



GSBC NRM Special Committee Meeting # 51 Minutes

Swansea Town Hall
Wednesday 10th August 2016, 10:30am.

1.0 PRESENT

Present: David Tucker (Chair), Mel Kelly (GSBC Manager Natural Resources), Terry Higgs (Catchments to Coast Coordinator), Cynthia Maxwell-Smith (GSBC Sustainability Officer), Rosie Jackson (GSBC NRM Administration), Councillor Bertrand Cadart, Kate Hibbert (Dept. of Defence), Judy Broadstock (Bicheno Earth and Ocean Network), Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Gary Stoward (Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Assoc.), Rosemary Jarvis (Bicheno), Ben Flear (Brown Brothers Devils Corner Vineyard).

Guests: Ruth Dowty (CEO East Coast Regional Tourism Org.) and Alison Wallace (East Coast Regional Tourism Org.), Fiona Ewing and Luke Kapitany (Tassal Community Engagement Officers), Senior Constable Leighton Riggall (Tasmania Police), Senior Sergeant Marcus Pearce (Tasmania Police).

2.0 APOLOGIES

Richard Dakin and Steve Everts (PWS Freycinet), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Lyndel Wilson (NRM South), Cassie Melrose (MelShell Oysters), Derek Madsen (*Banwell*).

3.0 GUEST SPEAKER: RUTH DOWTY, CEO, EAST COAST REGIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION (ECRTO)

The Chair welcomed Ruth and Alison.

Ruth presented information about ECRTO and their campaigns and activities. Ruth noted that the aim is for sustainable growth of the tourism industry and that on the East Coast tourism is largely based on our incredible natural assets. ECRTO's geographical area covers the municipalities of Glamorgan Spring Bay and Break O'Day.

The goals of ECRTO include: to create a great visitor experience; product development; to contemporise visitor infrastructure and to build the East Coast Tasmania and Great Eastern Drive brands. The three "anchor points" for East Coast Tasmania are Maria, Freycinet and Bay of Fires. Check out the websites and East Coast Tasmania on social media including Facebook and Instagram for more information.

ECRTO holds annual tourism awards and the winners receive professional development support.

The Great Eastern Drive "holiday guide" booklet contains details for visitors once they arrive on the East Coast. This has proved hugely popular and it is currently being reviewed prior to re-printing. If any Committee members have any suggested updates/edits for the booklet, please email Alison with the details: alison@eastcoasttourism.com.au

ECRTO also focuses on promoting the East Coast as a visitor destination during the shoulder and off-season. An example is this winter's "free coffee" campaign which offered lucky customers at Hobart and Launceston coffee shops an East Coast Tasmania postcard which entitled them to a free coffee. This was run in conjunction with a competition.

Gary asked if ECRTO were aware of any plans for improving the Highway for cyclists? Ruth noted that this would be a hugely expensive exercise but that the Department of State Growth are investigating possibilities, and that ECRTO will continue to be involved in discussions.

David asked Ruth if ECRTO were involved in supporting the sealing of the W Road to connect the Peninsula to the East Coast? Ruth noted that this is an ongoing conversation and that ECRTO have sent a letter of support to the State Government regarding this, and that there is a need to build the economic case to support this proposal. Overall, the Great Eastern Drive campaign has brought the state of the Highway and other roads to the State Governments attention.

Cynthia noted that there are many topics upon which NRM and tourism could work better together on, such as recycling, litter, shorebirds, weed management etc. Both the NRM Committee and Council's NRM staff have a strong interest in working more closely with ECRTO to ensure that our messages are consistent. Ruth acknowledged this.

Gary asked if there were any plans to increase the number of free of charge campervan sites on the East Coast? Ruth noted that the Department of State Growth are currently undertaking an audit on accommodation availability and supply in the area, and that ECRTO have a caravanning and camping guide available and will continue to talk with both Council's about RV sites.

The Chair thanked Ruth and Alison for attending the meeting and presenting to the Committee.

4.0 GUEST SPEAKER: FIONA EWING, TASSAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Mel arrived at 11:30am.

Fiona Ewing and Luke Kapitany from Tassal arrived. Fiona is the current Community Engagement Officer, and Luke is the new Community Engagement Office at Tassall.

The Chair welcomed Fiona and Luke to the meeting.

Fiona presented information about Tassal's overall presence in Tasmania and current proposals for the east coast.

