

WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 19 AUGUST 2009 AT SHIRE OF DENMARK, RECEPTION ROOM AT 1.00PM

PRESENT: George Ebbett (Chairperson), Kirsty Alexander (DoW), Tracy Calvert (DoW), Steve May (DoW), Elissa Stewart (WICC), Melinda Lyons (SoD - minutes), Sandra Maciejewski (CoA), Yvette Caruso (SoD), Noel Chambers (DoT), John Xanthis, Warren Miller.

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Case Koning – Would like to know the results of the water analysis of the Dept of Water stations within Wilson Inlet.

Tracey Calvert – There is a strong salt wedge present at site 6 and just starting at site 12. The water is starting to diverge. An in-depth presentation about the results will be given at this meeting.

Zak Launay - Neville Boughton's report, written 4 years ago, shows that there is a significant difference between an eastern and a western exchange. The aims of the opening are to maximising the scour of the opening yet last year was worst opening. Community preference has indicated that majority want an eastern opening. Prawn rock channel can still be maintained with an eastern opening. The estimated cost of around \$10 000 could be partly covered by the Water Corporation. They have indicated this contribution. Could the Dept of Water also assist with funding for an eastern opening? Other disadvantages of a western opening include a lost section of Ocean Beach and brown water over Summer which contributes to lost tourism trade. Would like to suggest the option of an eastern opening be considered for 2010.

Zak, Case, Owen McIntosh and Fred asked to stay for presentations. No objection from members.

1.1 UPDATE ON WILSON INLET DISSOLVED OXYGEN/SALINITY STUDY (DoW)

Steve May (DoW) gave a presentation on recent data logger results from Wilson Inlet.

Summary – The loggers have taken accurate data recordings. The data logs have helped to define the relationship between meteorological events, the bar opening, rainfall and water quality and the changes each make in relation to water profile.

General Discussion

George Ebbett – Is there ongoing funding for the monitoring to continue?

Tracey Calvert – Funding has been identified until December 2010 for catchment monitoring in the south west. Funding bids have been made for monitoring beyond December.

1.2 RESULTS OF LAKE SADIE WATER QUALITY STUDY (DoW)

Steve May (DoW) gave a presentation on a study of contaminant loads entering Wilson Inlet from the Lake Sadie catchment.

Summary – Lake Sadie contributes low proportion of nutrient and sediment loads to the Wilson Inlet. There is only one year of recorded data which is a limitation of the results. The final report will be available through DOW and tabled at WIMAG.

George Ebbett– Another limitation of the study is that there is no accurate data of inputs from urban area.

Owen MacIntosh – Lake Sadie has the shortest period of contribution to the Inlet within the catchment due to it not flowing into the inlet until the bar opens.

1.3 INVESTIGATION INTO REPORT OF SMALL SHELLFISH DEATHS (DoW)

Tracy Calvert (DoW) reported on an investigation into the death of small shellfish that was reported at the last WIMAG.

Conclusions – High rainfall events prior to reporting of incidence as well as strong winds may have contributed to rapid changes in salinity and fresh water being held in eastern part of inlet due to winds. These events may have affected small mussels.

Recommendations – Public to report unusual events.

Zak and Warren – Deoxygenation could have had an effect on the mussel.

George Ebbett – In future we would expect a quick response to public reports to ensure that toxins are either identified or ruled out.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Phil Shaw (DoF), Ian Osborne, Kim Stanton, Basil Schur, Mark Parre, Ben Chuwen, Daniel Endacott (DoW), John Dibble (WC).

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Confirmation of minutes from the meeting 17 June 2009 were confirmed as true and correct.

Moved - Warren Miller

Seconded – John Xanthis

4. **CORRESPONDENCE & MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Actions from last meeting:

1) *Daniel to circulate DoW's response to letter supporting eastern opening signed by 5 WIMAG members. – Emailed 21/07/09.*

2) *Daniel to finalise ToR and circulate to relevant agencies for final sign-off. – still to be completed.*

3) *Daniel and Sandra to integrate WIMAG's comments on the proposed horse riding tours at Morley Beach into the response to DPI. – letters sent, see below.*

4.2 Morley Beach horse riding tours - letters to DPI.

Tabled for members' information: - DoW letter dated 29/06/2009

- City of Albany letter dated 06/07/2009

4.3 Updated bar opening protocol.

Tabled for members' information – *Wilson Inlet Sandbar Opening Protocol (updated 7 July 2009).* Protocol was updated to reflect changes from the Drainage Review.

All items above supplied to members.

5. **2009 BAR OPENING AND PINCH POINT DREDGING (John Xanthis)**

John Xanthis spoke about the 2009 bar opening and possibilities for increasing marine exchange.

Last year the storm surge sand dune remained insitu. The aim of the bar opening this year was also to try and remove this dune. The opening occurred after a low pressure system which seems to have contributed to assisting the removal of the dune.

Flexibility of new tool has enabled opening to be determined by weather conditions as well as inlet height.

Smell on the shoreline seems unavoidable due to the ruppia that is blown by eastern winds to western shoreline.

Pinch point dredging is a potential. Can DoW head a group to investigate potential spots to dredge existing channel?

Kirsty Alexander – DoW maybe able to sit on a group however no funding available to conduct dredging. Will discuss with Dan to know if there is officer time to commit to such a group.

6. MEMBERS REPORTS

Melinda Lyons

Shire of Denmark councillors carried a resolution on the June 23rd to: 1) Reaffirm policy with respect to Wilson Inlet Sandbar Opening location, and 2) To seek assistance from the DoW to convene a community forum in regard to the Wilson Inlet.

Shire of Denmark councillors advised the DEC that: 1) it is prepared to manage the Hay River Reserve A23579 west of the river and to have it remain "Recreation and Camping", and 2) Council would actively pursue funding for development of a Management Plan for the reserve.

The NRM budgets have \$10 000 allocated for implementation of the WI Foreshore Management Plan recommendation, and there is also \$10 000 of funds from the DoW to develop and rehabilitate the Denmark Rivermouth and Poddy Shot boat launching area.

Green Skills have sourced funds to initiate \$16 000 worth of weeding within Mt Hallowell Reserve and the Wilson Inlet Foreshore. The Shire of Denmark is a project partner assisting with recording and mapping sites weeded within the reserves.

Sandra Maciejewski

The City of Albany recommended that the Hay River Reserve on the east of the Hay River be vested with DEC however the City Albany councillors supported a motion to retain the vesting with the City.

Budget items of interest to WIMAG include the allocation of funds to conduct a reserves management masterplan which will look forward to the next 15 years' priorities and issues. This will be an out sourced project. There are also funds to do risk assessment at a number of coastal sites.

Elissa Stewart (WINRAP notes attached)

WINRAP funding will be finalised at the end of September. There has been a successful application made to Lotterywest for the waterway protection and restoration projects similar to WINRAP. This funding is for a 1 year program to September 2010.

WICC has been nominated for the Theiss Award which if successful will grant \$250 000 prize money.

A Strategic Management Plan is currently being drafted to assist future visioning of WICC.

John Xanthis - Prawn rock bridge needs to be extended as the channel has widened and the bridge no longer reaches the shore on both sides. The bridge has been relocated for the time being to enable crossing.

Warren Miller - Queried the scale changes within DoW data?

Steve May - Scale changes based on data recorded and necessity to illustrate spikes. If users need a consistent scale for data records please contact DOW to receive required scale.

7. NEXT MEETING - 21ST OCTOBER 2009

Close – 2.30pm