



**NRM**

*Glamorgan Spring Bay*  
**Natural Resource Management**

# GSBC NRM Special Committee Meeting # 56 Minutes

Bicheno Memorial Hall  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017, 10:30am.

## 1.0 PRESENT

Councillor Bertrand Cadart (Chair), Mel Kelly (GSBC Manager Natural Resources), Cynthia Maxwell-Smith (GSBC Sustainability Officer), Rosie Jackson (GSBC NRM Administration), Keith Davis (NRM South), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Gary Stoward (Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Assoc.), Steve Heggie (PWS Freycinet), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Rosemary Jarvis (Bicheno), Kath Hitchcock (PWS Triabunna Field Centre), Judy Broadstock (Bicheno Earth & Ocean Network).

**Guests:** Amanda Brooks (GSBC Weeds Officer), Leigh Wighton (GSBC Engineering Consultant), Ed Parker (TasNetworks).

## 2.0 APOLOGIES

David Tucker (Vice Chair), Terry Higgs (Catchments to Coast Coordinator), Sergeant Marcus Pearce (Tasmania Police), Kate Hibbert (Department of Defence), Annie Browning (East Coast Primary Producers Assoc.), Derek Madsen (*Banwell*).

### 3.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Jane requested a change to the minutes from meeting no.55 – delete “Jane: could the NRM Department of Council consider/investigate taking responsibility for vegetation management at the Raspins Beach Conservation Area?” and replace it with “Jane: could the NRM Committee discuss the idea that Council's NRM team possibly take over management of the native flora and fauna within Council reserve/s ie Raspins Beach Conservation Reserve?”

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 55:

*Moved:* Alan Morgan      *Seconded:* Jane Wing      *Carried unanimously.*

### 4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

1. Ask GSBC Engineering Consultant to attend a Committee meeting to provide information on the development of the stormwater system management plan: Leigh is joining us today.
2. Organise a working bee at the Gordon St Reserve in Swansea to clean up the debris left behind by TasNetworks: Terry and David are both away, carryover to next meeting.
3. Invite DPIPWE’s *Nasella* Project Officer to attend a future Committee meeting: Mel suggested that this be combined with a guest speaker from Tasmanian Irrigation.
4. Invite Tasmanian Irrigation to attend a Committee meeting to provide an update on weed management and hygiene in regards to the Swan Valley Irrigation Scheme: Mel (to be combined hopefully with visit from DPIPWE’s *Nasella* Project Officer).
5. Investigate possibility of arranging a tour of the Envorinex factory and ToxFree recycling plant: Cynthia is arranging for a tour of the JJ Richards (formerly ToxFree) recycling plant in Launceston on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, hiring a bus, priority for NRMC members and councillors and other staff and the community if room on bus. Cynthia to circulate info to NRMC next week. Envorinex can be organised for 2018 if Committee members are still interested.
6. Email TasNetworks/Aurora regarding debris left behind at the Gordon St Reserve in Swansea and invite one of their environment officers to talk to the Committee: the Principal Environment and Sustainability Advisor from TasNetworks is joining us today.
7. Follow up with the relevant branch within DPIPWE to request an update for the Committee about the investigations into the illegal firewood harvesting, destruction of swift parrot habitat and theft of cameras/equipment from the Crown Land west of Buckland: Mel is going to ask the Mayor and/or GM to write to DPIPWE and possibly the threatened species commissioner and federal minister. Hopefully we will have an update at our next meeting.
8. Committee members who have not yet signed the confidentiality agreement please do so as soon as possible: ongoing until all members have signed the form.

### 5.0 COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

#### **Email from Diana Nunn regarding Ranger Creek sampling.**

Rosie read out the email from Council’s Environmental Health Officer (EHO). Sampling has been undertaken at Ranger Creek and the EHO recommended to PWS that they erect signage indicating that the water in Ranger Creek is not suitable for swimming in. PWS have agreed to this. The bacteria in the Creek is from natural, organic sources. Richardson’s Beach will be including the coming summer sampling program. Mel noted that Council’s sampling program is in line with State Government requirements. Mel and Steve will keep talking about this and investigate the potential for a more detailed water quality monitoring program to be developed.

#### **Email from Cassie Melrose regarding resignation from Committee.**

Rosie read out the email from Cassie. Cassie has suggested that we approach Freycinet Marine Farm regarding representation on the Committee.

Rosie read out the thank you letter sent to Cassie. Mel has also sent her a present to thank her for her valuable contributions to the Committee over many years.

Mel noted that we will call for EOI's from anyone representing aquaculture, wild fisheries and recreational fishing, as well as contacting Freycinet Marine Farm.

