



**NRM**

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

# GSBC NRM Special Committee Meeting # 57 Minutes

Swansea Town Hall  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, 10:30am.

## 1.0 PRESENT

David Tucker (Chair), Mel Kelly (GSBC Manager Natural Resources), Cynthia Maxwell-Smith (GSBC Sustainability Officer), Terry Higgs (Catchments to Coast Coordinator), Nicky Meeson (GSBC Biodiversity Officer), Rosie Jackson (GSBC NRM Administration), Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Keith Davis (NRM South), Diana Nunn (Coles Bay), Alan Morgan (Coles Bay), Kath Hitchcock (PWS Triabunna Field Centre), Derek Madsen (*Banwell*), Annie Browning (ECPPA).

**Guests:** Craig Vermey (Tasmania Police), Amanda Brooks (GSBC Weeds Officer).

## 2.0 APOLOGIES

Steve Heggie and Alena Hrasky (PWS Freycinet), Judy Broadstock (Bicheno), Jane Wing (Orford Community Group), Rosemary Jarvis (Bicheno), Gary Stoward (DSRA).

Mel advised that guest speaker Jarrah Vercoe from Biosecurity Tasmania is an apology.

### 3.0 COMMITTEE COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE

In late September, Councillor Bertrand Cadart resigned from Council due to serious illness.

David is the Chair for this meeting following Bertrand's resignation.

David advised that he has spoken to Bertrand who asked David to pass on his best wishes and apologies to the Committee. Bertrand would like to keep in touch via email.

David acknowledged the support Bertrand has provided for the Committee since its inception and suggested a letter of thanks and well wishes be sent to Bertrand on behalf of the Committee. All present agreed.

Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol is now the Councillor representative on the Committee.

David advised that as per the Committee's Terms of Reference and guidelines, an election for the position of Chair will be held at the first Committee meeting in 2018.

### 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous minutes from GSB NRM Committee meeting no. 56:

*Moved:* Diana    *Seconded:* Kath    *Carried unanimously.*

### 5.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Organise a working bee at the Gordon St Reserve in Swansea to clean up the debris left behind by TasNetworks:** David and Terry recently paid a visit to the Reserve and because the working bee will require fire it was decided to postpone to Winter 2018. It is hoped TasNetworks will provide some support.

David and Terry also recently paid a visit to the Burgess St unmade road reserve in Swansea to assess suitability for a walking track. Neighbours in the area have offered to help if approval is granted. Mel agreed to put together a proposal with input from interested Committee members to send to CLS regarding weed control, fire and walking track development on unmade road reserves in Swansea.

**Invite DPIPWE's Nasella Project Officer to attend a future Committee meeting:** Mel noted that as mentioned earlier, Jarrah was going to attend today as guest speaker but he cancelled this morning. Mel will ask Jarrah to attend in 2018.

**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 invited Tasmanian Irrigation to attend today's meeting but they were not able to. We will invite them to our first meeting in 2018.

**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 advised that she will talk to this later in the meeting.

**Seek a new aquaculture representative for the Committee:** Rosie advised that a notice has been placed in the Bicheno Forward, Great Oyster Bay Community News and on Council's website, no EOI's have been received to date. The notice has also been sent to several relevant individuals/businesses. Mel advised that Tassal are interested and she will also ask the CEO of TARFish. It is also worth discussing this with Council's Marine Infrastructure Committee.

**Follow up with TasNetworks regarding process for managing Aboriginal heritage and for communicating via SeaSpeak about TasNetworks threatened bird strategy:** Mel to follow up.

**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.

**Additional matters arising from the minutes of last meeting:**

Mel is going to follow up with Council's new EHO regarding concerns about Ranger Creek.

Cynthia noted that leading into the holiday season it is a good time to do some communications in local newsletters regarding TasNetworks threatened birds strategy.

David asked if there has been any progress in regards to the Coles Bay slipway? Mel advised that she has been in contact with them and their consultant, as has the Regulatory Services Department. To date, a report has not been forthcoming. David suggested writing a letter from the Committee to the GM and PWS regarding this matter to ask for an update. All present agreed.

Alan noted that the contractor who undertook the roadside vegetation trimming on behalf of DSG has not yet returned to mulch the debris. Mel to email Alan details for the local contact at DSG.

**6.0 COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

**7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

**8.0 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH TASWATER**

David and Mel recently met with TasWater staff regarding forward planning for water infrastructure for our townships, risk mitigation and the Swansea dam and water supply.

