

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Monday 15 August 2022, 5:30pm to 7:26pm

Final minutes confirmed at the 24 October 2022 NRSAC meeting.

Minutes

Location: Noosa Council Committee Room, Tewantin

Attendance:

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

Committee Members: Bruce Davidson, Michael Gloster (via Teams), Jane Harris, Nick Hluszko, Phillip Moran, Lachlan Stevens, Erica Hamp, Richard Wilschke, Richard Howard, Joanne Daly, Chris Massoud, Agnes Reed

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

Apologies: Peter Hunnam

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

1. Welcome by Chairs

The meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

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 Peter Hunnam.

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 June 2022 meeting minutes

Jane Harris asked for the following changes to Item 10. Outstanding operational business requiring resolution of the June meeting minutes:

1. Parking limits: "Members of the public have been observed [cars and] parking trailers..."
2. Acknowledgement of Noel Playford leaving the June meeting before it had finished and stating that he would not be back.

Scott noted Noel has since resigned from the Committee.

Pending amendments, Nick Hluszko moved that the minutes be confirmed, seconded by Phil Moran.

Outstanding actions:

Amy Kimber noted **Anchoring, mooring and liveaboards** (to be discussed as per **Agenda Item 8**) and provided the following overview of other outstanding actions.

Non-powered water sports study

Council has received a draft report and the project is currently at Stage 5 which involves a needs analysis including facility requirements and standards. This will be followed by targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups. Council is interested to hear community views about existing infrastructure that could be used for a multi-use facility, and the efficient use of any new facility.

Shoreline Erosion Management Program

Following clarifications with DES and SARA regarding dredging quantities under the existing permit, the program has been put on hold and the project team is regrouping to consider the implementation plan.

Seagrass report

Council has met twice with TNC to discuss the report, which is a complex issue requiring further consultation. The team is considering better signage and a stakeholder-driven plan to educate the community, and the potential for a small-scale trial rehabilitation site.

Craning of houseboats into the river

Amy Kimber has only ever heard anecdotal evidence of this and asked Committee members to advise her if this was being witnessed, as a Road Reserves Permit is required to do this, and no permits have been applied for.

Noosa Foreshore maintenance issues

Amy thanked Bruce Davidson for showing her some of the maintenance issues along Noosaville foreshore - these issues have been followed up with the responsible officers and timeframes provided. Community members can automatically generate Council work orders by using the [Snap, Send & Solve application](#).

Legal advice – human rights regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboards

Governance has referred Amy to Council's Human Rights policy and resources to assess the implications of policy positions and projects which may affect human rights.

5. Correspondence

No comments.

6. NICA Audit

Committee member Richard Howard presented an overview on NICA's vessel audit, which follows two audits in 2018 and 2021, both of which had a broad, whole of system approach. The most recent audit in 2022 had a smaller scope resulting in a higher quality data set.

It was found that of 190 vessels, half were seaworthy and around 15 are trailerable. Around 75 are not seaworthy or small enough to be put on a trailer. Six vessels were classed as derelict, with another 38 considered at risk of sinking.

Boreen Point, Tin Can Bay outlet, Snapper Creek, and the Maroochy River will be surveyed by NICA in future.

7. Sub Committee anchoring, mooring and liveaboard issues in the river

Committee member Nick Hluszko stated that MSQ General Manager Kell Dillon and his team had introduced the concept of buffer zones and after looking at these at the Sub Committee level had decided the concept has some merit in terms of interim measures for the journey to 28-day anchoring and mooring zones. The Sub Committee unanimously agreed that the end outcome must be to arrive at 28 day anchoring and mooring zones.

8. MSQ update and response to Sub Committee proposal

MSQ General Manager Kell Dillon thanked the Sub Committee for their feedback on the proposed regulations for anchoring, mooring and liveaboards. He provided a disclaimer that MSQ's response was still subject to the next round of public consultations and the mechanisms of government and therefore can't be guaranteed at this stage.

Updates were given on the following:

MET Team

With the increased presence of the MET team on weekends, compliance on the river has increased with 57% of vessels and their users found to have no compliance issues over the past 2 months, and a 10% decrease in non-compliance. There are 5 MET team members operating between the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast at present, therefore a team was not present every weekend in the Noosa River. The rate of non-compliance has been found to increase corresponding to weekends where the MET team was not present. MSQ is hoping to increase the number of MET officers in the future.

War on Wrecks

Since the program's inception, a total of 1,036 derelict vessels have been removed, including 409 by owners and 627 by contractors. Another 12 vessels are currently being monitored as part of the program. On the Sunshine Coast, 78 vessels have been dealt with and 34 are being monitored. Of these, 31 of the removals were paid for by MSQ and 47 vessels were resolved or removed by the owner.

Around 500 compliance actions have been undertaken in relation to derelict vessels, including educating owners, formal cautions, infringements, administration actions, applications for district court enforcement orders, prosecution and entering into deeds of transfer.

Richard Howard enquired what the threshold is for MSQ to undertake and pay for a removal or enter to into a deed of transfer, rather than requiring the owner to remove the vessel themselves. Peter Wilkins stated that they make an assessment dependent on the owner's financial situation. If the owner has limited funds, it is not worth taking them to court to prosecute or recover costs.

