

Conjola Community Association Facebook Posts – excluding images & community comments

The following are posts entered by the Conjola Community Association in regard to the lake condition and the rising water level (in order of latest to oldest). NB:- Postings from the Lake Conjola (& Surrounds) Noticeboard are not included.

27 Dec 2018

Watch WIN TV News tonight (Thu 27 Dec) at 6pm.

WIN TV were at Conjola earlier today doing some filming and conducting interviews with locals, including Councillor Patricia White.

Also, there is a planned "shindig" (excuse the pun) at the Boardwalk Boat Ramp (past Holiday Haven) at 2pm, this Sunday 30 Dec for everyone who is concerned about our Lake Conjola. Come along, meet-greet fellow concerned residents and visitors, and share your stories.

27 Dec 2018

This is a historical post from Amanda Findley from September 2015 subsequent the floods that inundated our lake community. Amanda Findley, our Community at Lake Conjola remain in hope, that you the elected Mayor, will "continue" to show the heartfelt empathy expressed in your letter after our previous natural crisis. The community are feeling "alone" and stressed at the current mismanagement. There is a solution. The Conjola Community Association has presented this revised Entrance Management Policy to Council. Please start preparation to open the Lake as per the revised Entrance Management Policy. Post reads as follows:-

"One day after the Local Community of Lake Conjola was inundated by Flood Waters NSW GREENS Representative -Amanda Findley sent the following email to the Staff and Representatives of Shoalhaven City Council.

Your comments are very welcome!

"Good evening all,

I understand how trying the last 48 hours have been.

what I wish to express at this point is that once again all Shoalhaven services have worked extremely hard when faced with adversity.

and just as predicted many of our villages have been isolated with residents feeling 'alone' during this event.

the flood planning that Shoalhaven Council has undertaken during the last 10 years is exemplary - and I implore that when the stress of the last few days subsides with the flood waters that we all take a long hard look at how accurate the for-casting actually is. Thanks to the NRM team for making this available.

I also wish to remind people that in the face of adversity it is easy to equivocate - there is no doubt we all have empathy- as I write this my 140acres is 90 % inundated - but due to good mapping I have been able to move cattle and equipment to higher ground- its part of the risk we take living with water views, in high risk catchments.

The phone calls have been many and distressing, and that is part of our jobs as community leaders, but please do not lose sight of the facts and the reality of what has been supported in the past.

It is easier to make decisions in benign times but when it all turns to the proverbial it might seem simpler to back peddle- all that does is make future events worse.

In solidarity and knowing that we have all done our possible best.

Amanda Findley"

25 Dec 2018

Snorkeller drowns on NSW South Coast - A snorkeller drowned on the state's South Coast after he went missing during a Christmas swim.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/.../1d59ea6ff5c84b14e69a333...>

24 Dec 2018

The following email/letter date 22 Dec 18 was sent by resident Peter Webster, to Donna Hayden at Council , with a copy to Shelley Hancock, State Govt MP for the South Coast:-

Hello Donna,

I was so thankful the council decided to open the Lake at 10 am yesterday.

I viewed the opening and was very concerned that it seemed the action taken to be way less than what is required for a successful opening.

I am not an hydrologist but I do have common sense and this seemed to be what I would call a placating opening.

Many other inexperienced people who also viewed the councils action predicted it was a very sub standard attempt at opening the Lake and that it would be closed with in a day.

Well they were correct.

We have water flooding the Point and car park and the water behind the cabins in the creek is now covering the bridge preventing foot traffic and kangaroos from accessing the car park.

It is still raining and the situation is going to get worse as we head into Xmas.

It is very obvious the council do not want the Lake to be open for a myriad of misdirected environmental reasons.

The action taken has fulfilled your publicly stated comments that the council would open the Lake however the execution is nothing short of a complete deception.

So many people including members of my own family have cancelled their holiday in Lake Conjola this Xmas holidays.

It is obvious the Caravan Parks are also suffering from a lack of holiday makers.

