

WILSON INLET MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 25 June 2008 AT THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM AT 1.00PM

PRESENT: Mark Parre, Chris Gunby (DoW), Yvette Curaso (Denmark Shire), Craig Carter (WICC), John Xanthis, Phil Shaw (DoF), Melinda Lyons (Green Skills), Kim Stanton (CoA), Geoff Findlay (DPI), Basil Schur, Murray Gangell (DoW).

Attendees: Myles Mitchell (DIA)

The (Acting) Chairman opened the meeting at 1.12pm and welcomed new community members Mark Parre and Basil Schur.

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Diane Harwood – Green Skills & Denmark Weed Action Group (DWAG) reported on the current development of the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan.

Green Skills has been contracted by the Shire of Denmark through a SC NRM grant to develop two management plans – one of which is the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan. Green Skills have produced a report which is a culmination of the existing literature and plans. This report has highlighted the need for more detailed information. Information is sought from persons with technical expertise. To help source this information four questionnaires were tabled to be circulated to relevant persons through WIMAG as a conduit. Responses need to be forwarded to Di by the 21 July to be included into the first draft.

AI – Diane Harwood to send an e-copy of the questionnaires to Murray Gangell at DoW.

2. APOLOGIES

George Ebbett, Ben Chuwen, John Dibble, Ian Osbourne,

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

No matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 February 2008

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Requested information at last meeting's open forum on sampling parameters that Water Corporation (WC) sample, from the final effluent from Denmark WWTP and in the receiving waters. The table also shows the frequency that WC sample. This information was forwarded to Mr Barnes.

Chris suggested we ask John Dibble to do a brief presentation on the Denmark Waste Water Treatment Plant operations.

5. WILSON INLET CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECT

Myles Mitchell provided a summary of the Wilson Inlet Heritage Survey project being undertaken by DIA and DoW funded by SC NRM through the Restoring Connections Program. All field work and survey work is completed, report is in final draft stages, should be ready by next week (end of June) for comment to primary stakeholders – report envisaged finalisation in 3 weeks time.

The project was to conduct cultural mapping around the Wilson Inlet with the Nyungar community and had 3 primary aims

- 1) to identify cultural archaeological sites around Wilson Inlet – to conduct a landscape ethnographic study
- 2) get perspectives from Nyungar community on key management issues and recommendations (eg. bar opening, development proposals, acid sulphate soils due to earthworks...)
- 3) report is static, and should not be viewed as an end process, but should provide mechanisms by which the consultative process should be undertaken. The report should facilitate the consultative process through providing relevant contact persons.

The Heritage Survey mapping project should feed directly into the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan, and should provide information to WIMAG for future management of the inlet in the future.

Discussion ensued regarding the cultural mapping project in regards:

- the potential for recreational node at Poison Point with road access and wheelchair access and a fishing jetty from an indigenous perspective
- new indigenous findings eg. indigenous archaeological cultural materials found at Poison Point, Prawn Rock Channel, Youngs Lake to Sleeman and granite outcrops with cultural materials
- the sandbar opening in regards fish breeding patterns (fish traps would have relied on tidal movements)
- Springdale development – concern due to ochre source as a cultural area
- Cattle grazing on the other side of the Hay River right on the foreshore

AI – Myles Mitchell to circulate Heritage Survey draft to WIMAG for comment.

6. WILSON INLET NUTRIENT REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

Craig Carter reported to WIMAG the achievements of WICC to date on the implementation of WINRAP. So far 63km of fencing at Young Siding has been allocated, 40km fencing finished. WICC position has had an extension of contract to December 2008. Two main projects on best management practice include Young Siding on Stanley Rd (in collaboration with DoW, Green Skills, Water Corporation); and Lake Saide – site preparation but no plantings as yet.

AI – DoW to provide a copy of the Lake Saide revegetation plan to Mark Parre to obtain technical expertise in regards both site prep and plantings for rehab plan.

