

South West and Peel Coastal Management Group (CoastSWaP)
Walpole Coastal Stakeholder Forum, Monday 14th December 2015.
Minutes



Attendees

	Name	Role	Organisation	Contact
1.	Anne Bentley	Sustainability Officer	Shire of Manjimup	Ann.Bentley@manjimup.wa.gov.au
2.	Dave Tapley	Councillor	Shire of Manjimup	davetapley@westnet.com.au
3.	Mick Murphy	Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator	DPaW Frankland	Michael.murphy@dpaw.wa.gov.au
4.	Tracey Robins	Ranger	DPaW Donnelly	Tracey.Robins@DPaW.wa.gov.au
5.	Blair Darvill	Project Officer	CoastSWaP	Blair.darvill@coastswap.org.au
6.	Jen Mitchell (phone)	Coastal Facilitator	SWCC	jen.mitchell@swccnrm.org.au
7.	Tim Andrews	Chair	Walpole Nornalup National Parks Association	Timothy.andrews@bigpond.com
8.	Adele Brown	Manager Committee Member	Walpole Tourism Centre Walpole Tidy Town	adele@walpole.com.au
9.	Jean Sawreny	Volunteer	Walpole Tourism Centre	jeanel39@gmail.com
10.	Kathy Dawson	Executive officer	Warren Catchments Council	Kathy.dawson@warrencc.org.au

Summary of key discussion points and actions.

- ORV issues need further support and assistance, cross regional management
- Swarbrick Jetty Reserve, planned works ahead and further planning required for erosion control, stormwater drainage, weed control and walkway
- Tourism operators and visitor information to be linked with coastal planners and managers where possible

Stakeholder presentation and discussion	Action/ followup required from discussion
Blair Darvill- Project Officer, CoastSWaP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated attendees on CoastSWaP Actions previous 12 Months and Future proposed actions; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Walpole stakeholders list

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated five regional stakeholder meetings in 2015, six planned for 2016. • Collaborated with Peron Naturaliste Partnership to facilitate 3 community coastal climate change adaptation presentations. • Presentations at National Coast to Coast Conference 2014 including lobbying for further state coastcare coordination and funding, plus hosting Bunbury Field Trip. • Committee rep for Western Australia Landcare Network http://www.landcarewa.org.au/ assisting with integrating coastcare into WALN actions and network. • CoastSWaP website and network updated. • 10 Case studies to be developed by June 2016 to compile and share practical information on key coastal planning and management topics as identified through forums. • Assisted SWCC with development of South West Coastal Action Plan. • Gauging support for facilitating SW regional Off Road Vehicles in the Coastal Zone Forum to assist with better management and minimising impacts from ORV's in the region. Requested info/ support from South Coast Management Group where applicable. Promoting Volunteer Rangers Program • Attended DPI CHRMAP Forum, advocated for greater emphasis on community engagement. 	
<p>Tracey Robins- Ranger, DPaW Donnelly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for large section of D'Entrecasteaux NP, broken down into 3 sections, Tracey responsible for Donnelly River section including Yeagarup. Yeagarup dunes move inland at 1-5m/yr. • Biggest issue Off Road Vehicle impacts and inappropriate/ unsustainable use by visitors at Yeagarup Dunes; most visited area in park. Perception is that it is a 4wd playground, dune movement exacerbated by vehicle impacts. East Donnelly Hut issues with ORV's- Phytopthera risk 4wd and motorbikes bringing chainsaws. DPaW and Tracy at a loss as how to manage better; Don't want to install more fencing, unsightly and can pose risk. Mick Murphy (DPaW)- frontal dunes priority for protection. Drones potential for remote monitoring and enforcement. NSW project funding for this \$1m/ yr. One successful method includes rangers and vols 'meeting and greeting' at entrance. Explaining rules, tracks, sharing info. Puts pressure on resources if Rangers only, could implement with vols through 'Camp/ Park Host' program also recruit vols from groups such as Nornalup NP Assn. Keep Australia Beautiful has successful 'Gatekeepers' program. • Projects include: Existing wind fencing at Yeagarup successful to exclude access and stabilise areas. Reparation/ maintenance still required and some vandalism occurring. Visitor risk with some buried fencing materials ie star pickets. Plastic 'horse wire' used as opposed to steel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share DPaW Donnelly experiences and projects in ORV case study • Investigate use of drones, trial project • Include Yeagarup issues in Case Study. Share other 4wd management methods with Tracey. Investigate 'Park Host' program as potential avenue for volunteer monitoring, reporting and engagement. • Contact DPAW HQ- Stuart Harrison, Head of Tracks and Trails to discuss management and solutions, seek assistance and support for ORV specific forum and drones trial. • Investigate KAB Gatekeepers program.

