



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 2014

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

Other Representatives

Karen Pitt

Michella Burgers

Diana Deeley

Natasha Hammond

Lloyd Keen

Jon Panic

Jan Ritchie

Penguin Warden

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Robynne Millward

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

(present for part of the Meeting)

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 10 September, 2014, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.10pm.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Jacqueline French, Keelah Lam, Janne Seletto, David Thomas.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held 13 August, 2014 are confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy Meeting held on 8 September, 2014 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.

ITEM 4 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

ITEM 5 ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY

Councillor Griffin to discuss the proposed facilitated workshop with Stephen Clements.

ITEM 6 OCEAN CARE DAY 2014 UPDATE

It was agreed that the theme for this year's Ocean Care Day on 7 December will be Sharks.

ITEM 7 DISPLAYS OF WHALES FROM WEAVING BRIDGES PROJECT, GURINGAI FESTIVAL

These three sculptures will be moving to Sea Life Sanctuaries for the Manly Arts Festival and later in November will be displayed at the entrance to the IUCN World Parks Congress.

ITEM 8 COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CELEBRATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S 25th YEAR

Judy Reizes reported that the list of former members of this Committee is significantly larger than originally envisaged. It was decided that there is insufficient time remaining to contact all of the former members of the Committee in order to invite them to a function this year. Therefore the celebration deferred until next year to celebrate the work of 25 years of the Committee.

ITEM 9 LITTLE PENGUIN REPORT

a. Penguin Warden Report

The following is a report from the penguin warden on duty on 9 September.

"The two resident penguins swam in together at the wharf at the same time as a surf row-type boat also came ashore. It was going quite fast literally less than a metre away from one of the penguins. The boat people didn't realize that we quickly ran down and told them to lift their oar, which they did and luckily the oar was centimetres higher than one of the penguin's head (she was making screeching noises whilst it was trying to swim away from the boat) so it didn't hit the penguin. We informed the people on the boat (which had MANIX on the side of it) about the penguins and they immediately turned around and paddled away. We think it would be a good idea if Angelika Treichler emailed the Manly Surf Club or the possible source for the boat and tell them about the penguins so this does not

happen again because the penguin was so close to getting hit by the boat.”

Recommendation:

That Council write to NSW Surf Life Saving, requesting that they advise all clubs and visitors who train in North Harbour, that they should take care, as Little Penguins are returning to their nests two hours before or after dark.

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b. Penguin Recovery Team Actions

At the Penguin Recovery Meeting quite some months ago, OEH staff agreed that OEH would:

- release this Penguin Monitoring Report for 2013-14.
- Put out a media release highlighting the good news that the colony had increased from 17 pairs at the time of listing to 70 pairs.
- Advise when they are holding the Information Night for Residents Living in Critical Habitat. Council staff have commented on the comprehensive brochure which OEH has prepared in consultation with them.

Recommendation:

That Council write to OEH requesting:

- The release of the Monitoring Report and the appropriate media release.
- When it is proposed to hold the much needed Information Night and the format of the evening, including the brochure.

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ITEM 10 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

a. Odour Monitoring at North Head

Odour logger results for the last six months to date are inconclusive because weather data is not included. The community has made a number of odour complaints during this time.

Sydney Water will add BOM weather data specific to North Head.

b. Odours from Sedimentation Tanks

Minutes from the Voluntary Audit Meeting held by EPA with Sydney Water indicate that they use Odourlok in the sedimentation tanks to prevent odour. This information was forwarded to the Managing Director of Sydney Water by Council, but Sydney Water has denied that they have ever used Odourlok in the sedimentation tanks.

c. Dust Samples for Testing

Sydney Water is seeking samples of dust from Balgowlah residents for testing.

d. Odours from Trade Waste Customers

Previous Sydney Water reports indicate that the content of some trade waste customers who are discharging into the NSOOS is responsible for some odour problems. Research by MEC has revealed that there are three Sydney Water trade waste customers who are discharging waste with a high organic content (and thus highly odorous) into the NSOOS in the catchment of Sydney Water Sewage Pumping Station No. 69 in Camellia.

Recommendation:

Manly Council should write to the Managing Director of Sydney Water requesting information on the name of the companies involved, what they are discharging and why they are discharging it into the NSOOS, given the contribution they are making to odour problems in Manly and at the North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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e. Odour complaints about Whistler Street Pumping Station and Biosolids Trucks

Council is awaiting a reply from Sydney Water to their letter.

ITEM 11 CABBAGE TREE BAY –

a. Issues Update

The MEC Signage Audit was discussed with Stephen Clements and Judy Reizes is preparing suggested draft signage to the effect that dogs must be kept on a lead and on the path at all times.

