CMB Infrastructure Planning Department NEWPORT WATERWAYS ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

Thursday 31 July 2025 – **2:05pm**

Meeting at Council Chambers, CMB Offices, Redcliffe

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Attendees:	Craig Baker	СВ	Newport Waterways Property Owners Association Inc	
	Morgan Grant	MG	Newport Waterways Property Owners Association Inc	
	Alan Sparks	AS	Body Corporate for Newport Lakefront, Treasurer	
	Tony Bright	TB	Newport Marina, Manager	
	Elissa McConaghy	EM	CMB, Manager - Drainage, Waterways and Coastal Planning (Chair)	
	Jeremy Trotman	JT	CMB, Principal Canals Planning Officer	
	Roland Danam	RD	CMB, Senior Project Manager, Project Development & Delivery (PDD)	
	Udip Dhungel	UD	Project Engineer, Project Development & Delivery (PDD)	

Apologies:

- Cr Sandra Ruck CMB, Councillor for Division 5
- Jared Stewart CMB, Coordinator Coastal Infrastructure Engineering
- Steve Debney CMB, Coordinator, Program Management & Delivery
- Andrew Kelly Newport Waterways Property Owners Association Inc
- Shae Brown Assistant Development Manager Stockland

Purpose of Meeting (Ref. Section 2 - NWAG Memorandum of Understanding)

The objective of each meeting is to provide an opportunity for:

- the Third Parties to inform the Council of maintenance and operational issues concerning the Newport Waterways funded by the canal special charge (the 'Canal Levy');
- the Council to inform the Third Parties of what steps it has or proposes to take to address operational management and maintenance issues concerning the Newport Waterways; and
- the Third Parties to assist the Council in the development of policies, strategies and programs for the sustainable maintenance of the Newport Waterways.

ITEM NO.	ITEM	RESP. OFF
1.0	CONFIRMATION OF NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	
1.1	 JT apologised for the late release of the March meeting draft minutes – this was largely due to additional working following TC Alfred which also coincided with resource constraints in March-April. It was confirmed that the NWAG Minutes of Meeting (dated 27 March 2025) were considered as accepted. 	Note
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:	
2.1	 Maintenance Dredging Works - Canal System Action items from previous meeting: Update on the status of the maintenance dredging campaign, including key milestones/program of works in relation to: Site preparation works for the Griffith Road pond (dredged material management facility - DMMF). RD confirmed that the pond preparation works are complete (including some earthworks, removal of previous dredge spoil from site, reinstatement of the weirboxes, fencing repairs, etc.). Presentation slides were showing photos of the site works. RD advised that due to some unanticipated works at the Griffith Road pond, the Contractor (Dredging Solutions – DS), has temporarily deployed their dredging equipment to another project. As a result, there will be a delay in the commencement of the dredging works. RD advised that the schedule for canal maintenance dredging works, has been updated to reflect the following: 	

