
**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 5:00PM**

- 1 Acknowledgement and Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- CL01 p8 Lake Wyangan Project Officer
- CL02 p9 OZ Fish Family Fishing Day and Re-Stocking of Native Fish in Lake Wyangan
- CL03 p17 How to Revive a Lake - One India One People Foundation
- 6 p18 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Doug Curran (Chair), Chris Sutton (Councillor - Alternate), Frank Battistel (Community Representative), Peter Borella (Community Representative), Michael Crump (Community Representative), Paul Eldridge (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative), John McFadzean (Community Representative), Thomas Mackerras (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Jasmeen Patel (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative)

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet; Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs; Director Utilities, Graham Gordon; Principal Officer Environment, Raju Maddi; Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst and Minute Secretary, Leanne Austin

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional custodians of this land on which we meet. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to the Aboriginal Community and Aboriginal people from other tribal groups as well.

**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 5:00PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Doug Curran (Chair), Frank Battistel (Community Representative), Michael Crump (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative), Thomas Mackerras (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Principal Officer Environment, Nagamani Raju Maddi, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhorst and Minute Secretaries Leanne Austin and Hannah Hall

BY INVITATION

Kel Williams

ABSENT

Peter Borella (Community Representative), John McFadzean (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Jasmeen Patel (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative)

1 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Thomas Mackerras and Frank Battistel that apologies be received from Councillor Chris Sutton and Paul Eldridge.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Carmel La Rocca and Thomas Mackerras that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 September 2022, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

Graham Gordon entered the meeting at 5:02 pm.

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 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2023

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Thomas Mackerras and Frank Battistel that the Committee Meeting dates be noted by the Committee.

CL02 REQUEST TO JOIN COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Michael Crump and Thomas Mackerras that the Committee invite Mr Kel Williams to join the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee as a Community Representative.

CL03 UNPRECEDENTED WATER LEVEL DUE TO PROLONGED RAINFALL - ACTION PLAN

Mr Stonestreet addressed the Committee to provide an update on the effects prolonged rainfall has had on Lake Wyangan and to advise the Committee of options Council are exploring to reduce the water level.

Mr Stonestreet advised that the water is approximately 800mm over Jones Road. The damage to Jones Road is unknown at this stage, but expected to be significant once the water subsides. He advised that one home is currently inundated with water and another has been impacted, as well as significant damage to the Boat and Yacht Club. As there is no natural outfall for Lake Wyangan and that in a normal year it only evaporates one metre, Council is exploring options to reduce the water level.

Council commenced pumping water over Lakes Road into Tharbogang Swamp on 24 November which slightly reduced the level of the Lake. The pump was turned off on 7 December as Tharbogang Swamp had reached capacity. There is still 3000 – 4000 ML of water that still needs to be moved from the Lake, with 10-20ML per day still running in.

Council have had discussions with Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) regarding using their infrastructure to move water from the Lake to Barren Box Wetlands Storage for a limited period. As Barren Box Wetlands Storage is holding approximately 75GL, the salinity from the Lake will be diluted to safe farming levels. Council is investigating the integrity of an existing concrete pipeline that runs to a drain and then runs through to Barren Box Wetlands Storage from the South Lake. If the pipeline isn't in good condition, repair via a sleeve inserted into the pipe is an option, but at significant cost.

Providing the pipeline is in satisfactory condition, Council can potentially pump 18-20ML per

day into Barren Box, meaning it would take approximately 200 days to pump the required amount of water, not accounting for any additional rainfall or run off into the Lake.

Ms La Rocca asked about the weather forecast and was advised by Mr Gordon that there is average rainfall predicted until February and above average thereafter.

Mr Battistel asked if Murrumbidgee Irrigation would allow Council to pump straight into the Lakeview Branch Canal. Mr Stonestreet advised that MI are unwilling to allow that at this stage.

Mr Crump asked if a pipeline or structure could be constructed so that properties around the Lake could pump directly from the Lake to mix with their own water supply. Mr Stonestreet advised that the cost associated with that exercise would require some capital input from farmers.

CL04 LAKE WYANGAN FLOOD

Lake Wyangan flood update discussion was covered in CL03.

CL05 & CL06 LAKE WYANGAN TREATMENT – NORTH AND SOUTH LAKES

Mr Maddi advised that treatment of South Lake Wyangan has stopped due to both lakes having become one. Once the lakes return to their original state, treatment will recommence. Lake Wyangan is currently at green alert. Mr Stonestreet advised that there are no other suppliers of the product trialled in the North Lake. No further algaecide has been purchased at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

Committee to note report.

