



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER, 2015

NOTE: All minutes are subject to confirmation at a subsequent Council or Planning and Strategy Committee meeting.

PRESENT:

Councillors
Cllr Hugh Burns

Other Representatives

Sue Matthews	Penguin Warden
Michella Burgers	Community Member
Jacqueline French	Community Member
Natasha Hammond-Deakin	Community Member
Lloyd Keen	Community Member
Keelah Lam	Community Member
Jan Ritchie	Community Member
Janne Seletto	Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes	Manager, Manly Environment Centre
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Rosie Lempriere
Aida Copeland

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 9 December, 2015, 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
Rosanna Perillo-Boutin, David Thomas.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held 11 November, 2015 are confirmed.

ITEM 4 New Members for the Committee.

It was noted that we have 3 recent applications for membership of this Committee, the first one was from Rosie Lempriere a former Committee member and the others from Aida Copeland and Lynda Ralph.

We have been advised that we only have 1 vacancy as our number of Committee members allowed is 10. Rosie Lempriere's application has been forwarded to the General Manager for approval.

This Committee values the diverse range of skills, experience and areas of interest of its members to deal with the diversity of environmental issues in Manly.

We have been advised that in order to take on 2 further members the Committee's Terms of Reference would have to be increased from 10 to 12. This would bring it to the same level as the Community Safety Committee.

COMMITTEE PAPERS

Members are experiencing problems downloading and printing the meeting papers. The Secretariat is asked to assist in this regard.

Recommendation:

That the membership of the Council's Community Environment Advisory Committee be increased to 12 in order to attract the broad range of skills and interest needed to protect and enhance Manly's unique environment.

GM

ITEM 5 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

The Chair moved a formal vote of thanks to Judy and MEC's staff and Interns for the excellent Ocean Care Day event on Sunday.

ITEM 6 PENGUIN REPORT

Manly Wharf

Sue Matthews reported that access to the penguins nesting under the wharf is too easy. Council in conjunction with RMS should conduct works to secure under the wharf and install the camera to monitor and protect the penguins before the next breeding season.

Collins Beach

Wardens are intermittently standing watch over the penguins for National Parks. There are a lot of illegal after hours users of this beach.

ITEM 7 LONG-NOSED BANDICOOT

Still awaiting advice from EPA.

It was reported that there had been another death on Darley Road.

ITEM 8 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES UPDATES

Due to the need to consider OH&S issues for the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers at Shelly Beach, concern was expressed about the large shade tree which was cut down recently.

The Palm Tree, situated near the top of the boat ramp at Shelly Beach, has been cut down to the ground by the Council contractor, rather than pruned. This tree provided welcome shade to beachgoers and the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Volunteers who are stationed near the new Cabbage Tree Bay signage on the walkway. This key position allows the volunteers to gain feedback from divers coming out of the water on species they have seen can be passed on to visitors via coloured photos on the blackboard

Recommendation:

The large palm tree which has been cut down by the Council contractor rather than pruned should be replaced with a mature species of Cabbage Tree Palm or other local shade tree.

It is suggested that the cost of this mature tree should be borne in part by the contractor in recompense for its removal as it is probable that it should be covered by the Contractor's insurance.

ITEM 9 "A MARINE PARK FOR SYDNEY"

MEC interns designed and produced numerous striking, colourful and highly visible items for the MEC Lab Tent for Ocean Care Day to attract visitors, including:

- a 8m x 2m map of the Harbour, titled A MARINE PARK FOR SYDNEY featuring its many marine areas and images of the wealth of different marine species
- designing The Lab activities with microscopes and live creatures
- showing 8 underwater videos of our many marine colourful creatures on the big TV screen. See them at:
marineexplorer.org/videos.aspx

And greatly enhance the Manly Ocean Care Day site they made.

. 10 x 80cm diameter bright yellow circular signs bearing the message "a Marine Park for Sydney" around the stalls giving out resources to engage adults in the campaign and

. A quiz for children bearing the same symbol, with 10 questions about harbour species. The children had to find the answers from the 10 boards on different species around the site. Prizes were given to the children who brought their answers back to the MEC Lab test.

To find out how to support 'A Marine Park for Sydney' please visit:

<http://www.sydneymarinepark.org.au/>

"MEC interns designed and produced The MEC Lab Tent for Ocean Care Day.

**ITEM 10 NORTH HEAD WWTP ODOUR FORUM, TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT MANLY COUNCIL FROM 7PM
TO 9 PM**

This Forum was organized by MEC staff and Sydney Water. It was well attended by about 30 local people, including representatives from NPWS, Harbour Trust, North Head Sanctuary Foundation Executive, members of this Committee, representatives from Precincts and residents.

Sydney Water staff included Jennifer Fisher, Kelly Munro, Vanessa Smith, Louise Vorreiter (Sydney Water Head Office) and Ivan Jadric, Acting Manager, NHWWTP.

Cr. Hugh Burns welcomed and introduced the speakers and Matthew Taylor from North Head Sanctuary Foundation, facilitated.

Presentations:

Louise Vorreiter – Technical issues on NSOOS and NHWWTP.

Ivan Jadric - Day to Day running of the NHWWTP.

Judy Reizes - Community Presentation.

Question time began about 8.00pm and some of the questions were recorded on the white board. However, there were more questions than could be answered in the time. This indicated to Sydney Water that there was a strong Council, community and institutional interest in REDUCING odours from the plant and the trucks.