ITEM NO.	ITEM	RESP. OFF
	 Early November 2025 - Scheduled date for Contractor mobilisation of equipment to site. Mid November 2025 - Scheduled date for commencement of dredging works. Four to Five months - Expected duration of dredging works (weather permitting). March/April 2026 - Indicative date for completion of dredging works. 	
	 2. Update on Community Consultation: Update on Project Notice(s). RD advised that the CMB-PDD Team is scheduled to issue a Project Notice 'update' to canal fronting residents/properties to advise of the revised project schedule. The notice is expected to be issued approximately 6 weeks prior to commencement of dredging. RD noted that the Contractor will issue their own coordination notice (mail-drop) to residents approximately 14 days prior to mobilisation to site. This notice will provide more specific detail in relation to the timing/sequencing of dredging operations and the coordination of temporary vessel relocations. It was noted that the Contractor notice is to be limited to those properties adjacent to the dredging areas/zones only (i.e. not the entire canal estate). RD advised that CMB is due to install project signage in key locations around the dredging areas in Newport (e.g. 'canal-end' Public Parks, the Marina). This will be done at the same time as the Project Notice is issued. 	PDD
	 3. Update on the project webpage: RD advised that the project webpage had been updated to reflect the revised schedule of work (i.e. commencement in November). It was agreed that JT would provide all attendees with a link (here) to the project webpage, to enable the represented interest groups to share project information with residents, i.e. via their own websites, Facebook, other social media (e.g. NWPOA, the Marina, Body Corporate, Councillor – Div 5.). 	JT
2.2	Vegetation removal and routine batter maintenance Action items from previous meeting: 1. JT to provide an update on the current vegetation removal and canal batter maintenance works (managed by CMB's Operations Team)	
	 JT provided the following update on the program/progress of the vegetation removal and routine batter maintenance works: All vegetation removal is now complete. Batter maintenance (rock top-up work) is ongoing in various locations. Approximately 660 tonnes of gravel has been delivered to site. Approximately 440 tonnes had been installed to date. Overall project completion is expected in w/c 04 August. Confirmation of material selection (gravel) for batter maintenance. JT confirmed that the 20mm river gravel is being installed. JT provided Presentation slides (photos) showing a gravel sample, and the installed gravel at a number of locations/properties. It was generally agreed that the selected gravel provides an acceptable solution, both in terms of colour, size and overall physical properties – notably, the gravel tends to 'hold' better on the batters as compared to the smaller 10mm gravel. CB noted that feedback on the vegetation removal work had been generally good. JT acknowledged that the Operations Team had received some feedback from a resident about the loss of material around the toe of some revetment walls, as a result of the vegetation removal works ('raking' methodology), as well as 	

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	 JT advised that the Operations Team are aware of this issue and that they propose to make minor amendments to the Technical Specification for future works, so as to mitigate the impact of the raking methodology. Contractor coordination of vegetation and batter maintenance works with the dredging works Contractor. It was noted that this issue is no longer applicable as the contractor undertaking vegetation removal works will have demobilised prior to the commencement of dredging works. 	JT
	 NWPOA query re. batter maintenance – in relation to the maintenance of erosion (scouring) from stormwater run-off on batters. JT noted that the Operations Team had observed some significant batter scouring at a number of properties, which they believe are the result of run-off from severe rain/storm events in the past 3 or 4 months. The Operations Team have advised that many of these scours were remediated during vegetation removal works. CB noted the importance of maintaining the gravel (scour protection) at the toe of the walls and acknowledged the efforts to reinstate these areas during the recent campaign. CB advised that it would be helpful for NWPOA to post some photos of the batter maintenance works on their webpage, so as to demonstrate to residents the nature and scale of works undertaken during the vegetation removal and batter maintenance campaign. EM noted that there may be some privacy issues in making these photos available in the public domain but agreed that this was a positive message to show work completed during the campaign. However, it was agreed that JT would provide NWPOA with photos of completed batter maintenance works in public areas (e.g. southern end of Jabiru). In the meantime, CMB will liaise with their 'Comms' Team to see if photos of works adjacent to private properties can be made available. 	JT
	 CB highlighted specific resident feedback in relation to scouring at properties at Sceptre Court and Eagle Court (upper Albatross Canal). JT advised that the Operations Team are aware of the scouring at 8 Sceptre Court and that they will be investigating the matter and will take action, where possible (noting the time and budget constraints of the current contract). 	JT
2.3	 Long Term Maintenance Plan (LTMP) Review Action items from previous meeting: Summary of progress and updates in relation to the LTMP Review project, including: JT advised that the Consultant (Water Technology) has submitted the final LTMP (Newport) Report and associated Cost Model and Dredging Schedules. JT noted that there remains a final review by DWCP of the deliverables, followed by a consultation session on the key project outcomes with the NWAG Forum. It is expected that this consultation will occur at the next NWAG meeting (November 2025), in order to present/discuss the key outcomes (e.g. dredging strategy, significant LTMP updates, potential cost implications etc.). AS queried which LTMP cost model has been adopted for the current FY25-26. JT clarified that the recently 'Council-adopted' cost model (FY25-26) is based on an internal review undertaken by DWCP and CMB Finance Team. However, it was noted that cost options prepared by the Consultant (WT), would be discussed with NWAG at a later date, as part of the consultation process. JT noted that subsequent to the consultation with NWAG, a briefing will be presented to Council, and that any future adoption of potential cost model options would require Council endorsement. 	JT

