



Notice of Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Committee Room, Ballina on **Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 4.00 pm.**

Business

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce meeting held 18 November 2014 (attached).
4. General Business
 - (a) Martin Street Boat Harbour – Precinct Master Plan
 - (b) North Creek - Dredging
 - (c) Ballina Boat Harbour - Dredging
 - (d) Regional Boating Plan - Priority Projects
 - (e) Ballina Boat Harbour – Project Plan
 - (f) Ballina Bar
 - (g) Business without notice from previous minutes
5. Business Without Notice
6. Next Meeting

Paul Hickey
General Manager

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting held 18 November 2014**

The Minutes from the meeting held Tuesday 18 November 2014 are attached.

Recommendation

That the Taskforce confirms the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2014.

**Minutes
Port Ballina Taskforce
Thursday 18 November 2014 at 3.00 pm**

Attendance

Members

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council (arrived at 3.30 pm)
Cr Paul Worth, Ballina Shire Council
Max Ryan, Community Representative
Peter Carmont, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Acting Chair)
James Foster, Community Representative (arrived at 4.40pm)
Michael Cocks, Community Representative
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative
Tom Bowers, Cherry Street Fishing Club

Observers

Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Sue Meehan, Ballina Shire Council (arrived at 3.35 pm)

There were no people in the audience at this stage.

1. Apologies

Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council
Darren Watson, RMS – Maritime
Nadia Elliott-Burgess, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry

2. Minutes from Dredging Taskforce Meeting held 12 August 2014

The Taskforce confirmed the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12 August 2014. (Cr Paul Worth/Max Ryan)

3. General Business

a) Welcome – New Member

The Taskforce welcomed Tom Bowers to the Taskforce as a representative of the Cherry Street Fishing Club.

Noted – Tom asked for Disclosures of Interest to be included on future agendas. This was agreed.

b) Dredging – North Creek

Information noted. Possible timeline for the project to be provided to the next meeting.

c) Dredging – Ballina Boat Harbour

Phil Hilliard advised that these works are now likely to be undertaken towards the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

**Minutes
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d) Ballina Boat Harbour – Project Plan

Paul Hickey to provide advice once funding is confirmed from State Government.

e) Ballina Bar

Agreed that a further letter to be sent to the local State member seeking dredging of the bar. Media release to also be issued highlighting latest surveys plus benefits that dredging could provide.

f) Better Boating Program (BBP) Grants – Status

Tom Bowers sought clarification on the Fishery Creek boat ramp works (this advice was provided the following day).

g) Regional Boating Plan

Information noted.

4. Business Without Notice

a) Martin Street Boat Harbour

Cr Susan Meehan sought the Taskforce's position on the Martin Street boat harbour erosion as she proposed submitting a Notice of Motion to the Council's November Ordinary meeting calling on the State Government to remediate the area.

The Taskforce agreed that action was required. Cr Meehan was also encouraged to talk to the local co-operative for that precinct.

b) Designated Fish Cleaning Tables

Tom Bowers – sought information as to whether any future works are planned for any further designated cleaning tables. To be provided to next meeting.

c) Fishery Creek Boat Ramp

Tom Bowers – sought Council's opinion on whether an additional boat ramp was needed south of the pontoon. To be provided to next meeting.

5. Next Meeting

To be advised.

Meeting closure: 3.55 pm

4. General Business

(a) Martin Street Boat Harbour - Precinct Master Plan

Under the State Government's Better Boating Program (now replaced by the Regional Boating Plan) Council was successful in obtaining a \$40,000 grant, which was matched by Council, to prepare a Master plan for the Martin Street / Regatta Avenue Precinct.

Geolink has been appointed to undertake this project and James Foster is working with Geolink in preparing this plan.

James will provide an overview of the project at this meeting along with seeking feedback on this precinct.

(b) North Creek - Dredging

Council was identified as the preferred respondent to the EOI process for dredging North Creek.

Council has now obtained approval from NSW Trade and Investment to advertise for a specialist firm to undertake the evaluation / feasibility process and the approval process, if it proceeds, in respect to the dredging approvals.

The specification for that project is currently being advertised with a closing date of 24 February 2015.

In respect to a timeline for this project there are currently too many unknowns to confirm an accurate series of dates. The key steps are:

- Appointment of successful firm
- Preliminary evaluation of project including feasibility and planning assessment overview
- Possible feasibility analysis
- Approvals process – Subject to Council resolving to seek a planning consent for the dredging, the approvals process could take anywhere from four to 12 months dependent on the level of technical information needed to support the assessment.