I contacted many of them when the Lake was opened excited we would see them for Xmas. I have called them all this afternoon to advise the Lake closed within 24 hours!!!

The council is not fulfilling their obligation to local businesses and to residents and holiday makers. Their actions are transparently deceptive driven by a totally misguided set of values being forced on the community because of an ideology which is supported by a very minimal number of people in this area.

Please open the lake correctly and professionally otherwise pass the responsibility to a body who can fulfill the wishes of the majority.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Webster.

23 Dec 2018

On Fri 21 Dec, Councils Director of Assets & Works, Mr Paul Keech, replied to Conjola Community Association's Memo to Council dated 19 Dec in which the CCA requested, quote

"..... the Conjola Community Association on behalf of the Community respectfully requests Council Staff take heed of past mistakes and arrange for additional plant and equipment to be on site, so as to provide an adequately dimensioned pilot channel in the remaining time available."

The response from Mr Keech is as follows:-

Hi Robyn

I refer to your email below and thank you for taking the time to express Conjola Community Association's thoughts.

I suppose I should point out that we are working to an adopted policy at this location and we are not expecting a different outcome.

Council understands that the pilot channel will close up pretty quickly, and this is a consideration in the timing of the construction of the channel.

The adopted policy seeks to balance key environmental requirements, emergency response times, safety of callout crews and the public, risk in the light of short term weather forecasts, cost and err on the side of caution, so a perfect strategy and response will always be difficult to achieve.

The policy to date has been developed with wide input and at the end of the summer season Council will review the adopted policy and will seek community input to ensure we respond as best as we can to a very complex matter.

I hope this information goes some way to addressing the concerns you have expressed.

Kind regards

Paul Keech

Director, Assets & Works, Shoalhaven City Council

02 4429 3298, Paul.Keech@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Mr Keech is out of the office until Monday 7 Jan 2019, and left a note to contact Ellann Lehdey on email - ellann.lehday@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au for urgent matters.

21 Dec 2018

10.38am Dec 21st 2018. Water is being released.

Please post photos here on the progress of the water release so that we have a record. Comments are welcome regarding the flow of water and the scouring (if any) process. Please stay a safe distance when taking pictures. Thank you

21 Dec 2018

This Pilot Channel is not a long term solution to the issues at the Lake Conjola Entrance. Shoalhaven City Council continue with the mismanagement of the Lake Conjola Entrance. The Conjola Community Association are requesting that Shoalhaven City council accept the recently tabled Revised Lake Conjola Entrance Management Policy for a long term ongoing managed entrance.

20 Dec 2018

We would like a record of the environmental impact the high water level has had on the lake - e.g. erosion to banks, trees undermined and falling, visual signs of poor water quality, impact on local fauna and marine life.

So please post here (or if you prefer on the Lake Conjola (& Surrounds) Facebook page), images of the impact that you see around the shores of the lake, & note the location (or email a copy to the Association (conjola.community@lakeconjola.org)).

Poor /reactive entrance management not only impacts the community, it impacts the environment.

20 Dec 2018

On 6 Dec the Conjola Community Association (CCA) posted a note on this Page regarding an observed change to water sampling point E40 - from the mouth of Pattimore's Canal adjacent to the Aney St boat ramp to the north-western point of Conjola Deepwater Resort.

After a thorough investigation by Council Staff and review with CCA, the E-40 water sampling location on the north-western point of Deepwater has been confirmed as the historic data point. To which end, the CCA wishes to thank the two Council Staff (Shane Pickering and Thelma Marr) who investigated the Community's query. The apparent 'relocation' was due to a mapping error on the AquaData website, which has since been corrected.

CCA are satisfied with Council's explanation, and CCA accept that the sample taken from the mouth of the Canal was an anomaly.

