



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH, 2015

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin

Cllr Hugh Burns

Chair

Other Representatives

Michella Burgers

Jacqueline French

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Lloyd Keen

Jan Ritchie

Janne Seletto

Angelika Treichler

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Eduard McPeake

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Manager, Natural Resources

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Advisory Committee met on 18 March, 2014 to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.	ACTION
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Diana Deeley, Keelah Lam, Jon Panic, Karen Pitt, David Thomas, Michael Trainer, NPWS.	
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil.	

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 10 December, 2014 are confirmed. It was noted that the February meeting of the Committee did not have a quorum. MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 2 February, 2015 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.	ACTION
ITEM 4	MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 5	Environmental Levy 2015-16 Bids presented by Eduard McPeake Draft Environmental Levy 2015-16 Eduard McPeake distributed copies of the table listing all of the bids to members of the Committee and a copy of all of the bid applications to the Chair. Considerable discussion took place. The Committee confirmed the majority of the bids as listed with the following exceptions: a. BIODIVERSITY AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS – Positions Of Biodiversity Officer And Coastal Officer Councillor Griffin noted that whilst these positions had attracted excellent candidates in the past, that the salary and conditions did not encourage staff to stay more than 12 months. Clr. Griffin recommended that funding of \$20,000 out of the \$40,000 proposed for Community and Verge Gardens would be better spent in allocating \$10,000 to each position and that the contracts for these positions should be extended from 1 year to 2 years. Eduard McPeake noted that these issues were operational. Recommendation: That the positions of Biodiversity Officer and Coastal Officer be funded for two year contracts as a minimum and support salary should be increased by \$10,000 per annum for each position with the opportunity to progress to a higher level. b. 'EXPLORE MANLY' SMARTPHONE APP The committee agreed that whilst they supported the concept, it should not be funded from the Environmental Levy. c. MANLY COMMUNITY AND VERGE GARDENS Funding should be reduced from \$40,000 to \$20,000 to provide additional funding for the Biodiversity and Coastal Officers. d. BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY This funding of \$35,000 should be allocated to Street Tree Management Plan, see item below. e. STREET TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN Ed McPeake advised that this application for \$100,000 was received well after the deadline for funding applications. Councillor Griffin proposed that this important project should be	IBM

	funded by allocating \$55,000, made up of \$20,000 allocation from the Explore Manly App. and \$35,000 allocation from the Biodiversity Strategy Project.	ACTION
	Recommendation: Councillor Griffin moved that the Committee strongly supports the Street Tree Management Plan because it improves biodiversity and addresses climate change issues. The Committee would like to see it progress with the \$55,000 allocated to other projects and for discussions to take place with the project manager as to how the project cost could be reduced. The Committee would like the consultant to come and address the May meeting of this Committee.	IBM
ITEM 6	Manly Environment Centre Work Program 2015 a. Annual Program for 2015 Copies of this program were circulated to the meeting and approved. Recommendation: That this Committee approves the Manly Environment Centre Annual Program for 2015. b. Eco Awards 2015 on 5th March This highly successful event was held at Sea Life Sanctuary, attended by over 100 people and there were 31 entries. This year's winner was Alice Forrest, a Marine Biologist who has been tireless in her support for many important Issues c. MEC Resource Management Manual The Manager of the MEC briefed the Committee on the MEC's Resource Management Manual which WAS began in 1997. The Manual, which was tabled at the meeting, is supported by the MEC Volunteer Resource Management Manual, as many of the operations are carried out by volunteers. Judy Reizes tabled and spoke briefly to this comprehensive Manual which demonstrates the existing methodology of managing, categorizing, cataloguing and locating publications. The folder is based on established categories and sub-categories and includes their physical location which have been in place for 16 years in the shopfront. Listing of approximately 1500 publications has already been made by volunteers and is continuing. These preliminary listings indicate the large range of the valuable publications held by the MEC as well as forming the basis for developing strategies for the cataloguing project. A successful preliminary meeting has been held with a Senior Lecturer from the University of Technology Sydney in the field of Information/education. She expressed great interest in this unique project and the opportunities it presents. She together with colleagues from various disciplines at UTS will advise on appropriate	IBM

cataloguing and strategies and well as recommending a suitable person for performing the cataloguing enabling and co-operating with various departments on this project will be investigated. This meeting confirmed that the folder tabled at the CEC meeting was an excellent start to the project and this Committee will be kept informed of progress.

ACTION

ITEM 7 Penguin Warden Report

Angelika Treichler in the absence of Karen Pitt, reported that:

a. Stop work on Hugo's Extensions to Manly Wharf.

