

Board Meeting: May 2019	Agenda Number: 5	Record Number: ED19/4314
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LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Business Paper

OPEN SESSION

Chief Executive Officer's Report to May 2019 Meeting of the Board

The following briefing provides an overview of key issues managed by the Board during the reporting period, and their status. It is intended that this document be available to the public as part of the minutes of the meeting. Matters which are subject to confidentiality, business in confidence or legal action are shaded and are not included in the public copy of the report.

Number of items excluded from this public edition:
 Business & Corporate Service Report
 Reason: Business in Confidence

MATTER	STATUS	ACTION REQUIRED BY BOARD AT THIS MEETING
Community Strategic Plan	Key issues identified by LHI community (on & off island) via survey and workshop. Key issue workshops underway. Timing for completion to inform budget and strategic planning for 2019/20 financial year.	See agenda item 9 (i)
Runway Feasibility Study	Consultants AECOM have completed the Feasibility Study. Transport for NSW have not yet re-convened working group. No progress to report due to other major project demands.	
Rodent Eradication Program	Project implementation underway. Funding shortfall addressed through grant variation by the Commonwealth Government. Appeal to AAT re APVMA permit determined.	See agenda item 12 (i)
Renewable Energy Project	Tender process completed. Negotiations underway. ARENA funding agreement signed.	
Boat retrieval system (slipway)	Revised concept being investigated following visit to LHI by new head of RMS Maritime. Estimated cost of ramp solution not within RMS budget..	
Marine Rescue	NSW Government announcement re funding a possible Marine Rescue Base at LHI and marine radio installation after an initial meeting with Commissioner Marine Rescue NSW and NSW Police on LHI.	See agenda item 12 (ii)

Prepared: Peter Adams, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Chief Executive Officer Report – BCS Unit - **Closed**
- Attachment B: Chief Executive Officer Report – ECS Unit - Open
- Attachment C: Chief Executive Officer Report – IES Unit - Open

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT
19 March to April 30 2019

Biodiversity Management

- ABhA infestation detected in former infestation area. Infestation area delimited and baited immediately. Ongoing monitoring of all former infestation areas scheduled for Spring/Summer 2019/2020.

Research & Volunteers

The Research Station has been undergoing renovations and has been occupied by builders for most of the reporting period with 4 OEH staff occupying the facility since 18 April for management of Currawong and Woodhen. Taronga Zoo has been using the laboratory for veterinary checks of all birds coming into captivity since 19 April.

Rodent Eradication

- See Agenda Item - Rodent Eradication progress report.

Biosecurity

- Ongoing inspections using detection dogs of freight brought in on Island Trader and freight planes as well as inspections of luggage from passenger planes.
- Pre border inspections commenced at Port Macquarie 29/4/2019 with LHIB Biosecurity Dog Handler and detection dog. Revised bait inspection procedure for baits located on Island Trader. Inspections of bait stations on ship undertaken prior to departure from Port Macquarie, on arrival at LHI and on return to Port Macquarie after ship cleared of freight.
- Developing Biosecurity Operational Plans for biosecurity inspections at LHI wharf, LHI aerodrome, Port Macquarie wharf and aerodrome.
- Commenced procurement of monitoring devices for installation at LHI jetty and aerodrome to implement the Biosecurity Monitoring Plan approved under EPBC approval.

Weed Management

- The Board is currently running four externally funded weed eradication grant programs (including the NSW Environmental Trust, Saving Our Species, NSW Weeds Action Plan (WAP) and North Coast Local Services). These grants are due for progress reporting in May and June 2019.
- **NSW Environmental Trust 'The Tide is Turning'**. Work has progressed in detecting weeds using spectral analysis techniques. Up to 5 weeds and 20 natives were sampled to find similarities and differences in spectral wavelengths between each species. With the project commencing in dry conditions, repeat surveys will be undertaken in wet climate conditions to build a broader library of plant spectra across varied weather conditions. Planning is in progress to undertake a test flight in known weed locations. Work is progressing on Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT). Permits to import pelletised Garlon capsules and to apply its use with a Paint Ball Gun on LHI have been forwarded to the NSW Police and APVMA. A paint ball gun is used to deploy the pellets from helicopter to deliver targeted treatment of weeds on cliffs. HBT was developed in Hawaii for controlling Cherry Guava and Miconia from steep terrain and will be an important tool for controlling Cherry Guava from cliff lines on LHI.
- **Saving our Species LHI Threatened Species Recovery Program – Project 2 (2017-2021)**. The LHIB are working on the second financial year of this four-year funded project in undertaking monitoring of threatened plants and reduction of weed threat. 21 out of 25 threatened plant monitoring plots have been completed including remote

locations of *Calystegia affinis* at Big Slope and Gower SW. Repeat surveys of planted *Elymus multiflorus* subsp *kingianus* has shown over 80% planting success. Weed search and plot data is being compiled for reporting due May 30th.