19 Dec 2018

The Conjola Community Association are dismayed that the work underway to clear the entrance may not achieve the desired outcome for the entrance, and could lead to a repeat of past mistakes. Accordingly, the Association has sent the following memo to Council General Manager, several Councillors, and relevant staff, viz:-

Dear Russ,

Further to Council's Media Statement announcing preparatory works for a Planned Opening of Lake Conjola and residual concerns regarding sub-optimal lake water level, associated scour and short-lived entrance

opening, the Conjola Community Association takes this opportunity to refer Council to the Patterson Britton and Partners' Lake Conjola Entrance Study 1999 and Technical Appendix 17 Entrance Scour and Opening Protocol, therein - a copy of which is attached.

More specifically, Page 4 of this document notes...

"...Historically, Council has tried to open the entrance to the north by cutting a relatively small pilot channel (of the order of size as presented in the above figures) across a very large entrance shoal, which has been in the order of 200 - 300 metres wide or more. As shown by the above model results, a channel of such small dimensions was never likely to cause a full lake break-out. A channel of the order of 40 - 50 metres wide is likely to be required to cause break-out across such a wide entrance berm condition."

Additional to this, it is noted at Page 5...

"... During the 1994 - 1998 closure, Council made repeated attempts to open the entrance in the north. Unfortunately, the entrance could not breakout due to the relatively small pilot channel dimensions being employed, and the large entrance berm width (~ 300m). Had Council employed a pilot channel tens of metres wide across the several hundred metres of delta sand flat, with a bed level up to a metre below the lake level, the openings would have been more successful."

Importantly, the abovementioned observations were reported almost twenty years ago and it appears that Council is about to repeat the same mistakes of the past. As evidenced by the attached photographs depicting what can only be described as the preparation of a small dimensioned pilot channel of minimal depth and width by a single excavator.

Given this, the Conjola Community Association on behalf of the Community respectfully requests Council Staff take heed of past mistakes and arrange for additional plant and equipment to be on site, so as to provide an adequately dimensioned pilot channel in the remaining time available.

As I write, I'm reminded of an anonymous, yet often referenced quote as follows... "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome."

This aside and on a personal note Russ, the Conjola Community Association and I take this opportunity to thank you for your many years of dedicated service and wish you all the very best in retirement. Though I do have to ask, can I finally claim victory for wearing you down?

Yours faithfully, Robyn Kerves - Conjola Community Association, President

NB: Attachment 17 referred to in the memo is available on the Conjola Community Association webpage at https://www.lakeconjola.org/.../pbp_1999_entrance_study_appen...

19 Dec 2018

Diggers are on site. Please stay away from the entrance area. Photos from a safe distance posted here would be appreciated.

19 Dec 2018

At 8:16 this morning (19 Dec), the lake level was 0.94m. Over the past few weeks several people have enquired as to the level. For those in the community who don't know, the BOM water level gauge is on-line and updated regularly. The website address is <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60234/IDN60234.568182.plt.shtml>

18 Dec 2018

Lake Conjola will be Opened

Shoalhaven City Council will commence preparing the pilot channel for the manual opening of Lake Conjola over the next two days Wednesday, 19 December and Thursday, 20 December in preparation for the lake opening.

It is expected that the lake opening will occur on Friday, 21 December at the ebb tide. The opening will be located on the northern side of the spit due to the presence of Shorebirds in the area.

Shane Pickering Acting Environmental Service Manager said "Council has been working with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to find solutions to the current situation at the lake and has been monitoring the lake levels for some time"

"It has been deemed that whilst the lake is not at optimum levels for an opening it is deemed that the current level will still allow for an opening to occur."

"Optimum scour may not occur and if extensive rainfall does not follow, the lake may only be open for a short period of time (weeks/month)."

"We request that residents and visitors stay clear of the works to open the lake, for their safety and for the safety of shorebirds that are also within this vicinity whilst Council staff undertake works."

16 Dec 2018

Please post photos here throughout today so we have a record (of the impact rising water has on our community). Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th Dec 2018.

16 Dec 2018

Friday 14th Dec v Sunday 16th Dec. We are at .91 with more rain forecast for this coming Wed and Thursday. Photo taken on the Lake front near the bottle shop in Edwin Ave.