The breeding season for the Penguins in Critical Habitat was in its last two weeks when the NPWS Compliance Officer issued a stop work to Council for Hugo's extensions at Manly Wharf. The Committee would like an explanation of how these apparent inconsistencies are happening.

b. Land and Environment Court Case - 10 and 10a Addison Road.

The Court has fined the builder \$40,000 for rebuilding of an old staircase without consent.

The Court's decision also indicates that the Council has also instituted prosecutions against one of the owners and the architect which are pending before the Court.

Recommendation:

That the General Manager congratulate the staff on this excellent result.

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c. Office of Environment and Heritage Consultation with Residents of Properties in Penguin Critical Habitat.

Last year, five staff from OEH in consultation with the Recovery Team, Council and the community designed a brochure to inform local residents in Penguin Critical Habitat of their responsibilities in their management of their property in this regard.

It was proposed that the brochure would be circulated at a residents on the Eastern Hill and they would be invited to a consultation meeting which would provide further information. A number of draft brochures were prepared for comment but as yet no information as to future developments has been received.

The tenth year of the Taronga Zoo Project penguin is due to start by the end of April involving 800 students from up to 17 local primary and secondary schools and the breeding season starts on the 1st June.

Recommendation:

That Council recommend to OEH that it would be timely to proceed with this consultation/education program for residents on the Eastern Hill in Penguin Critical Habitat when Project Penguin program for schools occurs in April/May.

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d. Fast Ferries

It was noted that when these ferries pull into the wharf at Manly, that engines are left idling for the whole period they are stopped. The Committee concerned about polluting emissions which are

manifested by their odour. It also well known that such pollution from diesel engines is potentially carcinogenic.

ACTION

ITEM 8 Progress on Longnosed Bandicoot Road Mortality Prevention Options

This report detailing the mortality by location, shows that there have been the following bandicoot deaths on Darley Road:

1995-2014 30 deaths

2011-2014 13 deaths

Recommendation:

In view of the number of bandicoot road deaths on Darley Road, that Council investigate feasibility of reducing the 50kmph zone to 40kmph in the vicinity of the hospital, through the Traffic Committee. Council should ensure that their Transport Officer, Ben Hubbard is aware that there have been 30 bandicoot deaths between 1995 and 2014 and 13 deaths between 2011-2014 and determine if he has provided this information to the Traffic Committee. It was noted that all other agencies have successfully reduced the mortality on roads in their vicinity significantly.

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ITEM 9 Cabbage Tree Bay – Issues Update

The Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers, who are based on weekends at Fairy Bower, have expressed concern that Mambo, a coffee shop are conducting a business hiring out paddleboats and question whether they have Council permission. As can be seen from the numerous photos provided, there are fifteen paddle boats which are being spread on the beach and around the wall during weekends. In addition inexperienced patrons are learning to manipulate the boards in the shallows where children and others are snorkelling and swimming.

ITEM 10 Update on NSW Rural Fire Service 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice.

Council has received a reply to their correspondence to the effect that in response to considerable community concerns, RFS is reviewing these in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Environment and OEH.

ITEM 11 Squid Fishing in North Harbour Aquatic Reserve – Update from Minister Katrina Hodgkinson on Hawkesbury Shelf Assessment

Participants in the DPI workshop have been has advised by the Minister that approval for Squid Fishing in North Harbour Aquatic Reserve will be deferred until the Sydney Marine Park assessment has been completed.

According to local media, studies have begun at Manly Cove's Little Penguin Colony and three other sites on the northern beaches to determine whether a Sydney Marine ark is needed to protect sea life. As well as the penguin colony and the whole of North Harbour, studies will be done at existing aquatic reserves at Narrabeen Head, Barrenjoey Head and Long Reef to see how they are working to protect fish and whether more needs to be done.

ITEM 12	Sydney Water Issues Manly Council has written to Sydney Water inviting their Odour Consultant to attend a meeting of this Committee. It was noted by a number of the Committee present at the meeting that the Whistler Street Pumping Station was making an extremely bad odour the night of this meeting.	ACTION
ITEM 13	GENERAL BUSINESS	
ITEM 14	FLYING FOX COLONY MANAGEMENT PLAN The Consultant has completed the Management Plan. Recommendation: That the consultant be invited to address a future meeting of this Committee.	IBM
ITEM 15	RESIGNATION OF CHAIR Councillor Griffin Tendered her resignation as Chair and as member of the Committee. The Committee thanked her for the many years of service she has given the Committee.	
ITEM 16	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday 8 April, 2015. Time: 7.00pm. Venue: Downstairs in Training Room, Manly Council Chambers. (Please Note: This meeting occurs 2 days after Easter).	

Meeting closed at 10.15pm.