(c) Ballina Boat Harbour – Dredging

Phill Hilliard to provide a status report on this project.

(d) Regional Boating Plan – Priority Projects

The attached letter has been received from Transport for NSW identifying the priority projects under the Regional Boating Plan.



Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Dear Mr Hickey *Paul*

Regional Boating Plans and Funding for Priority Regional Projects

I am writing to inform you about the release of the Tweed-Clarence Valley Regional Boating Plan which was developed following an extensive consultation process in 2014, including input from Ballina Shire Council. The Plan is one of 11 Regional Boating Plans that have been developed across the major waterways of NSW and is available at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/mmc.

The final Regional Boating Plans identify the priority boating safety, access and storage actions to be delivered in each Region by the NSW Government over the next five years in partnership with Councils and other stakeholder groups. Importantly, the Plan also includes a funding allocation to support the delivery of boating infrastructure projects that have been identified as being a priority to boost the boating experience in each Region (Priority Regional Projects).

These funds have been allocated out of the NSW Boating Now program announced by the Minister for Roads and Freight in August 2014. In total, \$37.5 million has been allocated across the 11 Regional Boating Plans to support the delivery of 192 Priority Regional Projects.

The identification of Priority Regional Projects was informed by feedback received from Councils, boating stakeholders and the general public as well as advice from maritime infrastructure experts and local Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) staff. For the Tweed-Clarence Valley Region a total of \$2.78 million has been allocated to support delivery of 25 priority projects, including the following projects for which Ballina Shire Council has been identified as the relevant delivery partner:

- Upgrade Brunswick Street Boat Ramp, Ballina
- Investigate improvements to boating access facilities at Captain Cook Park, Ballina
- Support for development of project plan for Trawler Harbour, Ballina (Boatharbour Road)
- Extend pontoon at Fishery Creek Boat Ramp, Ballina
- New pontoon at Faulks Reserve, West Ballina

- Investigate access improvements at Emigrant Creek, West Ballina
- New boat ramp and pontoon at Keith Hall, Richmond River
- Upgrade Lennox Head boat ramp (North Creek Road)
- New pontoon at East Wardell Boat Ramp (Byron Street)

The funding allocation is based on initial estimates of project costs and the proposed financial contributions that Councils or other delivery partners have indicated that they can make towards each project.

The next steps will involve staff from the Maritime Management Centre (MMC) meeting with Council to confirm the scope of individual projects and discuss the process for formalising a funding agreement. I anticipate that these meetings will take place in late February/early March 2015.

A key consideration in negotiating the funding agreement is the need to ensure that the delivery approach for each project helps maximise value for money, for the overall Boating Now program. To this end, MMC would like to discuss ways that the Government can assist Council to achieve efficiencies.

A representative from MMC will be in contact shortly to discuss possible meeting dates, times and locations and provide details of the process and the additional information that will be required to finalise a funding agreement for delivery of the project(s).

If you would like to discuss this issue in more detail please contact Andrew Mogg on 02 8265 7413 or by email at andrew.mogg@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Howard Glenn

General Manager, Maritime Management Centre

6/2/15

Council's submission to the Regional Boating Plan included the following indicative estimates and timeframes for the projects listed in the Transport for NSW correspondence.

Project Description	Estimated Total Cost (\$)	Possible Council Contribution (\$)	Indicative Timeframe
Brunswick Street, Ballina - Boat ramp and possible finger pontoon	200,000	75,000	Two to four years
Captain Cook Park, Ballina – Pontoons	300,000	50,000	One to two years
Ballina Trawler Harbour – Project Plan -- The Ballina Foreshore Master Plan identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded marina facilities Commercial development such as chandlery, dry boat storage, café Fuel facility Pump out Additional pontoon Walkways Possible residential / tourism 	2m to 5m	Not quantified – Council has approved funding of \$40,000	Two to five years
Fishery Creek, Ballina - Pontoon Extension	100,000	50,000	
Faulks Reserve, Ballina – Pontoon and Ancillary Facilities	200,000	75,000	Two to five years
Emigrant Creek, Ballina - Access Improvements – Variety of works identified including dredging, pontoons, jetty	Various	25,000 to dredging	One to five years dependent on projects
Keith Hall Lane, South Ballina - Boat Ramp and Pontoon	300,000	75,000	2015/16
End of North Creek Road, Lennox Head - Boat Ramp	150,000	75,000	Three to five years
East Wardell, Pontoon	100,000	50,000	Two to three years

At this point in time the only funding Council has allocated in its forward financial plan is for the Ballina Trawler Harbour Project Plan (\$40,000), with this funding subject to matching funding from the State Government.