CL07 RECREATION REDEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATE

Mr Stonestreet advised that Council was unsuccessful in its application for the Regional Tourism Activation Fund Grant of \$4.2m. Council still has \$2,530,000 in its Budget for works at Lake Wyangan made up of LRCIP Rd 3 Extension funds of \$1,030,000 and a Council contribution of \$1,500,000.

Mr Badenhorst presented a Draft Masterplan based on available budget for improvements to the Lake foreshore including items listed below.



Draft Master Plan



5. Viewpoint/Vantage Point with Seating



6. Upgrade Toilet Blocks

- 6 unisex toilets with screen & enclosed service area



1. Existing Road

2. Existing Animal Enclosure

3. Adventure Playground

- Constructing a new playground adjacent to the Indigenous garden can create a coherent open space area



4. Indigenous Garden

- Indigenous Garden with edible and native plants, opportunity to do gardening and showcasing local products



Northern Layout – Principal Recreation Area



14. Boat Ramp

- Precast boat ramp will be installed with a sloping surface in the area to launch small craft. The boat ramp will be constructed using environmentally friendly concretes from waste materials.



15. Fish Waste Bins

- Bins are required for the disposal of Carp fishes due to their negative impacts on water quality and the environment. Bin is also required to reduce fishing-related waste including fishing lines.



7. Green space leveling and turfing

8. Water wise tree system

9. Upgrade Picnic Tables

- New Aluminum picnic table with shade and wheelchair accessibility



10. Water Tower Container

11. Existing Gathering Area (Picnic Area)

- Due to the land claim no changes can be done to this area as well as the camping ground and its related assets.

12. Existing Bush Without Any Change

13. Existing Camping Area

- Due to the land claim by Aboriginal communities no changes can be done to the camping ground and its related assets.

Northern Layout – Principal Recreation Area

Council would conduct Community Consultation before commencing any works.

Mr Stonestreet explained that it may be put to the Committee at a later date, that the Council Contribution of \$1,500,000 be used to restore the Lake to pre-flood condition before any beautification works. Council will keep a keen eye on funding grant opportunities.

6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT

Noted by the Committee.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Williams raised an issue with a neighbour conducting works on his drainage channel with the purpose of draining water off his farm faster. Mr Williams is concerned that this would negatively affect the rate at which water enters the Lake. Mr Stonestreet and Mayor Curran advised that until a Flood Study has been conducted, Council cannot take any action. Following a Flood Study, Council will need to have an established framework for such issues.

Ms La Rocca suggested exploring the option of constructing a bridge over the two Lakes at Jones Road to avoid future flooding. Mr Stonestreet advised that the cost of constructing a bridge would be significant.

Mayor Curran thanked the Committee for their efforts in 2022.

8 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 5:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:28pm.

Confirmed:

CHAIRPERSON

CLAUSE **CL01**

TITLE **Lake Wyangan Project Officer**

TRIM REF **23/18114**

Brett Stonestreet will provide a verbal update on this item.

CLAUSE CL02**TITLE OZ Fish Family Fishing Day and Re-Stocking of Native Fish in Lake Wyangan****FROM Bruce Gibbs, Director Sustainable Development****TRIM REF 23/17573**

SUMMARY

OzFish Unlimited and Armstrong Plant Hire request Griffith City Council support a family fishing day at Lake Wyangan by providing funding to the amount of \$2,500 to run the event and support the re-stocking of native fish on a dollar-for-dollar basis with the proponent, to a maximum contribution value of \$12,000.

RECOMMENDATION

Council support OzFish Unlimited and Armstrong Plant Hire by providing funding to a maximum of \$14,500.

REPORT

In August 2021 Tom Armstrong presented a proposal to Council to replenish the Lake with Murray Cod. Mr Armstrong approached local businesses and raised \$12,000 to go towards the restocking project (a total of \$24,000). Murray Cod Australia and OzFish Unlimited also joined the partnership proposal to restock Lake Wyangan and Council matched the funds raised – dollar-for-dollar. This collaboration allowed one of the largest stockings in NSW of catch ready native fish and helped bring back a valued recreational pursuit to Lake Wyangan.

Tom Armstrong (Armstrong Plant Hire) and Braeden Lampard (Ozfish) are now working towards raising a total of \$6,000 to hold a family fishing day on Saturday 25 March 2023 at Lake Wyangan.

