

South West and Peel Coastal Management Group (CoastSWaP)

Peel - Harvey Coastal Stakeholder Forum, Thursday 6 August 2015.

Draft Minutes



Attendees

- Neil Carroll, Manager Waterways and Marina, City of Mandurah
- Chris Abbiss, Waterways Coordinator, City of Mandurah
- Jenna Bishop, Community Landcare Officer, City of Mandurah
- Mychelle Jeffery, Environmental Technical Officer, Shire of Waroona
- Craig Perry, Coastal Adaptation Coordinator, Peron Naturaliste Partnership
- David Charles, Parks and Visitor Services Officer, Department of Parks and Wildlife
- Anthony Schwartz, Cape Life Environmental Services and Mandurah Coast Care Volunteer
- Aruni Jayasekara, Executive Officer, West Australian Landcare Network
- Jill Richardson, Chair, West Australian Landcare Network
- Jane O'Malley, Chief Executive Officer, Peel Harvey Catchments Council
- Peter Eastlake, Treasurer, South West and Peel Coastal Management Group
- Blair Darvill, Project Officer, South West and Peel Coastal Management Group
- Olivia Blizard, Research Assistant, South West and Peel Coastal Management Group

Summary of key discussion points and identified actions.

Off Road Vehicle Issues - Requires regional approach to management, CoastSWaP to work with stakeholders to help initiate this.

Funding and Support -

DPaW has difficulties with external groups carrying out short term projects then having to maintain and upkeep in the long term, already constrained with current budgets. Lack of funding/ resources available for regional coastal NRM, CoastSWaP to identify gaps in Peel-Harvey coastal NRM and work with PHCC to assist supporting groups and land managers.

Shoreline Protection - Hard engineering structures being combined or replaced by softer more natural materials and revegetation.

Illegal Dumping – Increasing amounts in DPaW and local govt reserves, national taskforce has been set up to address this.

All key points will also be shared through CoastSWaP's Spring newsletter and included in 2015 case studies project where applicable.

Stakeholder presentation and discussion	Action/ followup required from discussion
<p>Jenna Bishop -Community Landcare Officer, City of Mandurah</p> <p>Two months in current position, prior to COM worked with Queensland NRM body as coastal and marine officer, Gladstone area, restoration type projects.</p> <p>MCCAG (Mandurah Coastcare Advisory Group)- meet regularly to discuss local issues and actions, 6 groups along coastal area. At MCCAG meetings been comments on dumping and litter and offroad vehicle issues, in particular southern section of Mandurah city area.</p> <p>Completing 15 weekend community plantings-roughly 500 plants at each site (not all coastal).</p> <p>Community and school plantings- engage with a few schools, includes monitoring</p> <p>Issues with grazing / kangaroos eating into plastic guards. Mychelle Jeffrey suggested to try Kangaroo Guards.</p> <p>Focus on education and awareness, improving capacity for NRM</p>	<p>Subscribe to receive MCCAG minutes</p> <p>Request further info on MCCAG model</p> <p>Request further info on student monitoring activities</p> <p>Follow up with use of Kangaroo Guards to minimise grazing impacts/ alternative to plastic guards.</p>
<p>Dr Neil Carroll- Marine and Waterways Manager, City of Mandurah</p> <p>Current work in last 12-18 months (power point delivered):</p> <p>Acoustic wave and current monitoring devices- in the erosion zone to confirm and measure environmental conditions (wave, current etc)</p> <p>Use data to work out what's actually occurring on the coast more accurate than , shows local specific data</p> <p>Sites 12-13km offshore</p> <p>Coastal erosion major issue in inland waterways in Mandurah, trying to maintain access to highly valued foreshore reserves (approx 40-50km's of shoreline) as well as protect infrastructure and assets. Just sand renourishment won't work, erodes too quickly- need engineered structures in highly dynamic areas, currently rock walls still best solution. Still vulnerable under storm events and issue will only be compounded with S/L rise. State Planning (SPP 2.6) does not prioritise under hierarchy of actions however if left unmanaged then reserves will disappear and assets will be lost. When to defend or retreat difficult to determine however lines have to be drawn.</p> <p>City trying to incorporate softer engineering options and replicate natural areas through use of Geofabric bags/ groins, rock 'floors' and 'aprons' with sand renourishment and native plantings. This allows for public use and reduces the 'inaccessible coastal barrier' feel of large stand-alone rock walls. Natural stabilisation processes can also assist with further protection. More integrated approach like these are required.</p> <p>Coastal protection very expensive (200 metres cost approx \$200 000- \$300 00)</p>	<p>Request powerpoint and images</p> <p>Followup in 2015 monitoring outcomes.</p> <p>Discuss/ investigate further with City of Mandurah to develop/ review strategic coastal management/ coastal protection plan.</p> <p>Followup with info sharing on softer coastal engineering incorporating natural area restoration.</p>