- Translocation plantings of *Calystegia affinis* commenced at Old Settlement.
- **Regional Landcare Partners - North Coast Local Land Services 'Protecting World Heritage Values and the Little Mountain Palm.** This grant provides funds for weed search, mapping the summit of Mt Gower, contribution to the SOS helicopter program, settlement weeding (to focus on Madeira Vine) and promoting awareness of LHI Oceanic Cloud Forest and the Critically Endangered Little Mountain Palm. The inaugural weed search of the summit of Mt Gower commenced in March providing the opportunity to understand resources need to support teams to complete search of the summit which will continue in late September/ October. Up to 93 ha out 130ha of target weed search has been reported to date.
- Weeds Action Plan (WAP). The WAP only provides limited funding, which is used to target weeds that are trending towards zero density / eradication and recording of weed survey and control outputs which is required to be reported to NSW DPI.

Revegetation

- Maintenance of revegetation sites has been undertaken in accordance with the Revegetation Work Schedule.
- Planning for planting on Blackburn Island underway with planting stock ordered. Revegetation to be implemented as part of Conservation Volunteers.

Incident Management

- Nil

Compliance and Enforcement

- Some informal warnings regarding dog behaviour.

Community Programs & Education

- Contribute to Signal and Community Information Bulletin.
- <https://www.lordhoweisland.info/blog-post/get-involved-in-protecting-paradise/>

Visitor Infrastructure

- In flight biosecurity and REP information sheet provided for incoming LHI QantasLink flights.

Marine Management / Moorings

- Since the last Board meeting on 18 March 2019 until 13 May, there have been 28 LHIB public mooring bookings with 23 actually visiting the island (5 cancellations).

Human Resource Management

- Recruitment for REP.

Training

- Chemcert training delivered as part of REP. Code of Conduct training delivered to all staff involved with REP.

Work Health & Safety

Environmental Assessment

- Ecological assessments for all OC / DAs referred completed

- Tree risk assessments completed.

Land Administration

- Respond to applications for suspension of residency, lease transfers, subleasing and tenure related project work.
- Actions being pursued following resolutions by the Board (Sept 2018 and March 2019) for compliance with Residency condition of Perpetual Leases.

Development Assessment

- Assessments for Owner Consent, Development Applications and modification to consent applications.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

2 March 2019 to 1 May 2019

Airport

- At the time of writing (Wednesday 1 May 2019) there have been three (3) bird strikes recorded for 2019 at the aerodrome. On Sunday 13 January 2019 during departure a QantasLink DHC8-200 struck a Sooty Tern out to sea off Blinky Beach. The aircraft continued to Brisbane and underwent an engineering inspection where it was discovered that the bird had entered the air intake on the port engine. No damage was recorded and the aircraft resumed service. On Monday 18 March during landing a QantasLink DHC8-200 struck a Ruddy Turnstone which necessitated an overnight stay until the aircraft could be inspected by an engineer. Unfortunately, due to weather, it was a number of days before the aircraft could be inspected (all OK) and return to service. On Saturday 6 April during landing a QantasLink DHC8-200 struck a Pacific Golden Plover impacting the pilots' windscreen. The captain declared the aircraft fit to return to service with the flight experiencing only a 15 minute delay.

From 1 January 2019 to 30 April 2019, there have been 772 aircraft movements, which equates to 3.89 strikes per 1000 movements. As one strike was out of our field of influence (13/01/2019) the amended strike rate is 2.59 strikes per 1000 movements.

For the corresponding period in 2018 there were 2 strikes recorded for a total number of 746 movements. This equates to 2.68 strikes per 1000 movements. Both of these strikes were out of our field of influence (struck over water etc.) which realises an amended strike rate of 0 strikes per 1000 movements.

- On Thursday 28 March 2019 LHIB Officers met with Haydn Monroe and Mohammad Hamid from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) to discuss the possibility of Lord Howe Island Airport operating as a First Point of Entry (FPoE) to Australia for international flights and the Port operating as an FPoE to Australia for international vessels. At this point in time neither the airport nor the port are able to meet the standards required. The LHIB are working closely with DAWR to understand the implications of opening the Island as an FPoE especially with management of biosecurity.
- Aerodrome weed spraying planned for Friday 3 May 2019.
- Blinky dune reduction continues adjacent to SE end of runway, limited staffing has extend the timeframe to complete this task.

Emergency Management

- On Tuesday 9 April 2019 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) conducted the Lord Howe Island Annual Oil Spill Exercise. The exercise was run by Shayne Wilde, Senior Manager Marine Pollution Response, with the assistance of Alex Hamilton, Senior Emergency Planning Officer Statewide Coordination, and other RMS staff. This year's exercise trialled the deployment of the containment booms direct from the Board's punt 'Silvereye' in lieu of from the jetty and tow to site. The trial was a success and has enhanced response capabilities.

This year saw approximately 20 participants with staff from NSW Police, NSW RMS, NSW Marine Parks and LHI Board attending the exercise. Under State Emergency Management arrangements the RMS are the response agency for marine oil and chemical spills.