The family fishing day at Lake Wyangan will highlight to our community how taking ownership of their fishing grounds has a positive impact on native fish species. Additionally, a byproduct of a family fishing day is the removal of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) from the lake. Mr Armstrong and Mr Lampard point to the strong evidence that volunteering and recreational angling is beneficial to mental health and well-being, including community connection to place. Mr Armstrong has been invited to attend the committee meeting to answer any questions.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 2.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with community, government and non-government agencies to benefit our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds will be sourced within the existing budget allocation for the 2022/23 financial year from savings made due to the vacant Lake Wyangan Project Officer position.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Email from Oz Fish, Braeden Lampard of 3 Feb 2023 ↓ | 11 |
| (b) | GCC Website - Lake Wyangan - Latest News - Community effort to restock Lake - August 2021 ↓ | 13 |
| (c) | Media Release - Recreational Fishing Set to make a return to Lake Wyangan - 25 Aug 2021 ↓ | 15 |



Braeden Lampard to: bruce.gibbs@griffith.nsw.gov.au, [REDACTED]

10:54 AM

Cc: [REDACTED]

History:

This message has been forwarded.

Hi,

Thank you for meeting with Tom and I.

As mentioned in the meeting, OzFish Unlimited has teamed up with OzFish MIA chapter, local recreational anglers, and Armstrong plant hire to improve the long-term fishing in Lake Wyangan, whilst providing time to spend with the family, post covid. In 2022 we were able to raise a total of \$12,000 from the local community and businesses. Griffith council matched that amount dollar to dollar and Mat Ryan - Managing Director – AQUANA sold native fish at a reduced price. This collaboration allowed one of the largest stockings in NSW of catch ready native fish and seen the soul brought back into Lake Wyangan.

Fast forward to 2023, Tom and I are working towards raising a total of \$6,000 and running one family fishing day at Lake Wyangan.

A family fishing day at Lake Wyangan has the benefit of highlighting to community members how taking ownership of their fishing grounds has a positive impact on native fish species. Additionally, a biproduct of a family fishing day is the removal of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) from the lake. There is also strong evidence volunteering and recreational angling is beneficial to mental health and well-being, including community connection to place.

OzFish Unlimited and Armstrong plant hire would like Griffith council to support this initiative by providing funding to the amount of \$2,500 to run the family fishing day and supporting the re-stocking of native fish to the value of dollar to dollar raised by Armstrong plant hire.

Braeden Lampard | Senior Program Manager - Murray Darling Basin

[REDACTED] | E: braedenlampard@ozfish.org.au



I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of land on which we work and their continuing connection to land, sea and sky. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Latest news

Council launches education program to explain Lake issues - 16 June 2022

In an effort to help locals understand the complex issues facing the restoration of Lake Wyangan, Griffith City Council has launched an education program – Understanding Lake Wyangan. The program, coordinated by Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Project Officer, Emad Kavehei, aims to explain the water quality and quantity challenges of Lake Wyangan, best management practices, ecosystem health, the history of the Lake and future project plans. Prior to his appointment as Project Officer, Dr Kavehei was Water Resource Engineer with the Australian Rivers Institute. He worked in North and South East Queensland on different water-related projects to treat nutrients and sediment runoff into the reef catchment.

Dr Kavehei said the aim of the education program was to share and gain knowledge with residents. "I think it is important for everyone to learn about the Lake's history and physiochemical characteristics of Lake Wyangan so that we can move forward with improving water quality," Dr Kavehei said.

"We have been able to find information dating back to the early 1920s. Of interest is that the area was originally known as Lake View.

"Lake Wyangan is a highly complex ecosystem and comprises a multitude of stakeholders and various environmental considerations. We have provided information on the challenges and opportunities with the Lake.

"People may not be aware that the North Lake was formed in 1957 on a swampy area with a gypsum mine in one corner. It was referred to as Doolitty Swamp. The purpose of the mine was to supply gypsum, calcium sulphate from the deposits to the settlers in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. We have tried to explain the potential impact of unmined gypsum on the Lake's water quality."

Griffith Mayor, Doug Curran, said he hopes the program will assist locals gain a better understanding.

"I know that I have found some of the history behind the Lake extremely interesting and I'm sure many people will," Councillor Curran said.

The Understanding Lake Wyangan education program includes historical images, diagrams, photos and a scope of proposed works.

In the coming months, Council will share a series of short videos to help explain how Lake Wyangan was formed and how the current Lake Wyangan Concept Plan can work.

You can find this information by following the links below:

[Lake Wyangan - History](#)

[Lake Wyangan - Challenges](#)

Community effort to restock Lake - August 2021

In August 2021 local man Tom Armstrong presented a proposal to Council to replenish the Lake with Murray Cod.

Mr Armstrong approached local businesses and raised \$12,000 to go towards the restocking project. Murray Cod Australia and OzFish Unlimited also joined the partnership proposal to restock Lake Wyangan and Council matched the funds raised dollar for dollar.

