

## **WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 27 February 2008 AT THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM AT 1.00PM**

**PRESENT:** George Ebbett, Chris Gunby, Yvette Curaso, Craig Carter, John Xanthis, John Dibble, Ian Osborne, Kim Stanton, Geoff Findlay, Murray Gangell

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1.05pm and welcomed new community member Ian Osbourne.

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

Di Harwood gave a brief presentation showing some of the sites and weed species she has been working on recently along the Foreshore Reserves of Wilson Inlet.

Di also presented to the meeting copies of handouts she had organised for new residents in Denmark. Di advised that copies were to be distributed to local businesses and agencies.

Mr Phil Barns raised a concern with the discharge from Water Corporation's waste water treatment plant into the Inlet. Mr Barns's concern was related to the implications of this happening in a year when the bar was not breached and there would not be any flushing of the Inlet.

John Dibble replied saying Water Corporation does regular testing of the discharge at 2 points and the levels do not exceed the EPA's guidelines.

Mr Barns's other concern was the possible impacts of fish stocks in the Inlet with the upcoming fishing competition and in particular the event where the prize is for the largest catch. Phil Shaw from the Department of Fisheries was not present but George advised Mr Barns that this concern would be on the next agenda for Phil to give a response. A short presentation was given by DoW staff member Tracey Calvert to inform the group of a study being conducted by the DoW and funded by the South Coast NRM to monitor the oxygen levels in the bottom waters of the inlet. Tracey explained that this data will be used to better understand the processes within the inlet and the impact of sandbar openings and closures. Two loggers are expected to be deployed at two locations on the Inlet within the next month.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Melinda Lyons, Ben Chuwen, Phil Shaw, Mark Parre

The chairman advised the group that WIMAG community member Stephen Bondini had resigned and advertising of this position would commence shortly.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 December 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

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

- 4.1 Letter from the Denmark Shire advising of the nominations and appointments for the two vacant WIMAG community representative's positions recently advertised.
- 4.2 Correspondence from the Denmark Shire to Owen McIntosh related to Council's roles and responsibilities regarding the management of the Inlet.
- 4.3 Citizen of the year and community of the year awards forms; These were tabled and there was no further discussion.
- 4.4 Tripartite Agreement-Wilson Inlet Opening Protocol; It was decided to discuss this during item 6.

#### **Water Craft on Wilson Inlet**

This correspondence from the Denmark Environment Centre to WIMAG was unintentionally omitted from the agenda. Geoff Findlay made the following comments.

Personal watercraft including Jet skis are still categorised as boats and can operate on Wilson Inlet providing they are not involved in freestyle or wave jumping.

Jet ski wash is no more damaging than other boat wash though it must be acknowledged that they can operate in shallower water than conventional power boats and can therefore interfere with sensitive water bird sites on the Inlet

With respect to Hay River no powerboats are allowed to exceed 8knots within 45m of a bank or the shore so this addresses Hay River and the other tributaries of the Inlet

DPI conducts regular patrols on the Inlet including the Denmark River and have issued a number of infringement notices for speeding since the Christmas/New Year period. DPI has also appointed Denmark Resident Chis Howden as a Volunteer Marine Safety Liaison Officer to give the office better information on behaviour on the Inlet and this has been had some positive results.

## **5. WILSON INLET NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTION PLAN**

Craig Carter tabled a WINRAP implementation progress update report and provided information regarding recent and upcoming WINRAP initiatives.

## **6. BAR OPENING – STATUS**

Tripartite Agreement - Chris advised DoW would not be able to commit to drainage agreement as presently proposed by Shire until such time as the review proposed by the EPA was concluded. The response to the shire would be worded as such, and John agreed the Water Corporation's response would be similar. A suggestion was made that the protocol includes the City of Albany.

John Xanthis raised concerns about the increasing number of new dams been built in the upper Denmark catchment and the effect its having on water flows in the Denmark River. Chris mentioned the studies been conducted by the DoW on the Denmark River's ecological water requirements which looks at the water regime needed to maintain the ecological values of water dependant ecosystems within the river.

