

Minutes



Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) Stage 3 Upgrade – Master Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Phase

MEETING DATE AND TIME: 3 March 2011, 3 pm (site tour), 4 pm (meeting)

VENUE: Burwood Beach WWTW Theatrette

PRESENT:

John Flannery (JF)	Chairman
Tim Ryan	Merewether National Surfing Reserve Committee
Ross Taggart	Merewether Surf Lifesaving Club
Michelle Peden	local resident/customer
Brad Warren	OceanWatch
Peter Dennis	General Manager, System Strategy and Sustainability (Hunter Water)
Greg Bone	R/Manager System Planning (Hunter Water)
Lauren Randall (LR)	Project Manager (Hunter Water)
Sheena Martin (SM)	Community Consultation Coordinator (Hunter Water)
Josh Plummer	Network Delivery (Hunter Water)
Rikki Pointon	Community Consultation Coordinator (Hunter Water)
Michael Kendall	Hunter Treatment Alliance (site tour guide)

1. SITE TOUR

John Flannery (JF), Tim Ryan, Ross Taggart, Peter Dennis, Greg Bone, Lauren Randall (LR) and Sheena Martin (SM) attended a site tour of the Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), commencing at 3 pm. The site tour was led by Michael Kendall of the Hunter Treatment Alliance. It was noted that:

- Additional works are underway in the screenings handling building to reduce potential odours from the site.
- The Stage 2 upgrade has enabled Hunter Water to implement a number of energy efficiency improvements (eg better control and more efficient equipment) which are already resulting in real energy (and cost) savings at the plant.
- An improvement in effluent quality has already been noted following the Stage 2 upgrade.

- Some early civil works are now in place to simplify the future implementation of UV disinfection.

Members who were unable to attend the site visit can arrange a tour of the facility at a convenient time by contacting LR.

Following the site tour, the meeting commenced in the Burwood Beach Theatre at 4 pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Chris Tola, Simon Fane, Bob Hawes and Scott Wiseman.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

4. OVERVIEW OF NEWCASTLE WET WEATHER SYSTEM UPGRADE (JOSH PLUMMER)

Josh Plummer (JP) of Hunter Water's Network Delivery group gave a presentation (attached) on the Newcastle Wet Weather System Upgrade. The presentation (attached) broadly included:

- An overview of the project and its drivers;
- A summary of the existing asset management approach; and
- A summary of the planned and potential future upgrades to the system.

As a result of questions and discussion, it was confirmed that:

- Locations for Hunter Water to undertake smoke testing (to identify illegal stormwater connections) are determined based on analysis of flow gauging data within the sewer system to identify areas of high flow and response time for increased flows following wet weather. A fast response to wet weather suggests potential illegal connections, whereas a slower response indicates potential infiltration through cracked sewer pipes.
- Approximately \$1 million per year is spent on asset management activities including smoke testing (to identify illegal stormwater connections) and sewer lining (to prevent rainwater entering the sewer system). Hunter Water is considering increasing this to \$2 million per annum to allow increased activity in areas with a known high success rate (as measured by flow gauging before and after lining).
- Councils are responsible for implementing development controls which, at Councils' discretion, may include features to reduce stormwater runoff (eg from hardstand areas, footpaths, etc). The objective of the Newcastle Wet Weather System Upgrade is to manage rainwater that enters the sewer system. It does not aim to reduce stormwater and drainage issues in the area.
- Hunter Water has developed water efficiency programs (eg shower head replacements and dual flush toilet schemes) with each of the local Councils.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Lauren Randall (LR) raised a number of issues in relation to discussion or actions arising from previous meetings:

- Vehicular access to Burwood Beach through Hunter Water owned land will not be provided as part of upgrade works undertaken at the plant. The WWTW access road is a private (Hunter Water owned) road and public use of this road is not permitted (particularly at the moment during construction activities). Use of land within Glenrock State Conservation Area is governed by the Glenrock Plan of Management developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). This document was the subject of a public consultation process in 2009 (managed by NPWS).
- The six potential upgrade scenarios presented by CH2M Hill at the last meeting have been the subject of additional investigation to provide the CRG with a preliminary indication of the possible impact of various upgrade scenarios on customer bills. The estimated bill impacts ranged from approximately \$2.50 to \$23 per bill (\$8 to \$68 per year), depending on the effluent quality targets and biosolids management strategy adopted. **These figures are preliminary estimates only and this analysis is not meant to imply that these impacts will eventually appear in customers' bills, but instead to show the relative impacts across the range of upgrade scenarios being considered.**

The formal process of developing prices for Hunter Water services is the periodic price review undertaken by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This is a complex process that involves the presentation and review of past and future expenditure, future expenditure timing and efficiency adjustments, demand projections, rate of return targets and bill impact assessments. Estimating the impact of a single project is generally not part of the IPART price review process.