16 Dec 2018

At 10:10AM this morning, the Conjola Community Association has sent the following email to the Shoalhaven General Manager, Russ Pigg:-

".....please be advised that the Lake Level Gauge reported the trigger level for preparatory works on a Planned Opening (0.9m AHD) to commence at 7.16am this morning. I have also contacted and spoken with Leanne on Council's emergency telephone number (02) 44 213 100 at 9.12am this morning to advise same.

For ease of reference, the next step actions required for this procedure are outlined on Pages 4 and 5 of the Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013 which prescribes a pilot channel sized to reflect width of entrance berm as far as is practical to be located within the northern position identified in Appendix C of said document.

Opening is to commence when the Lake water level is at or exceeding 1.0m AHD. At present rate of water level increase (approximately 10mm every 30 minutes) the opening level of 1.0m AHD should be reached in the next 5 hours - which leaves very little time to avoid an unnecessary low-level flood event on the week before Christmas.

Given this, the Conjola Community Association (Conjola CCB) on behalf of the Conjola Community respectfully requests Council Staff commence the Planned Opening procedure at the very earliest opportunity so as to avoid a flood event. After all, isn't this the intent of the Interim Entrance Management Policy?

Once again, I apologise for interrupting your weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dirk Treloar - Conjola Community Association (Conjola CCB) - Vice President

15 Dec 2018

At noon on 27 Nov 18 the lake water level was 0.46m.

On 28 and 29 Nov 18, according to the BOM rainfall data, Bendalong recorded 110mm and 30mm of rain respectively, and no rainfall was recorded until 5 Dec 18 when 8mm was received.

By noon on 29 Nov water level was over 0.76m, and by 2 Dec it was over 0.8m.

In summary, after 140mm of rainfall (at Bendalong - & less at Ulladulla), the water level increased by approx 0.35m and has remained steady

At 8:15pm on Sat 15 Dec the water level is 0.78m, and has been rising steadily over the past 4 days – rain recorded in the last 2 days is around 30mm

The obvious conclusion is:- If the lake remains closed and if 100mm of rain is received over 2 days within the next few weeks, parts of Conjola will flood, and Council don't seem to care.

15 Dec 2018

At 7:16 this morning (Sat 15 Dec) the Lake Water Level was 0.77m, a rise from a steady 0.74 on Wed.

There's an article this morning on ABC News Weather On-line about Cyclone Owen which is currently impacting Nth QLD. The article states "....The spiralling superstorms generally form in the warm waters of the tropics and impact on the northern Australian coast. But as we are forecast to see over the next few days, they can travel down the coast or inland and still have big impacts as ex-tropical cyclones...."

Conjola has experienced the impact of ex-tropical cyclones in the past – lets hope the lake is opened before ex-cyclone Owen has any impact

14 Dec 2018

Council has shut the doors and gone home for the weekend. We will soon be all walking on water with more rain to come over the next few days.

14 Dec 2018

Recently a member of the Conjola community received correspondence from the Shoalhaven Mayor's Office that referred to a document called the "Lake Conjola Flood Plan". That document is not listed on Council's website under Flood Management, but there is a document called "Lake Conjola Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan – 2013" and presumably this is the document referred to by the Mayor.

On page 40 of the document is a table that includes a trigger level to open the entrance prior to Christmas and Easter holiday times, quote:-

"Pre-Holiday Opening at 0.8 - 1.0m AHD

If the Lake Level reaches and stabilises at a level between 0.8 m and 1.0 m AHD (measured from the MHL gauge at the Conjola Caravan Park) within one month prior to or at the time of the Christmas and Easter holidays and moderate or heavy rainfall is ongoing or predicted"

This trigger level is not mentioned as an option in the Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013, but there is a statement in the "Document Status" section that states, quote, "Removal of the pre holiday opening @ 0.8m-1.0m AHD. This option was not supported by State Government Agencies and the REF. In addition, it was not supported at workshops with community members."

