined programme of actions to achieve the above requests.
- b) A Media Release be issued by Council on the outcomes of the 26 November 2012 meeting of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Additional Item – Water Quality/Sewerage

File

MOTION: Moved: Clr Wells / Second: Mike James

RESOLVED that the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce request the General Manager report on the timeline of the water quality sampling/sewerage discharge that occurred in early 2012 to the next meeting of the Taskforce.

CARRIED

4. Additional Item - Membership File

MOTION: Moved: Cllr Wells / Second: Graeme Philpott

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) Mr Phil Guy replace Mr Terry Lillie (following his resignation from the Taskforce) as a member on the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce;
- b) The State Member (Gareth Ward MP) have a nominee as his alternate to attend meetings of the Taskforce.

CARRIED

5. Additional Item – Funding File

MOTION: Moved: Jessica Zealand / Second: Ray Faux

RESOLVED that the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce receive a further report on funding opportunities for information, emphasising the funding opportunities focussing on restoration of flows in the Shoalhaven Estuary.

CARRIED

6. Additional Item – Next meeting File

MOTION: Moved: consent

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Taskforce be scheduled in February 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5:33pm.

Cllr Guile
CHAIRPERSON

SHOALHAVEN HEADS ESTUARY TASK FORCE

MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2013

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Estuary Management and Coastal Management Program Grant Applications Report
File 3406E

PURPOSE: Delivery Program Activity: 2.3.1.4

To advise the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Task Force of the current priority projects for funding applications under the 2013-2014 Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Estuary and Coastal Management Program.

RECOMMENDED that the Shoalhaven Heads Estuary Task Force endorse submission of 2013 – 14 Office of Environment and Heritage Estuary and Coastal Management Program grant applications as detailed in this report.

OPTIONS

1. The Committee make the above recommendation to Council's Shoalhaven River Natural Resources and Flood Management Committee.
2. The Committee can make an alternative recommendation to that detailed in this report, which may require an additional report on the matter.

DETAILS

Council has a strong association with the State Government's Estuary Management and Coastal Management Programs and submits annual applications for grant funding consideration from the OEH on a 50:50 funding basis. The next round of OEH applications close on 14 February 2013.

A number of significant planning projects from previous funding applications are proposed to be submitted for funding consideration and are combined with community consultation associated with the following new projects:

- Estuary Management Plan reviews for Lake Conjola, St Georges Basin and Lake Tabourie;
- Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Shoalhaven coastline;
- Coastal Erosion Remediation Design studies for Callala Bay, Callala Beach, Collingwood Beach and Mollymook Beach; and
- Coast and Estuaries Asset Management Plan Review

The current list of OEH applications to the 2013-2014 Estuary and Coastal Management Programs include:

1. Shoalhaven River Entrance Process Study. \$50,000 has been allocated by Council to progress community understanding and investigations into potential entrance water flow efficiency improvements (Job number 15847). The preliminary scope of the application includes:
 - Estuary entrance geomorphology and historical intervention assessment;
 - Entrance dynamics and lower estuary circulation enhancement feasibility study;
 - Water quality dynamics the Shoalhaven Heads area;
 - Public awareness programs on:
 - Entrance processes and flood emergency planning;
 - Water quality and estuary health – (historical healthy range); and
 - Priority estuary management implementation actions.
2. Citywide Coastal Erosion Studies (Job number 75742):
 - Coastal road stormwater erosion impact assessment (\$20,000);
 - Callala Bay break wall feasibility study (\$10,000);
 - Currarong artificial reef feasibility study (\$10,000); and
 - Maintenance dredging feasibility study (\$10,000).
3. Estuary Road Stormwater Remediation. City wide stormwater management plan implementation (Job number 75612, 75714)
 - Sub catchment analysis and ongoing road storm water remediation development and delivery in conjunction with road maintenance budgets for sensitive estuary catchments including Millards Creek, Lake Wollumboola, Shoalhaven Heads, Lake Conjola, Burrill Lake (\$40,000).
4. Foreshore Stabilisation Projects (Job numbers 75714, 15931, 75742):
 - Paradise Beach, St Georges Basin - sand nourished beach construction (\$25,000);
 - Lake Conjola Foreshore - ongoing repairs to failing ad-hoc protection on the public foreshore(\$50,000);
 - Sussex Inlet foreshore - ongoing repairs to failing ad-hoc protection along the public foreshore(\$50,000);
 - Burrill Lake - storm damage repair and public beach reconstruction fronting Dolphin Point Caravan Park (Stage 1 \$25,000); and
 - Lake Tabourie - Portland Drive Stage 4 Foreshore Remediation(\$25,000)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

To meet the OEH funding applications deadline, it is proposed that applications for all the above projects will be submitted. Grant applications are considered on a competitive basis and assessed in accordance with the current OEH technical guidelines and program priority.