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JT noted that the key outcomes of the LTMP update project/study in relation to dredging strategies at Newport supports the need for further, more detailed investigation into silitation reduction opportunities. JT noted that the Silitation Reduction study is discussed further (under Item 2.3-(2) below). AS asked if CMB could provide relevant feedback on the performance and effectiveness of the silt trap at Aquatic Paradise canal system (Redlands). JT agreed to investigate if this information could be made available. 2. Update on The provisional draft scope of services and program for a Stage 2 study. JT advised that a Draft scope of services and program for a Stage 2 study. JT advised that a Draft scope of services for Stage 2 has been issued to Consultants as a imarket-sounding 'exercise, to assess the feasibility and likely budget requirements for the next stage of studies and site investigations. JT advised that the scope of services for Stage 2 will likely include: Targeted field data collection to confirm key physical processes in Newport. Development of practical design option(s) for reduce silitation in the canal system. It was noted that the scope of work is planned to take place over FY25-26 to FY26-27 and that the study is not funded from the canal levy. 3.0 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	dredging strategies at Newport supports the need for further, more detailed investigation into sitiation reduction opportunities. J T noted that the Siltation Reduction study is discussed further (under Item 2.3-(2) below). AS asked if CMB could provide relevant feedback on the performance and effectiveness of the slit trap at Aquatic Paradise canal system (Redlands). JT agreed to investigate if this information could be made available. 2. Update on 'Newport Siltation Reduction Study' for Newport Waterways Update on the provisional draft scope of services and program for a Stage 2 study. J Tadvised that a Draft scope of services and program for a Stage 2 study. J Tadvised that a Draft scope of services for Stage 2 has been issued to Consultants as a 'market-sounding' exercise, to assess the feasibility and likely budget requirements for the next stage of studies and site investigations. J Tadvised that the scope of services for Stage 2 will likely include: Targeted field data collection to confirm key physical processes in Newport. Development of practical design option(s) to reduce siltation in the canal system. It was noted that the scope of work is planned to take place over FY25-26 to FY26-27 and that the study is not funded from the canal levy. 3.0 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION Canal Batter Maintenance - Consultancy Services J To provide a summary of the proposed project/study relating to canal batters inspection framework and long-term costed maintenance and renewal schedules. J To provide a summary of the proposed project/study relating to canal batters. Monitoring of condition. Determination of intervention levels for maintenance/renewal of batters. Provision of a more detailed assessment of batter inspections, maintenance and renewal costs, which will eventually feed into the Newport LTMP. JT noted that the study is not funded from the canal levy. AS acknowledged support for the study and expressed hope that the study will ensure the optimisation of allocated costs in the context of the N	TEM NO.	ITEM	RESP. OFF
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4.1	NWPOA Committee and Membership Action items from previous meeting: Updates, as appropriate, in relation to NWPOA Membership numbers.	Note
	- No new updates recorded.	
4.2	 MG requested CMB to follow-up on the grounded (abandoned) pontoon located at the vacant property at 117 Quay Circuit. It is apparent that the pontoon had been in this location since Nov/Dec 2024. JT agreed to follow-up with the relevant Team members (possibly in Locals Laws or Operations). 	JT
4.3	Quay Lines and Navigation Corridor in Albatross Canal	
	 There was some general concern expressed about the potential reduced 'clear width' of the northern end of Albatross canal through the likely installation of pontoons at new lots currently under development. AS explained that the details of the quay lines for lots which are currently under development, (western side of northern Albatross) can be found online, under the Development Approval. AS agreed to share this information with NWPOA. JT also agreed to provide the webpage link to the Queensland Government 'Development Assessment Mapping System' (DAMS – link here), which includes MSQ's designated 'navigation corridor' within the canal estate. JT explained, that typically, MSQ approval conditions for a pontoon will ensure that a berthed vessel should not encroach on the navigation corridor. Hence, MSQ will typically stipulate the maximum beam of a vessel to ensure that the corridor remains clear. MG queried the design of the rock batters in the northern Albatross canal (western side), where there appears to be no revetment (retaining wall) and elevated batter crest levels, at the top of the batter. JT advised that this 'atypical' detail (i.e. in the context of Newport batters and revetments) should be captured/investigated in the canal batters study, and future maintenance requirements will be determined as appropriate. 	AS JT
4.4	 Vessels moored in Jabiru Canal There was general concern raised in relation to vessels that appear to have been anchored for an extended period in the open 'basin' area of Jabiru canal. Additionally, there was a question over what form of 'enforcement', by CMB, is likely to be implemented. JT advised that DWCP had recently met with the CMB Local Laws Team who are proposing to install enforcement signage in relation to the Local Law restrictions on the mooring vessels in the canal system. It is proposed that the signage will be installed on buoys in the canal. EM noted that the process for enforcing the Local Law requires CMB firstly to install appropriate signage, before enforcement action can be undertaken. CMB agreed to follow up with the Local Laws Team to learn what enforcement process may be followed for the removal of non-compliant vessels moored in the canal. 	JT
4.5	Water Quality Testing in the canal system	
	 AS advised that the frequency of Water Quality (WQ) testing within the Lake is due to be reduced (to quarterly) as a result of a 'minor' change application to the existing DA conditions (Lake Management Plan). However AS noted that WQ testing in the adjacent canal system is no longer undertaken (via the LTMP program of work). AS queried why there is no canal testing, since the lake 'draws' its' water supply from the canal system. AS is of the opinion that WQ testing should be undertaken in the canal system. 	

