

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Wednesday 7 December 2022, 5:32pm to 6:51pm

The minutes were confirmed at the 30 March 2023 NRSAC meeting.

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)

Committee Members: Bruce Davidson, Michael Gloster, Erica Hamp, Jane Harris, Richard Howard, Phillip Moran, Lachlan Stevens, Joanne Daly, Agnes Reed

Apologies: Nick Hluszko, Peter Hunnam, Chris Massoud, Richard Wilschke

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

Invited guests: Craig Eldridge and Cody Johnston (NSC Infrastructure team)

Committee Support: Amy Kimber (NSC), Kim Rawlings (NSC), Renata Neumann (NSC), Gary Crozier (MSQ), Sally-Anne Easton (MSQ, via Teams), Sheila Ng (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. Conflict of Interest Declarations

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

3. Confirmation of 24 October 2022 meeting minutes

The minutes were taken as read and accepted.

4. Update on the Shoreline Erosion Management Program

Cody Johnston provided an historical overview of erosion issues at Doggy Beach at the mouth of the Noosa River, which began in 2011.

- At that time Noosa was part of the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area. In 2012 a sandbag groyne was constructed and attached to the spit, and renourishment works completed.
- Aerial pictures shown as part of the PowerPoint presentation indicated the groyne was beginning to erode by 2014, and by 2022 erosion of the renourishment works from 2012 had returned Doggy Beach to its 2011 status.
- Council has been considering the best options and has developed the Shoreline Erosion Management Program, which will involve the construction of sand plugs at either end of the beach, renourishment works and profiling.
- Work is expected to commence between April and September 2023 subject to environmental permits which will allow or restrict dredging works and will take between 3-4 months.

- Around 170,000 tonnes of sand will be collected from an area still to be approved, contractors to follow up.
- Doggy Beach and the adjacent carpark are expected to be closed for the duration of the works, including a water exclusion zone for vessels where the dredging works are taking place.
- Information for the community will be available before the Shoreline Erosion Management Program commences, including a [Project News](#) and [frequently asked questions](#), on Noosa Council's website next week.

Cody encouraged Committee members to let Council know if there are frequent questions coming from the community that are not covered in the available information, so it can be updated.

Agnes Reed asked where Council intends to get the sand from. Council is restricted to a specified collection zone, which historically has been towards the centre of the channel.

Bruce Davidson asked when the last dredging works in that area occurred. Cody advised the last major works occurred in 2012, but minor works to repair the sandbags have occurred since then.

Phil Moran asked for a description of the sand plug, which Cody explained is essentially a big pile of sand which eventually gets dispersed and confirmed boats will not be able to traverse along the beach. There is a strong current along the beach which causes the erosion, which the plugs and renourishment aim to address.

Michael Gloster asked for clarification about whether placing sand plugs on the southern river shore will cause future erosion on the Noosa River north shore resulting from a channel change. He requested Council report back with trigger points and a contingency plan should this occur.

Joanne Daly asked about the 2012 works and whether a manufacturer's warranty and estimated life expectancy of the sandbags had been provided, given it was only 10 years ago and the works cost \$900,000.

Craig Eldridge noted boats are anchoring in the vicinity, which is causing damage, and that the sandbags are a 'softer option' approach. Harder infrastructure solutions were proposed in 2014, but not approved by Council.

Lachlan Stevens asked about the life expectancy of the new works and whether Council should be investing in a longer-term solution. The sand plug is expected to last around 8 years, although major weather events could cause it to deteriorate more quickly. A monitoring program will be in place with trigger points.

Cody and Craig left the meeting at 5.50pm.

5. Summary of incoming correspondence

The group discussed correspondence received, with MSQ noting the proposed Vessel Waterways Management Plan for the Noosa River will continue to include a speed limit of 6 knots during holiday periods, including the MSQ public consultation period between 7 December 2022 and 13 January 2023.

Correspondence requesting greater access by Personal Water Craft to ramps around the Noosa River was considered and will be taken on notice by MSQ and Council for a response.

6. MSQ - Management Plan for the Noosa River public consultation

On Friday the MSQ Management Plan for the Noosa River will be announced via media release and a link to the public consultation will be available online.

Kell Dillon advised the plan has been pre-approved, and public consultation will take place from mid December 2022 to mid January 2023.

The Management Plan for the Noosa River proposes various zones and a time limit on anchoring in the Noosa River to address congestion, environmental impacts, and provide infrastructure protection.

The goals of the proposal are to maximise the safety and equity of access to the river for all waterway users. It includes formalisation of a 6 knot zone as a safe zone for swimmer's safety, and 6 knots along Doggy Beach during holiday periods.

