



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 **Tuesday 25 October 2016 at 3.00 pm.**

Business

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce meeting held 31 March 2016 (attached).
4. General Business
 - (a) NSW Boating Now Program
 - (b) Tuckean Swamp
 - (c) Ballina Boat Harbour Precinct – Master Plan
 - (d) Ballina Bar
 - (e) Ballina Boat Harbour - Dredging
 - (f) Marine Rescue Centre
 - (g) Martin Street Boat Harbour – Master Plan
 - (h) North Creek – Dredging
 - (i) Membership
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 31 March 2016**

The Minutes from the meeting held 31 March 2016 are included as an attachment to this agenda.

Recommendation

That the Taskforce confirms the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 March 2016.

4. **General Business**

(a) **NSW Boating Now Program**

The following projects, which are partially funded by the NSW Government's Boating Now Program, are in Council's Delivery Program for completion during 2016/17 and 2017/17.

Project Description	Estimate	Status
Keith Hall - Ramp / Pontoon	300,000	Designs being advanced.
Fishery Creek – Pontoon	100,000	
East Wardell - Pontoon	100,000	
Faulks Reserve – Pontoon	175,000	
Captain Cook – Wharf / Pontoon	300,000	
Lennox Head - Ramp Nth Creek	150,000	
Brunswick Street – Ramp	200,000	
Emigrant Creek - Access	40,000	Quotations for the completion of this project are currently being reviewed by Council engineering staff. This project will largely involve an examination of the depth and accessibility of this access, along with considering options for improvement.
Total Estimates	1,325,000	

Royal Haskoning Pty. Ltd. has been engaged by Council to undertake all the design and planning approval processes for the pontoon and ramp projects.

Representatives from this firm, the RMS and Council engineering staff will be in attendance at this meeting to provide an overview of all the pontoon and ramp projects and to seek feedback from the Taskforce.

Design information on the projects (excluding Lennox Head and Brunswick Street) is attached to this agenda for discussion.

(b) Tuckean Swamp

As per the minutes from the last meeting, Mr John Larsson has been invited to this meeting to address the Taskforce.

(c) Ballina Boat Harbour Precinct – Master Plan

The current update on this project is as follows.

The initial community engagement program involving discussions with key stakeholders and a survey open to the broader community has been completed. In summary, the engagement has showed a continuation of broad stakeholder and community support for the redevelopment of the site to enhance maritime infrastructure in Ballina.

The results of the survey along with technical information and preliminary feasibility assessment information are now being used to prepare draft master plan options for the site. Council has reviewed some initial design ideas and these are now being refined into two options for a second phase of engagement with the community. It is anticipated that draft versions of the two master planning options will be completed within the next four weeks.

With respect to the draft master plan options and the associated economic feasibility assessment, Council plans to hold another meeting of the Government Agency Working Group to discuss the plans prior to proceeding to public exhibition. The present aim is to hold this meeting before the end of October.

Council has recently received new enquiries from staff from RMS and the Department of Industry about the nature and status of the project. This has resulted in several new agency staff being included on Council's contact list for the circulation of information.

(d) Ballina Bar

There have been no recent updates on the State Government's plans to possibly dredge the bar.

(e) Ballina Boat Harbour - Dredging

It is understood this project is largely complete. The Ballina Fishermen's Co-op may wish to provide any further updates.

(f) Marine Rescue Centre

The Centre is now operational with an official opening planned for early December. Port Ballina Taskforce members will be invited to that opening.

(g) Martin Street Boat Harbour – Master Plan

Council resolved to exhibit the draft master plan for this precinct at the August 2016 Ordinary meeting.

The exhibition period has now closed with only one submission received, with that submission primarily asking for a marina to be constructed further to the east.

A copy of the master plan, as exhibited is attached, with two design options included in the plan. As per pages 15 and 16 of the master plan the estimated costs of the two preferred options range from \$8m to \$31m.

A report will now be submitted to Council for adoption of the master plan.

It will then be a matter of Council seeking grant funds to steadily work towards the implementation of the plan, as Council has no recurrent budget items that could finance a project of this size and scale.

Whether option A or B ultimately proceeds will depend heavily on private sector monies eventually becoming available to undertake the consolidated harbourside development, which has an estimated cost of \$19m to \$22m.

(h) North Creek – Dredging

As background to this project, in October 2014, Council successfully secured an opportunity from Crown Lands to extract sand from North Creek. A budget of \$150,000 was then sourced from Council's internal reserves to finance the approval process.

The approvals process is a two-stage approach:

Stage 1 is a "scoping study", which was completed in April 2016.

Stage 2 is the preparation of a planning application, including supporting studies/information and associated permits and licences.

Hydrosphere Pty. Ltd. has been engaged to undertake components of this work for Council.

The outcome of Stage 1 has been to more clearly define the project's scope, to determine the requisite planning pathway, and to identify the extent of additional studies/information needed to obtain a planning approval.

