



NOTES FROM COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION COASTAL AND ESTUARINE RISK MITIGATION PROGRAM

Held Carlton Park Surf Life Saving Clubrooms on Tuesday 30 January 2024 @ 5pm

Attendance:

Mayor Kerry Vincent (KV), Deputy Mayor Charles Wooley, Councillors Janet Gatehouse, Melinda Reed and Beth Nichols.

Sorell Council (SC) staff attendees: Dibas Panta (DP), Shane Wells and Sharon James (SJ)

Guest Speaker: Anna Wilson (AW)

Approx. 30 community members attended.

Welcome and introduction

Presentations given by Sorell Council NRM Facilitator, Dibas Panta followed by Anna Wilson from Tivoli Green Pty Ltd.

Open forum

Questions on the following topics raised by community members were discussed/answered:

- Concern for Red Handfish habitat and likelihood of compounding problems if stormwater outfalls had sewerage or other discharges entering them. AW advised that sediment is more of a concern and the selected outfalls would be improving water quality.
- Improving outfalls included reducing velocity of run off from catchment areas which will reduce risks of erosion impacts from high run off rates.
- Clarification sought on variables and impact of leaching from sewerage into stormwater, including broken irrigation lines that can also cause issues into stormwater systems. Community encouraged to keep an eye on systems and report anything unusual through to Council, who will action an inspection.
- Council compliance team conduct investigations if issues are reported to Council. Council encourage people to report through (SJ to provide an update on Council webpage).
- Discussion on effectiveness of open drains vs curbs and gutters (benefits of each and when/why these apply)
- Query on maintenance schedule planned for each outfall - KV advised all capital projects have maintenance schedules.
- Concern over increase number of curb and gutters going in – example of increased erosion at Red Ochre Beach (Council noted and will conduct inspection at this location).
- Issues of run off from properties including sewerage from failed systems. Unfortunately this often requires a rain water event to trace. Council Compliance team do investigate and are authorised to serve notice to replace/repair systems if found to be compromised.

- Another example of polluting nutrients is from grass clippings – a number of the outfalls are subject to ‘dumping’ of mown grass clippings. The introduction of Council’s new green waste wheelie bins may help to reduce this harmful practice.
- Council to review management plans based on outfall principals proposed under CERMP. AW advised that swales are effective in treating stormwater quality but are not always possible due to available room, topography or other assets such as footpaths.
- Recognised that Council has modelled 1 in 100 year storm events, but these are now occurring with much more frequency.
- AW advised open drains and absorption trenches only work in specific circumstances and while swales are effective in treating stormwater quality, they are not always possible due to available room, topography or other assets such as footpaths.
- The preference for footpaths and walking tracks is that they are no longer sealed.
- Parnella Road to Red Ochre – erosion issues noted that Council will investigate.
- Noted the CERMP stormwater outfall work would be captured as capital works only and will still require ongoing maintenance budget. DP confirmed there will need to be a budget recommendation put forward to Council to ensure the CERMP investment into these outfalls and surrounding land management is not wasted.
- Importance of education around concreting work and sediment controls.
- Need for water quality management and ongoing testing. EHO regularly conducts water quality tests for swimming beaches as per the Recreational Water Quality Guideline 2007.
- Okines was a good example for water quality improvements
- Council’s Environmental Health Officers check regularly to report to Dept. of Health (DoH). Council’s Compliance Manager maintains regular contact with DoH.
- The commencement date for the 5 selected outfalls has not been determined as all works must still go through an approval process.
- Query on 196 Scenic Drive current pathway – this will remain, but there will also be improved foot access achieved from CERMP outfall work.
- Stormwater drains – query on how frequently they are checked (Update ** stormwater drains are inspected based on customer contact and reporting as well as inspections from time to time by Compliance teams).
- KV advised a third of Council’s revenue is allocated to asset maintenance.
- Re Grevillia Street, discussion on viability of filtration options in tank.
- Discussion re swales at Copping C Cell, biomass removal etc.
- Weed education is an important ongoing campaign that Council will focus on.

Meeting concluded at 6.35pm