We can only surmise that Council wanted this trigger removed from the Policy, but the request was rejected by NSW Government, the Review of Environmental Factors Report, and the Community.

At 8:00AM this morning (14 Dec) the water level was 0.76m and has been steadily rising since Wed afternoon.

Over the next week BOM are forecasting rain most days. Over the past 4 days the water level has been around 0.75m – ie 50mm less than the trigger of 0.8m with 11 days before Christmas.

We don't want another flood as shown in this image from 25 Aug 2015.

13 Dec 2018



12 Dec 2018

It won't take much more than an overnight shower to break these banks. What plan does Shoalhaven City Council have in place if we get heavy overnight rain or it rains on a Sunday, on Christmas, Day Boxing day or New Years Day? Do we have to wait till 9am on a weekday for an Emergency Opening? Why not have a plan and do a Planned Opening? We will be there when it floods.... Will Shoalhaven City Council be there?

Shoalhaven City Council - The Conjola Community Association would like a contact number to call for immediate action to open the lake in case flooding occurs on a weekend or public holiday or overnight. Please do not leave us drowning again.

11 Dec 2018

The Conjola Community Association has undertaken an analysis of data from BOM rainfall records and Manly Hydraulics Laboratory water level records for the 9 Conjola flood events since Mar 2011.

The analysis focuses on the rate of increase in water level from 0.8m (approx current level) to 1.2m and it shows that 8 of the 9 events reached 1.2m (the Emergency Opening Level) at night-time - i.e. between the hours 5PM and 9AM the next day (or Out of Council Business Hours).

At 1.2m properties are being flooded, which makes a nonsense of 1.2m being the trigger to undertake an emergency opening.

In 5 of the events, the water level increased from 0.8m to 1.0m in under 5 hours, and in a couple of the cases, Jun 2012 and Jul 2016, the water level increased from 0.8m to 1.2m in around 3 hours (at night-time).

The attached graph shows the rate of increase in water level for each event together for the rainfall recorded leading up to the event.

FYI - For the past 10 years the average rainfall in Dec and Jan is around 100mm

8 Dec 2018

Why have Council reported water quality off Prior St near Killarney (sample point E44) for Jun 18 to be "Good" and yet the results on Aquadata show water quality to be "Fair" or "Bad" for samples taken early in the month. On 6 Jun 18, water quality off Prior St for Faecal Coliform was 400CFU/100ml, 10 times (1000%) higher than "Good", and for Enterococci it was 600CFU/100ml or 15 times (1500%) higher.

According to BOM only 2mm of rain was recorded at Bendalong (the nearest BOM station) in the 13 days prior to 6 June. Subsequent results in June were within the "Good" range, but the results are inconsistent with Council claims that rainfall increases the readings due to animal faeces from runoff – results for 28 Jun 18 are higher than both 13 and 20 Jun results, yet 80mm fell over 5 days prior to 13 June and then only 3mm on 22 Jun.

Council water quality reports are monthly by sample point, so why aren't bad results reported? Surely the community should be made aware of a bad result.

7 Dec 2018

In response to requests from the Community, the Conjola Community Association (Conjola CCB) have today written to all Shoalhaven City Council Councillors requesting an opportunity to present to Council the Community's case for a Managed Entrance Policya copy of the memo is on the Conjola Community Associations website, viz:-

https://www.lakeconjola.org/.../20181206_email_to_councillors...

6 Dec 2018

The Conjola Community Association has written to Council expressing concern regarding observed changes to a water sampling point (E40 on the Aquadata website map) from the end of the canal from Pattimores Lagoon (adjacent to the Aney St Boat Ramp) to a location approximately 60 metres north and closer to the main body of the Lake.

The move will not only compromise historical test results for this sample point, but the samples will be diluted because they are taken from within or closer to the broader body of the Lake. A copy of the email to Council is available on the Association website –

<https://www.lakeconjola.org/nb-latest-news.html>

4 Dec 2018

Water Quality – Council have responded to Conjola Community Association questions regarding the water quality in the lake, viz: -

Quote "... For the purposes of human health nitrogen and phosphorus are not required for the assessment of "safe" bathing recreational water and these are not taken as part of the focused sampling that is being conducted weekly at the lake."