Sally-Anne Easton demonstrated the public consultation platform which incorporates maps of the areas proposed by the new management plan.

7. General Business

Lachlan Stevens enquired about the jetty feasibility study presentation. Scott Waters noted Councillors are yet to have a workshop about the project therefore an update is still pending.

Committee members asked that the study include consideration of use (demand) and consideration of commercial jetty licences and public jetty access, including the public jetty at the Sofitel. Safety issues were discussed including the need to attach floating pontoons to jetties that are too high out of the water.

Scott Waters confirmed that jetty design and safety issues will need to be considered separately.

Jane Harris asked whether Chaplin Park will have a pontoon, though this has been ruled out by Council previously. Scott Waters confirmed there are no plans for this, although the Department of Transport and Main Roads is currently undertaking a state-wide consultation on recreational boating facilities and demand.

Joanne Daly noted the need for ongoing resourcing of MSQ personnel based in Noosa and thanked MSQ for its investment to date. Kell Dillon noted Maritime Enforcement Team staff have also been rotating through Noosa however resources are constrained across the state.

8. Future of the NRSAC

Scott Waters noted the NRSAC appointments are due to expire at the end of March 2023 and the final meeting date proposed is Wednesday 15 February 2023. This meeting should focus on what NRSAC has achieved, particularly over the last 9 months, with on-water issues.

Council needs to consider the size and scope of any future governance arrangement, and how the intersection between state and local government-controlled aspects of the river will be managed in the future.

9. Meeting Close

Scott Waters thanked the Committee and offered light refreshments, with the meeting closing at 6:51pm.

Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions 7 December 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>

2. Shaun Walsh to prepare Noosa River Issue and Option Analysis template to provide a common framework for members and subgroups to explore topics	14 April 2021	Complete
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	23 June 2021	Superseded as Marine Zone proposal not proceeding at this stage

<i>Infrastructure (Waterways Management) Regulations</i>		
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	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 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 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	1 Dec 2021	Complete
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	1 Dec 2021	Complete – MSQ took carriage of the media approach
33 MSQ to provide an update at next NRSAC meeting on anchoring and mooring options in the Noosa River	1 Dec 2021	Complete Update provided at June NRSAC meeting
34 MSQ requested to provide an update on resourcing required to continue the War on Wrecks Program at next NRSAC meeting	6 Apr 2022	Complete Update provided at June 2022 NRSAC meeting

35	Amy Kimber to provide response to Paradise Seaplanes that the proposal is not compatible with the NRSAC's vision for the river	6 Apr 2022	Complete
36	Amy Kimber to provide update on non-powered water sports study at next NRSAC meeting 15 August 2022	6 Apr 2022	Complete
37	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	6 April 2022	Complete Update provided at June NRSAC meeting
38	Amy Kimber to provide an update to NRSAC once permits have been approved and a contractor for dredging near Dog Beach appointed	6 Apr 2022	Complete – the program has been put on hold until 2023
39	Shaun Walsh to provide an update on Council's response to the Seagrass Study when available	6 Apr 2022	Complete Update provided at August NRSAC meeting
40	Sub Committee to provide feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures	15 June 2022	Complete
41	MSQ to provide formal response to Sub Committee on its Noosa River Management proposal	15 August 2022	Complete
42	Sub Committee to provide further feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures	15 August 2022	Complete Update provided by MSQ
43	Peter Hunnam to present findings from the Noosa Wetlands Pressures report to NRSAC for feedback	15 August 2022	Complete Presentation provided at the 7 November Sub-Committee meeting
44	Infrastructure Services to be invited to the October NRSAC meeting to provide an update on the jetty feasibility study	15 August 2022	Outstanding – delayed until Councillor workshop occurs in 2023
45	Environment Services to review salinity results from water quality monitoring in the Noosa River to determine impact on oysters	24 October 2022	In progress
46	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	24 October 2022	Complete – the draft study is not yet available
47	Infrastructure team to provide information for the public on Council's website regarding the Doggy Beach Renourishment works	7 December 2022	Complete - https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/wip
48	Infrastructure team to provide trigger points and a contingency plan for erosion on the north shore of the river, should a change in the channel brought about by the Shoreline Erosion Management Program cause this	7 December 2022	New
49	Infrastructure team to contact the manufacturer of the 2012 sandbags to ascertain life expectancy	7 December 2022	New

<i>50 Shoreline Erosion Management Program project news to be circulated to Committee Members</i>	<i>7 December 2022</i>	<i>Complete – hyperlinks included in December minutes</i>
<i>51 MSQ to follow up correspondence about Personal Water Craft access to jetties</i>	<i>7 December 2022</i>	<i>New</i>