



THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA

COMMUNITY PRECINCT

ENCOMPASSING: THE ENTRANCE; THE ENTRANCE NORTH; LONG JETTY TOOWOON BAY; BLUE BAY; SHELLY BEACH & MAGENTA

www.theentranceprecinct.org

Wyong Shire Councillor Sue Wynn's ad hoc address to TEPCP General Meeting 15 February, 2011 at 7:00pm "Summary of report's findings into providing a breakwall at The Entrance"

Following the presentation on WSC's Flood Management Study, the Chairperson, Marlene Pennings then acknowledged Wyong Shire Councillor Sue Wynn's presence at our meeting and invited her to address the meeting as a way of addressing some of the issues people have before they ask questions.

"First let me say that I have been to a number of meetings like this and that people believe that a breakwall is the panacea of all ills and they don't like it and don't agree with me and some people get quite hostile when I say no it is not. Well I'm not going to waver from my position either.

I went to a couple of meetings in my position as the Deputy Chair of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary management Committee. We had a presentation from experts who had tracked the water flow around our lake. Where it comes in at Tumbi and where it comes on at Wyong and we were told by our Engineer over here that we have almost eight hundred square kilometre catchment drains into an eighty square kilometre body of water.

They are not lakes, they are lagoons, they are shallow bodies of water. They set up their own wind systems. That is why when we put that development on the north part of The Entrance they have sand all the time. The wind would take that sand and deposit it on the west side of the lake then at the other end of the season the wind would pick it up and bring it back. Well we put houses there and they get sand dumped on them. We think we can interfere with natural processes and we do. We build thousands of homes around this lake front. We have taken out spherical rain forests, we have taken out salt marsh. we have taken out all of the things that protected it. We let all of the land develop without the sediment controls we have now, so all that sediment went into the lake when we were building and it still does. So we as people created a lot of issues, not deliberately but through our own ignorance and lack of understanding caused a lot of issues.

This study tracked the water that came down into the lake from the Wyong River and it tracked this water - where does it go? The water goes all the way up into Lake Munmorah, Budgewoi lake and back around and it keeps circulating all the way around all the time. For every two hundred drops one of them pops out to sea every time it comes past The Entrance! One drop in every two hundred, one litre in every two hundred litres. That's how small, how miniscule the interchange is. That is half a percent of water being interchanged. If you put another entrance up at Budgewoi that would make one drop in every hundred, double the amount to one percent. That is a very, very small interchange. These lakes are not meant to interchange with the ocean. They are not very salty, they are not briney. They are nowhere near as salty as the ocean. They are an entirely different entity

So when you do dredge it you will not get a huge difference the exchange of water. That's the first thing.

The second thing is, and we have done lots of studies about the lake, and a report is coming to Council at the end of March. Craig Thompson promised seventy thousand dollars into a study of the effects of a breakwall. This (Sue holds up a short report) is the preliminary results of that study. This is the executive summary. It says that Tuggerah Lakes are fifteen to twenty centimetres higher than the ocean. The construction of a breakwall is considered to result in:

- The average lake level would reduce and two hundred and ninety six hectares of lake bed, mud flats, would be exposed. Have you ever been up around Budgewoi when it looks like that? Not a pretty sight.

- Tidal movements would be more extreme in the lake. That is you would have a higher and a lower tide.
- Sand will tend to build up on one side of the training walls and be permanently lost from the other and will probably result in severe erosion the North Entrance beach.
- A wider and deeper entrance will allow considerable ocean swell to enter the estuary. So you are going to get more erosion from that.
- Major erosion of sand shoals between The Entrance Bridge and the Ocean resulting in an end to any prawning or wading at the Memorial Park.
- The entrance would be constricted during times of flood resulting in an increase in major of flood levels in Tuggerah Lakes. So it actually says it will make a major flood worse.
- Flushing of Tuggerah Lakes will increase marginally, so it will increase a little bit, and would not improve the water quality of the lake to any great degree.
- With the loss of the sand shoals used for wading fishing, and prawning, alternative fishing spots will emerge along the break walls. More recreational boating could be expected which would change the character of the area. This would be limited to small dingies as the off shore bars and reef would restrict larger boats entering from the sea.
- The shallow nature of the lakes would limit the navigation of deep draft boats. I know a lot of people say "Why do we not dredge the lake and let larger boats in?" Because the lake is not very deep.
- Increased tidal flows from a wider and deeper channel could lead to more marine life entering the estuary, including prawns, larger fish and sharks.
- The Entrance Channel and surrounding area could become more of an artificial port with increased emphasis on boats and associated foreshore activities but it is difficult to see it developing to a point where it is economically significant for The Entrance.
- Foreshore Habitats:
 - More mudflats around the edge of the lake causing major odour problems in residential areas
 - Seagrass die back and poor water circulation.
 - Fish habitats and marine bird foraging areas will also be impacted though the likely outcomes are unclear.
 - The gradual change from an estuarine to a more saline marine environment will see changes in fish habitats and species as well as vegetation growth such as mangroves around the edges of Tuggerah Lakes
- Likely Costs:
 - Cost estimates prepared in two thousand and four indicate that building twin training walls plus major channel dredging would cost forty million dollars.
 - Ongoing maintenance would cost an additional one to two hundred thousand dollars a year.
 - Replacement costs would average one million dollars per year

So that's the report that will come to Council in March so you will be able to get it when we have our April Meeting."

Questions to Councillor Sue Wynn:

Q. Do you think the lake is polluted now? It stinks!

A. We have let all the phosphates come into the lake. Phosphates make more growth. I will commit. I will never agree that putting in a breakwall is the answer. I do agree that with investigation some sort of sand nourishment on the North Entrance side is probably going to be one of the better options.

I think one of the only good things is that with climate change to flood our maximum number of homes, it does not seem to spread it just gets deeper in those areas.

I am not saying no to a breakwall for money reasons I truly do not believe a breakwall will help.

Q. You are dumping sand on North Entrance and the tide is taking it way as fast as you are dumping it and you reckon that is OK?

A. Sand nourishment is a different thing done at different times of the year

Marlene thanked Sue for her informative ad hoc presentation.