In regards to the Swansea water supply, TasWater are still considering the possibility of drawing from the Meredith River instead of the Swan River as per the original intent. The dam may be drained in February 2018. Whilst the dam is being drained and fixed, TasWater intend to draw water directly from the Swan River to supply Swansea. However, David advised TasWater that currently there is very little water in the Swan River. TasWater may be able to draw water from the Tasmanian Irrigation dam once the scheme is commissioned but this dam cannot be filled until there is enough water in the Swan River. TasWater were intending to send an update to the Swansea community about the dam and water supply.

Cheryl noted that this conversation has been going on for many years and that Council recently had some discussions with DPAC about the pressures of tourism on infrastructure and the need to plan for the future.

Mel passed around data from the WIST showing the monthly averages of stream flow from the station on the Swan River at The Grange for period from November 2011 to November 2017. A lot of data is listed as 'missing'. In February, March and April this year stream flow was in the high risk category in terms of ecological consequences of failure to meet monthly flow targets.

Annie noted that the Tasmanian Irrigation scheme is well planned and will be well regulated.

In light of the Committee's ongoing discussions about water in Swansea and the Swan River, Mel suggested that we request that an officer from DPIPWE's Water Management Branch, TasWater and Tasmanian Irrigation attend a Committee meeting next year to update the Committee.

Cynthia suggested that a small delegation from the Committee travel to Hobart/Launceston to meet with representatives from the 3 agencies prior to them attending a Committee meeting

All present agreed that this was a good idea, the small delegation will be David, Mel, Cheryl and Annie.

**9.0 BUSH WATCH WITH TASMANIA POLICE**

Constable Craig Vermey joined the meeting at 12pm.

The Chair welcomed Craig.

Craig introduced himself, he has been stationed at Swansea for nearly a year and has a background in country Policing. Craig provided a Bush Watch update:

- There has been a significant amount of illegal firewood collection in GSB this year, particularly in the Wielangta, Buckland and M Road areas.
- Large amounts of rubbish dumping has occurred in the Bresnehans and M Road areas.
- Tasmania Police continue to monitor the Bagot Point area.
- Instances of illegal vegetation clearing have occurred recently including at the first Cambria Drive walking track. Sites are monitored by Tasmania Police and Council Officers.
- Coming into summer there is always a danger with arson, if smoke is sighted report it to the TFS.

Craig noted that recently there was a MVA at Kelvedon. The site distance coming out of the beach car park needs to be improved. Mel asked that Craig email Mel with details and Mel will forward to the relevant DSG staff.

The Chair thanked Craig for joining the Committee to provide a Bush Watch update.

**Lunch 12:40pm – 1:10pm**

## 10.0 ILLEGAL FIREWOOD COLLECTION

Mel presented an update to the Committee regarding illegal firewood collection. Mel has not yet 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 noted that she raised the issue of illegal firewood collection as a discussion item at the FPA Conference in Hobart this week.

Recently Councillors had a workshop on a proposal to introduce a firewood sellers by-law in the municipality. However, in order for this to be effective other agencies and council's will need to take action too. Compliance will be critical.

It was proposed that a letter be written to the Secretary of DPIPWE and State Growth, with CC's to the GM of PWS and other relevant agencies, from the GSBC Mayor, GM and NRM Committee to request an update on what these agencies are doing to address this issue. All present agreed.

## 11.0 COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

Nicky: ongoing concerns about DSG contractors stockpiling of gravel, dirt etc. at Cherry Tree Hill as it is unsightly, is attracting more rubbish dumping and is contaminated with weeds. DSG had agreed to address this but haven't yet done so. Mel asked Nicky to send her an email with details and Mel will follow up.

Derek: Eric Woehler from BirdLife Tasmania has recently been to *Banwell* for a shorebird survey.

Keith: from July 2018 there will be changes to the Australian Government's NRM funding structure. There will be no defined regional funding and it will be a competitive process. This will result in changes and there will be very short timeframes to put bids together. More information is available on the National Landcare Program website including information about the recently announced Smart Farm Grants.

Alan: what will happen to Special Committee's of Council if amalgamation occurs? Cheryl advised that Council is currently undertaking a community consultation survey regarding amalgamation. Information about the South East Councils Feasibility Study and the options for Council amalgamations is available on Council's website. The results of the community survey will help inform what needs to be considered. If an amalgamation goes

ahead it will be important to maintain surety of local representation and emphasise the importance of local knowledge found in Special Committee's of Council.

