



### ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 11 December, 2013 are confirmed.

#### ITEM 4 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted. The 20<sup>th</sup> Ocean Care Day was a tremendous success. MEC Staff and volunteers are to be congratulated.

**ITEM 5      LONG TERM LOCATION OF MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE**

We note that Council is happy for the Manly Environment Centre to remain in its present location.

## ITEM 6 MONITORING OF NORTH HEAD LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA PROJECT

This item will be deferred to the next meeting – March, 2014.

## ITEM 7 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

**a. NORTH HEAD WWTP ODOUR MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS –**

Eight Precinct Groups have expressed their concern to Council about the inadequacy of the solutions provided under the REF. Council will write to the local member, Mike Baird to express their concern.

Lloyd Keen will provide information /presentation to a Joint Meeting of Precincts.

The committee supports the work of MEC staff and interns.

b. **NORTH HEAD WWTP VOLUNTARY AUDIT –**

Letter from Jennie Fisher from Sydney Water was tabled and regarded as an inadequate response to the Committee's concerns, particularly in relation to odours from the six uncovered sedimentation tanks. These have been an ongoing problem for nearby occupants of Harbourtrust buildings.

## ACTION

JR to draft letter

**Recommendation:**

Council should forward this response to local member, Mike Baird requesting that Sydney Water provide a more appropriate response via the North Head Consultative Committee.

JR to draft letter

### c. North Head H2S Monitors

Council has agreed that MEC should write to Sydney Water about the poor response of the H2a monitors to sewage odours during the Voluntary Audit meeting at the plant.

**d. North Head Community Consultative Committee**

The community has been asked whether they would be interested in continuing to be members of this committee for a further 12 months. At least two members of the community have agreed to continue and are interested to know who will be representing Manly Council on the new committee.

**e. Beach Pollution**

Neil Ohlbach was not able to be present at the meeting but requested that the Chair inform the meeting that he had observed potential sewage pollution in the form of surfactant trails in the water at North Steyne about the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> January and again in the week leading up to Australia Day.

**ITEM 8 PENGUIN WARDEN REPORT**

**a. Manly Wharf Penguins**

Karen Pitt reported that there is no Penguin Warden Report from Manly Wharf as the Penguins have left the site.

**b. Penguins Living in the Urban Area and Clearing of Foreshore in Penguin Critical Habitat**

The Committee expressed its extreme concern and alarm regarding the clearing of vegetation on the cliff face where there is penguin habitat on the public land on the harbour foreshore below 15 Oyama Avenue. Council has written to the owner and is sending a report to OEH on the matter and we will be interested to hear what action they have taken to ensure the habitat is maintained intact.

Concern was also expressed about the penguin habitat on the east side of Addison Road where the foreshore has been altered and an illegal staircase providing access to the foreshore has been built.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that Council:

1. Writes to residents in Addison Road, Oyama and Bruce Ave and the Little Manly Precinct Forum reminding everyone that penguin Critical Habitat exists below these properties and the requirements are not to disturb the penguin habitat. In addition Council should alert them to the fact that dogs and cats are not permitted in Critical Habitat.
2. Writes to OEH and request that they consider an updated information and education campaign on the Little Penguins of Manly and this be discussed at the next Recovery meeting.
3. Request an update on the Penguin Monitoring Report for 2013-4 from OEH.
4. Repair the fence at Federation Point where it has pulled away from its frame and dogs could access the area. The Committee requests that Council mend this fence.

**JR is liaising with Council and OEH**

**IBM**

## **ITEM 9 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES UPDATES**

### **A. Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay (FOCTB) Working Group**

The Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Working Group met on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. The group is thrilled with the progress that the group has made in the last 12 months. The next training program will be held on the Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April and the talk will be on our icon species, the Weedy Sea Dragon.

The group discussed the following issues raised by the Volunteers. Their recommendations are as follows:

#### **a. Bike Riding on Marine Parade**

Volunteers have noted that large numbers of groups of bike riders, including those on hired bikes are riding along the Marine Parade on the weekends, contrary to the signage. The current signage is confusing, with a single sign at the entry to the Marine Parade advising the times bike riding is permitted. 'Shared path' signs are attached to the electricity poles along the walkway.

#### **b. Interpretation and Compliance Signage**

DPI has agreed to fund additional and replacement regulatory signs for Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve for installation along Marine Parade. Content and design has been discussed and agreed upon. Judy Reizes has done a survey of existing signage and is preparing an aerial map showing photos of proposed and existing signage photos and positions.