A small amount of work originally intended for Stage 2, principally the shorebird survey, was brought forward into Stage 1 because of the seasonal nature of the work and to help better define the project's scope.

The majority of Stage 2 work has yet to commence and will significantly exceed the current budget allocation.

Currently, no financial provision has been made to undertake the full scope of works, which is estimated at around \$500,000.

The Stage 1 scoping report has since identified a total in-situ volume to be dredged of approximately 575,000 m³, encompassing a footprint of 34.7 ha.

The timing, sequence and duration of the dredging works could potentially extend over several years.

With Stage 1 complete, significantly greater certainty now exists as to the costs associated with the planning approval process including the associated technical and environmental studies. The cost estimates are broken down as follows:

- Project management, planning documentation and consultation - \$86,000 (partially completed)
- Shorebird evaluation – \$35,000 (completed)
- Sediment coring and characterization - \$82,000
- Economic assessment - \$15,000
- Estuarine habitat studies - \$20,000
- Hydrodynamic and sediment modelling - \$160,000
- Minor technical studies - \$50,000
- EP&A Act approval, permits and licenses - \$52,000

The extent of these works has been determined by consultation with government agencies and by the analysis of applicable testing and other standards. This information has been applied to the scope of works determined from the information arising from the feasibility assessment.

There is approximately \$90,000 remaining out of the original budget and Council has resolved to continue with the next steps in the project, which relate to the sediment coring and characterization, along with the economic assessment. This information will then help Council determine whether it is feasible to continue with further stages.

A briefing on this project was held during July 2016 with Taskforce members invited.

(i) Membership

Following a Council election, it is normal procedure for the elected Council to review its Committee structure and members.

This was reviewed by Council at 29 September 2016 Ordinary meeting with Council resolving to retain the Port Ballina Taskforce based on the existing terms of reference: i.e.

The Port Ballina Taskforce was formed to improve the overall marine infrastructure and marine environment for Ballina, through the promotion and lobbying of activities that result in improvements to:

- a) Overall health of the Richmond River
- b) Safer boating
- c) Marine infrastructure both commercial and public
- d) Tourism and business opportunities
- e) Recognising and preserving Ballina's maritime history
- f) Implementation of existing strategies and studies such as the Ballina Foreshore Master Plan

The following Councillors were also nominated to join the Taskforce:

Cr Keith Williams
Cr Sharon Cadwallader
Cr Jeff Johnson
Cr Eoin Johnston
Cr David Wright

The membership is now as follows:

Ballina Shire Council – Councillors (five as listed)
Ballina Chamber of Commerce (two)
State Government (one from Department of Premier and Cabinet or Crown Lands)
RMS (Maritime Services) (one)
Community representatives (three)
Recreational Fishing Organisation (one)

In respect to the three community representatives and one recreational fishing organisation, as these nominations were determined following an expression of interest process, it is standard process for Council to call for fresh nominations, for the new Council term.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) will shortly be advertised, with a closing date of 25 November 2016. Existing members can reapply, and all members, plus applicants from the previous processes, will be advised in writing of the new EOI.

The Councillors on this Taskforce have delegated authority to confirm the representatives from the EOI process once applications close. Notification of the successful nominations will be advised in writing.

5. **Business Without Notice**

6. **Next Meeting**

To be advised

Attachment to Item 3 - Minutes from Port Ballina Taskforce Meeting held 31 March 2016

**Minutes
Port Ballina Taskforce
Thursday 31 March 2016 at 4.00 pm**

Attendance

Members

Cr David Wright, Mayor, Ballina Shire Council
Cr Keith Williams, Ballina Shire Council
Max Ryan, Community Representative
James Foster, Community Representative
Darren Watson, RMS, Maritime
Michael Cocks, Community Representative

Observers

Paul Hickey, General Manager, Ballina Shire Council
Matthew Wood, Manager – Strategic Planning, Ballina Shire Council

1. Apologies

Brendan Logan, NSW Crown Lands
Cr Paul Worth, Ballina Shire Council
Phil Hilliard, Ballina Fishermen's Co-operative

2. Declarations of Interest

Nil

3. Minutes from Dredging Taskforce Meeting held 3 December 2015

The Taskforce confirmed the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2015.

4. General Business

a) Ballina Boat Harbour Precinct – Master Plan

Update from Matthew Wood noted. Matthew left the meeting following this item.

b) Ballina Bar

Noted.

c) NSW Boating Now Program – Priority Projects

Noted.

d) Ballina Boat Harbour – Dredging

It was noted that there may be a possibility that dredging will commence shortly, including the area to Fishery Creek bridge.

**Minutes
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e) Marine Rescue Centre

Noted.

f) Martin Street Boat Harbour – Master Plan

Noted.

g) North Creek – Dredging

Noted.

5. Business Without Notice

Cr Keith Williams advised that John Larsson was interested in attending a meeting to discuss a proposal for the Tuckean Swamp. Invitation to be extended to Mr Larsson for the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

To be advised.

Meeting closure: 4.50 pm