



What a great Flinders Day 2013 we enjoyed on Coochiemudlo Island this year. It was picture-perfect weather and Coastcare's special guest, Hugo the Turtle proved a hit with all ages. There was also keen interest shown in Natrasha, a turtle sculptured out of recycled plastic - a graphic reminder that plastic pollution in Moreton Bay causes so many marine deaths. Grateful thanks to our network friends, in particular, Tonia Scholes from Healthy Waterways and Hugo for helping us spread the message

Coastcare was proud to sign-up our 140th adult member on the day. How fortunate we are to share our unique island home with so many like-minded souls.



Diary of a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan

While we welcome the recent decision by the Redland City Council to undertake a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) on Coochiemudlo Island, the growing disconnect between promise and reality is causing concern.

Councillor Lance Hewlett confirmed last week that \$40,000 had been allocated in the 2013/14 Budget for a SEMP for Norfolk Beach, but as far back as **February's** Progress meeting we had been told by Council's Manager of Infrastructure Planning, Murray Erbs that \$50,000 had been set aside with the proviso it still had to pass budget deliberations.

Along the way \$10,000 was shaved.

General Manager, Gary Soutar cautioned in **May** that developing a SEMP was not a quick operation as there was "a wad of information to be gathered." He cited Council's first SEMP at Amity Point, undertaken by consultants BMT WBM as an example, with the first draft tabled in June 2012 and still not finalised.

However, yesterday we were told there would be a preliminary report in a month!

For almost three weeks now Coastcare has tried unsuccessfully to seek answers to establish the area of study. Commonsense dictates Stage One should cover the entire eastern coastline of the island from the graveyard of trees in the north-east to the erosion-prone south-east corner at least.

In **May**, following representations by the Golf Club after Professor Tomlinson's visit, Councillor Hewlett advised the SEMP would be extended to whole-of-island. Coastcare understood the original proposal had been returned to Infrastructure Planning for re-costing as a wider study for inclusion in the 2013-14 Budget.

According to Cr Hewlett September's Budget review should see the SEMP expanded.

Meanwhile, an independent investigation into erosion at Red Rock is currently being overseen by Council's Facilities Management team following concerns raised by the Historical Society's, Dr David Paxton. There is obvious undercutting of the sandstone cliff along the shoreline and concern for the Community Hall. Last month saw second-stage geological drilling investigations. For detail see the report by consultant geologist, Lindsay Duncan on the findings at the end of the newsletter.

While we await the drilling report, our hope is the finding will be fed into a whole- of- island SEMP and also be taken into account with any environmental considerations of a nearby capital dredge.

Reminder: If you missed out on the SEMP presentation by Professor Tomlinson and would like to view proceedings we have a couple of DVDs to loan to members. Included also is a fascinating segment presented by Joel Bolzenius, Community Partnership Manager for SEQ Catchments

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH



These beautiful **Hovea acutifolia**, *the Purple Pea Bush*, are presently flowering on the island. A medium sized native shrub, it grows in open semi-shaded areas, even is happy under the *Callitris columellaris*, our Bribie Island Pine.

There are just a few available at our local Native Nursery and Indigiscape has them in stock. A wonderful addition to our gardens.

Council urged to engage community

Coastcare has called on Redland City Council to initiate full and open community consultation on the \$10.3 million jetty and dredging projects as soon as possible.

Last week Coastcare President, Carolyn Brammer and Secretary Vivienne Roberts-Thomson attended a meeting in Cleveland with Coochiemudlo Island Progress Association President, Russell Jackson and Secretary, Peter Wear along with ferry operator, Gary Blackburn. We were shown preliminary plans for the jetties and discussed dredging with senior Council officers, Murray Erbs, Rod Powell and a consultant from Aecom who has the contract to design the jetties, as well as engineers from Marine Services Queensland, Transport and Main Roads.

While we haven't got anything to show there's talk Council will dedicate a website for the project and possibly engage the community with information days. We hope so, as there's a wealth of local knowledge to tap into. In the meantime, approvals have been granted and tenders called for the dredging of 5000 cubic metres around the Coochie jetty.

Coastcare representatives left last week's meeting with a number of concerns. Perhaps the most alarming was that authorities believe the dredging of up to 46,000 cubic metres of material between the island and Victoria Point, as well as the jetty constructions constitute "low-impact activity." As

such, we were advised **there was no need for any environmental impact studies, nor modelling, nor any coastal process studies.**

With a Shoreline Erosion Management Plan imminent and the Red Rock erosion it seems inconceivable that authorities wouldn't consider site-specific studies of dredging and associated works as mandatory.

We find it hard to believe Council can plan risk mitigation in one area and turn a blind eye in another.

Tough questions need to be asked. While we agree safe jetties are overdue and a channel dredge needed Coastcare asks –

- What about the contaminant levels of the material to be removed from the seabed and taken to Mud Island? What about possible acid sulphate soils?
- How will weeks of increased turbidity and silt plumes from dredging be handled? Will it be safe to swim at Main Beach?
- In the absence of an EIS who will monitor the effects on water quality, marine life and flora?

Please share your concerns with us if you would like to add to the list.

Prior to the meeting we asked Cr Hewlett to provide an update on the dredging and jetty time-lines and he said that he hadn't seen "a final design or costed option."