The average customer bill at the end of the current price path (ie 2012/13) is expected to be around \$317 (ie \$950 per annum). The Tillegra Dam rebate (\$36) cannot be directly compared to these figures for the Burwood Beach project because the dam was considered by IPART as an exception to the normal price determination process (ie the effect on bills was spread over the life of the asset to reduce the immediate impact on customer bills and maintain affordability to customers).

- A brief for the Marine Environmental Assessment Program for Burwood Beach has been issued and the consultancy is expected to be awarded in April. An independent peer reviewer will also be engaged to ensure the program continues to meet its objectives and provide value for money. A consultancy for further options development and assessment is also expected to be awarded in April.
- Members were reminded to submit their form for payment of attendance at CRG meetings.

ACTION – An electronic copy of the Glenrock Plan of Management will be distributed to members.

ACTION – An electronic copy of the Meeting Payment form will be distributed to members.

It was noted that a Consultation Plan for the project is being developed and Hunter Water is keen to obtain additional feedback from the CRG regarding the best ways to engage the community as the project moves forward.

ACTION – An overview of Hunter Water's thoughts regarding future consultation and an opportunity to workshop ideas will be provided at the next meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Bimet Lodge on Thursday 2 June 2011 commencing at 4 pm.

Subsequent meetings for 2011 will be held:

- Thursday 1 September, 4 pm at Bimet Lodge
- Thursday 1 December, 4 pm at Bimet Lodge

MEETING CLOSED: The meeting was closed by JF at 5:25 pm

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ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

	Action	Responsibility	Status/Comment
1	A schematic diagram illustrating the outfall tunnel and diffusers to be provided with more information on why the effluent and biosolids are discharged separately.	LR	Complete
2	Further feedback on the approval pathway will be provided to the CRG after the Government Stakeholder Briefing.	LR	Complete. Assessment under Part 5 of EP&A Act to be adopted (NB Department of Planning did not attend Government Stakeholder Workshop).
3	The Member Contact Details sheet will be updated to include email addresses and distributed to members.	LR & JF	Complete
4	An electronic copy of the questionnaire will be distributed to members.	LR & JF	Complete
5	A link to the project webpage will be distributed to members.	LR & JF	Complete (refer to Member Contact Details sheet)
6	An overview of Hunter Water's capital works portfolio and information on other major projects relevant to the Burwood Beach project to be provided at future meetings.	LR & JF	Overview of Capital Program complete. Further details of specific projects to be provided at future meetings.
7	Future CRG meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month (every month until September and every two or three months thereafter).	LR & JF	Next meeting scheduled for Thursday 3 March 2011.

Action		Responsibility	Status/Comment
8	At future CRG meetings, minutes from the previous meeting will be printed for circulation.	LR	Complete
9	A presentation on the current and planned upgrades to the Newcastle transportation system will be provided at a future CRG meeting (but not the next meeting).	GB	Complete. Presentation provided on 3 March 2011.
10	Copies of the "virtual tour" DVD will be forwarded to the CRG members.	LR	Complete.
11	Dr. Ian Wallis will be engaged to present an overview of the Environmental Monitoring Program and recommended future studies/monitoring at the next CRG meeting.	LR	Complete
12	Dr. Ian Wallis will be consulted as to the potential cause of the reported intermittent clay coloured plume near the ocean outfall.	LR	Complete. No definitive cause identified by IW.
13	Hunter Water will discuss vehicle access with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at a Briefing on 12 August 2010.	LR	Complete. Access through Hunter Water owned land will not be provided. Use of land within Glenrock State Conservation Area is governed by the Glenrock Plan of Management developed by NPWS (copies can be obtained from LR on request).

Action		Responsibility	Status/Comment
14	Hunter Water will clarify whether the truck numbers quoted based on preliminary calculations at the Process Options Workshop referred to truckloads of biosolids or actual truck movements (in and out of the plant).	LR	Complete. One truck movement represents a round trip (ie one truck entering and exiting the site).
15	Hunter Water will distribute a matrix for pair-wise comparison of assessment criteria by CRG members.	LR	Matrix will be distributed in 2011 once the assessment criteria have been developed (options need to be screened first to ensure selected criteria are meaningful and useful in differentiating the options).
16	Hunter Water will translate estimated capital and operating costs into the estimated change to each customer bill (i.e. \$ per customer per bill).	LR	Complete. Estimated bill impacts presented on 3 March 2011.
17	Hunter Water will consider the implications of storm loads from the Hunter River on the local beaches and marine environment in conjunction with another project (Hunter River Catchment Effluent Management Master Plan).	LR	

ACTIONS ARISING FROM CURRENT MEETING:

Action		Responsibility	Due Date
18	An electronic copy of the Glenrock Plan of Management will be distributed to members.	LR & JF	31/3/11

Action		Responsibility	Due Date
19	An electronic copy of the Meeting Payment form will be distributed to members.	LR & JF	31/3/11
20	An overview of Hunter Water's thoughts regarding future consultation and an opportunity to workshop ideas will be provided at the next meeting.	LR & SM	1/6/11