

APPENDIX C: CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Consultation Letters to Stakeholder Groups

In order to gain consultation from a variety of stakeholders, WBM sent out a letter on 03/02/04 seeking comments relating to the issue and possible protection strategies. The results of this consultation are summarised in the following sections. The statements made in these sections are a reflection of communications between WBM Staff and the individuals concerned and are not presented here as fact.

NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources

Contact: John Schmidt

The following information was gained from written correspondence with John Schmidt on 15/03/04.

John questioned whether Killick Creek should remain part of the Macleay Flood Mitigation Scheme or if sufficient environmental gains could justify removing the Creek from the flood mitigation scheme.

John raised the issue of entrance management with regards to mechanical realignment for the purpose of meander correction to prevent beach dune erosion.

NSW Fisheries

Contact: Max Enklaar

The following information was gained from written correspondence with Max Enklaar on 11/02/04.

From the perspective of the NSW Fisheries, Max writes that consideration of management options for Killick Creek must take into account management of the Connection Creek floodgates. The health of Killick Creek is also related to floodgate management, water quality and continued over drainage of Belmore Swamps.

Coast and Estuary Committee

Contact: Terry Parkhouse

The following information was gained from written correspondence with Terry Parkhouse on 16/02/04.

Terry's main concerns are over maintenance of ecological processes and control of potentially threatening development. He feels that past planning and development has been ad hoc, often resulting in expensive remedial work or environmental degradation. Terry suggests using zoning to protect the local ecology.

Beranghi Co-operative

Contact: Tim Ingles

The following information was gained from written correspondence with Tim Ingles received on 20/02/04.

Tim indicates that it may be necessary for roads to be constructed along crown road easements that cross the drain between Belmore Swamp and Killick Creek. The impact of these roads would need to be considered as part of any future hydrological / environmental studies.

With respect to Killick Creek, Tim suggests Killick Creek should be restored towards its state prior to the construction of major drains. Specifically, he suggests Connection Creek should be disconnected from the Killick Creek Estuary.

Contact: Diana Woodward

The following information was gained from written correspondence with Diana Woodward received on 05/03/04.

Diana was particularly concerned with the water quality of the drain linking Belmore Swamp and Killick Creek as this affects the lots contained in the Beranghi Co-operative's land holding. She would like the health of this drain to be sufficient to allow a range of recreational activities to be carried out safely. It is suggested that the southern end of the drain be blocked off and waters redirected to Connection Creek where natural processes could potential have a cleansing effect. This would make the floodgates obsolete.

Diana was also concerned about limited access to part of the land holding due to the drain.

NPWS

The National Parks and Wildlife Service replied providing standard details to assist in the preparation of Estuary Management Plans.

Crescent Head Ratepayers Association

Contact: John Jeayes

The following information was gained from written correspondence with John Jeayes received on 03/03/04.

John was particularly concerned about e-coli entering Killick Creek from drain sources. He wrote that e-coli might indicate a potential health threat and suggested high levels of contamination in the Creek. John would prefer an engineering solution, in conjunction with other softer options, to improve the quality of water in Killick Creek.

He also raised concern over the need for dredging to allow sufficient tidal flushing and the impact this may have on the safety of swimmers at the creek entrance.

Residents (names withheld for privacy)**Resident 1**

The following information was gained from written correspondence on 26/02/04.

Resident 1 was concerned with the management of water flow in Killick Creek. He suggested dredging at or above Muddy Arm and using the dredging to renourish the beachfront. Secondly he suggested straightening the neck of the river, near the boat ramp, to keep a direct flow of water against the rock surface.

Resident 2

The following information was gained from written correspondence on 23/02/04.

The main issue of concern to Resident 2 is the degradation of freshwater swamp land by allowing saltwater inundation through Killick Creek floodgates. Existing gates are leaking, either through tampering, jamming or general lack of maintenance.

Ron Kemsley (KSC) has been active at trying to address this problem, however, evidence still shows that the gates are leaking. The northern end of Killick Creek is the main area of concern. During dry periods, saline water from Crescent Head migrates through the floodgate structure and into the agricultural drains (at Upper Belmore Swamp). When freshwater is released into the drains from Belmore River via Scotts Drain, the freshwater tops up the creek and degrades the swamp when inundated.

The problem is exacerbated by a block across the Scotts Drain. Although the block prevents the upstream migration of saltwater from Killick Creek (thus protecting Belmore Swamp), it could be relocated further towards Crescent Head, so that the saline waters do not migrate as far upstream, and have potential implications on private property when freshwater is introduced from Belmore Swamp.