Upon considering the above applications, Council's matching budget capacity (50:50 required) is limited and if the majority are successful they are likely to be oversubscribed and will need to be assessed further when grant offers are made.

Subsequently when the outcome of these grant applications are known, they will be reported to Council for consideration to accept. Job numbers above indicates Council's existing financial commitment to these projects.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Reporting of successful grant funding offers during 2013 will be undertaken via the new Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee structure. This process will provide opportunity for further assessment on Council's budget capacity and make recommendations on grant funding acceptance.

P Adams

DIRECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SHOALHAVEN HEADS ESTUARY TASKFORCE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2013

SHOALHAVEN WATER

2. Report on Water Quality Sampling/Sewerage discharge Shoalhaven Heads 2012
File 28254E

PURPOSE: Delivery Program Activity: 1.6.1.2

Deliver efficient, high quality and environmentally responsible wastewater services to meet environmental and health standards.

RECOMMENDED that the Taskforce Committee note the details of this report.

OPTIONS

3. This report is for information only

DETAILS

Shoalhaven Water received a call on the 9th January 2012 from concerned visitors at the Holiday Haven Caravan Park at Shoalhaven Heads that there was a sewage odour coming from the bushland adjacent to the caravan park.

Shoalhaven Water staff attended the site and found sewage discharging from the manhole (CL/2) adjacent to the park, which was not visible from the road or caravan park. Shoalhaven Water operators called for assistance and cleared the sewer choke using a high pressure jet washing machine.

The EPA, NSW Safe Foods and oyster growers were all notified immediately of the possible contamination and Council's Environmental Services were contacted to start sampling the receiving waters.

The manhole was very close to the local caravan park and complaints of sewage odour were received only on that one day. As the park has been very busy over the Christmas break and there had been no complaints previously it is estimated that the manhole discharge would be for 12 to 48 hours.

A camera inspection was conducted after the cleaning job was completed showing that there was some minor root infestation that had caused the blockage of the sewage pipe.

The following site map sets out the position of the discharge point in relation to the creek entrance to the Shoalhaven River.



Site map – Manhole CL/2 Shoalhaven Heads

Sampling of the Creek and Shoalhaven River undertaken at locations detailed below.

- L1 Creek outlet to Shoalhaven River
- L2 30 metres downstream in Shoalhaven River
- L3 Creek 300 metres downstream
- L4 Boat ramp River Road
- L5 Hay Street Jetty

Samples were considered to have high contamination levels but reduced over the following days. Signs were put in place 9th January 2012 and some were removed on Monday 16th January as soon as laboratory results were received that indicated satisfactory water quality within recreational limits.



Sample Locations- Shoalhaven Heads

Sample Results

Sample Location	Faecal Coliforms 9/1/12	Faecal Coliforms 10/1/12	Faecal Coliforms 11/1/12	Faecal Coliforms 13/1/12	Faecal Coliforms 26/12	Units
L1	80,000	1,100	1,000	530	780	cfu/100mL
L2	60,000	64	150	38	18	cfu/100mL
L3	180,000	8,700	2,100	970	-	cfu/100mL
L4		10	85	32	8	cfu/100mL
L5		20	<10	8	14	cfu/100mL

Sampling continued in the river as part of the Council's Routine River monitoring. The results of river monitoring for the following three months is shown below.

Sample Location	Enterococci 16/1/12	Enterococci 13/2/12	Enterococci 27/2/12	Enterococci 28/3/12	Enterococci 16/4/12	Units
Offshore from Boat Ramp	2	4	11	11	2	cfu/100mL
Berry's Canal	3	35	10	10	1	cfu/100mL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Adequate funds have been allocated within the Shoalhaven Water Operations Budget to cover the costs for repairs, cleanup and the sampling associated with the incident.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

There has been discussions and correspondence with the Shoalhaven Heads CCB relating to this issue. A review of notifications of any sewer overflow issues has also been undertaken to expand the knowledge across Council and the community.

C Krogh
DIRECTOR SHOALHAVEN WATER

R.D Pigg
GENERAL MANAGER