

Minutes
Port Ballina Taskforce
Tuesday 12 August 2014 at 4.00 pm

Attendance

Members

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council (Chair)
Max Ryan, Community Representative
Peter Carmont, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry
James Foster, Community Representative (arrived at 4.40pm)
Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Paul Worth, Ballina Shire Council
Garry Joblin, Ballina Professional Fishermen

Observers

Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council
Darren Watson, RMS – Maritime
Cr Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council

There were three people in the audience at this stage.

1. Apologies

Greg Watt, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Michael Cocks, Community Representative
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative
Nadia Elliott-Burgess, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry

2. Minutes from Dredging Taskforce Meeting held 8 May 2014

The Taskforce confirmed the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8 May 2014.

3. General Business

(a) Recreational Fishing Group Representation

Based on the submissions received the Taskforce members agreed that Mr Tom Bowers, on behalf of the Cherry Street Fishing Club, and with support of the Ballina RSL Club Ltd, was considered to be the most representative applicant on behalf of Recreational Fishing Groups.

Action: Council will now write to the Cherry Street Fishing Club, confirming Mr Bower's appointment to the Taskforce.

(b) Dredging – North Creek

Information noted.

c) Dredging – Ballina Boat Harbour

Prior to the meeting Phill Hilliard had confirmed in writing as follows:

- The works will go ahead this Financial Year
- The Expressions of Interest have been received
- A formal announcement will be made upon contract Award

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d) Dredging – Ballina Bar

Correspondence from Mr Don Page on behalf of the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water (Kevin Humphries) was tabled at the meeting. Copy attached.

Action: Council write to the State Government seeking details of latest surveys for the bar.

e) North Wall Breakwater – Raising the Crest

Information noted.

f) Better Boating Program (BBP) Grants

Information noted.

g) Regional Boating Program

Information noted.

h) Fawcett Park – Sale of Fresh Seafood from Trawler

Prior to the meeting Phil Hilliard had provided advice in writing relating to the difficulties in providing this service, particularly relating to food regulations etc.

Information noted.

i) Marina Infrastructure

General discussion around the concept plan that was included in the agenda. It was emphasised that this was a concept plan only and was designed to provide an indication of the type of plan that may be needed to generate the substantial monies required to rectify the bar (estimated at \$20m to \$25m).

Brief discussion also on the other marina locations such as Regatta Avenue and the existing Ballina Boat Harbour.

Paul Hickey is reporting marina options to the August 2014 meeting of Council to seek direction from the elected Councillors on the various options available.

4. Business Without Notice

Nil

5. Next Meeting

To be determined.

Meeting closure: 5.00pm

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PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

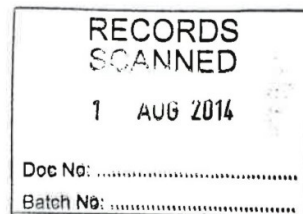


DON PAGE, M.P.
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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30th July 2014

Cr David Wright
Mayor
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



David,
Dear Cr Wright,

I refer to my representations on your behalf to the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP, Deputy Premier regarding dredging of the Ballina bar.

I now enclose herewith the response received from the Hon. Kevin Humphries MP, Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water for your information.

Yours faithfully

Don Page MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

encl.
DP:dc

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The Hon Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water
Minister for Western New South Wales

PMIN14/740/2

30 JUL 2014

Mr Don Page MP
Member for Ballina
PO Box 1018
BALLINA NSW 2478

25 JUL 2014

Dear Mr ~~Page~~ *Jan,*

Thank you for your representations of 12 May 2014 to the Deputy Premier on behalf of Mr David Wright, Mayor of Ballina Shire Council (PO Box 450 Ballina NSW 2478) and the Port Ballina Taskforce, seeking advice on whether the State Government is considering dredging of the Ballina bar at the entrance to the Richmond River. As this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water, your correspondence was forwarded to me for my consideration.

Crown Lands advises that regular surveys of the river entrance during 2013 and the most recent survey in May 2014 indicate depths of at least 4.0 metres at low tide or greater are generally prevailing through the entrance and this meets the requirements identified by local stakeholders. As a result, no dredging of the bar is currently planned.

As you may be aware, in June 2014 the NSW Government announced \$10 million for priority dredging projects over the next four years. Should regular surveys and analysis of relevant oceanic/climatic data identify long term changes to the existing situation, the NSW Government may consider one-off dredging at the Ballina bar utilising the recently announced funding.

It will be important to monitor the results of any future dredging program to demonstrate the outcomes particularly in terms of costs, long terms benefits and mitigation of any identified risks.

I have asked that Mr Stephen Wills, Director Infrastructure and Land Management, Crown Lands, be available to discuss this matter further with you. Mr Wills may be contacted on 4920 5049 or stephen.wills@lands.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Kevin Humphries MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water
Minister for Western NSW**

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