<p>Wind fencing Gardener River (pine pole, ringlock and shade cloth) partnership with SWCC and Ross Bernadine to mitigate ORV impacts.</p> <p>Warren Beach Track Adoption Program, new 5yr agreement with Landrover Owners Group (30 yrs of involvement). Actions include wind fencing at Warren beach and Short Beach. Also weed management – Senecio elegans removal ad hoc basis.</p>	
<p>Jen Mitchell (phone)- Coastal Facilitator, SWCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardener River Wind Fencing with DPaW and local Noongar youth. Great community project, Vehicle access restricted and sand stabilising. Further work in 2016 planned including realigning some fences, planting 2500 seedlings grown by Boyanup Botanicals. • Broke Inlet Revegetation with Christchurch school. Sourced track belting for track sustainability. • Swarbrick Reserve – will support projects where possible. SWCC grant for bank erosion submitted by Manjimup Shire. • South West Coastal Action Plan needs further information from DPaW such as Works Program for 2016 onwards. • Volunteers and students that have carried out on ground works also given information on how and why to look after the dunes and appropriate 4wd use. Prevention of future damage from this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWCC to discuss with DPaW potential to include other vols groups.
<p>Kathy Dawson- Executive Officer, Warren Catchments Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not much focus on Coastal Projects, some work includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pig Control Lake Jasper Windy Harbour- photo-monitoring to determine coastal erosion processes and potential access. eBee is a drone being used for agricultural mapping, could also be used to monitor visitor use and impacts. Looking for contractor who provides drone services. Large scale revegetation project Warren River, focus also on Sustainable Agriculture. Tracey Robbins – very relevant projects, projects upstream help protect coastal and marine ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Windy Harbour coastal access and potential methods including soft engineering option. • Add eBee into case study research. Share Perth NRM drone mapping example.
<p>Mick Murphy- Parks and Visitor Services Coordinator, DPaW Frankland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous Officer Vicky trialled various materials and methods to prevent track erosion and destabilisation. Some plastic products ‘Turf Protector’ used caught fire Cracker Dust (finely crushed blue metal) proven to easiest, cheapest and most successful material to use. Compacts down well. • Belting still best option, needs to be installed properly. Still expensive to maintain and costly to transport. Tensar belting with holes good. • Coastal burns planned in Frankland district over next 2 years. • Visitor numbers increasing, no more ‘secret spots’. Manadalay beach going from 6 to 60 vehicles /day • Marine Park Coordinator position finished due to implementation of 90% of Marine Park plan completed. Role now split between Parks and Visitor Services and Nature Conservation coordinators. Marine park Authority being made defunct and new authority being created. Erosion monitoring points at narrows show slow rates of erosion occurring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source report on trial methods and materials for South Coast track management. • Share coastal processes DPAAW research info with Shire of Manjimup, could be used in conjunction with feasibility study of walkway.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish tracking electronic surveys being carried out. In 5yrs will provide data such as important spawning sites. Can influence management such as exclusion zones and times for recreational fishing. • Coalmine Beach - \$30000 grant to determine coastal processes. Erosion occurring at yacht club and silting of Boatramp, looking at options including dredging. • Rest Point –successful revegetation project carried out by volunteers from Walpole Nornalup National Parks Assn. 	
<p>Tim Andrews- Chair, Walpole Nornalup National Parks Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest Point reveg successful after foreshore area being degraded from caravan park users. Area was fenced, weed control carried out and seedlings planted. Blue Wrens being sighted now. • Monitoring carried out at fairy tern nesting site (none spotted), Red Capped Plovers sighted. Vehicles have more impacts than dogs. • Have participated in engagement with 4wd users and park visitors to disseminate info and sustainable use. Rangers present with Vols at all times. • Major project to fence off Peat areas, also monitoring water tables using Peizometers. Results show areas were very low in Sept/ Oct this year. • 10 active members, citizen science focused, partnered with DPaW Nature Conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracey Robins to follow up with DPaW Frankland to help establish similar group in Donnelly district
<p>Ann Bentley - Sustainability Officer, Shire of Manjimup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windy Harbour beach access point • Manjimup Weed Action group support • Green Army grant planned for Rd5, previous team successful in Manjimup. Keen to be able to work on multiple sites similar to SWCC’s team. • Broke Inlet – currently writing to hut residents asking for postal addresses for future correspondence and informing on recent rehab projects. The Shire of Manjimup is waiting for the Department of Lands to respond to their Power to Lease request. • State NRM grant application to develop seed bank for future rehabilitation projects. • Keen to collaborate closely with SWCC, Warren Catchments Council and DPaW. • Swarbrick Jetty Reserve – Grant submitted through SWCC Groundworks to control erosion near jetty. Feasibility study being conducted in regards to raised walkway along foreshore. 	
<p>Dave Tapley- Councillor, Shire of Manjimup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Swarbrick Jetty Reserve Site Visit below. 	
<p>Adele Brown- Manager, Walpole Tourism Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Centre very important place for providing information on sustainable use of natural areas. Most visitors (300 per day in peak periods) will go there for info rather than DPaW office. Further support and collaboration required from agencies and groups. • Walpole Tourism Centre supports upgrade of Swarbrick Jetty Reserve walk trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Followup visitor centre integration with coastal stakeholder groups, including provision of training and information to visitor information staff and volunteers.

