

Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board
Host: Hurstville Council
Thursday 19th September 2013, 6.30-8:00pm

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Board Members	
Cr Brian Robson	Mayor, City of Canterbury
Cr Philip Sansom	Hurstville City Council
Cr Liz Barlow	Deputy Mayor, Rockdale City Council
Cr Andrew Soulos	Strathfield Municipal Council
Mr John Butcher	Community Board Member
Mr Paul Thomas	Community Board Member
Guests	
Cr Ray Donald	Joint President, LGNSW
Ms Claire Evans	Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC)
Council Officers	
Vila Gupta	Bankstown City Council
Nell Graham	City of Canterbury
Alison Hanlon	Hurstville City Council
Kathryn Godfrey	Hurstville City Council
Jim Fraser	Marrickville Council
David Dekel	Rockdale City Council
Cathy Jones	Strathfield Municipal Council
Cooks River Alliance	
Chris Hudson	Project Manager
Shefali Chakrabarty	Environmental Engineer

Apologies

Board Members	
Cr Lucille McKenna	Ashfield Council
Cr Khal Asfour	Mayor, Bankstown City Council
Cr Christine Forster	City of Sydney
Cr Vic Macri	Mayor of Marrickville Council
Cr Shane O'Brien	Mayor of Rockdale City Council
Ms Helen Hume	Community Board Member
Council Officers	
Janene Harris	Ashfield Council
Chris Derksema	City of Sydney

<p>1. Welcome by meeting host, Cr Philip Sansom, Hurstville City Council</p> <p>Cr Sansom acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed everyone to Hurstville.</p>	
<p>2. Welcome by Chair, apologies, minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Cr Robson, Chair of the Alliance, welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Round table introductions for new councillors and community representatives.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p> <p>No amendments to the minutes of the previous Board meeting were requested.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The minutes were adopted.</p>	
<p>3. Address and discussion on Local Land Services, Cr Ray Donald, Joint President, LGNSW</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendations:</p> <p><i>That the Board discuss with Councillor Ray Donald the implications of the dissolution of Catchment Management Authorities, and the formation of Local Land Services: for the Cooks River and other urban rivers.</i></p> <p><i>That the Board consider appropriate advocacy actions for the Alliance, potentially with other regional bodies of councils.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Cr Donald presented to the board some background information on the Local Land Services (LLS), their functions and funding framework.</p> <p>Further discussions were held regarding the LLS funding framework. Cr Sansom raised concerns that with the proposed funding mechanism, LLS will have insufficient rate based funding and will have to rely on state and federal funding.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>4. River Health monitoring report card - Claire Evans, GRCCC</p> <p>A presentation on GRCCC River Health Monitoring Program for the Cooks and Georges River, and the 2012-2013 River Health Report Card was delivered by Claire Evans.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) water quality buoys in the Cooks River. GRCCC advised they currently hold a contract to maintain the buoys and manage the data collected until mid-2014, after which there are no arrangements.</p> <p>Discussions were also held about the various monitoring programs that currently occur for the Cooks River and how they are connected. Macroinvertebrate data currently monitored by</p>	

<p>Streamwatch Program is incorporated in the RiverHealth Program. Riverhealth does not test for human health parameters, which are occasionally tested by the Beachwatch Program.</p>	
<p>5. Project Manager's report</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the Project Manager's report.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>The Project Manager gave a verbal report on some of the key Alliance activities, including a catchment stakeholder's meeting with State Government agencies. The meeting was convened by the Alliance to address the problem of the lack of agency responsibility, for the lower Cooks River waterway.</p> <p>The Chair advised the meeting that identification of State Agency responsibility for waterways was an agenda item at the Sydney Metropolitan Mayor's meeting, and that they are discussing the issue with the EPA.</p> <p>Following a request from John Butcher, the Project Manager briefly outlined the background of the new Alliance Community Engagement and Education Coordinator.</p>	
<p>6. Climate Change Resilience report – Environmental Engineer</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendations:</p> <p><i>That the Alliance Chair writes to member councils recommending that:</i></p> <p><i>Councils assess the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and increase in rainfall intensity;</i></p> <p><i>Councils adopt the sea level rise benchmark of 40cm increase by 2050 and 90cm increase by 2100, from the 1990 mean sea levels, as a default position;</i></p> <p><i>Councils adopt a 30% increase level in rainfall intensity as a default benchmark;</i></p> <p><i>Member councils advise the Alliance staff upon commencement of flood related studies, and utilise Alliance expertise.</i></p> <p><u>Action:</u> The Project Manager to draft the letter for the Alliance Chair signature.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>7. Caring for our Country – new grant funded project</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the report.</i></p>	

<p>8. Dual Naming – Aboriginal Cultural Recognition</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board approve the Alliance seeking adoption of second, traditional Aboriginal name, for the Cooks River and other suitable geographic features of the catchment; according to the processes defined by the Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB).</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The meeting agreed on pursuing Dual Naming, and recognised it as a lengthy process with uncertain outcomes.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>9. Second Alliance Term</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Chair write to member councils requesting they favourably consider membership of a second term of the Cooks River Alliance.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion & Action</u> Rockdale council requested that the letters are tailored to individual councils and provide information on council contributions.</p>	<p>Project Manager</p>
<p>10. Update on Container Deposit System</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the report.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u> The Chair delivered background information on a Container Deposit System, and Alliance involvement.</p>	
<p>11. Financial report</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the financial report.</i></p>	
<p>12. Date and Location of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th November 2013 at City of Sydney.</p>	
<p>13. Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8:15pm.</p>	