David: is there going to be signage attached to the red and yellow bins in Jetty Road, Swansea? Cynthia advised that she has some signage ready and it will be attached to the bins soon.

David: is there a Clean Down site at the southern end of the municipality? Has the sign been taken? Terry advised that he will find out.

## 12.0 MEETING DATES 2018

14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (Triabunna)

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

8<sup>th</sup> August 2018

14<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## 13.0 CATCHMENTS TO COAST REPORT

Terry provided a Catchments to Coast update:

- Attended the FPA conference in Hobart this week
- Stage 1 17/18 reporting to NRM South has been submitted
- Display at the Seniors Week event at the Tasmanian Bushland Gardens
- Attended the Freycinet Challenge to share biosecurity messages with participants and spectators
- Attended Greening Australia Midlands Restoration Project field trip
- Hosted a 'Law of the Land' workshop in Swansea
- Ongoing project with CVA to improve Swift Parrot habitat in the Orford/Triabunna area
- Continuing to address illegal clearing and poisoning of vegetation on Council Reserves
- Preparation of the revegetation site at Moulting Lagoon has commenced
- Serrated tussock has been found in new locations
- Monitoring shorebird activity at Spring Beach and the Meredith River mouth
- Continuing to work with CLS, PWS, Tasmania Police, TFS and the community regarding issues at Bagot Point
- Work controlling priority weeds on Crown Land in Bicheno continues

David noted that we should be proud of the state of our highway roadsides compared to other municipalities and congratulated Amanda, Jarrod and Nona on their work controlling the weeds, and the other staff who undertake rubbish collection and general maintenance activities.

## 14.0 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Cynthia provided a sustainability update:

- Progressing the reusable coffee cup project with ECRTO
- Working on rolling out the TerraCycle initiative across GSB
- Currently trialling a battery recycling system
- Very successful Seniors Week concert and zero waste picnic at the Bushland Gardens, thanks to NRM South for contributing some funding.
- Committee initiated tour of the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) in Launceston
- Working with JJ Richards to find a solution to issues with recycling cardboard in GSB
- Working on pledges for Council's participation in the Cities Power Partnership program

- Attended a waste management conference in Hobart, very interesting 'clean site' program being implemented in the building industry in SA
- The Tasmanian Electric Vehicle Association is still keen to develop their project despite not being successful in their latest funding bid. CEO of ECRTTO has joined the Electric Vehicle Committee.
- A group of e-cyclists recently travelled through GSB to demo the bikes and give people information about electric vehicles and bikes.
- The Home Energy Bulk Buy partnership is progressing well.
- BayView Bush Babies wildlife carers are having success with their wombat mange treatment and at the request of DPIPW have just taken on the treatment of a number of wombats with mange in the Lake Leake area.

*Kath departed at 3:10pm.*

## 15.0 TREASURERS REPORT

Mel distributed copies of and spoke to the Treasurers Report.

Recently received a grant from the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management for installation of two new water tanks for fire fighting at Dolphin Sands. This proposal was developed in partnership with the DSRA.

## 16.0 GSBC NRM DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mel has joined the Tassal Community Advisory Group, the Bushland Gardens Committee and Council's Emergency Management Committee.

Currently in discussions with DPIPW, LGAT and other southern council's regarding a position for a cat project officer who will work across the southern Tasmanian area.

*Meeting closed at 3:35pm.*

## NEXT MEETING

**Next Meeting Venue:** Triabunna

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Send a thank you letter to Bertrand Cadart. Who: Mel/David.
2. Invite DPIPW's *Nasella* Project Officer to attend a future Committee meeting. Who: Mel.
3. Write a letter to the GM and PWS requesting an update on the Coles Bay slipway. Who: David.
4. Contact DPIPW, TasWater and Tasmanian Irrigation regarding a meeting about Swansea water and the Swan River, and attending a Committee meeting. Who: Mel.
5. Write a letter to the DPIPW and DSG Secretaries, with CC's to the GM of PWS and other relevant agencies, from the GSBC Mayor, GM and NRM Committee requesting an update regarding the illegal firewood harvesting and destruction of swift parrot habitat from the Crown Land west of Buckland. Who: Mel/David.

Signed by the Chair



Date: 14/2/18