
**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

PRESENT

Mayor Doug Curran (Chair), Councillor Tony O'Grady, Councillor Laurie Testoni, Councillor Mark Dal Bon (Councillor - Alternate), Scott Collis (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), John Tagliapietra (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative), Matthew Woodward (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

General Manager, Scott Grant, Director Sustainable Development, Joe Rizzo and Minute Taker, Leanne Austin

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and Ema Munro that an apology be received from Frank Battistel (Community Representative) Lindsay Golsby-Smith (Murrumbidgee Irrigation).

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Tony O'Grady and Ema Munro that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 February 2026, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

3 BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

Councillor Dal Bon entered the meeting at 5:03 pm.

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 less than significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 PRESENTATION BY DR NICOLA THOMAS, CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

CL02 LAKE WYANGAN SOUTH FISH KILL FEBRUARY 2026

Mr Rizzo provided an update on the South Lake fish kill incident that occurred in February 2026. He advised that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had conducted on-site testing. Multiple samples were collected and submitted for analysis, however, the EPA's results and formal findings report have not yet been received. Council staff had also taken water samples for testing, however results from Council testing were inconclusive. Mr Rizzo indicated that low lake levels and temperature fluctuations were the most likely causes of the incident, however this has not been confirmed.

The Mayor noted that South Lake is extremely low and the fish kill was difficult to clean up. Mr Rizzo commended staff for their efforts in managing the clean-up under challenging conditions.

Mr Collis noted that similar dry conditions are being experienced nationwide due to ongoing drought and limited rainfall, resulting in significant impacts on many waterways.

Ms Munro asked whether Council intended to allow the South Lake to dry out. The Mayor responded that Council would not be adding water to the South Lake, and that once the Lake Wyangan infrastructure project is in place, more water will flow into South Lake. The Mayor added that the South Lake water level freeboard will need to be maintained to cater for water from soon to be developed residential areas. Mr Rizzo advised this would be determined from the results of the Lake Wyangan Flood Study.

Mr Rizzo added that, once funding is confirmed, Council plans to repair a disused pump near the causeway which will allow water to be pumped between North and South Lakes.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Laurie Testoni and Scott Collis that the report be noted.

CL03 LAKE WYANGAN NORTH MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (MI) WATER READINGS MARCH 2026

Mr Rizzo advised the latest MI water readings were provided to the Committee as requested at the last meeting.

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

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

The report was discussed.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 SIGNAGE

COUNCILLOR DAL BON REQUESTED THAT THE EXISTING BLUE-GREEN ALGAE WARNING SIGNAGE BE REVIEWED AND SUGGESTED THAT ADDITIONAL SIGNS BE INSTALLED CLOSER TO THE LAKE'S EDGE. MR RIZZO ADVISED THAT THIS IS CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED.

7.2 LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY

MR SALVESTRO ASKED WHETHER THE LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD STUDY HAD BEEN COMPLETED. MR RIZZO REPLIED THAT THE REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL NEXT WEEK AND THE DRAFT FLOOD STUDY IS AVAILABLE ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE. HE ENCOURAGED MEMBERS TO REVIEW THE DRAFT DOCUMENT WHILE IT IS ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION AND SUBMIT FEEDBACK ONLINE. THE FLOOD STUDY WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE AT THE NEXT MEETING.

7.3 BLUE-GREEN ALGAE LEVELS

MR TAGLIAPIETRA ASKED WHETHER THE LAKE WAS STILL UNDER A RED ALERT. MR RIZZO CONFIRMED THAT IT REMAINS AT RED ALERT STATUS AND COUNCIL IS AWAITING UPDATED TEST RESULTS.

7.4 DESALINATION UNIT

MR WILLIAMS REQUESTED THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER A DESALINATION TREATMENT PLANT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY. MR RIZZO ADVISED THAT THIS OPTION CAN BE INVESTIGATED.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 18 June 2026 at 5:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 5.31 pm.