

**Minutes**  
**Port Ballina Taskforce**  
**Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 3.00 pm**

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**Attendance**

**Members**

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council  
Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council  
Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council  
Cr Eoin Johnston, Ballina Shire Council  
James Foster, Community Representative  
Michael Cocks, Community Representative  
Ian Hush, Community Representative  
Darren Watson, RMS, Maritime  
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative  
Martin Corkery, Ballina Chamber of Commerce  
Amanda Edmonds, Ballina Chamber of Commerce

**Observers**

Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council  
Kerri Watts, Manager Public and Environmental Health, Ballina Shire Council

**1. Welcome to New Members**

The Taskforce welcomed new members John Larsson, Ozfish (recreational fisher representative) and Ian Hush (community representative) as well as Martin Corkery and Amanda Edmonds as the Ballina Chamber of Commerce representatives.

**2. Apologies**

John Larsson, Ozfish, recreational fisher representative  
Brendan Logan, NSW Crown Lands

**3. Declarations of Interest**

James Foster – has been engaged by Council in respect to the Emigrant Creek Study.

**4. Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting held 25 October 2016**

That the Taskforce confirms the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 October 2016.

**5. General Business**

**(a) NSW Boating Now Program**

General discussion regarding the program of works. James Foster provided an overview of the community engagement proposed for the Emigrant Creek related study.

**(b) Ballina Marina - Master Plan**

Positive feedback in respect to the meeting co-ordinated by Council for people who made submissions to the draft Master Plan.

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**(c) Tuckean Program**

Comprehensive update provided by Ian Hush on behalf of OzFish.

**(d) Healthy Waterways Program**

Kerri Watts provided an overview of the various actions being taken in respect to this program, as well as an update on the Shaws Bay works planned by Council.

**(e) Ballina Bar - Dredging**

Copy of email from Brendan Logan distributed for information. Refer to the attachment to these minutes. Concerns expressed regarding how the depth issue is being managed by the State Government.

**(f) North Creek - Dredging**

Paul Hickey provided a brief history of this project. Consultants currently engaged to examine sediment sampling and economic viability of project.

**(g) Martin Street Boat Harbour – Master Plan**

Information noted.

**6. Business Without Notice**

Ian Hush – sought clarification from Rous County Council in respect to maintenance of tidal gates.

Kyme Lavelle subsequently advised as follows:

*Michael Mc Kenzie did meet with Ozfish some months ago and advised that we are reviewing five Floodgate Management Plans for each Local Government area this financial year as part of our IP&R plan.*

Darren Watson – advised that Emigrant Creek would be blocked for navigable purposes in the proximity of Duck Creek from 10 September for approximately 10 weeks due to demolition and removal of bridges related to the Pacific Highway upgrade.

**7. Next Meeting**

To be advised

**Meeting closure:** 4.10pm

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**Attachment to Item (e) - Ballina Bar – Dredging**

**From:** Brendan Logan <brendan.logan@crowland.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 August 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** Sandra Bailey; Paul Hickey  
**Subject:** RE: Declined: Port Ballina Taskforce  
**Attachments:** SURVEY PLAN.PDF; COLOURED CONTOUR PLAN.PDF; 11117\_LAT\_COLOUR PLAN.PDF; 11117\_LAT\_SURVEY PLAN.PDF

Hi Paul – I cannot make this afternoon, some updates below you can table if you wish to address agenda items that have touchpoints with our Department.

Entrance Dredging

NSW Public Works Advisory (PWA) has been engaged to assist DoI Lands & Forestry with the preparation of all necessary environmental impact assessments, studies and approvals for entrance bar dredging (if required).

PWA is also assisting with procurement for dredging services through a two staged process i.e. EOI followed by select tender.

To date, DoI Lands & Forestry has not proceeded to select tender on the basis recent entrance surveys (attached) indicate adequate water depths (i.e. > 4 metres at low tide, as previously advised by stakeholders) prevail.

Nevertheless, DoI Lands & Forestry is progressing the approval process, and will consider dredging should surveyed depths over the entrance bar in future indicate a trend towards shoaling.

The approval process includes:

- Land based nourishment study (complete)
- Marine assessment (complete)
- Traffic assessment (complete)
- Consultation with government stakeholders (complete)
- Discussions commenced with Department of Environment & Energy as to the need for a sea dumping permit for placement in the near shore zone (some conflicting advice has been received to date on need for permit close to shore)
- Draft REF (almost complete)

Rescuing our Waterways

A number of applications have been received (including one from Ballina council for North Creek dredging EIS). Applications have been assessed and recommendations made for funding of successful projects. Pending senior level endorsement, the department will write to those councils whom submitted applications (anticipate early September 2017).