Quote "...The incremental increases and decreases in faecal coliforms as have been identified in your correspondence are indicative of impacts from surrounding land uses. Increases in faecal levels will be commonly experienced after rainfall as contaminants from the land are washed into the catchments and into lakes, rivers and beaches."

3 Dec 2018

As at 12.02pm today 3rd Dec 2018 the Lake Conjola water level has reached .79 AHD. With further high tides (1.79) predicted on Wednesday a further wash over from the ocean is expected, hopefully increasing the Lake water level to .80 AHD which is the trigger level for a Planned Entrance Opening. Conjola Community Association have requested that Shoalhaven Council take steps to prepare for a planned opening should the Lake Conjola water level reach the level of .80 AHD as per the Lake Conjola Interim Entrance Management Policy:

<http://doc.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/DisplayDoc.aspx...>

We will advise on the response once we hear from Shoalhaven City Council.

30 Nov 2018

Today the Conjola Community Association wrote to Council requesting consideration be given to preparing for a Planned Opening of Lake Conjola – not an Emergency Opening - in accordance with the INTERIM Entrance Management Policy 2013 . The following is a copy of the request :-

To Shane Pickering, Acting Environmental Services Manage, Shoalhaven City Council

Dear Shane,

Additional to my earlier e-mail dated 29th November 2018 seeking clarification on Council's reasons for and impacts arising from the change to sampling location E-40, please find this email as written request Council give further consideration to the Community preferred option of a Planned Opening for Lake Conjola - not an Emergency Opening.

More specifically, the Planned Opening option preferred by the Community is still available to Council to act upon, given lake water level at time of writing is 0.76m AHD and approaching the nominated trigger level of 0.8m AHD required to activate this procedure. As intended, the Planned Opening procedure can be implemented and allows time for preparatory works for a sizable pilot channel on the northern side, as outlined on Page 5 and detailed in Appendix C of the current Interim Entrance Management Policy.

The Community is dissatisfied with Council's preferred Emergency Opening option, because it in fact contributes to low-level flooding and is contrary to the Interim Entrance Management Policy objective of mitigating low-level flooding. This is largely attributed to the Emergency Opening trigger level of 1.2m AHD being 200mm higher than the 1.0m AHD for a Planned Opening. Which is counter-intuitive to mitigating low-level flooding, as the higher trigger level of 1.2m AHD (and subsequent trial of even higher lake water levels over the past 5 Emergency Openings) causes greater flood damage to public and private assets.

In light of this and available supporting evidence, the writer respectfully requests Council give further consideration to the Community's repeated request for Planned Opening procedures to be implemented and

awaits your earliest advice on the matter - particularly given the likelihood of further rainfall into the catchment over the next few days.

Thanking you in advance.

Regards,

Dirk Treloar

Vice President, Conjola Community Association

29 Nov 2018

In the early 1990's, Council engaged Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL - a govt authority within the NSW Govt Office of Environment & Heritage) to develop a tool to assist with managing the entrance to Lake Conjola. The tool is known as M2 and provides Council with an indication of the tidal flow of the lake and when intervention is required to maintain a healthy flow.

The attached image is a graph of M2 over 20 years - 1994-2013. The graph clearly shows that during the severe 10 year drought from the late 1990's, tidal flow was healthy which suggests the drought had little impact on water levels within the lake. The pale green line is the alert for Council to implement entrance Mgt Planning, but for the past 10 years or so Council have largely ignored M2 to proactively manage the entrance.

29 Nov 2018

The Conjola Community Association has tabled a proposal with Council to finalise the Interim Estuary Management Policy 2013 to be a proactive policy rather than a reactive policy as it is now. Currently Council wait for an event before any action is taken. The proposal basically mimics the policies of several NSW Coastal Councils in how they proactively manage their waterways. The Association has met with Council several times to discuss the proposal but each time Council have deferred discussion. A copy of the policy is on our website - (1.1mb PDF document)

https://www.lakeconjola.org/.../proposal_to_include_channel_o...

