



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 13 MAY, 2015

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Hugh Burns

Chair

Other Representatives

Michella Burgers

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Community Member

Lloyd Keen

Community Member

Angelika Treichler

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Hayley Roberts

MEC Intern

Rosanna Perillo-Boutin

Observer

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Advisory Committee met on 13 May, 2015 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, Jan Ritchie, Michael Trainer, NPWS.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held 8 April, 2015 were confirmed, even though the Committee was inquorate.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 8 May, 2015 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee of 18 March, 2015 be adopted.

ITEM 4 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

ITEM 5 Membership of the Committee

Jon Panic has advised that due to his commitments he wishes to defer his membership of this Committee until next year.
Rosanna Perillo Boutin attended the meeting and expressed a strong interest in being a member of this Committee.

Recommendation:

That this Committee supports the appointment of Rosanna Perillo Boutin to this committee until the next review period in September.

GM

ITEM 6 Detailed Presentation by Judy Reizes, MEC Manager, on MEC Resource Management System

Judy explained that the collection is informed by a global focus for a number of reasons:

- Australia's 4th largest sewage treatment plant at North Head is in the National Park/North Head Sanctuary contrasting with Manly's Threatened Population of Little Penguins, the only breeding colony in an international city.
- Manly as Australia's first tourist resort with its unique and fragile coastal/harbour boundary provides habitat for marine and terrestrial biodiversity but is vulnerable to the impacts of tourism and climate change

The presentation of 100 slides was prepared by Hayley Roberts, MEC Intern, and covers Research, Policies, Reports, Education Materials, Journals and Newsletters, Council Reports and Projects, Global Issues, Local Issues. Student Intern Reports, MEC Events, Catalogue of MEC Display Panels and Banners.

Colour is used throughout the centre, ie Blue for Water, Green for Natural Environment, Yellow for Human Impact, Purple for Green Business, etc.

For example under:

Human Impact there are	32 sub-topics
Education:	87 subtopics and 558 publications
Journals/Newsletters	354 different publications
Water Research 1	37 sub-topics
Water Research 2	62 sub-topics
Videos, DVDs, CDs	115 videos, 31 DVD's, 37 CD's
Green Business	64 subtopics
Natural Environment	36 sub-topics
Human Impacts	36 sub-topics,
Climate change	33 folders including research and media
	33 publications and 35 books

Global Issues, mainly media 35 topics
 Local Issues, 23 topics
 MEC Events 60 sub-topics
 Sydney Harbour Planning 35 documents

The 3 Brochure Carousels, Natural Environment, Water, Human Impacts plus the map section carry thousands of free takeaway items. The back-up stock for these are stored in the upstairs Resource Room and using a simple system replenished by volunteers.

In many cases, the MEC collection is unique and much appreciated by Council, Consultants and NGOs

- The General Manager says publicly that Council knows that if they cannot find a Council report, the MEC will produce it without delay.
- Under Manly Lagoon Catchment alone there are over 150 Technical Reports going back to the 1980s. As an example of the depth of the collection, a visiting Consultant from the North Coast, called his office and requested an assistant join him and they would be here for 4 days.
- Regarding the Sydney Marine Park, MEC has 35 Department of Planning reports documenting the background to the protected areas of Sydney Harbour dating back to the 1980s. According to National Parks Association, the Department could not locate their own reports.
- Our latest research documents on local Corals and Sponges date back to 1979 and 1985 and cover hundreds of pages.

The whole system is managed by Volunteers, using the Volunteer Resource Management Manual and with assistance from staff.

Staff from the University of Technology Sydney who are interested in assisting the MEC with cataloguing; believe that the visual and other arrangements of the MEC make it relatively easy for the public to access the materials.

Recommendation:

The Committee was most appreciative of the presentation on the MEC Resource Management Strategy as many had no idea of the richness and diversity of the resources and the organisation/strategies already in place to manage them. However, a number of the Committee recalled how quickly and simply the MEC had been able to provide much needed information which was not easily accessible elsewhere.

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that the MEC:

- gives a presentation to the Senior Management Committee of Council, and
- a short presentation over dinner to the Councillors.

GM / DGM

ITEM 7 a. Update on Environmental Levy Bids

The Committee requested that Council should report back on the financial allocations in July for all of the proposed projects. This

particularly includes the extent of the Street Tree Plan Project funding to be taken from the Environmental Levy.

b. Environmental Levy Newsletter

A discussion took place about the value of Council restoring the practice of preparing an Environmental Levy Newsletter once per annum.

Recommendation:

Manly's Environmental Levy began in 1997 and regular Newsletters kept the community informed about the progress of the various funded projects.

This Committee recommends to the General Manager that Council restore the former practice of issuing an Environmental Levy newsletter once per year. This should include a list of the allocations as well as specific reports on all of the assorted projects, an end of year summary on what actually has been funded and outline the progress made. The report is to be prepared prior to EL submissions in preparation for the budget bid process generally presented at the March Committee meeting.

GM/DGM

ITEM 8

Penguin Warden Report

a. Angelika Treichler reported progress on the issues at Manly Wharf she had raised at the last meeting:

Only the repainting of the stencils on the footpath have been done and she accepts that storm damage has had to be repaired first. However, Council needs to address the following issues urgently as the return of the penguins is imminent

- Broken planks need to be repaired urgently where the shower platform used to be as they are a hazard to penguins and humans. Woodwork under the wharf and the finger wharf needs to be checked. Volunteers will do a clean up under the wharf.
- Yellow and Green sign about dogs near Sea Life Sanctuary needs to be replaced.
- Penguin Picnic Table stencils need to be replaced.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that repairs to the boardwalk at Manly Wharf be done urgently by Council because the return of the penguins is imminent. Ecodivers will do a clean up under the wharf.