Tassal's proposal in the Glamorgan Spring Bay municipality is for the existing mussel, seaweed & finfish Okehampton Bay Marine Lease – not the Mercury Passage Marine Lease which does not permit fin fish.

Some media have incorrectly reported that Tassal is proposing to farm fin fish in the Mercury Passage Marine Lease. This is not true.

The preliminary proposal for the Okehampton Bay Marine Lease which has an existing licence for finfish is 28 pen bays with mussels, salmon and seaweed all growing together. Sea urchins may also be grown and Tassal are also working with UTAS to research the possibility of growing giant kelp.

The environment at each potential/existing finfish farm site is different. Research means that production is sustainable at each different site. Habitat mapping is undertaken and potential impacts are addressed.

Like a farm on the land, pens are moved around to prevent the build up of sediment below each pen. The State Government audit the operations and leases. It is in Tassal's best interest to have the best water quality and farms are monitored by under-water video.

Fiona requested that Rosie circulate the Tassal PowerPoint presentation to all Committee members via email for their information. There is also a lot more information available on Tassal's website, including the sustainability reports and associated documents.

David Tucker asked about the need for fresh water required to flush the fish to address the issue of gill disease. Fiona noted that salmon farms do require access to fresh water to flush the fish and that Tassal were in discussions with the Council about a proposal for increased water infrastructure on the Brushy Plains Rivulet (a tributary to the Prosser River) as a possible source of the supply of fresh water for the area. She was not able to speak to this as it was being proposed by Council. David suggested that we ask the General Manager to meet with the Committee to provide an overview of what is being considered.

The Chair thanked Fiona for attending the meeting and presenting to the Committee.

5.0 BUSH WATCH DISCUSSION REGARDING ILLEGAL FIREWOOD HARVESTING

Senior Constable Leighton Riggall and Senior Sergeant Marcus Pearce (Tasmania Police) joined the Committee at 12:30pm for a discussion regarding illegal firewood harvesting in Glamorgan Spring Bay.

Mel noted that the issue of illegal firewood harvesting was recently brought to a head following the illegal felling of trees that comprised habitat for the critically endangered swift parrot. The response to this crime was the result of a collaborative, cross-agency effort. Agencies and researchers need to find ways to keep working together to address this issue. The example of the felling of trees that comprised habitat for swift parrots is a microcosm of the bigger issue across Glamorgan Spring Bay. Thus, the planning for the meeting next week to discuss how to address the problem of illegal fire wood harvesting in GSB. This occurs across a variety of public land tenures, as well as on private land.

In regards to the destruction of swift parrot habitat, the Threatened Species Commissioner has offered to provide whatever support is required to address the issue and he is sending his Senior Advisor from Canberra to the meeting at Buckland next week.

Senior Sergeant Pearce noted that this offence (destruction of swift parrot habitat) has been referred to the CIB and the Federal Department of Environment for investigation to determine whether a breach of national environmental law has occurred. He also noted that the current media attention will likely be of great help in terms of addressing the problem. However, it will be an ongoing issue. Because the firewood is mostly being taken out of Glamorgan Spring Bay and sold in the suburbs of Hobart, Tasmania Police Officers in the greater Hobart area are also involved in investigations. Senior Sergeant Pearce asked that people continue to report

suspected illegal firewood harvesting and associated activities to Tasmania Police. The decrease in numbers of Forestry Tasmania staff has exacerbated the problems in the forests, and it is challenging to deal with this change.

Kate noted that it is important to target consumers as well, as most people do not want to purchase stolen goods.

Councillor Cadart acknowledged Marcus and Leighton's work and thanked them for their assistance and for attending today.

Lunch 1:00pm – 1:20pm

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 50.

