

# Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Monday 24 October 2022, 5:32pm to 7:25pm

*These draft minutes will be confirmed at the next NRSAC meeting scheduled for 7 December 2022.*

## Minutes

Location: Noosa Council Chambers, Tewantin

### Attendance:

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

Committee Members: Bruce Davidson, Michael Gloster (via Teams), Erica Hamp, Jane Harris, Richard Howard, Chris Massoud, Lawrie Stevens (proxy for Lachlan Stevens)

Apologies: Lachlan Stevens, Joanne Daly, Agnes Reed, Phillip Moran, Nick Hluszko, Richard Wilschke

Observers: MP Sandy Bolton (via Teams) and Mayor Clare Stewart

Committee Support: Amy Kimber (NSC), Rebecca Britton (NSC), Sophie Blond (NSC), Sally-Anne Easton (MSQ, via Teams), Gary Crozier (MSQ, via teams), Sheila Ng (MSQ, via Teams), Peter Wilkins (MSQ, via Teams)

### **1. Welcome by Chairs**

The meeting commenced at 5:32pm.

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 Lachlan Stevens, Nick Hluszko, Phillip Moran, Agnes Reed and Joanne Daly.

### **3. Conflict of Interest Declarations**

No conflicts of interest were raised by Committee members, and the Code of Conduct was taken as noted.

### **4. Confirmation of 15 August 2022 meeting minutes**

The minutes were accepted.

### **5. Correspondence**

No comments.

### **6. Final Sub-Committee response to MSQ Noosa River Options**

Committee member Jane Harris congratulated Amy Kimber for collating the Committee's varying views on paper to present a response to MSQ's Noosa River options.

Scott Waters will provide Noosa Council's response to MSQ's proposal to the Committee at the next NSRAC meeting on December 7.

## **7. MSQ update and response to Sub-Committee proposal**

### **Maritime Enforcement Team (MET) and the enhanced enforcement program**

- Commenced in May 2022.
- Over 600 vessels intercepted during this program as compared to 150 in the same period in 2021.
- Collectively, the MET, QLD police and local MSQ officers cover 75% of weekends.
- Sunshine Coast Water Police report that complaints over the weekends have reduced by 80%.
- Juvenile intercepts (reduced by 62%), a 66% drop in unlicensed operation, 81% drop in speeding.
- Examination of technology options (high tech cameras on waterways to monitor waterways activity).
- Consultation on speed zones in the river (Phase 1 largely completed).
- Extensive consultation with Noosa Council in building proposals for future consultation.

### **War on Wrecks**

- Since the program's inception, 1,090 derelicts have been removed from the river, including 644 removed by a contractor and 446 removed by owners or others.
- 83 vessels have been dealt with and 33 are still being monitored.

### **Plan for public consultation**

MSQ proposes to undertake broad, formal community consultation to understand community and industry support for potential reforms:

- Following consultation and consideration, MSQ proposes to introduce a management plan for the Noosa River that:
  - Maximises the safety and equity of access for all waterway users; and
  - Is consistent with a system-wide approach to waterways management.
- MSQ intends to progress required amendments to legislation to effectively manage vessels in the Noosa River when consultation indicates preferred outcomes.

MSQ, Noosa Shire Council and the Committee engaged in discussions about the proposed reforms.

## **8. Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Program**

Amy Kimber provided an update on the integrated water quality monitoring program being developed by the Environment Services Rivers and Coast team. An initial workshop was held with stakeholders including Council staff, natural resource management groups, universities and Healthy Land & Water to discuss the program.

Healthy Land & Water's next report card is being released on November 14, with the report card grade likely to decline as a result of several high rainfall events this year in the Noosa River. The report card gives a broad overview and understanding of water quality in the Noosa River, however, Council's program aims to break this down further into sub-catchment report cards. Remote sensing water quality loggers will be deployed at several locations to give a better understanding of water quality. Other aims of the program are to consolidate monitoring data from NRM groups and internally

develop a public facing dashboard. The dashboard will provide the public with access to water quality data, with the first dataset planned to be made available from Council's Recreational Health monitoring program.

The Committee gave suggestions that event-based monitoring should be implemented following flooding and high rainfall events. Comments were made regarding the report card rating which has generally remained high, despite flooding and high rainfall events.

#### **9. Update on Frying Pan Track**

Interagency arrangements have made this project difficult to progress. Questions have been raised as to how Council as trustees notify the public that the structures will be removed. It is a complicated land parcel, given that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has responsibility for fish habitat, while the Department of Environment and Science is the overarching governing body. Amy Kimber has a meeting with the development assessment manager tomorrow to come up with a clear plan.

Committee member Peter Hunnam provided information regarding previous encroachment clean-up efforts. Approximately four years ago, there were a dozen informal jetties on the Tewantin foreshore. Eventually, Council, persuaded the Department of Natural Resources to remove the structures despite having been built by the local street residents. The jetties were badly ripped out and left scars on the mangroves and foreshore.

#### **10. Update on Non-Powered Watersports Feasibility Study**

The final draft before going out to consultation will be shared with Council in mid-December. Staffing issues have slowed the process.

Richard Howard commented that the draft will be important to receive prior to the commencement of MSQ's consultation, given that there are significant interactions between each consultation.

