

COCKBURN SOUND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Summary of Joint Executive and Research Priorities Working Group Meeting on 11 December 2017

Review of the indicative costing and schedule for the implementation of the recommended changes to Cockburn Sound water quality monitoring programs

The Executive and Research Priorities Working Group considered the indicative costing and schedule developed for implementing the Expert Advisory Panel's recommendations from the review of the Cockburn Sound water quality monitoring programs. Members noted that the costings were intended to be indicative 'in the region of' estimates based on available information and that no formal quotes had been sought at this time.

Key discussion points included:

- The importance of providing a comparison between the current monitoring costs and the anticipated future ongoing monitoring costs. It will also be important to identify the significant value and benefits from the additional information that will be available for Cockburn Sound from implementing the recommended changes to the monitoring programs.
- While there are potentially significant capital costs associated with the purchase and installation of telemetered water quality monitoring instruments, there are benefits in using telemetered instruments to provide near real-time, continuous water quality data, compared to the current periodic manual collection of water quality data.
- The Council should be proactive in engaging with the Westport Taskforce to promote the recommendations and to communicate the benefits and estimated costs associated with implementing the recommendations.

The Executive and Research Priorities Working Group endorsed the Chair progressing with the preparation and submission of the Council's advice and recommendations on the future monitoring of water quality and associated environmental values for the Cockburn Sound marine area to the Minister for Environment.