

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Wednesday 1 Dec 2021, 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Final minutes confirmed at the 6 April 2022 NRSAC meeting.

Minutes

Location: Noosa Coast Guard, Munna Point, Noosaville

Attendance:

Joint Chairs: Larry Sengstock, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Noosa Council (NSC) and Jonathan Beatty: Assistant Regional Harbour Master, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)

Committee Members: Joanne Daley, Michael Gloster, Jane Harris, Nick Hluszko, Peter Hunnam, Phillip Moran, Lachlan Stevens, Chris Massoud, Agnes Reed, Noel Playford.

Members Richard Howard and Bruce Davidson joined the meeting late at 6pm

Observers: Clare Stewart Mayor of Noosa

Apologies: Ben Broadfoot and Sandy Bolton, Member of Noosa

Committee Support: Jake Hennessey, Paul Campbell and Sally-Anne Easton, MSQ and Shaun Walsh, and Melissa Coyle, NSC

1. Welcome by Chairs

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm.

Welcome by Jonathan Beatty on behalf of the Chairs.

Jonathan acknowledged the Noosa River and catchment as home of the Kabi Kabi as the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

Jonathan also reflected on progress on the committee since formation earlier this year, and the develop of sound protocols which allowed discussion of multi-faceted topics in a structured way, and hopeful of meaningful progress on vessel management in the near future. Progress on a number of issues was also noted despite the challenges of COVID-19.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled from Ben Broadfoot and Sandy Bolton, Member for Noosa.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Jonathan asked for specific conflict of interests concerning meeting agenda items. No specific conflicts were raised by members concerning Agenda matters for this meeting.

4. Confirmation of 31 August Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the 20 October 2021 meeting were endorsed.

Business arising from minutes has been included in this meeting agenda and recorded in the action table attached to the minutes.

Shaun Walsh raised an issue concerning the minutes from the 31 August meeting, where due to an oversight the minutes did not record the attendance by Ben Broadfoot. The correction to the 31 August meeting minutes adding Ben Broadfoot's attendance was endorsed.

5. Correspondence

The items of correspondence received from the community were noted with key topics of concern being speed restrictions, committee protocols and an idea for new public jetty at Russell Street.

Regarding vessel speed, it was noted that formal consultation by MSQ will be commence in the new year concerning proposed amendments (see **Item 9** below).

Regarding committee protocols this was proposed to be discussed as a specific agenda item (see **Item 6** below).

Regarding the public jetty proposal at Russell Street it is also noted that the current ferry service is essentially a commercial operator rather than formally recognised translink public service. Public water transport in the Noosa River requires strategic consideration and proposals for new public jetties should be considered as part of the overall strategy for future river transport planning, rather than as a proposal in isolation.

6. Committee Protocols

The following tables outlines key topics raised in correspondence concerning committee protocols and consideration at the meeting.

Item	Considerations
All correspondence received to NRSAC should have a formal reply co-ordinated by Council and not by individual members	All correspondence received to the NRSAC email address is replied by Council officers following committee discussions.
The validity of data used to support decisions and media releases	The NRSAC committee does not have authorisation to make decisions but makes recommendations to NSC and MSQ for their formal consideration. The NRSAC recommendations are based on community information from their respective roles in the community as well as quantitative data where available. Media releases have been informed by both.
Community consultation needs to be improved	The basis of NRSAC is first steps to help inform proposed programs by Council and MSQ. It is agreed that broad community consultation on any reform programs progressed by NSC and MSQ is essential. These programs will be coordinated by Council and MSQ in accordance with their established community consultation protocols.
Beneficial for sub-committee and power point presentations to be distributed for improved transparency	The community sub-committee discussions are informal and allow a robust exchange of opinions in a relaxed setting in preparation for the formal NRSAC meeting. It is agreed however that the updates of sub-committee outcomes to the formal NRSAC meeting could be better documented in the minutes to improve clarity and transparency.
Thank you for time and effort of the committee so far, and please accept my	Noted and appreciated.

appreciation of the hard work and efforts that is put in by your volunteering committee members.	
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7. Proposed Casual Appointment of additional NRSAC Member

Shaun Walsh noted that Council has been approached seeking whether Council and MSQ would appoint a replacement NRSAC member following the resignation of David Stielow. The appointment of a replacement member was consistent with the Terms of Reference. Following consultation with stakeholders in NSC and MSQ it has been determined that NSC would release a public EOI for an additional member of NRSAC. NSC would also specifically inform previous applicants who missed out on selection.