7. DoW REPORT ON DRAINAGE REVIEW AND SANDBAR NON-OPENING

Chris Gunby DoW provided a report on several items including the drainage review, sandbar non-opening, and revision of WINRAP. Various attachments were distributed in regards these items of business. (Drainage review, terms of reference, existing bar-opening protocols, Department of Fisheries response to sandbar non-opening, Wilson Inlet Flood Plain investigation, draft survey on the non-opening of the sandbar.

DRAINAGE REVIEW – The aim of this project is to develop guidelines for timing of the opening of the sandbar which primarily consider the long-term health of Wilson Inlet. It is not about where the sandbar should be opened. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and Stakeholder Group were circulated. There will be a first meeting of the Stakeholder Group to be held next Thursday 3 July at the Shire of Denmark office. Discussion ensued in regards the stakeholder and steering groups – it was mentioned by Melinda Lyons that Green Skills is not represented/invited. The Shire of Denmark is also mentioned as being on the Steering group in Chris Gunbys report, but not on the terms of reference. Councils are to provide 3 representatives to the Stakeholder group, a Councillor, Shire Officer, and community member/landholder.

SAND BAR NON-OPENING SURVEY – the Dept of Water and Shire of Denmark are currently working on a survey to obtain community input and opinion in regards to the sandbar non-opening. The draft survey was circulated, and comments obtained from WIMAG members, however it is still in draft format and will be amended prior to circulation. A second survey will also be drafted by DoW and sent to tour operators to obtain tourist viewpoints to the impacts of the non-opening of the sandbar.

WINRAP – requires review as a 5 year plan to address new issues for example the water shortage as well as climate change impacts on water. Title of the document will be reviewed also. WIMAG is to be steering group for revision of the WINRAP document.

8. WILSON INLET FORESHORE RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Basil Schur provided a power point presentation on the development of the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves management plan currently being developed by Green Skills contracted by Shire of Denmark funded by SC NRM. Public Input Session was held on 27 May. The Foreshore Reserves will be zoned as either Conservation; Conservation – passive recreation; and Recreation. The grant agreement stipulates that the final management plan will require review by WIMAG prior to being put to Council for endorsement.

9. BIODIVERSITY SURVEY WORK BETWEEN HAY AND DENMARK RIVERS

Mark Parre has been sub-contracted by Green Skills to re-survey vegetation between Hay and Denmark Rivers to check the condition of the foreshore vegetation in relation to biodiversity changes over time. Mark has provided a superficial overview of surveying existing quadrat sites that were surveyed more than 10 years (1997) ago by Green Skills. Marks findings include: since the non-opening all vegetation is good except near the mouth of the Hay River that is inundated due to salt intolerance and increased water levels or perhaps even by fire. (*Melaleuca densa* is not

salt tolerant or tolerant to waterlogging, whereas *M.cuticularis* is - therefore may get a change in dominance of overstorey over time). Weed presence has also decreased, although this could be partially due to efforts by DWAG, the Shire and Green Skills – for example *Acacia longifolia* eradication. Weeds are not as tolerant either particularly to higher water levels of inundation eg. *Watsonia* and *Gladiolus undulatus*.

Mark also spoke of the Wilson Inlet mouth foreshore revegetation project near the Caravan Park. The area was originally degraded through mowing by the caravan park so a grant was obtained through SC NRM by the Shire to rehabilitate the site – a new path, spray weeds (kikuyu) as part of site prep and to plant *Juncus grassi*(?) and *Ficinia nodosa* plants to act as a buffer between caravan park and foreshore. Unfortunately plants that were planted previously were washed away by wave action due to the non-bar opening – but 6000 plants are to be planted this winter

10. WILSON INLET RESTORATION GROUP

John Xanthis representative of WIRG put forward the suggestion for the bar opening to be put at 1.2mAHD.

11. WILSON INLET FLOODPLAIN INVESTIGATIONS DRAFT REPORT

Chris Gunby DoW covered this item under Item 7.