28 Nov 2018

Response from Shoalhaven Council:

Shoalhaven City Council. Please be advised that Council is monitoring the situation and acting in accordance with the EMP. It is possible that the lake trigger levels may be reached due to the amount of rainfall we are receiving. Therefore, in accordance with the Lake Conjola Interim Entrance Management Policy and Lake Tabourie Entrance Management Plan, Council is making preparation to be able to open the Lake to the ocean if trigger levels are reached. Council will continue to monitor the lake level and review the situation throughout the day and provide necessary updates as required

28 Nov 2018

Photos: Queenscliff Beach, Sydney 22nd Aug 2018. It can be done! It's not the solution, but it's the start to a fully researched proposal.

The existing Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013 has failed because it is effectively a continuation of the same reactive entrance management approach used by Council for over 20 years and is responsible for present day lake conditions - despite being advised by PBP1999 that it was ineffective.

Conjola Community Association have proposed to include Channel Optimisation and Entrance Clearance Works in the Lake Conjola Interim Entrance Management Policy 2013.

We are requesting that Shoalhaven City Council take responsibility to ensure this fully researched and effective proposal is approved and implemented asap.

28 Nov 2018

Council claims to have no money to proactively manage the Lake when all Council Staff need to do is write channel optimisation and entrance clearance works into the estuary and entrance management plans to be eligible for State Government funding for these works.

Shoalhaven City Council please explain to our Community why this has not or cannot be done for Lake Conjola!

We are aware that Narrabeen Lake and Tuggerah Lake are two Councils that have adopted Managed Entrances into their plans and enjoy State Government funding.

28 Nov 2018

Lake level on the increase...

28/11/2018 08:17	0.54
28/11/2018 09:17	0.55
28/11/2018 10:02	0.55
28/11/2018 10:02	0.56
28/11/2018 12:17	0.57
28/11/2018 13:02	0.58
28/11/2018 13:32	0.59
28/11/2018 14:17	0.60

28 Nov 2018

I wonder if Council realise that by waiting until 1.2m is reached before undertaking an "emergency opening", there is the potential for a significant impact to an endangered species of birds - Little Terns. Little Terns and other bird species are currently nesting on the Conjola Beach, and their nests could be washed away according to a local Shorebird Co-ordinator.

28 Nov 2018

Weather Warning. Please visit <https://www.lakeconjola.org/>

28 Nov 2018

Shoalhaven City Council The Conjola Community are requesting confirmation that the Emergency opening procedures are currently in place as per the EMP. Shoalhaven City Council have received notification and acknowledge receipt of a potential class action should houses be damaged as a result of flooding due to the lake entrance being closed. Please post photos here. Monitor Lake Level <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60234/IDN60234.568182.plt.shtml>.

17 Oct 2018

The community concerns regarding the condition of the lake continues to be topical. Due to the increased rainfall, properties and infrastructure are once again at risk of damage as a result of flooding, which as history shows occurs more often when the entrance is closed.

See below an email received by the Conjola Community Association from a local property owner.

"As you know, my family and I own 5 property's at on Lake Conjola waterfronts, as well as many neighbours and friends. I have been there for 45 years and am very concerned about the inaction and lack of a solution by council to deal with the blocked lake entrance.

When I first had my first permanent accomodations I experienced two floods which went through and caused damage as as result of the blocked entrance and heavy rain which came from the west end of the lake.

I have contacted my friends and neighbours and indicated I would, with their help, fund a class action against the council if flooding occurs because of this blockage which will go ahead if no action is taken. "

This email has been tabled at the Conjola Community Association Inc General Meeting held on 15th Oct 2018. It will also be forwarded to Clr. Patricia White and Shoalhaven City Council. Any comments will be referred back to the writer.