

**Minutes
Port Ballina Taskforce
Thursday 8 May 2014 at 2.00 pm**

Attendance

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Paul Worth, Ballina Shire Council
Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council
Michael Cocks, Community Representative
Max Ryan, Community Representative
Nadia Elliott-Burgess, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Peter Carmont, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry
James Foster, Community Representative
Greg Watt, Department of Premier and Cabinet (by phone)

Observers

John Larsson and Lindsay Doust from the Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc.

There were four people in the audience at this stage.

1. Apologies

Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council
Garry Joblin, Ballina Professional Fishermen
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative

2. Minutes from Dredging Taskforce Meeting held 15 April 2014

The Taskforce confirmed the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2014.

3. General Business

(a) Meeting with Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc

John Larsson and Lindsay Doust from the Richmond Valley Anglers Action Group Inc. addressed the Taskforce on the role of the Taskforce and outlined their concerns in respect to any dredging in North Creek.

(b) Information from Norman Rogers

Information noted. Council will forward a copy of the correspondence to Crown Lands and provide a response to Mr Rogers.

(c) Dredging of North Creek

General discussion. James Foster advised that royalty rates are often approximately 8 to 12% of the total product cost. Timeframe – EOIs close 2 June 2014. Estimated date for notification 4 July 2014.

(d) Dredging – Ballina Boat Harbour

No update was provided due to an apology from Phil Hilliard.

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e) Dredging of the Ballina Bar

Correspondence to be forwarded to Marine Rescue to see if they are in a position to publicise the Crown Lands hydrographic surveys results.

f) North Wall Breakwater – Raising the Crest

Noted.

g) Better Boating Program (BBP) Grants

Noted. The Mayor also provided an update on the Australian Research Council Blackwater project.

h) Marina Infrastructure

Agreed to write to Howard Glenn (Maritime Management Centre, Transport for NSW representative) of the Maritime Access & Infrastructure Council (MAIC) for an update on marina infrastructure.

4. Business Without Notice.

(a) Taskforce Membership

John Larsson – asked whether membership of the Taskforce could be extended to include recreational fishers?

Paul Hickey advised that any application should be made in writing to Council and will be submitted to the elected Council.

(b) Ballina Bar

A member of the audience (Barry) enquired about dredging of the Ballina Bar.

Paul Hickey clarified that a feasibility report was completed by the State Government with an estimated annual dredging cost of \$3 – 4m based on a need to dredge every three months.

Correspondence to be forwarded to Don Page, Member for Ballina to see if the State Government is considering a one-off dredge.

5. Next Meeting

To be advised.

Meeting closure: 2.45 pm