



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER, 2013

Councillors

Cathy Griffin	Manly Council (Chair)
Hugh Burns	Manly Council

Other Representatives

Michella Burgers	Community Member
Diana Deeley	Community Member
Natasha Hammond-Deakin	Community Member
Lloyd Keen	Community Member
Keelah Lam	Community Member
Neil Ohlback	Community Member
Dr Jan Ritchie	Community Member
Dave Thomas	Community Member
Karen Pitt	Penguin Warden

Council Staff

Judy Reizes	Manager, Manly Environment Centre
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Community

Dr. Belinda Curley	Marine Scientist
Peter Warr	Custodian Manly/Freshwater World Surfing Reserve
Daniel Sealey	Harbour Trust
Jess Relton	After Dark Nature Tours
Tiago Nunes Kirsten	Intern, MEC

Sydney Water

Kel Taylor	Manager North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant
Norm Nikolich	Community Relations
Eric de Rooy	General Manager, Service Delivery
Peter Tate	Environmental Monitoring

David Rollings	Odour Alliance
John McGuiness	Odour Alliance

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 11 September, 2013, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.05pm

ACTION

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ITEM 2	Susan Buchan, Jacqueline French, Lee de Gail. DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil.	ACTION
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Meeting Notes of the Committee meeting held on 15th August, 2013 were confirmed.	
ITEM 4	Report – MEC Report & Current Local Environmental Issues Report Received and noted.	
ITEM 5	PRESENTATION BY SYDNEY WATER AND ODOUR ALLIANCE RELATED TO THE NORTH HEAD WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT	

ISSUES RAISED DURING THE PRESENTATIONS:

Funding of Improved Treatment:

Sydney Water's presentation stated that the EPA said there was no economic or environmental drivers for improving treatment levels at NHWWTP. Sydney Water is addressing wet weather overflows via the Sewerfix program.

Sydney Water was asked why the annual dividend is paid to the Government and not used for improving the level of sewage treatment. This has varied from \$200 to 300 million p.a. for 20 years and totaling about \$4 billion. The presenter replied "but the government is relying on that money for schools and hospitals."

Fibrous Dust:

Committee member tabled a large clump of fibrous dust from a local resident who believes it originates from the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant. When wet this dust resembles toilet paper and is common in the local government area. Sydney Water stated they would consider this and carry out tests on this dust.

Smelly Trucks:

The committee believes that fully sealed trucks, as used elsewhere, would be more appropriate than the present use of vinyl covers and deodorizer.

Dead Trees:

Committee member expressed its concern about the number of dead and dying trees and vegetation across the LGA.

A member of Sydney Water replied by arguing that many factors in an urban environment could be affecting these trees in question, and that there is no evidence that shows that trees are being affected by the NHWWTP.

Corrosion and Odour Issues, and Surf Pollution:

Committee members also raised the issue of apparent increased corrosion affecting large light poles and other metal structures in the area, suggesting this may be caused from the pollutants emanating from the NSWWTTP being blown onshore. As Manly is Australia's only World Surfing Reserve, representative expressed concern at the

“dilution is the solution to pollution” philosophy which is very 1980s.

The Committee expressed concern that the replacement of the NOOS scrubber was simply a replacement option and would not improve the problems relating to odours or reduce the amount of pollution into the ocean. This project does not address any environmental outcomes.

Methods used for monitoring North Head Ocean Outfall make it difficult to prove that there is no impact from the outfall:

The Committee supported the proposition from the Marine Scientist present who raised the issue that the monitoring is only for micro-organisms; sea stars and urchins. Such monitoring makes it difficult to determine any environmental impact on the marine biodiversity of the rocky reef area.

Sydney Water staff stated that they did not monitor fish because they move around, however, the Committee felt that this did not acknowledge that many fish and marine life have ‘home ranges’.

Recycled water pipe:

Some years ago, Sydney Water determined that this pipe in the Northside Storage Tunnel did not work, potentially because of corrosion issues. Sydney Water claimed that it was now no longer a viable option to use for recycled water for a variety of reasons.

Odour Issues:

Committee members reported regular complaints being received by participants on tours on North Head in the evening. Concerns that the Sydney Water modeling is not showing the extent of odour being experienced regularly by locals were raised. National Parks staff report that staff and attendees at business meetings in their cottage at the QS, Roundabout regularly complain of the constant odours.

Points From Odour Presentation:

- About half of the population can detect an odour which is equal to 1 odour unit (odu).
- EPA requires them to minimize the odour to reasonable interference.
- EPA “no nuisance” odour criterion allows for a discernible odour about 1% of the time in any one year, or 88 hours per year.
- EPA – most people accept 2 odour units (odu).

Sewage treatment plants do smell.

Recommendation:

This committee requests that Sydney Water provide the results of the voluntary audit of odour sources from the North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant.

ACTION

ITEM 6

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 9 October, 2013.

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Councillors’ Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 10.15pm.