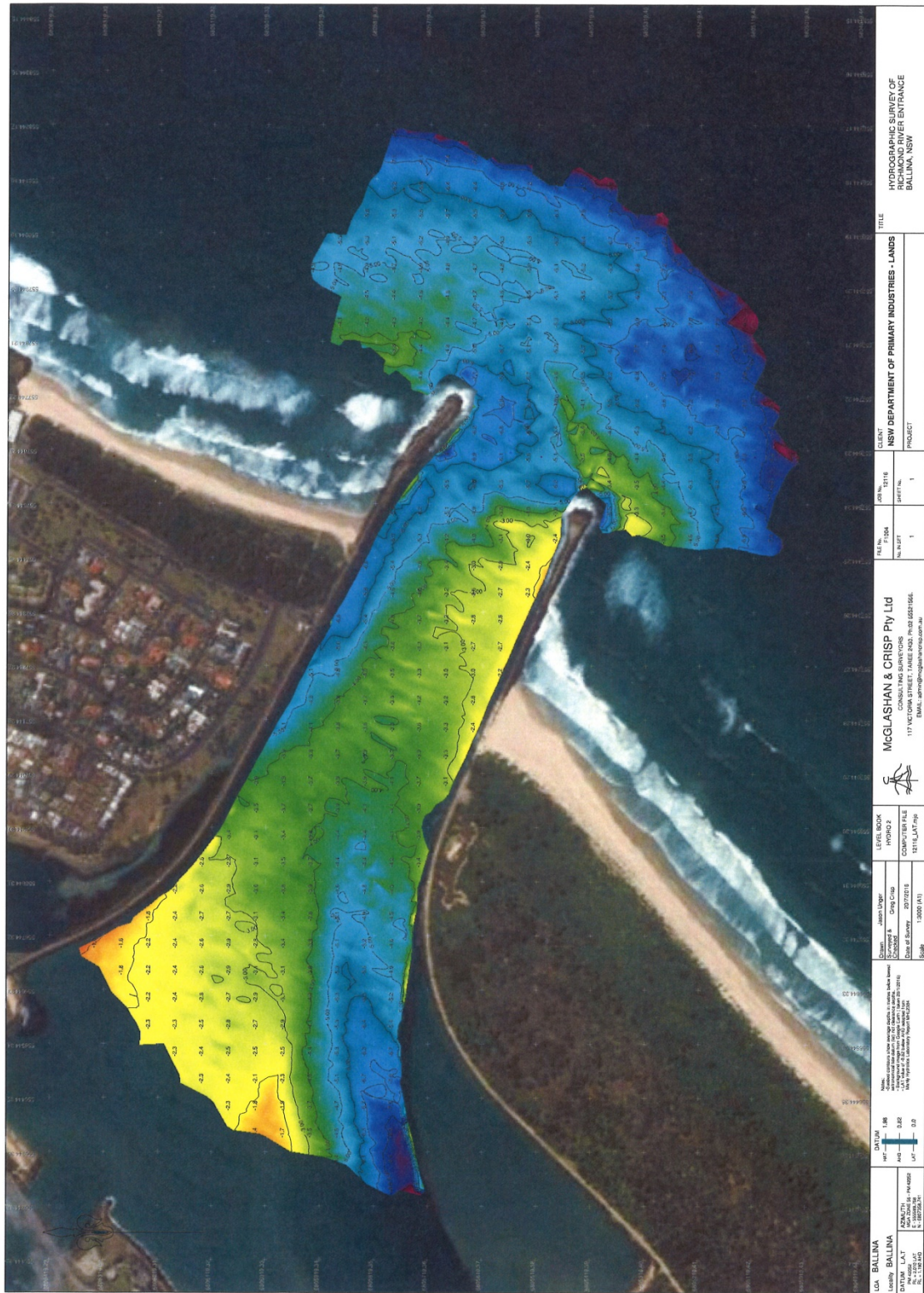
Will call tomorrow to discuss if you are available.

BL.

Dr Brendan Logan | Manager – Coastal Management Unit  
NSW Department of Industry – Lands & Forestry  
Project Manager for the NSW and Qld Governments – Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project



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