
**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2025 COMMENCING AT 5:01 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Doug Curran (Chair), Councillor Tony O'Grady, Ema Munro (Community Representative), Frank Battistel (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), John Tagliapietra (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative), Lisa Parker (Community Representative), Matthew Woodward (Community Representative), Saroja Nagaraj Gurazada (Community Representative), Scott Collis (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst, Environment & Public Health Coordinator, Vanessa Johns and Minute Secretary, Joanne Bollen

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Laurie Testoni, Betsy Farrugia (Member for Murray Representative).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and Frank Battistel that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 March 2025, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 LARGE LOT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN - BOORGA ROAD R5

Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo updated the Committee in relation to the Large Lot Residential Development Control Plan – Boorga Road R5.

At the Council Meeting held 8 April 2025, Council resolved to endorse the Large Lot Residential Development Control Plan (DCP) – Boorga Road R5 for public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

This DCP addresses a specific section of the Griffith Residential Development Control Plan (as amended) related to land on Boorga Road in Nericon to facilitate a large lot residential development proposed under DA 16/2025 for an additional 58 large lot residential lots.

Key information is as follows:

- The Large Lot Residential Development Control Plan (DCP) for Boorga Road R5 has been prepared to appease the requirements of Clause 7.12 of the Griffith Local Environmental Plan 2014.
- The DCP provides specific planning and design guidelines for the proposed large lot residential development of 58 lots under DA 16/2025.
- The DCP will be made available for public exhibition period of a total of 28 days for public submissions as required by legislation.
- During this period, the DCP will be available for public review on Council's website.
- Given the location within the Lake Wyangan catchment area, this Committee is being informed of the DCP to ensure awareness of potential development that may impact the catchment.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of John Tagliapietra and Councillor Tony O'Grady that the information be received.

CL02 DIATOMIX LAKE WYANGAN SOUTH TRIAL RESULT TO DATE

At the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee meeting held 19 March 2025 a report titled Lake Wyangan Progress/Update Report was presented. The report provided background information regarding the trial treatment of the South Lake with an organic solution called Diatomix. A request was made for staff to provide a further report outlining the results of testing South Lake, 12 months prior to the trial commencing and results during the trial until present.

The Committee discussed various environmental aspects of the Lake, including diatoms, salinity levels, pH levels, and overall water levels.

ACTION: It was agreed that the Certificate of Analysis from Sydney Water will be shared with the Committee on an ongoing basis. Additionally, research compiled in 2022 regarding

the lake's salt levels will be distributed to all Committee members.

ACTION: It was noted that the Boat Club has not received payment from the sale of water conducted six years ago. This matter was taken on notice for further investigation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Lisa Parker and Frank Battistel that the information be received.

CL03 LAKE WYANGAN AGENDA ITEM FOR SALT AND ALGAE ISSUED - PROPOSED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

An agenda item proposed by Committee members proposed a Lake Wyangan Management Scheme that would hopefully help with salinity and algae issues. It is outlined below:

- Raising and holding the level of the Lake to at least 80% capacity leaving air space for a major rain event.
- Discussions with Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) regarding an agreement where MI is pumping water into the lake and Council is pumping out to MI's drainage channel.
- The redirection of the drain which enters the North Lake at the picnic area.

The Committee discussed the items and issues raised, with several key factors identified for consideration. These included the lack of budget allocation, the presence of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, and limitations related to water pumping capacity. Specifically, the Council's pump is unable to extract more than 20 megalitres of water within a 24-hour period, and MI has agreed to a maximum of 20 megalitres per 24 hours, subject to the Lake not being at red alert level.

ACTION: Committee members requested that a representative from Murrumbidgee Irrigation be invited to attend the next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee.

ACTION: It was raised that a 2017 recommendation suggested that one-quarter of the Lake's capacity should be replenished annually. This matter was taken on notice for further investigation.

CL04 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR AGENDA BY COMMITTEE

A number of questions were submitted for answering by Council staff. They were as follows:

- 1) **What is the actual allocation of water for the lake?**
The Chair of the Committee, Mayor Doug Curran advised that there is no allocation but when circumstances allow a nominal amount of up to 1,500ML is transferred to the Lake to offset evaporation.
- 2) **Who controls water levels and monitoring of the levels?**
Griffith City Council.
- 3) **What happens to water allocation if it isn't used in the lake?**
Refer to above.
- 4) **How many pumping licences are there that use lake water?**
One.
- 5) **Who monitors these licenses and their water use?**
Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

- 6) **Does Council have access to supplementary water to use to fill the lake?**
Council has access to off allocation water.
- 7) **Does the Council have the ability to pump water back up the branch view canal or is this done by MI?**
This can only be done by MI.
- 8) **Are there any plans to run town water along the top side of the lake to the picnic area for the new upgrades to the camping area, doing away with the need for tanks to store potable water which will need constant filling in the summer months.**
No tanks are going to be installed so there will not be any potable water at the new playground and toilet block. There are no plans to extend Council's potable water supply reticulation network to Lake Wyangan recreation area. Significant capital expense and difficult to comply with strict potable water standards as determined by NSW Government. Potable water tanks are also not feasible due to strict compliance with above standards.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The Action Report was noted.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Data Transparency and Data Sharing

Committee members suggested that the Committee would be better able to make informed decisions if all available data was shared with the entire Committee on a monthly basis. Regular updates would help members stay informed and engaged with the ongoing management of the lake. It was requested by the Committee that staff also provide the levels of the Lake along with the data.

ACTION: Data to be shared with Committee on a monthly basis.

Members from the Boat Club shared that they also carry out their own water sampling and are happy to provide their data to Council and the Committee.

North Western Drainage Channel

Committee members asked whether there had been any communication with Murrumbidgee Irrigation following the water testing conducted on 11 February 2025.

ACTION: In addition, clarification was sought regarding the ownership of the drain connected to the Lake.

Solar Pumps

ACTION: The Committee requested that Council investigate the feasibility of using solar-powered water pumps with a capacity of 20 megalitres per day.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 5.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:09pm.