Dredging sediments from waterways have traditionally been used (through licences/ permits) to directly renourish beaches eg boatramps, however resulted in decreased water quality and sludge (monosulfidic black ooze) in deposited areas. Also ugly and smelly. New method of filtering and flocculating (clumping) sludge and mixing with limestone results in better water quality and allows for use of sediment in geofabric bags for coastal protection.

No strategic coastal erosion plan for CoM currently exists and current coastal strategy may need reviewing. Consultation and planning needs to consider that future generations needs, values and requirements may be different to today's.

Policing and blocking Off Road Vehicle access often shifts problem elsewhere

Community presence- report if you see someone going offroad, ie eyes on the coast

Question needs to be asked - is it really a problem or just loud voices from sectors of community/ users?

David Charles - Parks and Visitor Services Officer, Department of Parks and Wildlife

Priority issue with illegal/ informal Off Road Vehicle (ORV) access. Very difficult to manage as individual land manager because-

Beach area not in jurisdiction therefore unmanaged access from these areas into NP.

If an area is closed or restricted then this transfers the problem to another area within NP or to another jurisdiction

Not enough resources to enforce

Infrastructure/ signage -what does get put up gets destroyed

Waroona Shire area not as much of an issue as Preston Beach Rangers present and brushing is blocking access into dunes/ NP. Over Easter 2014 hand out educational pamphlets with positive ORV user response and less impacts over that period (anecdotal). More impacts from City of Mandurah side especially Tims Thicket area. Have worked with PHCC to control access as RAMSAR wetlands becoming degraded and birdlife being disturbed due to ORV impacts which could ultimately result in losing its listing/ significance. Macroinvertebrate in intertidal zone and shorebirds impacted by 4wd beach access (study in South Coast area conducted)

An alternative to blocking access is to provide a 'sacrificial', formalised area for off-road vehicles. One exists in Pinjar and has successful outcomes however need to consider:

The area could put pressure on surrounding protected areas from informal access

Large cost to manage and funding is an issue within DPaW

Visitor risk management and public liability

Include DPaW in discussion to develop regional approach to off road vehicle management.

Followup with David Charles re surveillance using cameras for illegal dumping.

<p>Still option to consider sacrificial coastal area in Peel Harvey region, one area is gravel pit off Old Bunbury Rd currently used informally. However this will not remove all problems on coast as coast will still be used as seen as 'the 4wd place'. Need to limit but not close.</p> <p>Regional/ cross regional approach to ORV management would be supported.</p> <p>Often external projects on DPaW land not planned long term and follow up required by DPaW which puts pressure on limited funds and resources.</p> <p>Access opens beaches up to illegal rubbish dumping, large cleanup and disposal costs. National Task Force recently established. Surveillance cameras offered by dept of Environment as part of this, DPaW will trial use in Yalgorup NP.</p>	
<p>Mychelle Jeffery – Environmental Technical Officer, Shire of Waroona</p> <p>Preston Beach Rangers very effective at reducing ORV impacts through presence, education and awareness raising. Positive feedback from public and community.</p> <p>Held community planting day with 400 trees planted on dunes with school children</p> <p>Existing tractor tyres that are used to restrict access regularly wash away, considering more sustainable structure such as metal fencing (similar to that used at capel and five mile brook)</p> <p>Brushing from 'stockpile' (locals dropped off prunings) used by local resident with tractor to restrict access from ORV into dunes, very affective.</p> <p>Funding for dune brushing 1km either side of Preston beach.</p> <p>Off Road vehicle discussion-</p> <p>East coast has permit system in place and money goes towards management. Only as good as enforcement/ ability to manage and large bureaucratic system to set up. Does this achieve results?</p> <p>Consider integration with tourism -put educational info in pamphlet</p> <p>WA public very privileged to drive on beach as other states closed off completely.</p> <p>Impacts to shorebirds and macroinvertebrates –south coast study.</p> <p>There is currently no coordinating body to deal with this complex issue, potential for CoastSWaP to work towards developing a regional approach, prioritising what can and can't be done, identifying solutions and limitations such as using cameras/ cctv.</p>	<p>Followup with Mychelle Jeffery re replacing tyres as barrier between orv's and public beach</p>
<p>Craig Perry- Coastal Adaptation Coordinator, Peron Naturaliste Partnership</p> <p>Part of PNP involves 'Coastal Planning and Management Committee'</p> <p>Assisting Shire of Harvey with Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Planning (CHRMAP), following state</p>	<p>Discuss PNP CHRMAP info for CoastSWaP case studies.</p>