**Action:** Amy Kimber to discuss with the Community Development team the likelihood of a draft study being ready to present to the Committee in mid-December.

#### **11. Noosa Oyster Ecosystem Restoration Project Updated**

The Committee was provided an update in a document attached to the meeting agenda.

Committee member Bruce Davidson provided comment that many natural oyster beds in the river have died off and have silted up as a result of sediment movement from recent high rainfall events. Comments were made about varying salinity levels in the river and how this might affect oysters.

**Action:** Environment Services team to review salinity results from Noosa River water quality monitoring programs to determine impact on oysters.

#### **12. General Business**

##### **Recreational boating facilities public consultation**

Amy provided comment that after a workshop with BMT and TMR, discussion was had as to whether the Committee should put in a coordinated formal response. As Amy did not have time to coordinate a response, she recommended that the Committee should put in individual submissions.

A draft proposal has been provided by Council as follows: 'We write to advise that Council's current policy and planning does not support the upgrade of existing recreational boat ramp or trailer car park facilities along the Noosa River, however, we understand the growing community need and

expectation for boat ramp facilities, so we offer to work with TMR to look at potential upgrade locations.

Two locations that have been considered are Hilton Esplanade, and the Moorrindel St ferry crossing boat ramp and whether a new facility adjacent to the existing ferry might be possible.

Committee members commented that Council should take better care of sensitive foreshore areas and consider not agreeing to any new boat ramps being developed given that several existing boat ramps in the area are problematic.

The Noosa Precinct Planning Project is also underway which is looking at ways to improve the foreshore. This proposal is not complete and is to open the door to talk to TMR about areas that could be improved as part of precinct planning process.

#### **Expressions of interest to advise on Noosa River Plan updates**

The Noosa River Plan has taken a backseat, as it is unclear what the future governance model looks like. Councillor workshops have been held regarding this matter, with a further workshop scheduled for Thursday 27 October. An interagency group may need to be set up to manage complex issues such as Frying Pan Track.

Following the next Councillor workshop, Council would like to know who would like to be involved in the consultation process. There was a draft River Plan completed in 2019, with around 150 submissions received through community consultation.

Bruce Davidson and Erica Hamp expressed their interest in being involved.

Peter Hunnam noted that it is important to clarify what is meant by the Noosa River Plan, the process for generating it and the involvement of NSRAC to advise on this process. Committee members expected that NSRAC's involvement in the last 18 months would contribute to the Noosa River Plan.

#### **Jetty feasibility study**

Lawrie Stevens referred to a previous action from the 15 August meeting where Scott Waters informed the Committee that a staff member from Council's Infrastructure team could present on this issue. Scott confirmed that this will occur at the next meeting on December 7.

**Action:** Amy to advise the Infrastructure team that attendance is necessary at the next meeting.

#### **Wetland Pressures report**

Placed as an agenda item for the next NSRAC meeting.

#### **Further consultation on MSQ's proposal**

Committee member Richard Howard raised the item of whether NSRAC would further address MSQ's and mooring proposal once it had come back from public consultation. Kell commented that NSRAC's role in MSQ's proposals had been completed and once public feedback had been received no further input from the Committee would be necessary.

### **13. Proposed 2022 Meetings**

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

#### **December 7 2022**

#### **7 February 2023**

Subject to change.

## 14. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7:26pm.

### Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions 24 October 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 subgroups 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. 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 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"> <li>- progress of regulatory reform process for anchoring limits</li> <li>- management of moorings</li> <li>- management of live aboards</li> </ul>	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	Complete – Kell Dillon provided an update at June 2022 NRSAC meeting
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	<i>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 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	Complete Update provided at June NRSAC meeting
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	Complete Update provided at June 2022 NRSAC meeting
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	Complete
36	<i>Amy Kimber to provide update on non-powered water sports study at next NRSAC meeting 15 August 2022</i>	6 Apr 2022	Complete
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	Complete – the program has been put on hold until 2023
39	<i>Shaun Walsh to provide an update on Council's response to the Seagrass Study when available</i>	6 Apr 2022	Complete Update provided at August NRSAC meeting from Amy Kimber
40	<i>Sub Committee to provide feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures</i>	15 June 2022	Complete
41	<i>MSQ to provide formal response to Sub Committee on its Noosa River Management proposal</i>	15 August 2022	Complete
42	<i>Sub Committee to provide further feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures</i>	15 August 2022	Complete Update provided by MSQ
43	<i>Peter Hunnam to present findings from the Noosa Wetlands Pressures report to NRSAC for feedback</i>	15 August 2022	Outstanding – delayed until December 7 NSRAC meeting

44 <i>Infrastructure Services to be invited to the October NRSAC meeting to provide an update on the jetty feasibility study</i>	15 August 2022	<i>Outstanding – delayed until December 7 NSRAC meeting</i>
45 <i>Environment Services to review salinity results from water quality monitoring in the Noosa River to determine impact on oysters</i>	24 October 2022	New
46 <i>Amy Kimber to discuss with the Community Development team the likelihood of a draft study being ready to present to the Committee in mid-December.</i>	24 October 2022	New

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