

Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Wednesday 30 March 2023, 5:39pm to 7.27pm

Minutes

Location: Noosa Council Chambers, Tewantin

Attendance:

Joint Chairs: Larry Sengstock A/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, Nick Hluszko, Peter Hunnam, Chris Massoud

Apologies: Scott Waters, Richard Wilschke

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

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

1. Welcome by Chairs

The meeting commenced at 5:39pm.

Welcome by Noosa Council A/CEO Larry Sengstock.

Larry acknowledged the Noosa River and catchment as home of the Kabi Kabi people and 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

Minutes accepted with changes from Jane Harris.

4. Correspondence

MSQ has received a Ministerial on speed and will be responding directly to James Hordern.

Peter Hunnam questioned the purpose of going through the correspondence when the Committee is drawing to a close.

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

17% non-compliance, 17 year old girls on PWCs, no safety vests, speeding. Proposal being noticed by other waterways and needs to adopt a system-wide approach. Broad outline of public consultation provided.

Consultation normally runs for 4 weeks but longer timeframe provided to maximise opportunity for input. Two face-to-face consultations and online survey. 858 online survey responses, 60 email submissions, approximately 140 people attended face-to-face sessions. 83% of respondents live in Noosa Shire, 38% do paddling and/or swimming.

33% of people support almost all the changes, while only 6% were completely against them. 60% had mixed opinions. Ministerial approval required to progress the proposed changes and supporting

infrastructure such as pump out facilities, boating infrastructure and technology including cameras will be investigated to support changes.

Recreational boating facilities consultation is also underway. Apps such as Decking could be used to track vessels. Technological solutions to make waterways safer.

Peter Wilkins commented the guiding principles are equity of access, safety and the environment with an approach that contributes to the sustainable management of the waterways. Better signage needed.

Nick asked about proportion of those for and against and what's the tipping point for MSQ implementing the changes. Ultimately it will be a Ministerial decision. Michael commented on the number of respondents – large majority to not anchor or moor a boat in the Noosa River.

QUT analysed the data and applied statistical analysis to the quantitative data. Peter Wilkins noted 60% of respondents were 'beige', the figures presented do not represent the qualitative data. Proposed solutions may have unintended impacts on other waterways and the intention will be to avoid any unintended consequences.

Joanne noted NBFA is still not registered as an incorporated organisation, so it's important MSQ does not give undue weight to particular submissions.

Peter Hunnam noted suggestions were provided on a range of river management issues – broad recommendations around maintaining the natural and tranquil nature of the river. He asked what criteria will be used to weight submissions.

Kell noted a lot of work has been done already to develop this proposal. Safe outcome overlay is the main objective. Timeframe for finalisation expected to be October.

Michael noted MSQ won't be able to implement all the proposals at once and likely that the proposals that have the most knock-on effects will be the hardest to implement.

What MSQ is attempting to address is an unsafe waterway. MSQ is committed to implementing the final map. Revised speed proposal needed to be considered as part of the proposal. Discussion about number of submissions – previous consultation delivered 158 State-wide.

Richard asked whether eco-friendly moorings will be considered. Kell noted there is a lot more information now available about seagrass and these will be considered.

DES and other agencies will need to be involved in mooring planning. Nick queried whether mooring cap will be maintained. Peter Wilkins noted the final map is stage 1 but for now the mooring cap will remain in place.

War on Wrecks program is now up to 1165. 40% of people deal with the vessel themselves.

Phil asked how this will affect houseboats near Lake Doonella. Gary noted the 60m zone will mean they will have to move. Michael noted this is probably the most important issue the public would like to see addressed.

Nick thanked MSQ on behalf of the Committee for progressing the proposal, and Council staff. Bruce agreed, from the Committee's perspective this is a starting point.

Bruce asked whether MSQ would consider speed cameras on the river.