12. SPRINGDALE FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT

The Springdale foreshore concept plans were circulated amongst WIMAG members, however it was made clear that nothing had yet been formally put forward to the relevant agencies by the developers LWP Consultants in regards to the Springdale foreshore development plans. WIMAG discussed the merits of the existing concept plans in relation to and for guidance and inclusion into the concurrent writing of the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan. Comments included that the current conceptual plan was not environmentally sound or feasible due to the shallowness, sandy soils, and steep gradient of the foreshore area. Broad recommendations included that the site be zoned as Conservation - Passive Recreation, with a node of recreation zone at the eastern end of the beach. It was noted that there would be most likely uncontrolled boat launching on the beach area due to the proximity of housing, and so management should account for this. The following resolution was passed by WIMAG:

In reference to providing advice concerning the future management of Springdale Beach WIMAG provides the following recommendations:

- *Provision of low-key carefully planned passive recreation facilities including strategic pedestrian links to development.*
- *Formalising pedestrian beach access*
- *No public vehicles onto the foreshore*
- *No boat launching facilities*
- *No jetty*
- *Careful consideration of European and Indigenous cultural heritage*

13. DENMARK BOATING STRATEGY (Standing Item)

The Denmark Strategic Boating Plan (May 2007) is a standing item for the WIMAG committee. The Plan is deemed largely inadequate and at the last WIMAG meeting (27/02/08) it was decided that all WIMAG members would review the Zone 1 section of the plan and report back at the next WIMAG meeting. This was not done, and it was decided at this WIMAG meeting that this would not be repeated. The Plan has been received by the Denmark Council, and it was resolved at the October 2007 ordinary meeting of Council to receive and implement the recommendations in the document (refer to attached relevant resolution from minutes) – therefore according to the current CEO the Denmark Strategic Boating Plan has been endorsed by Council.

The DPI has already provided the Shire of Denmark a report/chart detailing all of the licensed structures (eg. jetties) that currently exist on the Wilson Inlet.

Discussion ensued as to the existing boat launching facilities on the Wilson Inlet as well as the various possibilities for potential boat launching facilities in the future east of the Denmark River – as a guide for inclusion to the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves management plan currently being developed. Current boat launching sites include: Poddyshot, Rivermouth, Traffic Bridge. Potential sites include in order of preference: Yacht Club and Crusoe Beach. Rudgyard and Hay River sites have dieback issues as well as biodiversity issues.

AI - Geoff Findlay from DPI to circulate Chris Howdens comments in regards the Denmark Strategic Boating Plan May 2007.

AI - Basil Schur to liaise with Geoff Findlay in regards obtaining technical expertise and advice in regards boat launching facilities and jetties for inclusion in the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves management plan.

14. MEMBERS REPORTS

John Xanthis (WIRG) questioned Dept of Fisheries in regards limits being imposed upon recreational fishing. Dept of Fisheries responded that there have been no reductions imposed in the last 5 years on fishing rights. Basil Schur and Melinda Lyons from Green Skills made WIMAG members aware of the Living Lakes conference to be held in Italy in September for NGO's and were applying as Green Skills representatives with the support of the Shire of Denmark. They will be fundraising to attend the conference to have the opportunity to network and learn of other on ground works.

AI - Basil Schur and Melinda Lyons Green Skills will discuss Living Lakes as an agenda item at the next WIMAG meeting.

15. NEXT MEETING

Next WIMAG meeting will be held Wed 27 August 2008.

Meeting declared closed 4:30pm.

ACTION ITEMS FROM WIMAG MEETING (25/06):

1.AI – Diane Harwood to send an e-copy of the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves management plan questionnaires to Murray Gangell at DoW.

5. AI – Myles Mitchell to circulate Heritage Survey draft to WIMAG for comment.

6. AI – DoW to provide a copy of the Lake Saide revegetation plan to Mark Parre to obtain technical expertise in regards both site prep and plantings for rehab plan.

13. AI - Geoff Findlay from DP to circulate Chris Howdens comments in regards the Denmark Strategic Boating Plan May 2007.

13. AI - Basil Schur to liaise with Geoff Findlay in regards obtaining technical expertise and advice in regards boat launching facilities and jetties for inclusion in the Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves management plan.

14. AI - Basil Schur and Melinda Lyons GreenSkills will discuss Living Lakes as an agenda item at the next WIMAG meeting.