GM

b. Penguin Warden Representative

Angelika recommended that Sue Matthews be co-opted to the Committee. Angelika wishes to return to the Committee.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that Council supports the appointment of the following:
Sue Mathews to be the Penguin Warden representative on this Committee and Angelika Treichler as a community member of the Committee.

GM

c. Project Penguin

At the last meeting, the Committee recorded its opposition to Sydney Water being involved in Project Penguin. Following an article to this effect in the Manly Daily, and consultation with Taronga Zoo, Sydney Water withdrew from the project.

d. Proposal for Penguin Statue Be-tidy Bins in Manly

The Committee has learnt that there is a proposal to place cartoon statues of Penguins as be-tidy bins around Manly to collect litter.

After discussion it was considered the image of penguins should not be linked to litter and rubbish as it sends the wrong message and this committee regrettably declines the placement of penguin cartoon statues as litter bins around the wharf, etc. as an overreaction to the problem.

Rubbish could be put in a box with an educational message about penguins.

e. Land and Environment Court Case -10/10A Addison Road Manly

The case has yet to be finalised and the Committee reiterates its view that the continued existence of the staircase from properties to the foreshore, sets a dangerous precedent for other property owners desiring the same access.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that:

Staff

A social evening for residents of the eastern hill be considered to be held at the Manly Art Gallery with the theme of "Stories of Penguins in your Backyard".

ITEM 9

Progress on Longnosed Bandicoot Road Mortality Prevention Options on Darley Road near Manly Hospital

At the last meeting, this Committee recommended that Council extend the 40km/h zone from Marshall Street to the National Park 40km/h zone sign to reduce the risk to bandicoots in the vicinity of Manly Hospital. It has since come to the Committee's notice that there already exists a bend signposted as 35km/h on Darley Road east of Marshall Street, in addition to the 40km/h school zone within this block.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that:

In view of the fact that at the beginning of the recommended 40kmph zone on Darley Road, there is already 35kmph sign just east of Marshall Street, the committee hopes that the Traffic Committee will look favourably on this request to lower the speed limit to help reduce Bandicoot mortality.

Refer to
Traffic
Committee

ITEM 10

SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

a. Submission on Sydney Water Licence 2015-2020

Judy Reizes tabled the 15 page submission that she submitted on Manly Council's behalf to the EPA.

b. Article in Sun Herald "The Fight to Stop the Stink at

Manly” 10 May, 2015.

This article was tabled and discussed. To quote from the article “Sydney Water, the owner of the sewage treatment plant, has engaged scientists from the French company Suez-Environment. They are busy testing the waste water in their research and development facility in Paris looking for ways to reduce and eliminate the stench.”

Sydney Water said it was spending \$1 million a year for four years to attempt to find what causes the problem and to find ways to stop the offensive odours.

Suez, technical assistance director said “it was encouraging neighbours, residents and workers in the area to be “educated” in how to identify the type of pong. Residents had an “odour wheel” with descriptive words such as “Burnt Match” and “Rotten Eggs” to record the odours and help investigators to track down the source of the problem.

Recommendation:

That as Manly residents have experienced continuous odour problems for over twenty years, that the General Manager:

IBM

- Welcome this admission by Sydney Water in the media that odours at North Head are of such significance that Sydney Water has allocated \$4 million over 4 years to solve the problem.
- Offer the Council Chambers so that Sydney Water can address a community meeting to explain to them about their odour research Project as described in the Sun Herald of 10 May, 2015
- Invite the Premier Mike Baird and the Managing Director of Sydney Water to address the meeting

ITEM 11 Cabbage Tree Bay – Fisheries Regulatory Signage

A draft of the artwork, including map and photos of proposed locations has been approved by the General Manager. Construction of the 5 signs by Council can now proceed without delay.

Street Tree Management Plan

- ITEM 12** See item 7, the Committee is seeking information from Council as to the funding level for this plan. The Committee would like to invite the consultant who prepared the Plan to make a presentation to this Committee.

Flying Fox Colony Management Plan

- ITEM 13** The Plan has been discussed and adopted by Manly Council. Judy Reizes will invite the consultant to address the next meeting of this Committee, dependent on their availability.

Plastic-Free July

- ITEM 14** A number of groups are participating in this campaign and the MEC will be promoting it at the Manly Food and Wine Festival. Lloyd Keen advised that the Manly campaign will be launched on 22 June at Sea Life Sanctuary.

ITEM 15 **Biodiversity and New/Prospective Land Holders**
Manly is such a Noah's Ark, that Council should have a policy to encourage prospective new landholders to do their due diligence, particularly about threatened species before they purchase in the area. D/As should inform anyone buying property of any/all protected species.

ITEM 16 **Proposal for a Community Forum on Using Solar Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Home Around September 2015**

Local residents, David and Maureen Hart have proposed this forum to provide home-owners with practical and specific advice on how to reduce their energy bills using efficiency and solar technology.

This forum would outline the most up-to-date methods and technologies for reducing energy use in the home and for keeping homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer. It will present the bigger picture on current renewable energy technologies, while focusing on practical things individuals can do. They recommend that Mark Diesendorf and Kristina Kirsch be invited to speak.

They are requesting Council provide the use of the Council Chambers.

Recommendation:

That Manly Council support a Forum on Solar Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Home to be organised by the community, by providing the Council Chambers as a venue.

GM/DGM

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 10 June 2015.

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30PM.