

COCKBURN SOUND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Summary of Meeting on 13 October 2017

CSMC self-evaluation and review of the 2016–18 Strategic Plan

Members discussed what the Council is doing well in delivering against its Terms of Reference and where there are opportunities for improvement. Members agreed there has been very good progress made with the oversight and coordination of monitoring and research/investigative studies in Cockburn Sound, and reporting to the Minister and the community on the state of the environment of Cockburn Sound. Members noted that while much had been achieved in terms of effective community engagement, there were also opportunities to increase community engagement with the Council.

State of Cockburn Sound marine area report

Under the Council's Terms of Reference the Council is required to report to the Minister for Environment on the overall state of the Cockburn Sound marine area as well as trends in water quality and associated environmental values. The Council received a presentation on the proposed approach to the State of the Sound Report. The report will provide a concise, high level "snapshot" of the state of the Sound, including summary figures and tables to present the information.

Overview of the 2016–2017 annual environmental monitoring results

The Council received a presentation on the 2016–17 annual environmental monitoring results. The summer of 2017 was one of the wettest on record which was likely to have impacted on water quality in the Cockburn Sound. It is important that such events are considered in the Council's assessment of the monitoring results against the Environmental Quality Criteria for Cockburn Sound.

Update on Priority Research/Investigative Studies

The Council received an update on progress with the implementation of the priority research projects:

- **Seagrass/benthic habitat mapping:** The University of Western Australia provided a presentation on the results of the 2017 Cockburn Sound seagrass mapping project.
- **Drivers–Pressures–State–Impacts–Responses (DPSIR) Assessment for Cockburn Sound:** three independent peer reviewers have been appointed and are currently reviewing the draft Cockburn Sound assessment report.
- **Review of the Cockburn Sound water quality monitoring program:** the Coordinator is progressing with developing an indicative budget and proposed schedule for implementing the recommendations. This will form the basis of advice and recommendations to the Minister for Environment.