<p>government guidelines and program which requires local governments to follow. http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/CHRMAP_Guidelines.pdf Harvey CHRMAP being used to develop a 'best practice' approach that can be used by similar sized and capacity LG's and give Dept of Planning feedback as to how state guidelines work.</p> <p>Recent community consultation workshop held to identify priority coastal areas and values, lessons learnt there. Also developing regional coastal monitoring toolkits which will assist in a consistent approach, will be completed in September</p> <p>PNP selected by NCCARF to assist in development of a coastal climate risk management tool 7 development partners lead by National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) to be developed over 3 yrs \$9 million funding total, will provide 'how to' approach climate change Look at case studies- how should you approach reveg etc. All info will be available online. PNP can distribute case studies to stakeholders- see if beneficial</p> <p>Off road vehicle impacts have been identified at planning and management meetings, particularly from Capel Shire president and through involvement in Wonnerup beach management planning. Also brought up at Harvey CHRMAP workshop. PNP could take on development of regional approach to management through existing frameworks. Further discussion from all stakeholders included:</p> <p>Can't enforce rules everywhere-if keep it consistent across the coast may help DPAW work on if we get 90% compliance the other 10% doesn't matter- you've resolved most of the problem Needs further community engagement, feeling of ownership Need a 'go to' representative for 4wd access- then will funnel through to where it needs to go Balance between trying to get land use right and listening to the community Lots of people complaining about a few people doing the wrong thing 4wd groups need to get involved-get them doing reveg and education-apply for grant we can't get Through coastswap and PNP get a regional approach happening Sharing surveillance data through organisations like CoastSWaP</p>	<p>Followup with PNP to plan regional management approach to vehicles in coastal zone.</p>
<p>Jane O'Malley – Chief Executive Officer, Peel Harvey Catchments Council Won 2012 WA environment award for Community Achievement (Regional) Operating since 2001</p>	<p>CoastSWaP to identify gaps in Peel-Harvey coastal NRM and work with PHCC to assist supporting groups and land managers.</p>

Recent restructure as 7th NRM region for WA (previously sub-region with South West Catchments Council), prepared strategy in short timeframe req'd by federal government (5 months). http://www.peel-harvey.org.au/?page_id=2499 . Wanted a systems based approach however difficult within timeframe to prepare. Involved targeted approach and consultation with community.

Community group independent of commonwealth and other funds secured through lotterywest, no long term funding only survives on what grants they can successfully apply for.

Also involved in land use planning at a state level.

Unfortunately limited funding and lots of priorities within region.

PHCC not active in coastal zone, other stakeholders and land managers already focused on this area. PHCC working in other areas where funding and management is limited (rivers, estuaries).

Potential for future support and assistance within coastal zone:

Grant contributions to assist leverage funds

Small community grants program

Technical and in-kind officer support, mapping

Preston Beach to request assistance for community plantings.

Jill Richardson- Chair, West Australian Landcare Network

Aruni Jayasekara- Executive Officer, West Australian Landcare Network

WALN aims to promote issues which are relevant to all people in NRM and bring together groups from different landcare sectors such as bushcare, coastcare, urban landcare and sustainable agriculture (some contention between these groups as to who gets most support from state/ federal NRM). Encompasses all landcare groups. WALN is what CoastSWAP is about but on a broader level. CoastSWaP working with WALN to feed coastal info into state network.

Funding from federal govt under National Landcare Program and part of National Landcare Network

Information sharing and networking focus not on-ground, also lobbying such as pushing State govt for increased funding to community landcare. Gives combined voice to landcare groups.

Feeding info back to federal govt such as efficacy of Green Army, some good and bad examples of this.

See also

<http://www.landcarewa.org.au/>

<http://nlm.org.au/>