[Read the media release in full here](#)

Related Information

[Lake Wyangan](#)

[Challenges](#)

[Blue Green Algae](#)

[Future Plans for Lake Wyangan](#)

[Latest News](#)

[Reports & Other Information](#)

[Current Water Quality](#)



Griffith City Council Websites



Griffith City
Council



Museum



Leisure Centre

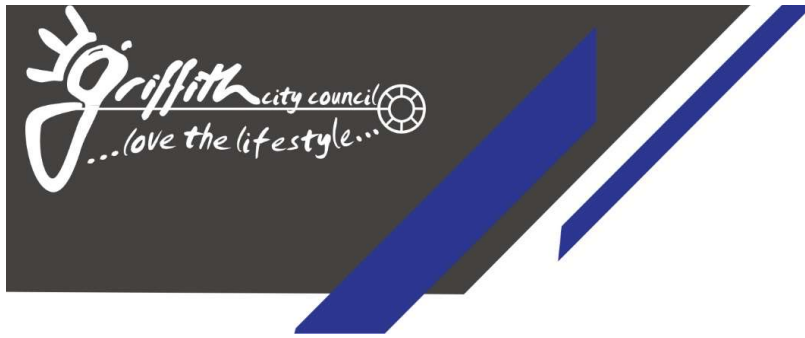


Theatre



Gallery





MEDIA RELEASE

Griffith City Council

Wednesday, 25 August, 2021

RECREATIONAL FISHING SET TO MAKE A RETURN TO LAKE WYANGAN

Recreational fishing is set to make a welcome return to Lake Wyangan, thanks to an exciting restocking project.

When Director of Armstrong Plant Hire and keen fisherman, Tom Armstrong addressed Griffith City Council's most recent Lake Wyangan and Catchment Management Committee meeting, he presented a proposal to replenish the Lake with decent sized Murray Cod.

Mr Armstrong approached local businesses and raised \$12,000 to go towards the restocking project. Murray Cod Australia and OzFish Unlimited have also joined the partnership proposal to restock Lake Wyangan.

Mr Armstrong said, as someone who enjoys fishing, he wanted to do something positive to increase visitation and angling activities.

"I know that many locals really miss being able to fish at the Lake and I just wanted to do something to help," he said.

"Everyone I approached to contribute were more than happy to help. We all just want our kids to enjoy fishing and families to be able to come back. I'm hoping once we release the fish we can encourage people to just do catch and release."

Over the last six to eight months Council has engaged a commercial carp contractor to remove around 3.8 tonnes of European carp from the Lake.

Griffith Mayor, Councillor John Dal Broi said, he was excited to support such a worthwhile project.

"Council will match dollar for dollar the amount raised to help restock the Lake with native fish," Councillor Dal Broi said.

"The hope is that this restocking project will increase recreational fishing and tourism to Lake Wyangan and also bring economic benefits to the City.

"It will also create future opportunities for young families and community members to enjoy the Lake, which is what residents have told us they want."

Council has also made a commitment to assist with proposed community events being held to remove pest species such as 'Catch a Carp Days'.

"Removal of carp from the waterway is a way the community can contribute to improving its health and boost conditions for local native fish populations," Cr Dal Broi said.

"The commercial work to remove carp has reduced numbers, but some still remain.

Media Information:

Tanya Pattison
Integrated Planning & Reporting Coordinator
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www.facebook.com/griffithcitycouncil

“Council is heavily reliant on the expertise of OzFish Unlimited, NSW Fisheries, Tom and Murray Cod Australia to advise what the best size fish are required to survive in the Lake environment.”

ends

CLAUSE **CL03**

TITLE **How to Revive a Lake - One India One People Foundation**

FROM **Hannah Hall, Governance Officer**

TRIM REF **23/17107**

SUMMARY

Ema Munro will provide a verbal explanation.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 23/18254

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Outstanding Action Report [↓](#)

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Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee Action Report 23 February 2023				
Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Action Officer	Comment
29 September 2022	CL03 Update on Water Treatment	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Jade Salvestro and John McFadzean that: (a) The Committee note the information provided. (b) Council call for tenders for the treatment of the North Lake for a 12 month period using a product similar to that being currently trialled.	DSD	8/12/2022: Treatment of Lake Wyangan has been suspended until the Lake returns to its original state before flooding occurred and caused the Lakes to join.
29 September 2022	CL05 Exporting Salinity and Nutrients from Lake Wyangan	Councillor Curran asked Mr Crump to bring more information to the next meeting regarding chemical treatment for salt.	M. Crump	8/12/2022: Mr Crump advised that he will gather information for next meeting.
29 September 2022	General Business – Carp Management	Mr Mackerras enquired if Carp management at the Lake would be ongoing? This is to be taken on notice.	DSD	