It was noted that another 3 years of funding has been received for the program, which will focus on preventative approaches to encourage responsible boat ownership and prioritise investigation of taskforce recommendations regarding marine licencing, vessel registration and identification.

Update on Sub Committee proposal

MSQ acknowledged the Sub-Committee's response on the proposals for changes to anchoring and mooring regulations in the Noosa River. MSQ presented a further proposed management plan for the Noosa River addressing the Sub-Committee's response, which will be detailed in a letter to be provided to the Sub-Committee.

MSQ further emphasized that the proposed waterways management reforms will involve legislative amendments which will require broad, formal stakeholder and community consultation to be undertaken as part of the progression of any potential reforms. MSQ presented an outline of the indicative timeframe for the policy development and community-wide consultation processes and the delivery of the amendments.

MSQ, Noosa Shire Council and the Committee engaged in discussions with the aim to build the proposal for forward community-wide consultation.

Action: MSQ to send response letter to the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee will discuss at their next meeting, with final correspondence to be provided to MSQ to go through Amy Kimber.

9. Frying Pan

Amy Kimber informed the Committee that residents have been contacted twice by mail regarding rehabilitation of the Frying Pan encroachment area. One resident has responded, stating that residents should be able to easily access the water nearby their properties. Council has been determining which government agencies need to be involved in the process of dealing with encroachments, and which has head of power. It has been determined that Council will lead the process, with the support of DES, however further clarification from the Department of Resources is needed.

10. Noosa Oyster Reef Ecosystem

Rebecca Britton provided an update. Construction of the oyster reefs has begun, with five reefs constructed and all going to plan. Agnes Reed commented on the piles of rocks that are at the back of Noosa Sound which is the planned site for one of the reefs, but there is not much current there. Bruce Davidson enquired as to actions to be taken if the reefs fail and whether there would be funding to pull the rocks out of the river. Scott Waters stated that that would be a matter for Council in future. Bruce Davidson commented that residents at Noosa Sound were concerned about the impact the construction was having on amenity of the foreshore. The Mayor suggested they write to Council so it could be formally noted.

11. General Business

Houseboats

Phil Moran and Joanne Daly commented on the houseboat that had been removed recently from the river and whether it would be possible to obtain the details of the owner via the contractor who had removed the vessel from the river. Bruce Davidson noted a new houseboat had tied up to a private jetty at Pelican Boats.

New permits for liveboards

The issue was raised of whether new permits were being issued by MSQ for liveaboards. MSQ gave advice that no new permits were being issued, and the only permits in place were the five historical grandfathered permits.

Noosa River Wetland Pressures Report

Joanne Daly spoke about Peter Hunnam’s Noosa River Wetland Pressures Report, and the importance of reading these reports, taking notes, and bringing them to Sub Committee meetings for consideration.

Future of NRSAC

Nick Hluszko questioned the future of the NRSAC going forward, given the tenure of the group expires in six months’ time (April 2023). Noosa Council CEO Scott Waters stated that internal discussions would take place in Council and further discussed at the 30 November NRSAC meeting.

Jetty feasibility study

Lachlan Stevens noted a \$100,000 feasibility study was being undertaken on the Noosa River by Noosa Council and that the Committee had not been informed of this. He noted that it would be good to see more transparency given that the group had been established to discuss river matters. Noosa Council CEO Scott Waters said this was a matter that could be discussed at the October Committee meeting and that he was happy to bring a member of the Council’s Infrastructure team in to discuss the study.

12. Proposed 2022 Meetings

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

Wednesday 5 October

Wednesday 30 November

Subject to change.

13. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 7:26pm.

Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions 15 August 2022

Action	Meeting Date	Status
<i>1. Committee members to provide feedback on MSQ initiatives including the speed signs and brochures and other initiatives (please email Susan Codi King)</i>	<i>14 April 2021</i>	<i>Complete</i>
<i>2. Shaun Walsh to prepare Noosa River Issue and Option Analysis template to provide a common framework for members and subgroups to explore topics</i>	<i>14 April 2021</i>	<i>Complete</i>

3. Nick Hluszko to chair the subgroup focusing on vessel management and Council initiatives and convene discussions in the coming week	14 April 2021	Complete (See subsequent action below)
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	<i>MSQ to present the proposed anchoring/mooring/liveaboard regulatory package and proposed implementation program at the next NRSAC meeting</i>	23 June 2021	Complete Presentation at 31 August meeting
25	<i>NRSAC members to forward any additional known data sources to Shaun Walsh to assist in population of comprehensive data library</i>	23 June 2021	Complete Material can be forwarded at any time
26	<i>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>	23 June 2021	Complete Report presented to Council at its August meeting
27	<i>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> 	31 Aug 2021	Complete Update presented to October meeting
28	<i>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 Oct 2021	Complete – Kell Dillon provided an update at June NRSAC meeting
	<i>Note: the road map is for NRSAC members only and not for broader distribution</i>		
29	<i>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>	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	New
43	<i>Peter Hunnam to present findings from the Noosa Wetlands Pressures report to NRSAC for feedback</i>	15 August 2022	New
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	New