Discussion included diverse views including:

- Desire to ensure replacement skills set included commercial / tourism background to ensure equitable representation on NRSAC.
- Best quality applicant regardless of their background.

It was noted that the decision of the appointment was by NSC and MSQ in accordance with the TOR.

8. Update on Anchoring - Roadmap for Regulations Review

Paul Campbell and Sally-Anne Easton from MSQ advised that the preparation of an Options Paper was well underway and that it would go to the General Manager MSQ for consideration early next year.

MSQ is concurrently considering other actions that can be undertaken readily to improve congestion in the Noosa River without the need for regulation reform. This includes:

- Improved width of navigation channel, including “no-anchoring” zones on the basis of navigation safety.
- Better clarification of existing regulations governing liveaboards.
- Exploration of the definitions governing “anchoring” to improve congestion on foreshores.
- Enhanced compliance of current laws.
- Amending the parameters and applying more rigour to the permit system for liveaboards.

It was re-iterated that regulation reform process will be lengthy, and Government would need to look at impacts across the state.

Committee discussion included:

- Concerns for lack of progress.
- Need for MSQ to ensure options as recommended by NRSAC be included in options evaluated and presented to the General Manager and Director General of MSQ.
- The continued desire for the committee members to see a GANTT chart / road maps of the regulatory reform process to help broader community understanding the process and timeframes.

9. Update on Noosa River Speed and Safety Review

Jake Hennessey of MSQ advised of the MSQ proposals to improve safety in the Noosa River:

- Proposal for community consultation in late January 2022.
- Proposed permanent reduction in 6 knot speed limit downstream of Noosa Waters Canal.
- Gazettal of a non-anchoring zone in the declared navigation channel.

Jake clarified that the area deep navigable channel was still being mapped for gazettal purposes, but by gazetting a non-anchoring zone it allows enforcement officers to readily issue penalty notices including fines and rectification actions.

Committee discussion included:

- The recommendations are as a result of a long-awaited safety review of the river by MSQ actually sought by NRSAC.
- The basis for the recommendations by MSQ is safety, though does link to other Noosa River management themes including amenity and equity.
- The need for a coordinated communication approach between MSQ, NRSAC and NSC to ensure broad community awareness of the proposals and ability to provide feedback.
- Likely there will need to be different angles promoted by MSQ, NSC and NRSAC concerning the proposals.
- NRSAC will likely need to make a statement about its views on the proposal.

Action: MSQ, NSC and NRSAC coordinate the media approach regarding the community consultation program for the MSQ proposed speed reduction and non-anchoring zone in the Noosa River.

10. Update on Frying Pan Clean Up

Shaun Walsh provided a presentation to NRSAC on outcomes of the detailed survey of the Frying Pan area. The survey indicates:

- Clear boundaries for jurisdiction by Council and the State Government reflecting provision of relevant Acts and regulations.
- Approximately 10,500 m² of landscape, storage and structure encroachments on public land (both Council controlled and State controlled).
- Ecology is increasingly in poor condition in this sensitive area of the Noosa River due to extent of encroachments and significant opportunity to rehabilitation.

Shaun advised that the next steps are:

- Distribute survey information to Councillors for their information.
- Distribute survey information to state agencies and seek their appetite and involvement in rehabilitation program jointly with Council.
- Distribute survey information to local property owners and community stakeholders as per the Project Plan and seek their views as the first step in preparing a rehabilitation plan.

Discussion included:

- Feedback from Council stakeholders that state agencies need to equal partners in funding removal of structures from unallocated state land.
- Whilst taking time, the merits of methodically going through the process with stakeholders to ensure good understanding and involvement in the process, as part of cultural change process.
- The ability of the mangrove ecology to readily rebound if simply fenced off and access restricted.