Non-Bar Opening - Chris gave a brief history for the benefit of the new members and highlighted the work been by the DoW. This included requesting feedback from Government Departments and community groups on how they've been affected by the non opening and conducting a one on one survey with affected landholders to quantify impacts on their amenity/commercial activity.

## **7. MONITORING OXYGEN LEVELS IN WILSON INLET**

A presentation by Tracy Calvert, DoW was done during open forum.

## **8. WATER SOURCE AND ALLOCATION PLANNING**

Chris provided a brief history of this project to new members and updated the meeting on the progress of the Denmark Allocation Plan.

This plan is expected to be drafted by December 2008

## **9. WILSON INLET FORESHORE RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Yvette updated members on the progress of this project. There is currently grant funding from SCNRM to produce 2 Management Plans, one of which is the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan. The plans will only be covering the 13 foreshore reserves that are located and managed by the Denmark Shire. The Shire of Denmark has sent out a project brief to targeted agencies for applications to undertake the contract. Proposals have all been received, and the appointment of a subcontractor/proponent is imminent. Project funds expire June 2008 but due to the late start, an extension has been granted.

## **10. MANAGEMENT OF THE WILSON INLET SANDBAR-FAQ**

After general discussion and support it was agreed that any written feedback should be forwarded to DoW within a week. DoW would revise any changes and organise distribution to the agreed audience.

## **11. DENMARK BOATING STRATEGY (Standing Item)**

George stated that the Denmark Council requires guidance from WIMAG on this document. There was general discussion about the quality of this document.

Geoff suggested it goes back to the community for further input as the Strategy does not even discuss any future options for Springdale Beach, even though it was subject to some development proposals from the adjoining land developer. After further discussion it was decided that each member be given a copy of this strategy and focus on

Zone 1 to suggest any recommendations and to forward them to the Denmark Shire so they can be tabled for the next WIMAG meeting for discussion.

Geoff highlighted the need to assess all Jetty structures on the Inlet as there are some potentially unsafe and unlicensed structures and advise the Denmark Council so they could look at options for removing unlicensed structures and plan uses for existing jetties such as the ex "Jasmine B" jetty at the River mouth.

**John Dibble left the meeting at 3.02pm.**

## **12. MEMBERS REPORTS**

Geoff Findlay – The DPI have been asked to identify a boating free zone on the Inlet and invited feedback on the boating activity in the Inlet.

Chris Gunby – Substantive Environmental Officer's position will be advertised shortly.

Craig Carter – Will be starting on the WINRAP 'Update to the Community' shortly.

Kim Stanton – A brief summary of Kim's written report;

The City of Albany (CoA) is regularly checking the revegetation at Nullaki Peninsula. The ongoing fence line issue in this area have been directly dealt with between Mr Robertson and DEC.

The CoA is attempting to gain state funding for road maintenance near Wilson Inlet. These funds are necessary due to the problems of flooding both in the past and for the future.

The CoA Council passed 3 recommendations regarding set-backs (ocean and inlet) related with State Policies, relocated dwellings, holiday accommodation, visual dominance, improving fire management and updating the subdivision guide plan. within the Nullaki Peninsula. There was a need for these modifications due to the ongoing difficulties and inconsistencies in and applying some of the existing scheme controls. These modifications are also the result of the clarification and direction provided through the determination of an appeal before the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal in 2002.

For more information refer to the City of Albany council minutes 19/02/08.

Murray Gangell – Nil

John Xanthis – had observed that fishing at Prawn Rock channel has been particularly good but expressed some concern regarding inability to access Prawn Rock for dog exercise.

Ian Osbourne – Nil

George Ebbett – Nil

## **11. NEXT MEETING – 23 April 2008**

It was agreed that the meetings for the rest of 2008 be changed from the third to the fourth Wednesday of the relevant months. Murray to distribute a copy of the 2008 meeting dates to members with the next agenda.