Michael noted the importance of getting the messaging right – explain the key outcomes MSQ is trying to achieve so that people can regulate their behaviour to prepare for the changes. The danger is if the word on the street disappears off the radar.

Nick asked if Council would keep the Committee informed if there are any changes to the proposal. Peter Wilkins noted the reforms still need to go through the Office of Best Practice Reform.

Peter Wilkins confirmed reforms will not go to Parliament, Minister will sign off, then reforms will be prioritised for implementation. MSQ will need to continue working with Council to implement. Peter Hunnam asked whether the houseboat issue could be resolved immediately rather than waiting for another year to bring about legal changes.

Nick asked whether QPS will be brought in to assist. Multi-agency response required. Kell confirmed the map is public. Kell and Sally-Anne discouraged members from promoting the outcomes of the public consultation as there is more analysis still to be done.

If asked, Committee members can refer members of the public to MSQ. Phil encouraged MSQ to communicate with the public sooner rather than later.

Nick suggested Council publicise the outcomes on its website.

6. Council report

This will be distributed to the Committee.

7. NRSAC reflections

Amy thanked the Committee for their commitment and hard work. Agnes acknowledged Nick’s role in guiding the Committee. Phil acknowledged MSQ for its commitment. Joanne noted lots of feedback has been taken on board. Phil acknowledged Jake, Shaun and Amy. Nick noted diversity of group and success in getting proposal underway, passion of the group. Kell thanked the Committee and MSQ staff for their skill in navigating a complex issue. Joanne noted it’s been difficult not being able to talk to the community.

Michael suggested the Committee term could have been shorter and more impactful - 6 months. Phil agreed the Committee is far too large.

Summary of NRSAC Meeting Actions 30 March 2023

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</i>	14 April 2021	Complete TOR endorsed 23 June 2021

<i>discussion at next meeting (please email Shaun Walsh)</i>		
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. <i>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</i>	23 June 2021	Complete Correspondence sent following 23 June meeting
13. <i>Shaun Walsh to distribute endorsed Terms of Reference to NRSAC members, inclusive of the endorsed option for the subcommittee</i>	23 June 2021	Complete TOR distributed
23 <i>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</i>	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	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	<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	<i>Complete – the program has been put on hold until 2023</i>
39	<i>Shaun Walsh to provide an update on Council's response to the Seagrass Study when available</i>	6 Apr 2022	<i>Complete Update provided at August NRSAC meeting</i>
40	<i>Sub Committee to provide feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures</i>	15 June 2022	<i>Complete</i>
41	<i>MSQ to provide formal response to Sub Committee on its Noosa River Management proposal</i>	15 August 2022	<i>Complete</i>
42	<i>Sub Committee to provide further feedback regarding anchoring, mooring and liveaboard proposed measures</i>	15 August 2022	<i>Complete Update provided by MSQ</i>
43	<i>Peter Hunnam to present findings from the Noosa Wetlands Pressures report to NRSAC for feedback</i>	15 August 2022	<i>Complete Presentation provided at the 7 November Sub-Committee meeting</i>
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>Superseded - delayed until Councillor workshop occurs in 2023</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	<i>Complete – see attached response</i>
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	<i>Complete – the draft study is not yet available</i>
47	<i>Infrastructure team to provide information for the public on Council's website regarding the Doggy Beach Renourishment works</i>	7 December 2022	<i>Complete - https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/wip</i>
48	<i>Infrastructure team to develop 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</i>	7 December 2022	<i>Complete</i>
49	<i>Infrastructure team to contact the manufacturer of the 2012 sandbags to ascertain life expectancy</i>	7 December 2022	<i>Complete – see attached response</i>
50	<i>Shoreline Erosion Management Program project news to be circulated to Committee Members</i>	7 December 2022	<i>Complete – hyperlinks included in December minutes</i>
51	<i>MSQ to follow up correspondence about Personal Water Craft access to jetties</i>	7 December 2022	<i>Complete – see attached response</i>