



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2013

Councillors

Cathy Griffin

Manly Council (Chair)

Hugh Burns

Manly Council

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan

Community Member

Michella Burgers

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Community Member

Lloyd Keen

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Dave Thomas

Community Member

Dr Jan Ritchie

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Tiago Nunes Kirsten

MEC Intern

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 13 November, 2013, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 7.05pm	ACTION
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Karen Pitt, Neil Ohlbach.	
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil.	
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9th October, 2013 were confirmed.	
ITEM 4	MEC Report & Current Local Environmental Issues Report Received and noted.	ACTION

ITEM 5	MONITORING OF NORTH HEAD LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA PROJECT	ACTION
	This will be discussed at the next meeting when the final report is available.	
ITEM 6	NORTH HEAD WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS FOR REPLACEMENT OF NSOOS ODOUR SCRUBBER	
	Council has advised the Precincts that Sydney Water has granted an extension of time until 22nd November for submissions to the REF. Council has agreed that the Manager of the MEC will prepare and submit a submission on behalf of Council and this Committee by that date. Members of the committee, Judy Reizes and Tiago Nunes Kirsten (MEC Intern) gave a summary of issues raised and the inadequate responses at the Sydney Water Community Meeting held on Monday 4th November. Tiago gave a presentation on MEC conclusions on the REF, including graphs which showed that this project: • Will result only in a slight improvement only as identified on page 8 of the REF) • Whereas a significant improvement was made at Malabar (part of the same Odour Management Project) • Will not bring tangible benefits to the community (see page 22) • We consider that 1000 odu/m3 is not acceptable compared to Malabar where a decision was made to reduce the levels to 500 odu/m3 to reduce the impact on the community (ref Malabar Decisions Report) • The REF calculations show there will be a doubling of odour emissions from the NSOOS scrubber from 2004 levels • The map of North Head and the nearby residential area shows that Manly Hospital and the Darley Road Apartments, the new Headland Primary School, the Montessori Preschool, the houses on North Head Scenic Drive and the whole of the North Head Sanctuary will be in an area in excess of the 2 odour units, the level permissible under EPA guidelines • 40% of the modelled odour sources will not be addressed, ie sedimentation tanks, waste gas burner, etc. • There will be 129,000 litres per day of Sulphuric Acid from the odour biotrickling equipment which will be discharged through the plant to the ocean without treatment with consequential impacts on the ocean, ie acidification The Committee discussed further and added: • The management of the plant as a whole is a problem, eg when sedimentation tanks are cleaned out every week they are just drained and the sewage sludge in the bottom left to dry without covering it • Committee members also raised the biosolids trucks which are not hermetically sealed and deodoriser is used. This results in a strong odour trail along Sydney Road through Fairlight and Balgowlah shopping centres. • Council should send a copy of the submissions to the EPA	

and ask whether there is a requirement for the EPA to be aware of the doubling of odour emissions since 2004, is there anything EPA can do to control these increases to safeguard the local community? Why is it they have failed to detect these increases?

- The community should talk to other Councils to determine whether they are having the same problems with Sydney Water and find out about their experiences
- It was noted that Sutherland Council had recommended that the predicted levels of odour shown on a map similar to that for North Head and Malabar should be included on 149 certificates. However, the developer of the adjoining lands did not agree.

Recommendation:

That copies of this submission be sent to the Local Member, Mike Baird and the EPA.

Lead
Officer

ITEM 7 PROPOSED MEETING AT THE NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ON 21ST NOVEMBER AT 3.30PM

In response to this Committee's request for a meeting with Sydney Water staff to discuss their progress with their Voluntary Audit, Sydney Water has invited members of the committee to meet with the Plant Manager, Kel Taylor for half an hour. Details will be sent out to the Committee.

