

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Wednesday 15 June 2022, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Final minutes confirmed at the 15 August 2022 NRSAC meeting.

Minutes

Location: Noosa Council Chambers, Tewantin

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, Phillip Moran, Noel Playford, Lachlan Stevens, Erica Hamp, Richard Wilschke, Jan Green (proxy for Richard Howard, NICA), Joanne Daly, Chris Massoud

Observers: MP Sandy Bolton

Apologies: Mayor Clare Stewart, Grenville Snowden (proxy for Agnes Reed), Agnes Reed, Peter Hunnam

Committee Support: Amy Kimber (NSC), Shaun Walsh (NSC), Rebecca Britton (NSC), Sophie Blond (NSC), Gary Crozier (MSQ), Sally-Anne Easton (MSQ), Sheila Ng (MSQ)

1. Welcome by Chairs

The meeting commenced at 5:32 pm.

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.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled from Mayor Clare Stewart, Agnes Reed, Peter Hunnam and Grenville Snowden.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were raised by Committee members.

4. Introductions of new Committee Members

Erica introduced herself as a new Committee member representing the local commercial recreational tourism community.

Richard Wilschke introduced himself as a new Committee member representing the local commercial recreational tourism community.

5. Confirmation of 6 April 2022 meeting minutes

Minutes were accepted.

Outstanding actions:

- Kell Dillon – anchoring, mooring and liveaboards (to be discussed as per Agenda **Item 8**)
- War on Wrecks

Kell Dillon noted that the War on Wrecks program has removed 1,010 abandoned vessels, 596 of which were removed by contractors and 414 by owners. On the Sunshine Coast 83 vessels have been removed since the beginning of the program in 2018, with 35 of these vessels removed from the Noosa River. MSQ has dedicated 11 full time officers to this program.

- Paradise Seaplanes

Scott Waters confirmed that he had received correspondence from Paradise Seaplanes regarding their proposal. He questioned their reasoning for moving the business to the Noosa River when it was thriving in the Mooloolaba River. He is open to further discussion, acknowledging that this proposal was not in alignment with Council policy.

- Hydrological Study

Amy Kimber noted that according to the Noosa Council infrastructure team, hydrological studies have been undertaken previously. Rebecca Britton confirmed that a Noosa River Flood Study update was in process, including flood extents, flood heights, hydrology of the river and behaviour of the river more broadly.

- Shoreline Erosion Management Program

Amy Kimber confirmed that permits and contractors are still being considered for this program, with updates unable to be provided until these have been approved.

6. Confirmation of 9 May 2022 Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes accepted.

7. Correspondence

The items of correspondence received included an email from Bruce McLean on 8 March 2022 regarding a media statement from NRSAC on the MSQ speed review. Amy Kimber noted the email had been responded to.

Amy Kimber has received several phone calls from applicants who had applied to be on the NSRAC. Correspondence was received from Gwen Gilson who expressed concern regarding the lack of scientific representation on the Committee. There was a need to prioritise representation from the tourism sector, hence the appointment of the two new Committee members from this sector.

8. Options to address Anchoring, Mooring and Live Aboard issues in Noosa River (MSQ)

MSQ outlined the initiatives which have been undertaken to address waterways management for the Noosa River so far. These included:

- The assignment of one permanent MSQ staff member to Noosa and the allocation of an office and vehicle as well as the delivery of a new vessel in May 2022 to support the waterways management work on the Noosa River.
- A Noosa Enforcement Program commenced in May 2022. This program requires the Maritime Enforcement Team (MET) to undertake a coordinated and targeted enforcement

program to address waterway issues in the Noosa River. It involves a 6 month on-water campaign with 75 percent of weekends patrolled by either the MET or the Sunshine Coast Water Police. Initial and early results of the enforcement program to date were presented to the NRSAC meeting.

MSQ acknowledged the NRSAC recommendations for changes to anchoring and mooring regulations in the Noosa River. It was noted that MSQ and Noosa Council officers had engaged in extensive consultation to build proposals for forward consultation.

In response to the NRSAC recommendations, MSQ presented a proposed management plan for the Noosa River to the NRSAC for initial consideration. The proposed management plan aims to maximise the safety and equity of access for all waterway users and is consistent with a system-wide approach to waterways management.

The NRSAC was informed that the proposed waterways management reforms will require amendments to legislation and will also require broad, formal stakeholder and community consultation to be undertaken for the progression of any potential reforms.

It was advised that the timeframe for delivery of initiatives will vary depending on the complexity and the work required to ensure that fundamental legislative principles, human rights, and adverse impacts are managed fairly. It may be possible to implement a 12-month trial period before the 2022 Christmas season (pending legislative processes).

Action: MSQ's proposed measures will be taken to a Sub-Committee meeting for further discussion, with initial feedback on the proposals to be provided to MSQ and Noosa Council.

9. Update on Speed Review

Consultation for the Noosa River Speed Review has been largely completed (phase 1). It is MSQ's intention to return to key stakeholders and seek feedback on any compromise to the original speed limit proposal.

10. Outstanding operational business requiring resolution

- Council bathing reserves

Committee member Jane Harris informed the Committee of potential safety issues from the public fishing at Council bathing reserves, suggesting that fishing and the use of boats should not be allowed in these areas.