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	 JT noted that the routine canal WQ testing had ceased (circa 2018), in agreement with the NWAG Forum. Furthermore, this was reviewed again with NWAG (in the last 18months) and again there was consensus that the routine WQ testing should not be undertaken. Notwithstanding, EM agreed that DWCP would follow up with the Development Services Team to gain an understanding of why WQ testing is mandated in the lake but not in the canal system, particularly as a large source of lake water is derived from the canal. 	JT
4.6	Consultants and Contractors – canal revetment walls	
	 MG noted that many residents are unaware of which Consultants and Contractors have the relevant experience and qualifications to undertake engineering works on (private) canal revetment walls and asked if CMB could recommend suitable candidates. EM advised that CMB would have to take this 'on notice' and revert as appropriate. 	ЕМ
4.7	Stormwater flows in Upper Albatross Canal (southern end)	
	 CB advised that during the severe storm/rain events in recent months, he and his neighbours had witnessed extreme water velocities, emanating from the adjacent stormwater open drain/channel (also known as Sands Street drain). However, it was observed that the current velocity appears to be far more severe along the northern side (batters) of the canal, and that this could be a result of the configuration of the stormwater drain, or possibly the condition of the rock revetment at the drain outfall. EM advised that the matter could be investigated further by the DWCP Stormwater Team, and that CMB would revert with any potential course of action or recommendation. 	ЕМ
4.8	Agenda for next NWAG Meeting It was agreed that JT would issue a 'request for agenda items', four weeks in advance of the next NWAG meeting.	JT
4.9	Consultation on the calculation of the Canal Levy (Special Charge)	
4.3	 It was noted that discussions related to the calculation of the canal levy (Special Charge) for Newport would continue outside of the NWAG Forum. EM agreed to investigate the option for a further meeting on this matter and would consult with relevant Stakeholders within CMB to determine how and when this meeting may take place. 	ЕМ
5.0	NEXT MEETING	
	Thursday 20 November 2025	Note
	Meeting close: 3:50pm	