

# **WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP**

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 21 APRIL 2010 AT SHIRE OF DENMARK, RECEPTION ROOM AT 1.00PM**

### **PRESENT:**

#### **1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Ken Richardson-Newton

The western shore of the Hay River is being degraded by people using the area for recreation. Littering, creation of new 4x4/walking tracks and trampling of vegetation along the foreshore is becoming a problem. There has also been antisocial behaviour in the area. People using the area have had altercations/been threatened by others. Fisheries officers were threatened when they requested to inspect a groups catch.

The use of the area during winter is seen to be a problem as areas are difficult to access due to flooding. This results in erosion/degradation of existing tracks and the creation of new tracks. The use of bollards is suggested to close off the area during winter. Bollarding may be needed in some areas to define tracks or recreation areas and keep people away from sensitive areas.

Chris – Fishing in the area may be an issue too (use of nets, discarded equipment).

Yvette – First step is to check status of management order. Has it been formally vested in DEC? If so then an MOU should be drafted as per Council Res, and then potentially a steering group could be made to guide management of the area.

George – WIMAG could participate in process.

George – A strategy for the management of the reserve could be developed.

Kirsty – it would be good for WIMAG officers to visit the site, perhaps as part of the next meeting.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

John Taylor, DEC officers

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Confirmation of minutes from the meeting 17 February 2010 were confirmed as true and correct.

Moved – Warren

Seconded – John

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE & MATTERS ARISING**

Yvette - received letter from DoW regarding photo point monitoring of Wilson Inlet Foreshore. Have subsequently applied for grant funding as well as Council budget submission in next financial year towards re-vegetation of Wilson Inlet foreshore and photo point monitoring associated.

Kirsty – To increase public awareness of WIMAG activities, perhaps Shire NRMO's could add WIMAG outcomes to Council Matters part of the Denmark Bulletin where relevant.

Yvette- Shire is happy to include WIMAG matters where relevant to Shire within Council Conversations section of Denmark Bulletin.

Algae within the inlet discussed. DoW continue to monitor algae monthly (visual analysis) at several points in the inlet, including most public access areas. It is important to provide outcomes of this monitoring to the community. At the last meeting it was suggested It has been suggested a leaflet be put together about algae, what they are, where found etc. to provide balanced information about algae in Wilson Inlet and their role in inlet ecology. Kirsty provided a draft and invited comment from members.

John – Believes recent media attention may have been a bit of a ‘beat up’, and that information about algae season should be a printed in bulletin.

**Action – seasonality of algal activity to be included in leaflet for bulletin (Kirsty)**

Water Corporation update on Zimmerman Street Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Kirsty advised that DEC (who license the plant) have advised that:

- Discharge volume does not feature in license conditions
- Wastewater discharge has ‘targets’ for nutrient concentration rather than conditions imposing limits.
- WIMAG would like further information about this - a presentation next meeting by WC may be good.

Chris - DEC manage Water Corporation license - what are ‘targets’ and what will future targets be? A letter should be written to DEC to find out if there are any wastewater input into watercourse from WC.

**Action – WIMAG to write to Water Corporation expressing concerns raised and requesting further information about current and future license conditions (Brad, Kirsty).**

**5. MIDDLE SOUTHERN GUTTER DREDGING PROPOSAL (John Xanthis)**

- Inlet is dynamic - changed by storm surges, climate, etc.
- Management of inlet through opening of bar is not enough.
- Dredging middle gutter will increase marine exchange. This would result in better fish recruitment, and improve aesthetic value of inlet (‘cleaner’ looking water). May improve tourism and fishing in the area.

Chris - DoW has no fundamental objection - decision should be made by community.

Yvette - Would Acid Sulphate Soil be an issue?

Case - No, this would not be an issue as sediments/soil remain damp throughout the year.

Chris - ASS is managed by DEC and could potentially be an issue, DEC should be consulted.

Case – Presented map showing ‘pinch points’ within the inlet. Stated pinch points are the main influence on flow. Pinch points should be removed as soon as possible, before water levels rise too much to do the required work. This proposal would work with a West or East opening.

George - Agrees that pinch points being removed may be a good idea, suggests presenting idea to council.

John - Seconds Chases idea/motion.

Motion to present the proposal to Council, 6 - for, 1 - against, all others abstain.

John - If this idea has been left too late to fulfil for this year, a steering committee could be created for idea to go forward next year.

George - Thinks it may be to late to implement this year, believes steering committee will not be required.

**6. WIMAG REVIEW**

George provided a brief history of WIMAG in it's various forms.

Please see separate summary provided by facilitator Louise Duxbury.

**8. NEXT MEETING – 16 June 2010**

**Action items from meeting held 16 June 2010:**

Action - WIMAG to write to Water Corporation expressing concerns raised and requesting further information about current and future license conditions (Brad, Kirsty).