

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Wednesday 6 April 2022, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Final minutes confirmed at the 8 June 2022 NRSAC meeting.

Minutes

Location: Noosa Leisure Centre, Noosaville

Attendance:

Joint Chairs: Scott Waters, Chief Executive Officer, Noosa Council (NSC) and Kell Dillon, General Manager Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)

Committee Members: Bruce Davidson, Michael Gloster, Jane Harris, Nick Hluszko, Richard Howard, Phillip Moran, Noel Playford, Agnes Reed, Lachlan Stevens

Observers: Mayor Clare Stewart, Councillor Amelia Lorentson, MP Sandy Bolton

Apologies: Peter Hunnam, Joanne Daley, Chris Massoud

Committee Support: Amy Kimber (NSC), Shaun Walsh (NSC), Dakota Williams (NSC), Gary Crozier (MSQ), Peter G Wilkins (MSQ), Sally-Anne Easton (MSQ)

1. Welcome by Chairs

The meeting commenced at 5:38pm.

Welcome by Noosa Council CEO Scott Waters.

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

MSQ attendees were delayed by traffic enroute from Brisbane and estimated to join the meeting at 6pm. Agenda items not requiring the MSQ Co-Chair's involvement will be discussed first.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled from Peter Hunnam, Joanne Daley, and Chris Massoud.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Scott asked Committee members to declare any conflict of interests concerning meeting agenda items. Jane Harris noted a potential conflict of interest due to being Secretary of the Noosa Outriggers Club which is currently searching for a suitable premise for the Club along the river.

The Chair and Committee members agreed this did not present a conflict of interest for the purposes of the meeting and Jane Harris may remain in the room for agenda item 10.

No other conflicts of interest were raised by Committee members.

4. Introductions

Scott Waters introduced himself to Committee members as the new Joint Chair representing Noosa Council in the role of CEO.

Agnes Reed introduced herself to Scott as a Committee member representing the local sailing community, having not been present at the informal meet and greet two weeks earlier.

5. Confirmation of 1 December 2021 meeting minutes

Scott Waters advised he was not present at the previous Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Phil Moran requested an update on Item 8 – Update on Anchoring Roadmap. Gary Crozier stated he will review and provide an update at the next NRSAC meeting.

Shaun Walsh confirmed Item 31 from the Meeting Actions has been completed.

MSQ will provide an update on Item 33 buoy mooring management when the team arrives.

6. Correspondence

The items of correspondence received included Ben Broadfoot's resignation received 1 March 2022 and submissions regarding the MSQ speed review. MSQ are currently in the process of receiving submissions on a proposal to gazette a 6-knot speed limit on the lower reach of the Noosa River from Thomas St to the Noosa River mouth.

The Committee discussed an email from Bruce McLean received 6 March 2022 regarding the alleged inappropriate actions of Committee members with regards to public commentary on specific topics (6-knot speed limit). Shaun Walsh noted the Terms of Reference for the Committee had been updated to include reference to the Code of Conduct and reference to public communication and the media.

Committee members have not behaved inappropriately by providing commentary on social media regarding their views on the proposal in their capacity as community members.

7. Update on Impacts of floods on Noosa River and Estuary

Gary Crozier and Shaun Walsh provided an update on the impact of the recent floods including removal of 8 pontoons washed up from Brisbane which were deposited from Teewah to Rainbow Beach. The broken-up polystyrene foam has been particularly challenging to remove. There is no machinery on the market that is equipped to clean up polystyrene foam to the extent needed, and for this reason community members have been called upon to play an important role in clean up operations.

Shaun Walsh thanked NICA, OzFish and MSQ for the collaborative effort.

Noel Playford commented on the need to update the Council's Disaster Management Plan for future events and was advised this is currently underway.

8. Update on Anchoring Mooring Live Aboard Program

Kell Dillon, Peter Wilkins and Sally-Anne Easton (MSQ) joined the meeting at 6pm.

Kell Dillon (MSQ) introduced himself to the Committee as new General Manager, MSQ, and to his team. Kell and the MSQ team listened to Committee members' concerns on issues in the Noosa Shire which included:

- Implementing a 28-day time limit per financial year for vessels anchoring in the Noosa River, and relevant legislative changes required due to the safety issues and hazards resulting from river congestion.

- Moorings granted to houseboats.
- The need for moorings to be environmentally friendly.
- The potential to repurpose moorings.
- Illegal houseboat letting at peak times.
- Issues with policing the river.

The Committee introduced themselves to Kell and raised concerns about MSQ resources to help implement change. Kell Dillon and the MSQ team committed to reviewing the Committee's proposal and concerns and providing a roadmap of potential solutions and possibilities to implement change over the coming NRSAC meetings to achieve a positive outcome for the Noosa community.

9. Update on Noosa River Speed Review

An update was provided by Gary Crozier on the results from the Noosa River Speed Review consultation. From 15 February – 31 March, 326 submissions were received and require individual review. MSQ has currently reviewed 220 of the submissions and found that around half of respondents are in favour of the speed reduction with some citing concerns about foreshore erosion from boat wash, while a little more than half are not in favour of the proposal. MSQ will continue to review the data received.