All of the other projects listed are subject to further negotiation and the elected Council also agreeing to make a financial contribution to the projects.

(e) Ballina Boat Harbour – Project Plan

Following discussions with Transport for NSW, they have authorised Council to prepare a project brief with the overall objective being to develop a project plan for this entire site (including RMS Depot).

The preferred approach from Transport for NSW is to ultimately have a concept plan approved. This plan could then be put to the market to determine the level of private sector interest.

The proposal would include mixed development (i.e. residential, commercial etc) along with ancillary maritime facilities.

Agencies such as Transport for NSW, NSW Trade & Investment (Crown Lands) and the RMS would form part of any steering committee.

Council staff are currently preparing that brief and subject to Transport for NSW approval, the aim will be to have it advertised during February / March.

(f) Ballina Bar

Further letters have been sent to the local member following the last meeting. Copies of those letters are attached. At this stage Council has not received a response.

Council will continue to lobby the State Government in respect to the one-off dredge.

enquiries refer
Cr David Wright
in reply please quote
1497-02/1314-03



24 November 2014

Hon Don Page MP
Member for Ballina
Don.Page@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Don

Re: Dredging of the Ballina Bar

Further to our on-going discussions in respect to the Ballina Bar, Council's Port Ballina Taskforce met last week and discussion again arose on the option of providing a one-off dredge.

As you are aware Council has formed the Port Ballina Taskforce to pursue actions that will see Ballina grow as a recognised maritime centre, both from a recreational activity and professional business operating perspective. The Taskforce consists of representatives from organisations such as the Ballina Chamber of Commerce, the Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative, NSW Premier and Cabinet, Council and community representatives.

The Taskforce members are appreciative of the feasibility study that has been completed, along with the on-going surveys that are taking place on a quarterly basis. However all the Taskforce members and I'm sure many in the community would really like to see a one-off dredge of the Bar to determine the real cost of dredging and to then allow an assessment to be undertaken as to how long the benefits of that dredging will last.

It would be appreciated if you could again follow up on this matter for us and provide a written response to Council to allow this information to be communicated to the members of the Taskforce.

Thank you again for your on-going assistance and please call me if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully

Cr David Wright
Mayor

40 cherry street, po box 450, ballina nsw 2478
t 02 6686 4444 • f 02 6686 7035 • e council@ballina.nsw.gov.au • w ballina.nsw.gov.au

enquiries refer
Cr David Wright
in reply please quote
1497-02

5 December 2014

Hon Don Page MP
Member for Ballina
Don.Page@parliament.nsw.gov.au



Dear Don

Re: Dredging – Ballina Bar

Further to our letter dated 24 November 2014 regarding a one-off dredge of the Ballina Bar, we have been advised by members of the our Port Ballina Taskforce that the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water, the Hon K Humphries in recently announcing a number of waterway related projects on the North Coast, advised that there was significant funding still available for dredging related works. The Minister subsequently advised our members that any relevant information should be forwarded to his office.

As you are well aware the State Government completed a comprehensive feasibility analysis of the Ballina Bar in 2012, with that report prepared by BMT WMB. That report was commissioned by NSW Trade & Investment. In order to reassure the members of the Port Ballina Taskforce it would be appreciated if you could ensure that the Minister is aware of this report and its contents. The Port Ballina Taskforce members have asked that Council directly liaise with the Minister's Office however we feel that it is more appropriate for you to lobby for this project on our behalf, due to your long standing knowledge of this issue.

I hope you can ensure that the Minister is fully informed on the condition of the Ballina Bar and the feasibility analysis and if you wish to discuss this further please call me.

Yours faithfully

Cr David Wright
Mayor

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(g) Business without notice from previous minutes

Designated Fish Cleaning Tables

Council has no funding identified in its forward financial plan for additional fish cleaning tables. There may be possibilities to provide additional tables as part of the projects identified in the Regional Boating Plan Program

Fishery Creek Boat Ramp – Need for additional boat ramp south of the pontoon

The earlier item for the Regional Boating Plan includes this project.

5. **Business Without Notice**

6. **Next Meeting**