## 6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Nil further.

## 7.0 GUEST SPEAKER: TASNETWORKS PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVISOR

*The Chair welcomed Ed Parker, TasNetworks Principal Environment and Sustainability Advisor.*

Ed is TasNetworks only dedicated environment officer. TasNetworks operates with an overarching strategy of 'zero harm', including to the environment. The merger of Transend and Aurora into TasNetworks resulted in some challenges for weed management. It is a work in progress to get a unified, strategic policy for weed management. There are some constraints for TasNetworks with the *Weed Management Act 1999* as TasNetworks do not own land, the land is categorised as easements. However, TasNetworks is of course still obliged not to spread weeds under the Act.

Amanda asked Ed about machinery hygiene practices, given the proliferation of declared weeds on TasNetworks easements.

Ed noted that the new legislation will bring more accountability to TasNetworks in this regard. But internally they are also working on improving their practices and procedures. TasNetworks has been doing weed control but on a regional ad hoc basis. The new strategy will focus on priority weeds in areas that already have a collaborative, strategic approach. TasNetworks acknowledges that it needs to improve in regards to weed management.

Bertrand asked if it was possible for TasNetworks to fulfil machinery hygiene obligations under the Act?

Ed noted that TasNetworks staff have training, but there are communication issues with some contractors, and lack of resources. Any concerns about this can be emailed to Ed for him to follow up internally.

Mel is hoping that State Growth Clean Down (CD) sites can soon be available for anyone to utilise. Mel to keep in contact with Ed and Jill Jones at State Growth about this.

Ed presented information about TasNetworks proposed approach to Aboriginal Heritage, including an overview of amendments to the Act and new guidelines, and implications for TasNetworks operations. Mel noted that it would be great to use TasNetworks proposed risk based approach, there is no need to re-invent wheel.

Ed presented information about TasNetworks threatened bird strategy, the main focus is eagles but in one recent case a masked owl was injured. The strategy also incorporates non-threatened birds, particularly swans. The strategy is both practical and strategic. It is three pronged; building knowledge and awareness; mitigation; and voluntary offsets such as sponsoring care centres. There is a specific budget for this which has increased this financial year.

Mel asked if we could place some information in SeaSpeak about how members of the public can report injured birds in the vicinity of powerlines. Ed noted that this would be a good idea and he can put Mel in touch with the communications officer, and the information is also available on the TasNetworks website.

*The Chair thanked Ed for presenting to the Committee.*

*12:40pm – 1:15pm Lunch*

## 8.0 GUEST SPEAKER GSBC ENGINEERING CONSULTANT: DEVELOPMENT OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

*The Chair welcomed Leigh Wighton, GSBC Engineering Consultant.*

Leigh advised that under the *Urban Drainage Act 2013* Council has an obligation to develop stormwater plans for all catchments in urban areas. Unfortunately, there is no definition of ‘urban’ in the Act.

Council has sought quotes from consultants for development of plans – it is very expensive just for a study (\$60,000). A preliminary assessment indicated that we have 18 catchments that need stormwater plans, therefore costing over \$500,000 just for the plans. The geographical nature of GSB means we have a lot of coastal outfalls. Plans need to be in place by December 2019. Many other small, regional Council’s are in the same position. Resource sharing (eg. with Brighton) may help to address some issues as purchasing of modelling software is required. Climate change needs to be factored in.

LGAT and the Engineering Institute of Tasmania have put together some guidelines for Council’s.

A decision needs to be made about how to define a catchment for the purposes of stormwater management. Existing infrastructure will need to be identified and assessed – collecting this data alone will be a monumental task. Priorities need to be established taking into account flood risk and impact. There are lots of challenges that need to be addressed.

Gary noted that the SES has information about flooding hotspots in GSB.

Leigh advised that part of the process will be community engagement to gather information and knowledge. Council needs to consider what is best for the catchments, the Council and the ratepayers. Council’s are advocating for a stormwater code to remain in the new statewide planning scheme, so that Council’s have a mechanism to deal with stormwater.

*The Chair thanked Leigh for presenting to the Committee.*

## 9.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Terry is currently on leave, Rosie provided an update on his behalf regarding 17/18 NRM South funded projects including:

- Shorebird project
- Little Penguin project
- Moulting Lagoon on ground works and community engagement
- Zone A weed control on Crown Land in Bicheno
- Biosecurity practices and awareness raising
- *Callitris oblonga* protection
- Tree hollows project

*Rose Jarvis departed at 2pm.*

- Threatened flora interpretation sign and community event
- ‘Law of the land’ workshop

## 10.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Cynthia provided a sustainability update:

Council has joined the Terracycle program (recycling of oral care and beauty product packaging). Collection points include the Council office in Triabunna, Swansea and Bicheno Primary School’s and the VIC’s.

Steve indicated that it might be possible to have a collection point in Coles Bay at the Freycinet VC.