"I have been advised by Marine Services Queensland (MSQ) that they are getting close to undertaking a stakeholder consultation. This architect has provided some preliminary alignment options and only recently some architectural concepts asking about weather protection."

Cr Hewlett said he was still waiting on detailed concepts and estimates of construction. "It is my understanding that Victoria Point is pretty straight forward, however Coochie's budget must also decommission/demolish the old jetty. The matter remains in the hands of MSQ, however they have asked for a list of community stakeholders that should be included in the option discussions.

Are you able to recommend specific persons/groups?"

Cr Hewlett said the big task for all will be "to manage expectations and budget"

"For Coochie that is \$3.5m including Council's half share of \$1.75m. It is my understanding that the demolition of the old jetty could take \$1million leaving about \$2.5 including design for the new jetty. The jetty is likely to commence early next year," he said

These are the dredging milestones provided by Cr Hewlett

Coochiemudlo

Final permit (ERA16) may be received on Friday 19 July 2013 (**now approved and Tender advertised August 1, closing August 20**)

Tender documents are in draft form waiting the ERA16 permit conditions and depending how the market is placed a tender award Target Date is 16 September 2013

Depending on the availability of the preferred Tender, dredging can commence on the following dates – 23 September 2013; 8 October 2013 or 22 October 2013

“The dredging program may take up to 14 days depending on how many dredges are employed. Note there is a condition that prohibits dredging around the new moon and full moon periods hence the selection of the commencement dates”

Victoria Point and Toondah Harbour/Fison Channel

According to Cr Hewlett no milestones have been set for these sites (as of July 18th) as permits and sub-bottom profiling have not been received. “Target will be around February, March 2014 depending on availability of the type of dredge needed to carry out the works efficiently”

Date claimers

Sunday, 18 August - Join the community planting along the melaleuca Wetlands and spend time tending the dunes with Coastcare friends. Newcomers welcome at the picnic table just north of the toilets on Norfolk beach. Please wear appropriate clothes, closed-in shoes, hat, sun-screen and repellent. We'll gather at 9am for a briefing and morning tea will be provided afterwards.

Saturday, 24 August - Dr James Udy, the Chief Scientist from Healthy Waterways will be our guest speaker following a Coastcare general meeting at the Community Hall at 2pm. Doctor Udy will provide a thought-provoking presentation on the health of Moreton Bay with special focus on Coochiemudlo Island.

<http://www.healthywaterways.org/HealthyWaterways/Home.aspx>

Geotechnical inspection of the Community Hall

As part of a study into slope instability around the base of the Community Hall on Coochiemudlo Island, Redland City Council engaged an Engineering Geologist to undertake a site inspection of the area to assess what might be required. This inspection was undertaken on 28th March 2013.

The published geology map (1:100,000) of the area suggests that the island is underlain by Triassic-Jurassic rocks (~180 million years old) which comprise sandstone, siltstone, shale and conglomerates (sedimentary rocks) which are indeed encountered in the northwest part of the island, though examination of the rock outcrop below the hall indicates the presence of an iron stained (red) soil profile down to just above the high water level overlying a weathered rock outcrop, which can be followed along this section of the cliff at the same level. The rock outcrop suggests a volcanic origin (not shown on the geology map) that consists of larger fragments in a volcanic matrix (ash). This is likely of Tertiary age (~30million years old). Geotechnically, the rock appears distinctly weathered and described as very weak to weak.

The slope below the hall to the bay which is approximately 12-15m in height and consists of an upper section (slope ~35deg) with a steeper lower section (45deg). The shape of the slope has been caused by undercutting along the shoreline usually at high tides, resulting in the undermining of trees and vegetation. This causes toppling, which in turn leads to further erosion and steepening of

the slope in the lower section. This has been further affected by de-vegetation in parts of the upper slope.

Whilst the rock/soil interface appears to be relatively even along the shoreline, older photographs suggest that the rock extends considerably higher than the cliff line as envisaged, which would provide greater support than suggested from recent observations.

Conclusions:

Information assessed from the site inspection indicates that the cliff area is degrading with time which is being caused by undercutting of the lower cliff section at high tide and during storm events. This results in the loss of support for trees and vegetation and allows the face to slump which in turn results in a further loss of support. There are other weather causes contributing to the failure of the tree root system which includes trees being blown over in high winds.

The risk of continued collapse and slumping is high though the rate of deterioration will be variable. This makes it difficult to predict a time frame regarding damage to the hall. It is thought likely though to be affected in the moderate to long term.

Recommendation:

A detailed assessment of the slope stability below the hall was recommended which would include a detailed survey of the area to the west and south of the hall. A series of four test boreholes to a depth of 4.5m (or rig refusal due to hard rock) were recommended by the Engineering Geologist to further investigate the situation.

Update:

It is believed that the recommended drilling was undertaken in July. The contractors had promised these results to be provided to Redland City Council in a written report within two to three weeks of completion of drilling. The results from these test boreholes will be very important regarding further assessment undertakings regarding the composition and stability of the cliffs on which the Community Hall stands.

Reference to the Council online PD maps indicated that this area of the island is orange on the landslide overlay map suggesting a Medium Hazard area (not red as in more serious landslip prone areas)

Report reviewed by Consultant Geologist, Lindsay Duncan



Secretary: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson

Ph 32077153/0411226363

President: Carolyn Brammer

Ph 32079867 / 0488886000