Moved: Gary Stoward. **Seconded:** Diana Nunn. *Carried unanimously.*

7.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 1. Circulate via email the proposed new draft TOR to Committee members for feedback.** Done. No feedback was received. All present received a copy of the new TOR. These will also be circulated via email.
- 2. Compile an article on appropriate use of PWS Conservation Areas.** Who: Kath/PWS with support from Mel/Rosie as required. Rosie and Mel to follow up.
- 3. Write to TasWater again and request an update about the Swansea dam and water supply for the next Committee meeting.** Done. The TasWater CEO responded and has arranged to hold a public meeting at the Swansea Town Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 13th September.
- 4. Present to the Committee at the next meeting regarding illegal rubbish dumping research and reports published by the EPA in NSW.** Who: Cynthia. Carryover to next meeting.
- 5. Invite the northern and southern Stornaway supervisors to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss hygiene, wash down and slashing.** Who: Mel. Carryover to next meeting.
- 6. Follow up with the Works Manager about when the GPT in Bicheno was last emptied and investigate the possibility of replacing the interpretation sign.** Done. Cynthia reported that the GPT is due for emptying, but there are a number of issues that have arisen. The last contractor engaged to empty it said they would not do it again as it fills with sand. The GPT viability needs to be reviewed and it may need to be de-commissioned. Mel and Cynthia to continue conversations with the Works Manager and keep the Committee informed.
- 7. Remove the existing GPT interpretation sign until the above discussions have occurred and a decision has been made.** Who: Terry to remove the sign. Still to be done.
- 8. Investigate options for coin operated waste disposal units.** Who: Cynthia.
Cynthia reported that she has researched these units, and it appears they are not available in Australia currently. Several Councils in New Zealand have trialled them, and the feedback from the Councils is not positive. Installations costs are high and costs are not re-couped from the fees. More people were dumping bags of rubbish beside the unit, rather than using the unit. It also became a hot spot for the dumping of white goods and furniture. People were putting inappropriate waste such as fish carcasses in the unit. Items were being jammed into coin slots to hold the unit open to avoid paying full fees. This feedback is not encouraging.
- 9. Invite a representative from CLS to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss Bagot Point and Crown Land in general.** Who: Mel. Carryover to next meeting.
- 10. Follow up with the new Chair of the ECPPA regarding the invitation to join the Committee.** Done. No response to date, however the new Chair has been away. Rosie/Mel to follow up again.
- 11. Write a letter to Council regarding over-enthusiastic native vegetation clearing, and suggesting that Works Department staff have relevant training to enable them to manage our reserves in line with the GSBC Native Flora and Fauna Management Plans.** Done. No formal response received to date. Mel noted that the GM apologised for the delay in responding and that he will send a formal reply. Mel also noted that informal conversations are ongoing internally about this issue and that it is a work in progress and will take time.

12. **Write a letter to Council asking if anything can be done about the cause of the flooding from Solis and the damage it causes.** Done. No response received to date. The GM apologised for the delay and he will send a formal response in due course. Bertrand noted that this is an extremely complicated issue.
13. **Following the removal of more sand dunes at 9 Mile Beach, ask CLS to follow up on this.** Done. CLS will be sending a letter to all ratepayers in the Dolphin Sands area reminding them that interference with Crown Land Reserves is not permitted. The letter includes some photographs of recent examples of unauthorised activity on the Crown Land Reserve at Dolphin Sands. PWS have also had input into the letter.
14. **Call for nominations for the position of Vice Chair via email prior to the next meeting.** Done. No nominations were received. David noted that the Committee needs to consider this as he will be retiring from the position of Chair in 2017.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Outgoing:

- Letter to CEO TasWater regarding the Swansea dam.
- Letter to GSBC GM regarding erosion and sedimentation from Solis proposed golf course.
- Letter to GSBC GM regarding native vegetation clearing in public reserves by Council staff.
- Email to new Chair of ECPPA regarding ECPPA representation on the GSB NRM Committee.

Incoming:

- Letter from CEO TasWater regarding the Swansea dam.

9.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil further.

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

David noted that we are proposing to have an additional meeting due to the cancellation of our February meeting, and the fact that we have a “back log” of agenda items and guest speakers. The proposed date for the additional meeting is Wednesday 21st September 2016.

Ben offered the Devils Corner Vineyard office as a venue for this additional meeting. All present agreed on the date and venue for the additional meeting.

Kate: the lease for the Buckland Military Training Area is due for renewal this year. The Department is aiming to retain the site in its entirety.

Judy: The Bicheno Earth and Ocean Network Expo has been brought forward one week. The Schools Day will be held on the 4th November, and the community days will be the 5th and 6th November at the Bicheno Memorial Hall. Also, penguin boxes are needed for the Rice Pebble Beach area following further illegal vegetation clearing in the area. Rosie and Terry to provide Judy with 3 penguin boxes for the interim period. Rosie will follow up with CLS regarding a site visit to the Rice Pebble Beach Crown Reserve, to inspect the ongoing illegal vegetation clearing.

Diana: the slipway drain at Coles Bay has still not been emptied. Mel to follow up with Manager Regulatory Services.