ITEM 8 CABBAGE TREE BAY

Sand Migration Project

Council's Manager, Manly Environment Centre, Judy Reizes tabled the Macquarie University Environmental Management Student Project "Sand Transportation on Shelly Beach, Manly NSW." (68 pages). The committee agreed to support the recommendation contained in the report to continue to cease beach raking.

It is noted that there have already been many positive comments from the Precinct and the community about Council ceasing beach raking.

It will take years to re-establish the pre-existing sand dune on the beach. Council should consider actions that can be carried out over the summer season to measure the differences in the sand dune.

The committee suggested that the report be distributed to all precincts, and made available for the public to read. In addition a copy should be forwarded to the Council waste staff.

The committee commends the writers of this report.

Recommendation:

Council write to the students from the Environmental Management, Macquarie University, thanking them for their fine report.

Lead
Officer

Council cease raking the beach.

GM to
consider

Council continue to monitor the beach and advise the committee of any issues arising from the cessation of the raking of Shelly beach.

Council distribute the report to the Precincts, Waste staff and make it available for the public to read.

Designated Swimming zone

The committee is keen to see this initiative progressed and any proposal exhibited for comment, prior to implementation. The committee is aware that boats will be able to continue seeking 'safe harbour' in the area, however the intention is to exclude boats from entering the area, anchoring and remaining there for extended periods of time. The committee requests that Council write to Roads and Maritime to clarify the process and start the consultation process to proceed with declaring the Cabbage Tree Bay area a 'designated swimming zone'

Recommendation

The General Manager progress the proposal to designate Cabbage Tree Bay as a 'designated Swimming zone'

Dogs on the Rocks

The committee noted that there is an increasing number of people taking their dogs onto the rocks and encouraging them to swim in the aquatic reserve. The committee feels that for a number of safety and environmental reason this should not be encouraged.

Recommendation:

Council to continue to enforce "no dogs on beach reserves and rocks".

Lead
Officer to
draft letter
for GM
signature.

ITEM 9

LITTLE MANLY SWIMMING ENCLOSURE

Council has plans to install seahorse friendly netting. There are also plans to repair the piles and restore the heritage look with vertical bars.

Recommendation:

The committee supports application for funding to restore this heritage structure which was built in 1879.

ACTION

ITEM 10

AERIAL BUNDLING TO PROTECT VALUABLE STREET TREES

North Harbour Precinct has written to Council requesting that that \$70,000 per annum be allocated from the Environmental Levy for 10 years, to provide aerial bundling to protect valuable street trees.

Whilst the committee considers that this request has merit it considered that the proposal should be submitted by staff along with all the other bids seeking funding from the levy for consideration in accordance with the Environmental Levy funding criteria.

The committee considered that it was appropriate for any environment related project to be considered and prioritised, noting that the funding was limited and many projects currently being funded were ongoing and likely to be considered a higher priority.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the General Manager write to the

Lead

	Precincts outlining the criteria for projects funded by the Environment Levy and how a budget bid for funding particular projects are developed and considered. In addition the Environment Levy has not been increased since its inception.	Officer to draft for GM to consider.
ITEM 11	ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY The committee was advised that a Council resolution in relation the Stuart St properties at Little Manly included consideration that the Environment Levy be increased by 50c per household per week and used to fund the Little Manly Park project. Whilst the committee felt this was a worthy project it was considered appropriate that it be considered in the context of all the other Levy funded projects and bids. (Copy of the original brochure (1997) is attached for reference Recommendation: The Committee recommends to the General Manager that the committee supports the Council in its bid to go through the process of increasing the Environmental Levy. The committee suggests that Council should consider that it be indexed on an annual basis with the increase in rates.	GM
ITEM 12	Penguin Warden Report – There was no penguin warden report NEW MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2014 12 February 12 March 9 April 14 May 11 June 9 July 13 August 10 September 8 October 12 November 10 December This was tabled and approved by the Committee.	ACTION
ITEM 13	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday, 11 December, 2013. Time: 7.00pm Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers Meeting closed at 8.40pm.	