- Air Ambulance patient retrievals year to date (Friday 1 March 2019) total five (5), two (2) of which were residents. One (1) resident required treatment for illness and one (1) for an injury. Of the three (3) visitors all required treatment for illness.
- Patient retrievals for the same period in 2018 totalled three (3), all of which were residents. Two (2) residents required treatment for illness and one (1) for injury.
- Maintenance of Fire appliance required as throttle control actuator failed not allowing operation of fire pump. Manual system immediately rigged up until full replacement part fitted last week April. Appliance fully operational.
- SES emergency kits scheduled for deployment Mt Gower mid-late May 2019 in cooperation with REP (SES to meet costs for aircraft hire).
- Testing of emergency siren 1000 hrs first Wednesday of month continues without incident, with the most recent test conducted on 03/04/2019.
- Proposed visit for March 2019 was cancelled by SES North Region Deputy Commander Tony Day re 'One Unit Emergency' model utilising a combination of SES and RFS personnel. Further discussions with NSW Police at a Regional level. Construction of new joint emergency facility also discussed. 17 potential candidates identified and invited to apply. Finalising numbers continues. Final number of cross trained personnel agreed to be 10. – Visit now postponed until September 2019 due to difficulties obtaining flights and accommodation.

Building Construction Maintenance and Management

- Replace damaged skylight in kitchen of doctor's house following a fallen pine cone during the recent strong winds

Maritime Facilities and Coastal Activities

- Fender repaired after ship caused fender to twist whilst berthing.
- Jetty stairs were high temperate (140 C°) pressure cleaned on 12 April 2019.
- Stair tread replaced on jetty staircase after high tides and sea surge dislodged the step

Roads, Parks and Visitor Facilities

- Extensive pothole repairs are constantly being carried out weekly.
- Works Staff continue to conduct road verge trimming concentrating on dangerous vines.

- Removal of damaged BBQ at Cobby's Corner, replacement being made in-house as part of staff training initiative. The first of the replacement BBQ's was constructed 1 May 2019 to be reinstated at Cobby's Corner first week in May. It is planned to have all BBQs replaced well before start of the summer season. The new ones will be built utilising stocks on hand of plate steel, cutting, welding and constructing the new BBQs will form part of the training.
- Chair retrieved from base of cliff at Flagstaff after the bench seat was thrown from the top, the seat was relocated without incident or damage but does make the permanent fixing of these seats in the ground a requirement.

Waste Management Facility

- Entire stock of waste plastic bales has now been removed from the island.
- New Merlo telehandler with 4.2 tonne capacity has arrived and will be commissioned after company induction/training for final handover proposed on 6-7 May 2019
- New replacement WMF horizontal waste baler/compactor scheduled for installation May 2019.
- Bobcat has been recently repaired and returned to service at WMF.

General Items/Other

- LHIB staff continue to monitor and treat the Board's drinking water quality for NSW Health compliance.
- LHIB staff continue to monitor mosquito larvae as per the Lord Howe Island Mosquito Surveillance and Vector Monitoring Programme. This programme is part of a National scheme run by the Federal Government.
- LHIB staff continue to monitor wastewater discharge at the WMF with reporting for EPA licence compliance.
- LHIB staff continue to assist residents and businesses with their on-site wastewater management system installations and/or upgrades.
- LHIB staff continue to conduct building inspections and provide certification for Construction Certificates as part of the Development Application process.
- Sports oval goal post removed for safety after several teenage children climbed the structure causing the posts to lean over bending aluminium posts beyond repair making it a full replacement.
- Works field supervisor continues back filling duties pending recruitment for position.
- Funeral of Ron Owens administered by LHIB Works Unit 1 May 2019.

ELECTRICAL SERVICES UNIT

Operation of the Powerhouse and Reticulation System for the reporting period 2 March 2019 to 1 May 2019

Overview of Activities

- Routine maintenance on Generating Units 1, 2 and 3 were completed
- Routine maintenance on Generator No.1 battery bank was completed.
- Routine maintenance on Generator No.1 and 3 Air Circuit Breakers were completed.
- Routine maintenance on Generator and Control battery bank was completed.
- LHIB Risk Monitoring checklist inspections were completed.
- Powerhouse safety inspections were completed.
- Routine maintenance on Generator No. 1 and 2 day fuel tanks were completed.
- Routine maintenance to HV and LV equipment on Substation No.11 Mountainview was completed.
- Routine maintenance on HV and LV equipment on Substation No.3 Beachcomber was completed.
- Routine maintenance on Distribution pillars associated with Substation No.3 Beachcomber were completed.

Information for Board Members

- Energy demand for the reporting period was 352,000 kWh.
- Fuel consumption for the reporting period was 101,450 litres.
- Fuel energy efficiency for the reporting period was 3.46 kWh/L
- Presently there are 109 kW of privately owned solar panels connected to the electrical distribution system.
- There were 2 **planned** supply interruptions during the period. These affected customers connected to Substation No.3 Beachcomber and Substation No.11 Mountainview in order to complete routine maintenance on the HV and LV equipment associated with the Substations. Each interruption was for approximately 4hrs each.
- There were no **unplanned** supply interruptions during the period.
- There was 1 new customer connected during the reporting period. This is a temporary supply for the REP Airport Hut for use with the REP program. There are currently 291 customers connected to the electrical supply system.