Site Visit - Swarbrick Jetty Reserve

Following the East Augusta – Walpole Coastal Stakeholders Forum a site visit was held at Swarbrick Jetty Reserve, located on the north eastern foreshore of the Walpole Inlet and south of Walpole St behind the township. The objective of the visit was to share information with coastal stakeholders regarding environmental impacts, previous and proposed actions as well as discuss solutions and methods to address issues. A previous site visit and subsequent report and recommendations was compiled in 2010 by the South West Catchments Council.

Illegal Clearing

Vegetation in the eastern section of the reserve has been illegally removed in some areas, assumedly from residents wanting to enhance their view. A sign has been erected in front of the damaged area. A fire in 2014 also significantly impacted the reserve vegetation, some areas have been invaded by weeds and mature trees have died. Further community engagement with residents is required to prevent future environmental degradation while maintaining visual amenities for residents. This issue is widespread across coastal communities and successful management options are limited. The Augusta Margaret River Shire has developed a policy which allows for clearing of reserves if previous views have been restricted. Click here to view policy: [‘Management of Vegetation on Shire Reserves’ \(AMRSC\)](#)



Stormwater Drainage

A ‘Best Practice’ Urban Stormwater Drainage project was carried out by the Department of water in 2009, rocks, geotextile fabric and native plants were used to formalise the drain, reduce flow speed and naturally buffer nutrients and pollutants from entering the inlet. Due to the profile of the drain, small aggregate used and significant rainfall events the drain suffered severe erosion and required reparation. The erosion issue has been addressed for now however the drain is being overrun with weeds and is not considered a best practice example. Further discussion and planning is required to determine future works on the site.



Figure 3 Stormwater drainage site

Foreshore Boardwalk Proposal

Sections of the trail along the foreshore of Swarbrick Jetty Reserve are inundated by water in winter, erosion is also occurring along the foreshore and is impacting the trail in some areas (see below also). A proposal has been put forward by Councillor Dave Tapley with support from the Walpole Visitor Centre and local residents, to construct a raised boardwalk along the trail section of the reserve. A \$20 000 feasibility study is being carried out by the Shire of Manjimup.



Figure 4 Existing trail and inundation/ erosion area. Site of proposed boardwalk.

Foreshore Erosion

The foreshore to the west of Swarbrick Jetty has suffered significant erosion, resulting in the loss of mature trees particularly Paperbarks. A proposal and subsequent grant application has been submitted by the Manjimup Shire to construct a small seawall with cemented sandbags to protect the foreshore. There is some concern that this will create further impacts at the downdrift (western) end of the seawall. The wall will also require ongoing maintenance and repair. Revegetation to stabilise foreshore and provide a buffer was suggested in some areas. Other long term options include a planned and managed retreat of foreshore infrastructure if erosion continues.



Figure 2 Dave Tapley at site of foreshore erosion