

Executive Outcomes Report: March to April 2016

The Executive Group met in April & did not meet in March 2016.

Attendees:

*Cr Naji Peter Najjar, GRCCC Chair
Cr Peter Scaysbrook, GRCCC Vice Chair
Svetlana Kotevska GRCCC Program Manager
Lisa Smith, GRCCC Administration Officer*

Apologies

*Cr Andrew Tsounis – GRCCC Treasurer
Alison Hanlon – host Council Manager, HCC*

Matters progressed:

Finance and administration matters

- The GRCCC March 2016 financial statement was reviewed. The old Riverkeeper ute was sold and the proceeds from this sale will be reinvested back into the asset renewals reserve.
- The GRCCC 2016-17 FY Draft Budget will be presented to the June 2016 Committee meeting. Provision will be made in the budget for the review of the GRCCC Management and Implementation Plan that members agreed to at the recent Finance and Administration Cluster meeting (pending the status of amalgamations). The review will be funded from the reserves.
- GRCCC River Health and Riverkeeper Coordinators will attend the Australian Stream Management Conference in the Blue Mountains in August 2016, the cost of which is within the current training budget.
- It was noted that the Final Report on the Greater Sydney Local Land Services bush regeneration grant is due to be completed by the end of May.

Biodiversity Fund Grant

- A trainee resigned from the Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team. Eco Logical Australia is in the process of recruiting two new trainees one of which will replace Stacey when she completes her traineeship in June. The GRCCC will be on the interview panel.
- The team has commenced field studies as part of the Certificate 2 Conservation Land Management.
- A community TEK day was held at Kurnell with 19 Sutherland Shire Bushcare volunteers and David Ingrey an Aboriginal Elder from La Perouse LALC. A survey of the volunteers revealed positive feedback with the exception of aircraft noise.
- The GRCCC and Aboriginal Riverkeeper Team presented to the Oatley Flora and Fauna group on Monday 18 April 2016. 58 residents attended and a Q & A session with the audience provided the trainees with a public speaking opportunity.
- The GRCCC has sought quotes from consultants to run an Indigenous/TEK ecosystem services workshop for member Council staff.
- A media release was issued congratulating the first round of trainees for completing their traineeship.
- Mr Michael Miller grant manager from the Australian Government came to visit some of our worksites and met the ART Team. Sites included Riverside, Baldface Point and Sherwin Park.

Clean Up Australia Day

The GRCCC and Cllr Naji Peter Najjar participated in Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 6 March, 2016 at Prospect Creek with Fairfield City Council volunteers. Close to 30 volunteers mostly from Hurlstone Agricultural High Schools Environment Committee participated. A thank you letter was sent to the schools Principal. A thank you e-mail to the GRCCC was also received from the Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance.

Sydney Water Workshop with Councils

A co-facilitated SW & GRCCC workshop is to be held for member councils on Thursday 5 May to work together in developing solutions and meaningful outcomes around sewer overflow management, incident responses, data sharing, to hear about sewer leaks training, get an update on the Georges River Waterway Improvement Plan and hear about member Councils WSUD projects.

Awards and Conferences

- The River Health Coordinator will present a paper for the GRCCC at the Australian Stream Management Conference in August 2016.
- The GRCCC applied for the 2016 Australian Riverprize. The International Riverfoundation has decided to postpone the award to September 2017, during the 20th International Riversymposium that will take place in Brisbane due to the very low number of entrants this year and sponsor preference to present the Australian Riverprize award in Australia. The GRCCC application was short listed in the review process and we will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application.
- The GRCCC nominated Mrs Sharyn Cullis for the Banks Volunteer Awards run by David Coleman MP Federal Member for Banks, for her commitment and long-term participation on the River Health program.

Advocacy matters:

EPA Response to the GRCCC on a number of incidents

A letter to the Chair and CEO of the EPA was sent requesting a response to the GRCCC's previous letters regarding a fish kill in Liverpool; the Glenfield WWTP overflow; a study on contaminated sediments in Oyster Bay and the Cronulla Sewage Pumping Station Failure on 14 August 2015. The GRCCC requested the results of the independent marine biologist's report on this incident and the results of the EPA's investigations into the matter. The EPA has responded, with a letter received 14 April which will be available on our website and tabled at the meeting.

I-Part draft report on Sydney Water pricing

The Cooks River Alliance on behalf of its members and other regional groups including the GRCCC, submitted a letter to I-Part on their draft report, reiterating the concerns we raised in the original submission dated 1 October 2015 and at the subsequent public hearing on the 10 November 2015. The concerns relate to reducing the unit cost of water and requested that the true environmental and social cost of water is factored into pricing to reflect an integrated approach to urban water cycle management.

Coastal and Marine reforms and Georges River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan

- The Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan, action plan has been updated with the Programs Manager meeting with all member councils to get feedback on Councils progress. Campbelltown Council was also included as they are undertaking many of the agreed management actions in the Upper River helping to protect estuarine water quality downstream.
- The GRCCC has prepared a draft submission on behalf of members on the eight suggested management initiatives in the *NSW Governments Discussion paper Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment: suggested management initiatives*. The Submission period has now been extended to the 8th May and member's feedback is awaited. The GRCCC attended the Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) workshops. The management initiatives aim to enhance marine biodiversity conservation and help reduce priority threats to the environmental assets and social and economic values and uses of the bioregion.
- The OEH and Department of Planning and Environment are in the process of developing [Coastal Management reforms](#) including a new Bill (Coastal Act), Coastal SEPP and Coastal Manual and guidance on how to prepare new Coastal Management Programs (replacing CZMPs -transitional arrangements will be in place for those Councils whom already have a CZMP). The GRCCC advised all member Councils that the SEPP is due to be exhibited and the Department is seeking feedback on mapping certain vegetation areas such as littoral rainforests prior to this exhibition.

Other Matters

- The GRCCC intends to apply for the Green Army Round 5 Applications however no information is forthcoming about when the new round will be open and information sessions that were postponed will be held.
- The GRCCC recently met with Liverpool City Council, whom advised of their Reconnecting the River strategy as part of a masterplan of their CBD and wanted to know more detail about our Riverkeeper program regarding litter collection in Chipping Norton Lakes area and bush regeneration.
- The GRCCC is represented on a Steering Committee for the Blacktown Council Regional WSUD Grant project to be known as SPLASH. The project aims to reinvigorate knowledge and resource sharing and training related to WSUD and build capacity. The terms of reference for this 15 month project are on our website.