- Installation of hitching posts

The Committee discussed installing hitching posts and designated areas for boats to allow for brief stops. Currently, some vessels are being tied to trees on the banks of the river (such as Lion's Park) which poses both environmental and safety hazards.

- Parking limits

The Committee discussed implementing parking limits on parking bays located next to the river. Members of the public have been observed parking cars and trailers for extended periods of time, leaving rubbish in the area and not sharing facilities with other users.

Committee member Noel Playford suggested that local government issues such as the above were not appropriate to discuss at Committee meetings co-chaired by the General Manager of MSQ. Noel left the Committee meeting before it had finished and stated that he would not be back.

11. General Business

Scott Waters proposed ending the meeting on time and carrying outstanding Agenda items to the next meeting. He acknowledged Shaun Walsh’s role as A/Environment Services Manager, and thanked Shaun for his support, encouragement, and contribution upon Scott’s appointment as Noosa Council CEO and Co Chair of the Committee. Rebecca Britton will be taking over as A/Environment Services Manager.

12. Proposed 2022 Meetings

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

Wednesday 10 August
 Wednesday 5 October
 Wednesday 30 November

Subject to change.

13. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7:32pm.

Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions 15 June 2022

| 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) |

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| 4. Committee members to provide feedback on NRSAC terms of reference in preparation for discussion at next meeting (please email Shaun Walsh) | 14 April 2021 | Complete TOR endorsed 23 June 2021 |
| 5. Co-Chair Angus Mitchell to assess proposals concerning anchoring and mooring management and provide advice at next NRSAC meeting | 12 May 2021 | Complete (see subsequent action below) |
| 6. 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 | 12 May 2021 | Complete Two sessions were scheduled with NRSAC members in June |
| 7. Peter Hunnam with others to distribute information about river strategy and management framework to facilitate ongoing discussions about next steps | 12 May 2021 | Complete Discussed in General Business |
| 8. Shaun Walsh to work with Jake Hennessey and Richard Howard to compile a presentation for next NRSAC meeting on current Noosa River data sets | 12 May 2021 | Complete Presentation provided at 23 June meeting |
| 9. Shaun Walsh to coordinate bridge safety discussion with interested committee members, and facilitate meeting with Council design team for the Garth Prowd Bridge | 12 May 2021 | Complete Meeting undertaken in June and members invited Awaiting response from Council |
| 10. Council/MSQ to liaise with Nick Hluszko to prepare joint media statement for NRSAC meeting | 12 May 2021 | Complete Media statement distributed |
| 11. Council to prepare a presentation on the circumstance of vessels and structures in Frying Pan Creek at the next NRSAC meeting | 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 | 23 June 2021 | Complete Presentation at 31 August meeting |

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| <i>package and proposed implementation program at the next NRSAC meeting</i> | | |
| <i>25 NRSAC members to forward any additional known data sources to Shaun Walsh to assist in population of comprehensive data library</i> | <i>23 June 2021</i> | <i>Complete Material can be forwarded at any time</i> |
| <i>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</i> | <i>23 June 2021</i> | <i>Complete Report presented to Council at its August meeting</i> |
| <i>27 MSQ to deliver an update to the next NRSAC meeting on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- progress of regulatory reform process for anchoring limits</i> <i>- management of moorings</i> <i>- management of live aboards</i> | <i>31 Aug 2021</i> | <i>Complete Update presented to October meeting</i> |
| <i>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</i> | <i>20 Oct 2021</i> | <i>Complete – Kell Dillon provided an update at June NRSAC meeting</i> |
| <i>Note: the road map is for NRSAC members only and not for broader distribution</i> | | |
| <i>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</i> | <i>20 Oct 2021</i> | <i>Complete Workshop undertaken and findings reported to Council</i> |
| <i>30 Shaun Walsh to arrange a workshop with interested NRSAC members on suggested long term design solution for the Doonella/Hilton Esplanade Boat Ramp</i> | <i>20 Oct 2021</i> | <i>Complete Incorporated into Sub Committee River Use Discussions for 2022</i> |
| <i>31 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> | <i>1 Dec 2021</i> | <i>Complete</i> |
| <i>32 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> | <i>1 Dec 2021</i> | <i>Outstanding</i> |
| <i>33 MSQ to provide an update at next NRSAC meeting on anchoring and mooring options in the Noosa River</i> | <i>1 Dec 2021</i> | <i>Complete Update provided at June NRSAC meeting</i> |
| <i>34 MSQ requested to provide an update on resourcing required to continue the War on Wrecks Program at next NRSAC meeting</i> | <i>6 Apr 2022</i> | <i>Complete Update provided at June 2022 NRSAC meeting</i> |
| <i>35 Amy Kimber to provide response to Paradise Seaplanes that the proposal is not compatible with the NRSAC's vision for the river</i> | <i>6 Apr 2022</i> | <i>Complete</i> |

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| 36 | <i>Amy Kimber to provide update on non-powered water sports study at next NRSAC meeting 8 June 2022</i> | 6 Apr 2022 | Outstanding |
| 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 | Complete Update provided at June NRSAC meeting |
| 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 | Outstanding |
| 39 | <i>Shaun Walsh to provide an update on Council's response to the Seagrass Study when available</i> | 6 Apr 2022 | Outstanding |
| 40 | <i>Sub Committee to provide feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures</i> | 15 June 2022 | New |