This is consistent with the Cabbage Tree Bay Management Plan 2000 and the Companion Animals Act and the result will be just one such sign being used throughout the Bay. It is suggested that the applicable on the spot fine of \$110 be stated on the sign (as per North Sydney Council signage). The draft signage will be submitted to the Compliance Manager and Rangers for comment before being finalised.

b. CSIRO National Report on Marine Debris

Judy Reizes reported that the CSIRO have indicated to her that they will notify her as soon as it becomes available, which should be in the next week or two.

c. Friends Of Cabbage Tree Bay Diary Notes for September 2014

Robynne Millward attended the meeting for this item and read from

the Volunteer Diary:

2nd seal turned up – healthy, ORCCA called – all good seal healthy just resting. Next day had gone.

- Waterdragon was kidnapped – Volunteers pursued and managed to encourage person (mentally unstable) to put it back in bushes. Lots of people concerned, including the mother of the young adult. Photos taken but public and Ranger called by vols. Sorted before Ranger arrived. Volunteers on alert.

- Injured Cockatoo – Vols contacted Wires & NSW Metro wildlife – volunteer came and collected.

- Shade required after 2pm.

- Lots of comments all month on people tripping on very uneven pavement outside the Standup café.

- Little Kids – falling over when scooters hit it. People tripping both ways. Could Council please fix.
- Skateboarders hit this trip spot and coming off – children and adults.
- Look into this and fix trip before someone really hurts themselves – old and young. Needs resealing would be great to have this done before summer starts.

-Request for worn out steps on path to water to be upgraded.

-Moored Boats – tenders coming in to get coffees. Is this allowed – dangerous with people under water as shallow and busy swimming spot in front of restaurant.

-Marine creature books popular.

-Dogs off lead on beach continuing problem – when will the new signs go up?

-Port Jackson's still around.

-Yacht continues to live in bay – same guy as last season; reports of him fishing at night, emptying bilge into bay a problem to be followed up.

-Youngest volunteer signed up with her parents – 8 yrs old.

-New vols continue to sign up.

Meetings & Events

-Vols met with Inaugural Walkers & BBQ Lunch with Mayor.

-Vols met with Manly Daily for pic on Keep Australia Beautiful Award win.

- Summer Season Launch - Tuesday 16 September 6pm-8pm.

Speakers include: Mayor Jean Hay to congratulate volunteers on Keep Australia Beautiful Award, Mel Tyas NPWS, Richard Nichols, Dive Centre Manly, George Mannah, Fisheries NSW to update group on Rules & Regulations of the bay.

-Monthly FOCTB Working Group meeting 23 September.

Upcoming Events

9 November – RM to facilitate group National Parks Forum on setting up groups to preserve protected areas.

7 December – 21st OCD Festival.

ITEM 12 SQUID FISHING IN NORTH (SYDNEY) HARBOUR AQUATIC RESERVE

Councillor Griffin updated the committee on the facilitated workshop conducted by NSW Fisheries to discuss Squid Fishing in North (Sydney) Harbour Aquatic Reserve.

The Aims of the round table meeting were:

1. Identify and explore participants views in relation to the proposal by recreational fishers to allow recreational squid fishing in North Harbour Aquatic Reserve and
2. Discuss potential future management options and conditions under which squid fishing may be allowed.

A summary of this round table meeting will be documented in a report to be prepared independently by PlanCom Consulting and provided to the Minister for Primary Industries.

Any changes to fishing rules in North Harbour Aquatic Reserve would be subject to broader community consultation in line with the NSW Government's reforms to the management of the marine estate (www.marine.nsw.gov.au)

The committee discussed the issue and members of the committee who attended the Fisheries workshop and all of the members present at this meeting do not support this proposal.

Recommendation:

That Council write a letter to Mike Baird stating that we do not support the removing of restrictions on fishing for squid in the North (Sydney) Harbour Aquatic Reserve and North Harbour area.

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ITEM 13 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

a. Street Trees – No report

b. 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice

Councils right across Sydney, including Northern Beaches, are protesting at the many instances where residents are using this legislation as an excuse to cut down trees for views, etc.

ITEM 14 AUDIT OF OUTDOOR GAS BURNERS

Manly Environment Centre will prepare a map of The Corso and adjoining streets to enable committee members to count the number and type of outdoor gas burners. The committee would like to know whether their management is included in the lease conditions of the various premises.

**ITEM 15 NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW MARINE FORUM
“CELEBRATING SYDNEY’S MARINE ENVIRONMENT” - A Parallel
Event to the IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney on Sunday 9
November, 2014 at Bondi Pavilion.**

This forum will help contribute to the conservation of Sydney's marine future and the program includes marine scientists, indigenous leaders, historians and community speakers. Judy Reizes is speaking about Sydney Harbour and Robynne Millward is running a workshop on Community Engagement and the success of the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers.

ITEM 16 GENERAL BUSINESS

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE, MANLY

The committee would like to extend an invitation to the Aboriginal Heritage Office to attend a meeting of the committee and make a presentation of all their activities.

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ITEM 17 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 8 October, 2014

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.