



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD THURSDAY 13 JUNE, 2013

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

Penguin Warden

Susan Buchan

Community Member

Michella Burgers

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Neil Ohlbach

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre.

Chris Kraus

Bushland Management Co-ordinator

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 13 June, 2013, 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

Natasha Hammond-Deakin, Lloyd Keen, Jan Ritchie, Dave Thomas, Lee de Gail.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 8 May, 2013 are confirmed. MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 3 June 2013 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.	ACTION
ITEM 4	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES a. MEC Report That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 5	Update on Manly Bushland Programs by Chris Kraus, Bushland Management Co-ordinator. Chris gave a very interesting presentation on the wealth of bushland reserves in the Manly LGA, 45 in all. Chris highlighted the extensive restoration works completed under the Burnt Bridge Creek project and explained to the committee the issues regarding the bat colony affecting the completion of the project. The committee was briefed on the reorganisation of the bushcare staff and the volunteer groups. This committee has had a long term interest in Manly's bushland and Chris agreed to organize a walk along Burnt Bridge Creek for committee members to show the improvements made by Council to that area with the funding from their government grant of \$2million.	
ITEM 6	PENGUIN WARDEN REPORT Karen Pitt advised that the situation was unchanged at the Wharf habitat. The surface of the picnic table which the wardens' use at Manly wharf has been rejuvenated with the winning penguin artwork of last year's competition by Ellie Nicholls from Mackellar Girls Secondary School.	
ITEM 7	LITTLE PENGUINS NPWS has advised that the new book about Manly's Penguins at Manly Wharf "The Little Penguins of Manly" is on sale at Humphreys, Berkelouw Bookstores, Dymocks and Pages and Pages Mosman and Manly SeaLife Sanctuary. Manly Sea Life Sanctuary are providing a free child's entry for every book sold. The money will be used to fund research into Manly's Penguins. The Penguin Recovery Team met on 30 th May attended by Fisheries and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) who reported on the increased protection of seagrass habitat in this Protected Precinct. Boats will be only able to anchor for 24 hours on one of the five the seagrass friendly moorings beyond the swimming enclosure and seagrass. RMS anticipates they will be operational by August. There will be three moorings installed off Quarantine Beach.	

ITEM 8	CABBAGE TREE BAY a. REGULAR USAGE BY SEA AUSTRALIA The committee expressed concern regarding the overuse of the area by the school children groups at Shelly Beach. The committee requests information on the contract between SEA and Council and whether there is a limit to the number and time the groups are permitted to use Shelly Beach. b. Beach Cleaning Trial The Committee was pleased that Council is considering a trial of manually raking Shelly beach, instead of using the mechanical beach cleaning equipment and the committee applauds their decision. The MEC would like to seek input from researchers from the University of Technology as to suitable techniques to monitor potential improvements in shell cover and biodiversity of the beach.	ACTION
ITEM 9	Update on Seagrass Issues in North Harbour See Item 5 – Little Penguins for a report on actions re new mooring regulations - NSW Fisheries have provided maps of their latest Seagrass Study on which these new regulations are based. The report concludes with the statement 'since 2010 members of the community have called for the Department to act on this issue in upholding seagrass protection laws in North Harbour. This has prompted the Department to work with RMS and NPWS to address this issue. See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/boating-practices NSW Fisheries would be pleased to receive input from Council on the wording for Manly Cove signage for the: • 5 seagrass-friendly moorings and • This area being regarded as a Protected Precinct because of the Little Penguins, Seahorses and Posidonia Australis	
ITEM 10	SYDNEY WATER North Head Sewerage Treatment Plant Odour Management Project On 24th February, 2012, Council wrote to Sydney Water and Mike Baird to call for a progress report on this Project and to provide a funding announcement, similar to those announced at Malabar and Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plants. It is anticipated that the funding for North Head STP is for \$34million. Recommendation:- It is recommended that Council write again to Mike Baird. And ask that he confirm the \$34million for the project and what is the strategy for the Odour Management Plan, and the time plan Presentation by Sydney Water Managing Director to North Head STP Community Consultative Committee July Meeting in response to correspondence from the General Manager Council has received a negative response to their request for the General Manager or Deputy General Manager, as well as representatives from this committee to attend this meeting. Sydney Water has only agreed to Eduard McPeake attending and suggested that they could arrange for one of their Managers to meet with the General Manager and committee members.	ACTION

ITEM 11	NSW Government Response to Marine Parks Audit – Local Councils	ACTION
	This response supports the intent of the Audit recommendations and details a new approach to managing the NSW marine estate – marine waters, estuaries and coasts, including the state’s six marine parks. It outlines the establishment of two new advisory bodies 1. the Marine Estate Management authority and 2. The Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel. There are a number of priority tasks to be undertaken and the authority will be looking to establish working relationships with key stakeholders including local Government to deliver these important reforms for the people of NSW. Key reforms and initiatives relevant to local councils include: • Revitalisation of the six local marine park advisory committees to provide local communities with a direct means of having a say. These committees include local government representation. • Development of a Marine Estate Management Strategy and • Marine park management reforms. See www.marine.nsw.gov.au for full government response and FAQs.	
ITEM 12	Garigal National Park - Plan of Management Amendment – Mountain Bike Path on exhibition until 15 July, 2013. The amended plan will be on exhibition until Monday 15th July and can be viewed at Manly Library or at www.environment.nsw.gov.au (use the quick links to ‘park management plans’) Submissions can be made on the website.	
ITEM 13	LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA Mulching of St. Patricks and local residents gardens, to determine if it attracts bandicoots. French intern who is based at MEC is working with Catherine Price from Sydney University on this project, assisted by other interns from the MEC.	
ITEM 14	General Business brought to the Attention of the Chair Prior to the Meeting and Approved for Consideration. Collins Beach The committee expressed concern at the number of surf club boats training in the shallow water area where there are seagrass beds.	
ITEM 15	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday 10 July, 2013 Time: 7.00pm. Venue: Manly Council Chambers.	

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.