10. Update on No-Powered Water Sports Study

Shaun Walsh thanked everyone who participated and engaged in the study and consultation on the No Powered Water Sports consultation undertaken by Ross Planning. A workshop will be held 22 April with senior staff in Noosa Council, and an update provided at the next NRSAC meeting on the findings.

11. Shoreline Erosion Management Plan program at Dog Beach

Council is in the process of applying for dredging permits with the authorities and seeking dredging contractors. An update will be provided when this has been completed.

Committee member Bruce Davidson raised the need for a hydrological study to be undertaken for the Noosa River/North Shore area. Committee member Michael Gloster also raised concerns regarding areas of High Ecological Value on the North Shore being damaged due to existing flows resulting from the modified nature of the river flow.

12. Discussion on proposal for Seaplane operations in Noosa River Marine Zone

The Paradise Seaplanes proposal was brought to the Committee to gauge perception on the idea with all NRSAC committee being against the proposal due to the river being highly congested already.

Scott Waters advised that a response will be issued advising the Committee is not in favour of the proposal. No permits or relaxations can be granted even on a temporary basis, by either MSQ or NSC for anything that is currently prohibited as part of a Marine Zone.

13. Update on Oyster Project

A report has been sent to the Noosa Council Planning and Environment Committee. The Oyster Project is currently running 18 months behind schedule. The report can be viewed by the public and links were distributed with the latest Committee meeting papers.

14. Seagrass Distribution Study 2021 Summary

Noosa Council staff are to consider the recent seagrass study report outlining the rapid decline in seagrass since 1989 in the Noosa River.

15. General Business

Phil Moran thanked Noosa Council staff members on the email sent prior to 6 April meeting with information links.

Agnes Reed raised concerns regarding boats taking space along the Tewantin side of the river foreshore and people using rates and resources without contributing to the community.

16. Proposed 2022 Meetings

The Committee reviewed future 2022 meeting dates and no issues were raised:

Wednesday 8 June

Wednesday 10 August

Wednesday 5 October

Wednesday 30 November

Subject to change.

17. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7:23pm.

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 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 Shaun Walsh)</i>	14 April 2021	Complete TOR endorsed 23 June 2021
5. <i>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>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 Two sessions were scheduled with NRSAC members in June
7. <i>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 in General Business
8. <i>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>Shaun Walsh to coordinate bridge safety discussion with interested committee members, and 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. <i>Council/MSQ to liaise with Nick Hluszko to prepare joint media statement for NRSAC meeting</i>	12 May 2021	Complete Media statement distributed
11. <i>Council to prepare a presentation on the circumstance of vessels and structures in Frying Pan Creek at the next NRSAC meeting</i>	12 May 2021	Complete Presentation at 23 June meeting

12. 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 MSQ	23 June 2021	Complete Correspondence sent following 23 June meeting
13. 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 Gillian Leslie (MSQ) and Shaun Walsh to coordinate an additional session with NRSAC members 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 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 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 Shaun Walsh to liaise with CEO Noosa Council on timing of report to Council on circumstances of Frying Pan Creek and provide progress report to NRSAC	23 June 2021	Complete Report presented to Council at its August meeting
27 MSQ to deliver 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 Aug 2021	Complete Update presented to October meeting
28 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	20 Oct 2021	Outstanding – Kell Dillon committed to providing an update at next NRSAC meeting on 8 June 2022
Note: the road map is for NRSAC members only and not for broader distribution		
29 Shaun Walsh to arrange a workshop with interested NRSAC members and DES on the Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives for the Noosa River Basin	20 Oct 2021	Complete Workshop undertaken and findings reported to Council
30 Shaun Walsh to arrange a workshop with interested NRSAC members on suggested long term design solution for the Doonella/Hilton Esplanade Boat Ramp	20 Oct 2021	Complete Incorporated into Sub Committee River Use Discussions for 2022

31	<i>MSQ, NSC and NRSAC to coordinate the media approach with regards to the community consultation program for the MSQ proposed speed reduction in the Noosa River</i>	1 Dec 2021	Complete
32	<i>MSQ, NSC and NRSAC to coordinate the media approach with regards to the community consultation program for anchoring and mooring options in the Noosa River</i>	1 Dec 2021	Outstanding
33	<i>MSQ to provide an update at next NRSAC meeting on anchoring and mooring options in the Noosa River</i>	1 Dec 2021	Outstanding
34	<i>MSQ requested to provide an update on resourcing required to continue the War on Wrecks Program at next NRSAC meeting</i>	6 Apr 2022	New
35	<i>Amy Kimber to provide response to Paradise Seaplanes that the proposal is not compatible with the NRSAC's vision for the river</i>	6 Apr 2022	New
36	<i>Shaun Walsh to provide update on non-powered water sports study at next NRSAC meeting 8 June 2022</i>	6 Apr 2022	New
37	<i>Council to consider the need for a hydrological study for the Noosa River/North Shore area to better understand seasonal flows and environmental impacts at the river mouth</i>	6 April 2022	New
38	<i>Amy Kimber to provide an update to NRSAC once permits have been approved and a contractor for dredging near Dog Beach appointed</i>	6 Apr 2022	New
39	<i>Shaun Walsh to provide an update on Council's response to the Seagrass Study when available</i>	6 Apr 2022	New