Diana: Concerns about the development on Picnic Island which is visible from Coles Bay, and it appears to be incomplete and now for sale. Mel noted that there are discussions underway about this because there are concerns with regards to meeting the conditions of the planning permit.

Diana: the drainage parallel to Jetty Road in Coles Bay doesn't seem to be coping, excess water is now pumped into the drain which goes into the ocean, it is noisy and gutters have turned green. Concerns about how

infrastructure will cope into the future. Mel asked Diana to email her with the details, and Mel will follow this up.

Rose Jarvis: to present at November meeting on tracks and trails proposal.

Mel: Upcoming shorebird schools activity sessions to be held at Orford, Triabunna and Swansea Schools in partnership with PWS and BirdLife Tasmania.

David: Asked about the status of the DPAC Coastal Hazards Project and the Prosser River Stabilisation Project, and how these are progressing together. Mel noted that the Prosser project has gone to the planning tribunal and it has been referred for assessment under the EPBC Act. Mel to provide further information about the DPAC Project at the November meeting.

David: Could the GM be invited to a future Committee meeting to brief the Committee about the Brushy Plains Rivulet dam proposal. Mel to follow up.

Gary: The new Swansea Emergency Services building in Maria St will be officially opened this Saturday 13th August at 11am.

11.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Terry and Rosie spoke briefly to their PowerPoint presentation, for the period from November 2015 to August 2016.

Currently working on NRM South project planning proposals for 16/17, hope to provide further details at the next meeting.

Lyndel from NRM South is an apology today, but all present received a hard copy of a report from Lyndel: 'NRM South August 2016 update to GSB NRM Committee meeting 51'.

12.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The sustainability report was circulated in advance via email. Cynthia spoke briefly to her report.

Triabunna won the National Tidy Town award which means Triabunna will now be hosting both the state and national awards.

Mel acknowledged all the hard work that Cynthia and Lona Turvey, Council's Manager Community Development, have been doing over many years in regards to Tidy Towns, and their commitment to showcase the communities across our municipality.

Cynthia: Gary Stoward won a Tidy Towns Certificate of Excellence for dedication to Emergency Services and involvement in other community projects and committees.

The Freycinet Centenary Festival will take place in Coles Bay and the Freycinet National Park on the weekend of the 27th and 28th August. It is sure to be a fantastic weekend, for details and the full program see the PWS website. Cynthia and Mel will be attending with a "Zero Waste Picnic in the Parks" display. The focus of this stall is to create awareness and inspiration about reducing the amount of waste generated when people visit parks and other public spaces.

Seafest is undergoing changes. Council will no longer be delivering Seafest and expressions of interest are currently being sought from community organisations to take over Seafest and remodel it according to their own objectives.

13.0 TREASURERS REPORT

All present received a copy of the Treasurers Report.

Kate, Judy, Rose Jarvis and Ben departed at 3pm.

Mel spoke to the Treasurers Report.

Diana departed at 3:20pm.

14.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Copies of the NRM Department reports to Council were circulated in advance via email. Mel spoke briefly to these reports.

Meeting closed: 3:20pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: 10:30am Wednesday 21st September, Devils Corner Vineyard Office.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Circulate the Tassal PowerPoint presentation to Committee members via email, for their information. Who: Rosie.**
- 2. Circulate the new TOR to Committee members via email. Who: Rosie.**
- 3. Present to the Committee at the next meeting regarding illegal rubbish dumping research and reports published by the EPA in NSW. Who: Cynthia.**
- 4. Invite the northern and southern Stornaway supervisors to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss hygiene, wash down and slashing. Who: Mel.**
- 5. Remove Bicheno GPT sign and store until a decision is made about the future of the GPT. Who: Terry.**
- 6. Invite a representative from CLS to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss Bagot Point and Crown Land in general. Who: Mel.**
- 7. Follow up again with the new Chair of the ECPPA regarding ECPPA representation on the Committee. Who: Rosie/Mel.**
- 8. Follow up with CLS regarding a site visit to Rice Pebble Beach Crown Land Reserve to inspect the ongoing illegal vegetation clearing. Who: Rosie.**
- 9. Follow up with Regulatory Services Manager regarding the emptying of the Coles Bay slipway drain. Who: Mel.**
- 10. Invite the General Manager to the next NRMC meeting to discuss the proposed dam on the Brushy Plains Rivulet for additional supply of water to the south of the municipality. Who: Mel**

Signed by the Chair

Date: