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**LAKE WYANGAN & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 5:00 PM**

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**PRESENT**

Councillor Anne Napoli, Frank Battistel (Community Representative), Paul Eldridge Via Zoom (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative), John McFadzean (Community Representative), Thomas Mackerras (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Jade Salvestro (Community Representative), Kelvin Williams (Community Representative), Neil Cranston (Community Representative) Franco Pistillo & Brian Roberts (Representatives for Member for Murray)

**BY INVITATION**

John Dunn & Dr Michael Askew (Waterzyme), Councillor Michael Henderson (Wagga Wagga City Council)

**ABSENT**

Paul Eldridge (Community Representative)

Quorum = 3

**STAFF**

General Manager, Brett Stonestreet, Director Utilities, Graham Gordon, Urban Strategic Design & Major Projects Manager, Peter Badenhurst, Director Sustainable Development, Bruce Gibbs Environment and Public Health Coordinator, Vanessa Johns and Minute Secretary, Hannah Hall

In the absence of the Mayor, Councillor Anne Napoli assumed the Chair.

**1 APOLOGIES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of John McFadzean and Jade Salvestro that apologies be received from Mayor Doug Curran and Councillor Chris Sutton.

**2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Ema Munro and Thomas Mackerras that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 November 2023, having first been circulated amongst all members, be confirmed.

*Franco Pistillo entered the meeting, the time being 5:04pm.*

### **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 WATERZYME PRESENTATION BY WAGGA CITY COUNCIL AS REQUESTED BY THE MEMBER FOR MURRAY**

John Dunn from Waterzyme introduced himself and Dr Michael Askew, and Councillor Michael Henderson from Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC). Councillor Henderson gave an overview of WWCC's experience with Blue Green Algae in Lake Albert. WWCC has engaged Waterzyme on a trial basis to treat the Lake. Councillor Henderson said that during the two weeks of treatment, initial results are promising.

Mr Pistillo asked what the cost of the Waterzyme product is? Dr Agnew said that the cost would vary on a contractual basis. The range given was between \$30 - \$65 per litre.

Ms La Rocca asked Councillor Henderson if they have, or considered, draining Lake Albert. Councillor Henderson said that they have drained it in the past, but the Blue Green Algae remains in the sediment. The sediment is approximately half a meter deep, so the cost of removing is not cost effective to do so.

Ms Munro asked if the Waterzyme product affects plant life. Dr Askew said that it works well alongside plants.

Mr Stonestreet asked how the treatment has been affected by rainfall? Mr Dunn said that although the treatment was slowed by rainfall, the treatment is still showing promising results.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Franco Pistillo and Tom Mackerras that the information be received.

#### **CL02 WATER TREATMENT OF SOUTH LAKE**

Mrs Johns advised that Council resolved by recommendation of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Committee to run two trials on Lake Wyangan. Chemiplas was trialled last year and was shown to drastically reduce the Blue Green Algae. Unfortunately, all efforts were lost due to heavy rainfall resulting in the Lake flooding.

The second trial is for Diatomics, which is a biological product which outcompetes Blue Green Algae for micronutrients, ultimately stunting the Blue Green Algae. Council purchased the Diatomics product last year and are hoping to begin trialling it this year. Diatomics requires Silica levels of 8-15mg/L to work. At the time of purchase, the silica levels in Lake Wyangan were 7.9mg/L. The most recent results show that the silica levels are at 2.2mg/L. Council is hoping that the silica levels will rise during the colder months.

*Brian Roberts left the meeting, the time being 6:05pm.*

It was suggested that Council work with other Councils who have the same issue and lobby the Government for grants to remediate the Lake. Mr Stonestreet advised the Committee that there are no grants available for this specific issue.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Carmel La Rocca and John McFadzean that the information be received.

### **CL03 IN DRAIN SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT TREATMENT - TOM MACKERRAS**

*Franco Pistillo left the meeting, the time being 6:26pm.*

*Franco Pistillo returned to the meeting, the time being 6:28pm.*

Mr Mackerras gave a presentation on in-drain sediment and nutrient treatment.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Thomas Mackerras and Ema Munro that the information be received.

Mr Cranston expressed the importance of maintaining Cultural sites that still exist. He said that a majority of the Aboriginal community want reconciliation and to be able to work together as a community to ensure that opportunities are created for the whole community. He suggested that Council call for a meeting with the Community Working Party Meeting to communicate the difficulties faced.

### **CL04 TREE DAY PLANTING - EMA MUNRO**

Ms Munro advised the Committee that following the last Committee meeting her and Mr Gibbs met to select an area to which the tree planting would take place. Ms Munro asked for clarification on such area. Mr Gibbs asked that Ms Munro provide him with a list of plants that she would like to plant, and Council will make an assessment on these. Mr Pistillo suggested that if Ms Munro was wanting to plant in the water, then an assessment by a qualified engineer would be needed to ensure the suitability of plants.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Franco Pistillo and Neil Cranston that the information be received.

## **6 OUTSTANDING ACTION REPORT**

### **Animal Enclosures**

Council have met with Department of Primary Industries who have carried out an inspection of the enclosures. A further report to the Committee will follow once Council received the report from DPI.

### **Fencing at Lake Wyangan**

Mr Gibbs asked Mr Cranston for clarification on location of damaged fencing. Mr Cranston advised that it is between the two lakes, on the Eastern side of the North Lake from Boorga Road through to Campbell's Wetlands. People are accessing with vehicles and disturbing cultural grounds.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Frank Battistel and Carmel LaRocca that the information be received.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Aerating the Lake Water**

Mr Battistel suggested that Council investigate the cost and benefits of installing water jets to aerate water at Lake Wyangan.

**RECOMMENDED** on the motion of Frank Battistel and Franco Pistillo that Council:

- (a) Obtain costings to investigate the cost and benefits of installing water jets to aerate the lake water.
- (b) Obtain costings for capital works.

### **7.2 Oz Fish Fishing Classic**

Mr Armstrong thanked Council for their support over the last year with efforts in restocking the lake with native fish. Results have been fantastic. The OzFish Fishing Classic is being held on 16 March 2024. He noted that the Lake has recently gone into Red Alert in response to Blue Green Algae reports, and further information will be released regarding this as it becomes available. Mr Gibbs added that OzFish have applied to Council for a Community Grant for the Fishing Classic. Council will decide on the outcome of this application at the 27 February 2024 Council Meeting.

### **7.3 Lake Wyangan Foreshore Masterplan**

Mr Gibbs and Mr Badenhorst advised that the project is progressing and that the projection completion date is set for June 2025.

### **7.4 Chemiplas Report**

Mr Gibbs advised that he will distribute a Fact Sheet to the Committee that he has received from Chemiplas.

## **8 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Lake Wyangan & Catchment Management Committee is to be held on Thursday, 16 May 2024 at 5:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7:25pm.