



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY, 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

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

Jan Ritchie

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 8th May, 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

ACTION

Keelah Lam, Neil Ohlbach, Dave Thomas, Karen Pitt

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 th April, 2013 are confirmed.	ACTION
ITEM 4	MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy Meeting held on 6 th May 2013 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.	
ITEM 5	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES MEC Report That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 6	SEAGRASS ISSUES IN MANLY COVE AND SPRING COVE NSW Fisheries have circulated a report on the results of their consultation on protection of seagrass from boats anchoring. Recommendation: Council write a letter to NSW Fisheries to request a progress report on changes to anchoring arrangements and tenders accessing the beach at Manly Cove where penguins come ashore. This letter should state that Manly Council is progressing the rebuilding of habitat for the protected Seahorses on the swimming enclosure in this protected precinct. It was noted that boats mooring too close to the swimming enclosure still present a potential to damage the swimming enclosure.	
ITEM 7	UPDATE ON NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ISSUES The General Manager has written to Mike Baird regarding his facilitating attendance of members of this committee at a meeting with the Managing Director of Sydney Water. It was noted that as the August meeting of the North Head Community Consultative Committee will be devoted to discussing odours from the plant, that Mike Baird be requested to facilitate delegates from this Committee attending. Council has still not received a reply to their letter of 22nd February asking Mike Baird when he is going to announce the \$34million allocated for the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Odour Management Project.	IBM
ITEM 8	CLEANING OF COUNCIL ROCK SWIMMING POOLS The committee is concerned about the use of chlorine in cleaning Council's rock swimming pools.	

ITEM 9 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES

**ACTION
IBM**

a. Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers

George Mannah, Communications Manager for NSW Fisheries attended the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay meeting to discuss areas of future co-operation.

The Day at the Bay was a great success and 8 new people put their names down for the Volunteer Group and 40 for the Friends Group. The group has 300 Friends on Facebook.

There are now 28 new volunteers for training and induction. It is planned to hold this on 13th July. This brings the total volunteers to 64.

It is planned to:

- Hold a thank-you event for the Volunteers for the great work they have done on weekends since December. They will resume in September

- Run a program of monthly events during their break, ie

22 June - Talk by Professor of Aboriginal Studies, Dennis Foley about the aboriginal significance of Cabbage Tree Bay

13 July – New Volunteer Training and Induction

August talk for Science Week – Marine Scientist Aimee about Bull Sharks

28 September – event to restart Volunteer Group

20 or 27 October – Asian Women at Work – George Mannah to organise

- Write and circulate a newsletter

b. Mosaic to Mark the Entrance to Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve

IBM

This project is resourced and funded through this year's Environmental Levy enabling us to engage an artist to make the tiles with students from Manly Village School. Installation will need to be discussed with the works people. We would like it to be completed by the end of September in time for the resumption of the Volunteers or Ocean Care Day in December.

Recommendation:

The committee supports the installation of the mosaic at the beginning of Marine Parade to mark the entrance to the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve by December.

c.	Mechanical Beach Cleaning of Shelly Beach by Beach Rake The committee is concerned at the daily use of this heavy equipment which is removing vast quantities of the shells after which the beach was named. Removal of the shells is aggravating beach erosion and consequent sand migration onto grass areas. This is not consistent with the no-take regulations governing the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve. Recommendation: That Council reconsider the use of mechanical beach raking, following the example of Mosman council which has ceased mechanical cleaning of their beaches like Chinaman's Beach. The use of hand raking would preserve significant shell cover which could reduce beach erosion and sand migration onto grass areas, thus avoiding contravening the Fisheries regulations governing the No-take Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve.	ACTION
d.	Regular Usage of Shelly Beach by SeaAustralia The community is concerned that over 2,000 students per week are being brought to Shelly Beach. There are up to three groups per day, ie 150 students on the beach at any one time. Each session lasts for approximately 1 to 1.5 hours and there can be three sessions in a day, ie 450 students, without a break. Recommendation: That Council investigate - The consistent impact of these large numbers in the shallows of the Aquatic Reserve with the resulting compaction of the shallows environment for long period of time without a break. - Whether some of the fees paid by SeaAustralia could be attributed to enhancement of the Bay.	
ITEM 10	MANLY FOOD, WINE AND SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL 2013 The committee is disappointed that there will not be any environmental message in regard to Container Deposit Legislation and plastic waste by removal of display space for Ecodivers and Two Hands. At a time when other Councils are adopting the themes of Manly's Sustainability Festival, the traditional focus of this family event should be restored to something similar to the Great Taste Less Waste Theme of previous years.	
ITEM 11	BUSHLAND PRESENTATION The committee would welcome a presentation on Council's bushland from Chris Kraus, Bushland Manager at the next meeting.	
ITEM 12	NEXT MEETING DATE Venue: Manly Council Chambers Time: 7.00pm Date: Wednesday, 13th June, 2013	
Meeting closed at 9.10pm.		