Relocation of the block to a position about 400 – 500 metres upstream of the Killick Creek floodgates would be ideal. It would act as a spillway during flood times, and therefore the height of the structure would need further consideration.

Resident 3

The following information was gained from written correspondence on 01/03/04.

Resident 3 suggested replacing the Killick floodgates with a permanent concrete weir. He was also concerned that the most recent fish kill was due to Belmore swamp floodgates being opened to lower flood levels in the river. He believes more freshwater should be let into the swamps from the Belmore River during dry time.

Resident 4

The following information was gained from written correspondence on 09/02/04.

Resident 4 is involved with Killick Creek as a representative of the surf club and regular creek user. He emphasises the need for the Management Plan to be implemented as soon as possible.

This year Resident 4 claims to have observed continuing siltation of the middle and upper reaches of the creek. Between the lower reaches of the creek and Muddy Arm, he describes the creek as very narrow and shallow. He also notes movement of the sandbars and channel.

Community Questionnaire Responses (names withheld for privacy)

On the 13/02/04 a questionnaire was published in the local newspaper 'The Macleay Argus' regarding the preparation of this Management Plan. The questionnaire asked about the uses, values and issues relating to the Creek as well as inviting suggestions from community members about addressing the issues concerning the Creek. The responses received are summarised in the following sections. The statements made in these sections are a reflection of communications between WBM Staff and the individuals concerned and are not presented here as fact. A copy of the newspaper advertisement is provided at the end of this Appendix.

Contact: Respondent 1

The following response to the Questionnaire was received from Respondent 1 dated 16/02/04.

For Question 1, Respondent 1 wrote that her family used Killick Creek for about once a week for swimming, once a month for fishing and once a month for canoeing.

Responding to Question 2, she described the values of Killick Creek as including the native flora and fauna, natural values, the aesthetic value of having a reasonably natural estuary and passive recreation.

Respondent 1 described the important issues in Question 3 as including the water quality and stormwater management. She was concerned about the impact of these issues on recreation in the creek such as swimming. She also considered important the issues of biodiversity and habitat for both aquatic and land based flora and fauna. She was concerned about how entrance management may affect the safety of the creek during large tides, such as occur around Christmas time.

Respondent 1's suggestions as to how issues relating to the creek could be managed centred on community education and consultation. She wrote that there needed to be increased education about the importance of biodiversity in Killick Creek and also about entrance management. With regards to stormwater management, Respondent 1 suggests pollutant traps on pipes discharging into the Creek.

Respondent 2

Respondent 2 uses the estuary for recreational fishing. He states that water quality sampling was carried out at the top end of Belmore swamp, and that salinity in Killick Creek affects the upper Belmore area.

He says that there is an enormous iron content and low DO in the water, and that a balance needs to be struck between landholders in the Belmore Swamp area and the general estuary users.

He indicates that there may be some scope to fill in some of the drains, and especially Scotts Drain.

Killick Creek and Saltwater Creek Management Plans Community Feedback Questionnaire

Attention residents of Crescent Head and South West Rocks.

Management Plans are currently being prepared to ensure that your local coastal creeks remain healthy in the future. The Plans will define works and controls aimed at protecting their current values, and remediating existing problems and issues.

Below are some questions we would like you to answer. Your responses will allow the consultants to gain an understanding of how the community values Killick Creek and Saltwater Creek and confirm the issues that need to be managed. The questionnaire also offers you an opportunity to suggest ways that Killick Creek and/or Saltwater Creek can be managed in the future.

Q1: What are your primary uses of the estuaries and surrounding lands, and how often do you use them? *For example swimming, camping, boating or fishing once a month, week etc.*

Q2: What are the important values of Killick and/or Saltwater Creek? *For example heritage values, native flora and fauna, recreational opportunities.*

Q3: Please confirm the most important issues related to Killick and/or Saltwater Creek. *Issues include flooding, biodiversity and ecology, water quality, entrance management, stormwater management, developmental control, siltation, land status, community involvement, sediments, recreation.*

Q4: What do you suggest could be done to address some of these issues in the future?

Thank you for your time. If you wish to be informed of future study findings please provide your contact details with your completed response.

Please send your submission by 27th February 2004 to Kempsey Shire Council at:

The Civic Centre
Cnr Elbow and Tozer Streets
West Kempsey NSW 2440
Attention: Ron Kemsley
Or email: Ron.Kemsley@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

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