#### **c. Dogs**

Visitors and local residents are constantly complaining about the increase in the number of dogs swimming on the Reserve. Council can prohibit dogs from 'beach reserves' and this should also apply to the rock ledges along Marine Parade. In addition dog owners should be aware of the negative health issues associated with dogs swimming in salt water.

### **Recommendations:**

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that:

- i. Council write to the bike hire companies and advise them that bike riding along Marine Parade is prohibited on weekends. In particular:  
Bonza Bike Tours & Rentals Sydney  
Bonza Bike Tours Pty Ltd  
30 Harrington Street,  
The Rocks, Sydney, NSW 2000 and  
Manly Bike Tours Shop 6, 54 West Esplanade, Manly NSW 2095
- ii. Council improve the 'shared path' signage along Marine Parade to include the times when bike riding is permitted or prohibited.

- iii. Council approve the installation of replacement and new interpretation and compliance signs in five locations along Marine Parade.
  - a. Three entry locations, South Steyne, Bower Lane, Shelly Beach, incorporating the DPI Cabbage Tree Bay Signs
  - b. Two Interpretation signs, Bottom of the steps at the rear of Shelly Beach and adjacent to the Manly Council wayfinding sign at the top of the ramp.
- iv. Council clarify if dogs are permitted to swim in the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve and provide compliance signage to support the position if dogs are prohibited from swimming in the reserve.
- v. Council educate dog owners on the dangers to the health of dogs swimming in saltwater.

**B. Designated Swimming Zone**

Council has written to RMS, awaiting a reply.

**C. Macquarie University Student Sand Migration Project**

As a result of this student project beach raking by machine has ceased. Residents have commented on the improvement and have noticed that there are more shells to be seen.

Macquarie University have advised that they will be featuring this successful student project in their newsletter.

**ITEM 10 EFFECTIVENESS OF BEACH RAKING OF MANLY BEACH ASSESSED BY PLASTIC POLLUTION REPORT**

A report "Plastic Pollution on Manly Beach" was tabled. The author, Macquarie University researcher Dr. Paul Duckett carried out a comprehensive audit of Manly Beach with a student group from Davidson High School in December 2013.

The study conducted 12 lkm x 2m transects and 170 lm x lm quadrats.

The study extrapolated that after regular beach raking by Manly Council, the total number of pieces of surface plastic which were likely to remain were at reasonably high levels, ie 24, 523 pieces and a further 2,313,847 pieces of micro-plastic to be found within 10-20cm of the surface.

**Conclusion**

To help alleviate the problem of plastic pollution on Manly Beach will require a substantial investment in scientific research to assess:

1. How micro-plastics are impacting the native wildlife in the immediate oceans and surrounding area.
2. What is the main source of plastic pollution
3. How can we target the removal of smaller pieces of surface and sub-surface micro-plastic and prevent further contamination.

We understand that Dr. Duckett is interested in seeking funding from Manly Council in order to complete this research.

**ITEM 11 NORTH HARBOUR SEAGRASS ISSUES**

**ACTION**

MEC Intern Sophie Nuber assisted by Judy Reizes, provided site specific input to Council's submission to the Commonwealth's consultation on Nomination for Protection of Posidonia Seagrass Meadows as an Endangered Ecological community under the EPBC Act.

**Manly Cove Seagrass Issues**

Council to write to RMS and thank them for putting in the seagrass friendly moorings. However, people are continuing to anchor in the seagrass and tie up to the swimming enclosure pylons. This is disturbing the seagrass between the moorings. We would like RMS to police the area for boats moored contrary to signage and regulations.

**Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that:

Council write to RMS and request that compliance with the mooring signage be monitored.

**ITEM 12 HUGO'S PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT MANLY WHARF**

Submission on this development made on behalf of the Committee as per recommendation.

**ITEM 13 SHARK CULL CAMPAIGN**

The committee would like it noted that they do not support the continued placement of shark nets at beaches. They are concerned at the lack of information as to marine life that has been injured or killed by the shark nets and question the lack of evidence as to the effectiveness of the program.

Because of our involvement with Cabbage Tree Bay we are very aware of how effective protection is to maintain marine biodiversity.

**ITEM 14 Next Meeting:**

**Date: Wednesday, 12 March, 2014.**

**Time: 7.00pm.**

**Venue: Manly Council Chambers.**

**Meeting closed 9.10pm.**