

## Cooks River Catchment Stakeholders Meeting

Thursday 22 May 2014, 12:30 – 2.30pm

Strathfield Library, Ironbark Room, 65-67 Rochester St, Homebush

### Meeting Minutes

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#### Attendance

Agency	Attendee (initials used for minutes)	Title	Phone
Ashfield Council	Sarah Kamarudin	Sustainability Officer	9716 1816
Bankstown City Council	Vila Gupta	Catchment Management Planner	9707 9920
City of Canterbury Council	Emma Howcroft	Environmental Policy Officer	9789 9567
Cooks River Alliance	Chris Hudson	Project Manager	9748 9644
Cooks River Alliance	Shefali Chakrabarty	Environmental Engineer	9748 9647
Cooks River Alliance	Jasmine Payget	Community Education & Engagement	9748 9648
Cooks River Alliance	Meg Wray	Communications Support Officer	9748 9635
Environment Protection Authority	George Orel	Regional Operations Officer	9995 6849
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	Bill Dixon	Team Leader; Strategic Land Services	4725 3042
Greater Sydney Local Land Services	Karen Kennedy	Place Manager	9895 6265
Health Promotion Service, Sydney Local Health District	Jeni Bindon	Health Promotion Officer, Physical Activity and Nutrition Team	9515 9055
NSW Health, Local Health District, Public Health Unit	Graham Burgess	Deputy Director,	9515 9427
Marrickville Council	Jim Fraser	A/Manager Environmental Services	9392 5347
Rockdale City Council	David Dekel	Coordinator Environmental Strategy	9562 1851
Strathfield Council	Mark Latham	Sustainability Officer	9748 9937
Sydney Water	Daniel Cunningham	Natural Asset Manager	8849 4325
Sydney Water	Fernando Ortega	Senior Asset Planner, Land and Waterways	8849 5207
Sydney Water	Dane Collins	Graduate Environmental Scientist	8849 3747

#### Apologies

Ashfield Council	Janene Harris	Team Leader Sustainability	9716 1940
Primary Industries	Carla Ganassin	Conservation manager	4254 5527

	ACTION
<b>1. Acknowledgement of Country</b>  The traditional owners of the land were acknowledged.	
<b>2. Welcome, introductions and minutes of last meeting</b>  <u>Discussion:</u> The meeting addressed the action items from the previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Alliance confirmed the receipt of a letter from the EPA , outlining the EPA as the Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA) for the sections of the Cooks River for which Sydney Water or a local authority is not the ARA (i.e. down stream of the Sugar Mill)</li> <li>• The EPA gave a response to questions raised at the previous meeting:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The EPA has approached Sydney Water to extend Sydney Water's removal activities to the EPA Approved Regulatory Authority (ARA) areas of the Cooks River</li> <li>○ The EPA is making an IPART submission, for a small increase in rates to assist works in the areas outside of their control. The Alliance expressed its support and interest in the IPART submission.</li> <li>○ Sydney Water (Fernando Ortega) advised that Sydney Water's new Liveable Cities section approach allows capital works for flood affected areas, and has the opportunity to submit to IPART a list of infrastructure that will protect rivers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Alliance advised the Pedestrian and Cycle Strategy 2006 is now available on the 'resources' section of the Alliance website</li> <li>• The letter from the Alliance to Transport NSW was noted as an outstanding item from the previous minutes</li> </ul> <u>Decision:</u> <i>The minutes were accepted</i>	CH
<b>3. New meeting format and focus</b>  The Alliance explained a new format for the Catchment Stakeholders meetings. The are now to be thrice yearly meetings, and have a new focus on three standing items: litter, sewage, and weeds/pests.	

<p><b>4. Developing holistic approach for Cooks River Catchment Health following EPA determination that it is the Appropriate Regulatory Authority</b></p> <p>Sydney Water agreed this item would be covered during their 'Cooks River Water Quality Improvement Strategy' presentation.</p>	
<p><b>5. Reporting processes and removal actions for in-river large rubbish items</b></p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney Water (Daniel Cunningham) advised that people may call Sydney Water's call centre to report large rubbish items in the river; however, response times vary according to operational priorities</li> <li>• City of Canterbury advised that agencies can petition supermarkets for coin return schemes to help prevent shopping trolleys in the River</li> <li>• The meeting discussed the difficulty of removing large items from the River, some of which require a crane</li> </ul> <p><u>Decision:</u> <i>The Alliance will contact SSROC and Sydney Water regarding opportunities to coordinate with councils a process for removal of large items in the River</i></p>	<p><b>CH</b></p>
<p><b>6. Cooks River Water Quality Improvement Strategy (Sydney Water)</b></p> <p>Sydney Water presented (see attached) on their plans to develop a Cooks River Water Quality Improvement Strategy, collaboratively with State agencies and councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvium Consulting have been contracted to run the planning process, which is envisaged to take a year</li> <li>• Sydney Water emphasised their desire to partner with councils in the development of the Strategy</li> <li>• Answering a question from Rockdale Council (David Dekel), Sydney Water said that the economic benefits of planning for a healthier Cooks River will be addressed in the process, as part of a separate consultancy</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Climate Change Adaptation</b></p> <p>Cooks River Alliance (Shefali Chakrabarty) presented (see attached) on the Alliance's Climate Change Resilience Program</p> <p>Greater Sydney Local Land Services (Bill Dixon) presented (see attached) on LLS's plan being produced : 'A regional plan for adaptation and mitigation for climate change'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LLS is seeking interest from stakeholders in participating in the development of the Plan, which is envisaged to take a year</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders at the meeting gave a brief overview on what their council/agency is</p>	

<p>currently doing related to Climate Change Adaptation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Health (Graham Burgess) advised that data on the health implications of climate change (such as bats/rabies and pools overloading) is available on NSW Health website (see attached subsequent email circulated)</li> <li>• City of Canterbury advised that Canterbury does risk assessments, but they are not connected to climate change. Emma advised that Canterbury's greatest challenge is climate change impacts on people.</li> <li>• Strathfield Council is undertaking education in order to filter climate change research down to communities</li> <li>• Ashfield Council did risk assessments in 2011 that need to be implemented</li> <li>• Bankstown City Council is planning for further risk assessments</li> <li>• Rockdale Council is active on climate change, including with Sydney Coastal Councils and conducting assessments of flood risk for every property in the LGA</li> <li>• Marrickville will soon be exhibiting its Climate Change Adaptation Plan</li> <li>• NSW Health's Health Promotion Service is shifting to a greater focus on active travel</li> <li>• Sydney Water will, in the future, be requesting that developers include climate change factors in their models</li> <li>• NSW Health's Public Health Unit is looking at alert systems for when impacts of climate change become emergencies.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Next meeting: Weed Management, 12:30, Thursday 28 August 2014</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014</p>	

## ATTACHMENTS: MEETING PRESENTATIONS

**Sydney Water\_Cooks River Alliance presentation**

**CRA\_Climate Change presentation**

**LLS\_Climate Change Plan presentation to Cooks River Alliance**