11. Consultancy on Non- Motorised Water Sports Feasibility Study

Shaun Walsh provided a verbal update that Council had engaged a consultancy to undertake consultancy on Non-Motorised Water Sports Feasibility Study. The study is to focus on onshore facilities rather than on water use. The study is an outcome from the previous Noosaville Foreshore

Land Use Master Plan, particularly regarding the unresolved accommodation for the Noosa Outriggers Club in Chaplin Park. The brief includes:

- Identify the existing and projected demands associated with the various non-powered water sports in the lower reaches of the Noosa River.
- Determine if there is critical mass for a dedicated facility for similar activities, including the number of not-for-profit non-powered water sports clubs or participants required to financially sustain a dedicated facility.
- Documentation of functional and location requirements for a dedicated facility / facilities.
- An analysis of potential locations and their appropriateness/constraints, including but not limited to the Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club (NYRC) and alternative locations along the Noosa River within the locality of Noosaville.
- Outline of infrastructure and financial implications.

The discussion included:

- The consultant would be meeting with NRSAC, but would also be engaging with multiple clubs and groups concerning use and management of the river.
- Concerns for the location and setup of the current Outriggers facility in shipping containers located on a mangrove drain.
- Concerns for further infrastructure placed on the riverfront.
- Perceived inequity in previous investment in facilities for powered recreational access (boat ramps) compared to minimal investment in non-powered recreational access.

12. Report on Sub-Committee Discussions

Nick Hlusko provided a report on recent sub-committee discussions. The sub-committee had determined that a focus for ongoing discussions in 2022 was to be river use and the following sites have been identified for further discussion by the sub-committee to guide future planning by Council and Queensland Government:

- Sofitel jetty / Noosa Woods
- Munna Point maritime activities
- Chaplin Park
- Doonella Bridge informal boat ramp
- Mill Street Slip
- Moorindil Street boat ramp
- John's landing

Various ideas have been floated in sub-committee discussions and there has been diversity of opinion. The sub-committee was intending to continue to pursue discussions in the New Year to formulate clear recommendations.

13. General Business

The following items of General Business were raised and discussed:

Hoverboards: concern raised that they are not regulated. MSQ advise the matter was under consideration as it is a state-wide issue.

Holiday Season Enforcement Program: acknowledgement and support for the program by MSQ and other agencies for coordinated monitoring and enforcement of the Noosa River over the forthcoming holiday season.

Boat storage area behind the Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club (NYRC): query whether the boat storage area was part of the formal lease area of NYRC. Advised that it was not part of the formal lease area, and the issue would be explored further as part of the non-motorised water sports study references in Agenda above, as efficient co-located use of the NRYC is to be evaluated as part of the study.

Garth Prowd Bridge Design Update: advised that the adjacent Noosa Parade design process has been completed and consultants still considering Garth Prowd bridge design to improve appearance, functionality as well as safety regarding bridge jumpers.

Buoy Mooring Program Update: MSQ advised that they were still considering options for recently relinquished buoy moorings as part of broader review of the mooring, anchoring and live aboard review on the Noosa River. Discussion included the need for clear policy and prioritisation for reissue of buoy moorings considering the long waiting list and community transparency.

Action: MSQ to provide an update at next NRSAC meeting on its ongoing program of buoy mooring management.

14. January / February meeting

Shaun Walsh will liaise with members for meeting date in the New Year.

15. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7pm and the Co-Chairs invited members to join them for light refreshments to thank them for their contributions in the lead up to the festive season.

Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions 1 Dec 2021

Action	Meeting Date	Status
1. <i>Committee members to provide feedback on MSQ initiatives including the speed signs and brochures and other initiatives. (please email to Susan Codi King)</i>	14 April 2021	Complete
2. <i>Shaun Walsh to prepare Noosa River Issue and Option Analysis template to provide a common framework for members and sub-groups to explore topics</i>	14 April 2021	Complete
3. <i>Nick Hluszko to chair the subgroup focusing on vessel management and Council initiatives and convene discussions in the coming week.</i>	14 April 2021	Complete (see subsequent action below)
4. <i>Committee members to provide feedback on NRSAC terms of reference in preparation for discussion at next meeting. (Please email to Shaun Walsh)</i>	14 April 2021	Complete TOR endorsed 23 June 2021
5. <i>Action: Co-Chair Angus Mitchell to assess proposals concerning anchoring and mooring management and provide advice at next NRSAC meeting.</i>	12 May 2021	Complete (see subsequent action below)
6. <i>Action: MSQ Officers to invite NRSAC members to a river use workshop session to draw up desirable and undesirable river use areas as a first step for further evaluation.</i>	12 May 2021	Complete 2 sessions were scheduled with NRSAC members in June
7. <i>Action: Peter Hunnam with others to distribute information about river strategy and management framework to facilitate ongoing discussions about next steps.</i>	12 May 2021	Complete Discussed by Peter in General Business
8. <i>Action: Shaun Walsh to work with Jake Hennessey and Richard Howard to compile a presentation for next NRSAC meeting on current Noosa River data sets</i>	12 May 2021	Complete Presentation provided at 23 June meeting
9. <i>Action: Shaun Walsh to coordinate bridge safety discussion with interested committee members, and the facilitate meeting with Council design team for the Garth Prowd Bridge.</i>	12 May 2021	Complete Meeting undertaken in June and members invited Awaiting response from Council

10. Action: Council / MSQ to liaise with Nick Hluszko to prepare joint media statement for NRSAC meeting.	12 May 2021	Complete Media Statement distributed
11. Action: Council to prepare a presentation on the circumstance of vessels and structures at the Frying Pan at the next NRSAC meeting	12 May 2021	Complete Presentation at 23 June meeting
12. Action: Shaun Walsh to draft reply to public correspondents on behalf of NRSAC thanking them for feedback, agreeing that speed and safety require detailed consideration and noting that such review will be prioritised jointly with Maritime Safety Queensland	23 June 2021	Complete Correspondence sent following 23 June meeting
13. Action: Shaun Walsh to distribute endorsed Terms of Reference to NRSAC members, inclusive of the endorsed option for the subcommittee	23 June 2021	Complete TOR distributed
23 Action: Gillian Leslie MSQ and Shaun Walsh Noosa Council coordinate an additional session with NRSAC member to better refine and describe the proposed regulation package and its application to Marine Zone / Transport Infrastructure (Waterways Management) Regulations.	23 June 2021	Superseded as Marine Zone proposal not proceeding at this stage
24 Action: MSQ to present the proposed anchoring / mooring / liveaboard regulatory package and proposed implementation program at the next NRSAC meeting	23 June 2021	Complete Presentation at 31 August meeting
25 Action: NRSAC members to forward any additional known data sources to Shaun Walsh to assist in population of comprehensive data library	23 June 2021	Complete Material can be forwarded at any time
26 Action: Shaun Walsh to liaise with CEO Noosa Council on timing of report to Council on circumstances of Frying Pan and provide progress report to NRSAC	23 June 2021	Complete Report presented to Council at its August meeting
27. Action : MSQ to undertake an update to the next NRSAC meeting on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - progress of regulatory reform process for anchoring limits - management of moorings - management of live aboards 	31 August 2021	Complete Update presented to October meeting

28.	<i>Action: MSQ to prepare and distribute a road map for the development of a policy position for better management of anchoring and liveaboards and any associated reform process for NRSAC to gain a better appreciation of the complexity and time frames involved</i>	20 October 2021	Outstanding
<i>Note: the road map is for NRSAC members only and not for broader distribution.</i>			
29.	<i>Action: Shaun Walsh to arrange a workshop with interested NRSAC members and DES on the Environmental Values and Water Quality Objective for the Noosa River Basin</i>	20 October 2021	Completed <i>Workshop undertaken and findings reported to Council</i>
30.	<i>Action: Shaun Walsh to arrange a workshop with interested NRSAC members on suggested long term design solution for the Doonella / Hilton Esplanade Boat Ramp</i>	20 October 2021	Completed <i>Incorporated into sub-committee river use discussions for 2022</i>
31	<i>MSQ, NSC and NRSAC co-ordinate the media approach regarding the community consultation program for the MSQ proposed speed reduction and non-anchoring zone in the Noosa River</i>	1 Dec 2021	New
32.	<i>MSQ to provide an update at next NRSAC meeting on its ongoing program of buoy mooring management</i>	1 Dec 2021	New