Cynthia attended a meeting with the Manager Works and JJ Richards (formerly ToxFree) to discuss waste management. In the future there will be a dedicated cardboard skip at each WTS. New signage is being planned for the WTS'. JJ Richards reported that GSB kerbside recycling has one of the lowest levels of contamination in Tasmania. 85% of recycling collected by JJ Richards is recycled. Glass is not stockpiled in Tasmania, it is used in road base.

A 'tip shop' feasibility study for GSB will be undertaken soon.

To assist residents in preparing for the bushfire season, Council is offering free greenwaste disposal at WTS' between 25th September and 8th October 2017.

This year the Garage Sale Trail will be held over a weekend instead of one day. Dates are Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Those intending to have a sale register for free at [garagesale.com.au](http://garagesale.com.au). Interested shoppers can also visit the site and plan their garage sale shopping trail.

GSBC has joined the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) program, we are one of only two Tasmanian Councils currently participating. The Mayor went to Canberra for the official launch. This is not a government program. It acknowledges that local government is actually at the forefront of climate change initiatives. Council now has an obligation to make 5 pledges within the next six months to take climate change action. Involvement in the CPP also gives Council the opportunity to access the considerable knowledge of climate change experts within the Climate Council as well as access software and information and a buddy council to work with.

An electric bike ride will be touring the East Coast in November. Stops planned at Buckland on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November and Triabunna Marina Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am and Swansea Visitor Information Centre on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 4.30pm. The stops in Triabunna and Swansea are for the purpose of demonstrating the benefits of electric bikes and the electric car support vehicle to the general population. The ride concludes in Devonport where the Electric Vehicle Association of Australia will be holding their annual conference.

Home Energy Bulk Buy is a joint project of Sustainable Living Tasmania and the Southern Tasmanian Council's Authority and offers opportunities for residents of participating councils, including Glamorgan Spring Bay to save money on heat pumps, insulation and LED lighting, rooftop solar PV and batteries and efficient hot water systems. The first product available as a bulk buy is a heat pump. This will only be available in the month of October. Interested people must register at <http://ecohomeguide.com.au>

Cynthia passed around flyers for the Seniors Week Event that will be held at the Tasmanian Bushland Gardens on 17<sup>th</sup> October featuring Keith Potger from The Seekers and a Zero Waste picnic lunch. This event is sponsored by NRM South.

## 11.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mel distributed and spoke to the treasurer's report.

## 12.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Mel spoke about two highlights:

- A working group has been formed for the Orford/Triabunna Communities and Coastal Hazards project. There is scope to expand this to the whole of the municipality. Mel can present to the Committee on this next year if there is interest.
- Nicky is working on a saltmarsh interpretation sign for the Triabunna Gatehouse.

*Judy left at 2:50pm.*

### 13.0 OTHER BUSINESS

**Keith: National Landcare Program** – moving into next phase (5 years) at end of June. Not a lot of information available to date but there will likely be a decrease in funding with likely no direct flow to NRM regions, it will be a competitive process open to other organisations.

**Alan: recent vegetation trimming on DSG roadsides** - Alan spoke on the ABC radio to express concerns about recent vegetation trimming practices which have had an aesthetic impact on the Great Eastern Drive. DSG responded to Alan's concerns saying that the motivation is visibility and contractors have discretion as to how they manage it. In regards to all the debris left on the roadsides, DSG will send the contractor back to mulch the debris.

**Rosie: Confidentiality agreement for Committee members** – Committee members who have not yet signed this form (including new members) please do so as soon as possible, ask Mel or Rosie if you need another copy of the form.

**RSVP's for Committee meetings** – Please RSVP for our meetings. It is very difficult to organise catering if people do not RSVP, we end up with too much food which is wasteful, or we end up with too little food!

*Next meeting date changed to Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> November due to clash with FPA conference.* For more information on the FPA conference visit <http://www.conferences.com.au/fpa2017/>

*Meeting closed at 3pm.*

### NEXT MEETING

**Next Meeting Venue:** Swansea Town Hall

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Organise a working bee at the Gordon St Reserve in Swansea to clean up the debris left behind by TasNetworks: Terry in consultation with David.
2. Invite DPIPW's *Nasella* Project Officer to attend a future Committee meeting: Mel.
3. Invite Tasmanian Irrigation to attend a Committee meeting to provide an update on weed management and hygiene in regards to the Swan Valley Irrigation Scheme: Mel.
4. Follow up with the relevant branch within DPIPW to request an update for the Committee about the investigations into the illegal firewood harvesting, destruction of swift parrot habitat and theft of cameras/equipment from the Crown Land west of Buckland: Mel.
5. Seek a new aquaculture representative for the Committee: Mel/Rosie.
6. Follow up with TasNetworks regarding process for managing Aboriginal heritage and for communicating via Seaspeak about TasNetworks threatened bird strategy: Mel
7. Committee members who have not yet signed the confidentiality agreement please do so as soon as possible: ongoing until all members have signed the form.

Signed by the Chair



Date: 23/11/2017