

WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 18 OCTOBER 2006 AT THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM AT 1.00PM

PRESENT: George Ebbett, Jason Froud, Helen Heydenrych, Zak Launay, Tony Fitzpatrick (proxy for Geoff Findlay), Diane Harwood, Dave Rushton, Danny Burkett

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Gunby, Kirsty Alexander, Craig Carter, Belinda Dufall (Parry's Beach Voluntary Management Group)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.10pm

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Owen McIntosh, Cedric Smith, Fred Scott present during open forum session.

SCRIPT FUNDED WATER PROJECTS IN THE WILSON INLET CATCHMENT

Kirsty Alexander (Dept of Water) provided an overview of current SCRIPT projects relevant to Wilson Inlet.

Water Resource Planning

- South Coast Water Resources Plan
- Denmark River Drinking Water Source Protection Plan
- Denmark Allocation Plan – Denmark River catchment
- Salinity Recovery Plan – upper Denmark River catchment

Wilson Inlet Nutrient Reduction Action Plan

- Aims to reduce algae in Wilson Inlet through a 5-year program of nutrient reduction

Upper Hay Strategic Catchment

- Activities that complement on-ground works associated with the Wilson Inlet Nutrient Reduction Action Plan
- Perennial pastures, fencing and addressing soil health

Monitoring

- Water quality monitoring in estuary and catchment

Seagrass Monitoring

- Ruppia extent and biomass monitoring proposal currently being developed by DoW

Increasing our knowledge of waterway ecological values

- Denmark, Hay and Sleeman Rivers will be studied

Catchment land use planning & best management practices

- Bluegum investigation

Regional Wetland Work

- Wetlands of the Wilson Inlet catchment to be studied this year

Estuarine fish research

- Outputs will contribute to development of long term monitoring and fisheries management practices.

Cultural heritage of estuaries

- Major knowledge gap
- Tool to inform NRM processes

Biodiversity Planning

- Biodiversity planning for public lands – foreshore management plans

These include Cultural Heritage Study, Water Resource Planning, fish research, increased monitoring, Denmark Recovery Catchment and Wilson Inlet Nutrient Reduction Action Plan.

2. **APOLOGIES** Colleen Donnelly (resigned), Brad Kneebone, John Jamieson, John Xanthis, Basil Schur

3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th August 2006 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Member profiles for the website – status

Wilson Inlet Foreshore UCL – outcome of September Council meeting (deferred).

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE AMENDMENTS**

Discussion focused on changes to the WIMAG Terms of Reference document to accommodate an extension of the group's management area to the Parry and Irwin Inlets, as proposed at the previous meeting. Members were asked to provide feedback on the amended Terms of Reference prior to endorsement of the new Denmark Estuaries Advisory Group (DEAG).

Belinda Dufall representing the Parry's Beach Voluntary Management Group provided comments, including a statement that the PBVMG should be invited to nominate their representative on the new DEAG rather than be required to satisfy a selection criteria and interview process.

Action: Dave to send copy of draft ToR document and accompanying letter to relevant stakeholders requesting feedback.

6. **OPENING OF THE WILSON INLET SANDBAR**

George Ebbett facilitated a discussion regarding the premature breaching of the sandbar on the 4th October. George and Chris Gunby will meet with Minister John Kobelke on Tuesday, 31st October to raise concerns about the potential impact that this years opening might have on the inlet given the low water level.

7. **Script Projects Involving Wilson Inlet – presentation during public open forum.**

8. **COMMUNITY FORUM – 15TH NOVEMBER 2006**

Guest speakers for the upcoming forum on the current health and activities within Wilson Inlet and its catchment will include Malcolm Robb (Dept of Water), Kim Smith (Dept of Fisheries), Walter Arrow (Dept of Health) and Ron Master (Dept of Agriculture & Food). Representatives from the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee and Green Skills will also conduct presentations at the event.

Time will be allocated at the conclusion of each presentation for attendees to ask questions or provide general feedback. People attending the forum will also be able to submit questions or comments in writing on a register which will enable event organisers to provide additional information relevant to the forum's themes should it be required. Hopefully copies of the latest 'Report to the Community (No.8)' will also be available for distribution at the event. The report will interpret Wilson Inlet water quality data collected in recent years.

Action: Steve May to contact Helen Heydenrych regarding advertising arrangements.

9. WILSON INLET NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

Dave Rushton tabled a WINRAP implementation progress/update report primarily focusing on initiatives throughout the Wilson Inlet catchment area during August, September & October 2006. Copies of the report are available at the Department of Water/Dept of Environment & Conservation office on Strickland Street, Denmark.

10. MEMBERS REPORTS

Jason Froud - Notification of the loss of one of the Fisheries and Marine officer positions in Albany. The District will now become a 2 FMO district.

Proposed changes to the South Coast Estuarine Fishery Management Plan. Simplification of set netting hours rules.

Discussion regarding Denmark 10,000, Department of Fisheries position in relation to fishing competitions.

Chris Gunby – Nil

Helen Heydenrych – information relating to fisheries research in the inlet (cobble sampling has commenced).

Zak Launay – provided overview of jetty proposal recently submitted to the Shire of Denmark for consideration.

Craig Carter – Due to closure of DoW/DEC office on Strickland Street he will be relocating from the 31st January 2007.

Tony Fitzpatrick – some problems with jet-ski use still occurring and suspects mostly attributed to tourists (currently 7 registered in Wilson Inlet). Proposed signage for Nullaki and Rivermouth in an attempt to address issue.

Danny Burkett – Nil

Dave Rushton - Nil

Diane Harwood – Di has been working with DWAG (the Denmark Weed Action Group) on several sites around the Inlet and along Denmark and Little Rivers.

A survey for weeds along the new section of the Heritage Trail between Crusoe Beach Rd and the South Coast Hwy revealed a medium density infestation of Arum lily. Green Skills, as the project manager, reported this to the Shire, who has since had the area sprayed.

DWAG has been contracted by Dept Environment and Conservation to carry out surveys, mapping and trials of control methods for the environmental weed *Asparagus scandens*. This plant occurs along the banks of the Denmark River and Little River, and also along the Wilson Inlet foreshore where it is smothering the native vegetation. 7 trial plots have been established in the dense infestation at Roberts St:

1 control, 1 hand pulling the above ground foliage, 1 hand digging the entire plant, 1 brush-off at 1g/1,000 litre, 1 brush-off at 10g/1,000 litre, and 2 of Roundup at strengths yet to be determined.

I have written short articles about Arum lily and Asparagus scandens for the Denmark Bulletin, and put up a display in the Denmark Environment Centre window.

Two other serious weeds occurring along river banks and Inlet foreshore, Lantana camara and Pittosporum undulatum, have also been targeted for removal by our volunteers.

Clearing of foreshore vegetation continues, in some cases by mowing to the water's edge, in others by lopping branches to achieve an unimpeded view of the water.

I have reported these instances, but there seems to be no remedial action taken by the Shire.

A Code of Practice for works on Shire managed land should be adopted, which would assist the Shire to enforce the regulations, which I believe do not permit the clearing of foreshore vegetation.

George Ebbett – tabled photos demonstrating use of disused car tyres to stabilise river/stream banks.

11. NEXT MEETING – 20th December 2006