For the record, all of the questions are set out below:

**QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE NORTH HEAD WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT ODOUR FORUM – TUESDAY 24
NOVEMBER, 2015:**

1. The Government and Sydney Water need to acknowledge the longstanding odour impacts on the Manly community and that some of these impacts can be attributed to the length of time (7 hours) the sewage takes to travel the length of the NSOOS (35km) (ref. "Integrated Sewer Network Model Case Study: North Head System Sydney Water Presentation SCORE symposium Brisbane 8-9 July 2013).
2. Acknowledge that the Sydney Water \$4,000,000 Research Project (Sun Herald 9 May, 2015) is focused solely on reducing corrosion impacts on their Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall System (NSOOS) rather than impacts on the Manly community.
3. What is the reason for the huge increase in complaints from 2007 compared to earlier years? (ref. Presentation by Judy Reizes). Is it related to sludge processing?
4. More funding is needed for scrubbers and digesters to reduce odour and improve efficiency, ie 2 more digesters would reduce liquid content of sludge and thus odour, as well as truck movements, and increase capture and allow

more power to be generated.

5. What gases/pollutants are produced from the flaring of digester gases, are they being scrubbed?
6. Sydney Water to prepare a flow chart of plant processes from beginning to end including products and odour.
7. Are Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) being monitored?
8. What has been happening in the last month at the plant to cause more odour?
9. Provide info on odour investigation process – flow chart – is there a direct phone line or email for this? Revisit reporting process. Residents who complain direct to Sydney Water find that plant staff visit them and do a “sniff test”. Sydney Water staff should value and accept residents’ concerns and seek their assistance in identifying and reducing odours.
10. Odour contours – why is Malabar WWTP the priority? How can Sydney Water get the odours down to 2 odu at the boundary at North Head? Why doesn’t Sydney Water have a plan to reduce odours to less than 2odu?
11. Why is it not possible to cap/cover the sedimentation tanks, as has been done recently at Cronulla WWTP? (ref. Australian Water Review “Sydney Water Implements Odour Management at Cronulla” Sydney Water is being a Good Neighbour at Cronulla).
12. What would it take \$/tech/politics for no odours beyond the boundary? Plan to bring all odours into treatment?
13. If the processing is being monitored and the source is not detected, then where are the odours coming from in the plant? What are they? Why aren’t they being monitored?
14. In 2016, an odour reassessment should be done after the new plant has been commissioned. What is the timing and what are the processes and scope of work? How will fugitive/undetectable odours be included in the calculation of the Odour Contours?
15. Investigate odours at Little Manly Beach.
16. Investigate odours at East Esplanade.
17. Investigate odours at Whistler Street Pumping Station and Vent Stack.
18. Question on Notice – why are we not upgrading processes? And going to second level of processing. Why can’t we send flow out west close to compost site?
19. Question on Notice - Why aren’t the North Head sediment tanks covered?

20. Odour investigation/study – information on what it will include – can we include external sites?
21. Odour logging – how can we provide this better? Sydney Water, Manly Council and MEC to work together on a reporting process. MEC to design an APP.
22. Biosolids – level of liquid and TSR percentage / has it increased over years?
23. Residents complain that odours from empty returning biosolids trucks are as high as those leaving the plant. Trucks need tight fitting lids, rather than tarps which can be loose.
24. Truck trial – some people would prefer trucks to be at night. High Bandicoot mortality in Darley Road needs to be considered as they are nocturnal.
25. Bandicoot education for truck drivers/staff.
26. Develop strategy to end Ocean Outfalls.
27. Wet wipes – who and how are we lobbying?

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:

The Committee discussed the Forum and wished to place it on record that:

- The presentations showed that after recent works were completed at Malabar and Cronulla WWTPs, odours were significantly better whereas Sydney Water staff admitted that at North Head it would not be much better.
- Sydney Water were clear about what had to be done at Malabar and Cronulla WWTPs whereas at North Head they were not able to advise what actions they were going to take to find and eliminate the longstanding “fugitive” emissions.
Sydney Water were asked if Lend Lease had contributed to odour reduction costs at Cronulla, but Sydney Water’s answer was no.
- We need to keep asking Sydney Water what are their plans to get the odours down to the same level as at Malabar and Cronulla.
- The statement from Sydney Water Scientist Louise Vorreiter that “North Head is a DIFFICULT site to reduce odours on” because of the steep cliffs and contours which cause odours to “waft” around, is surely a reason why long-term the NHWWTP should not be on that site. Particularly when it is considered that the spectacular scenery around it is attracting a growing stream of tourists. If the plant it is to stay there then Government NEEDS TO PRIORITISE FUNDING TO ELIMINATE ODOURS

- The EPA guidelines state that there should be no offensive odour outside the boundary, ie **2 odu** (the level at which 100% of people can smell it). If 2 odu can be achieved at Malabar at the boundary then why is it acceptable that at North Head WWTP it will be **7 odu** after the “improvements” are completed.
- Will the 2016 Odour Assessment reset the odour contour?
- Will they treat the major odour sources FIRST!!
- Why can't they cover the NHWWTP sedimentation tanks which cover an area half the size of an Olympic swimming pool? Sydney Water have covered the tanks at Cronulla?
- When does Sydney Water plan to carry out the next level of treatment?

In Marseilles and other cities in Europe and Asia large sewage treatment plants operate under the main city sporting complexes without any odour.

- In 2007 there was a very significant increase in level of complaints to EPA and the Plant when the sludge processing and trucking methods (loss of tight-fitting lids) changed. Apparently the percentage of liquids to solids in the trucks is 28 to 30% because the Plant does not have enough digesters. If there were more digesters, there would be more solids, less odour and less trucks. It was noted that the trucking contractors are ANL.

It was noted that the original plan for the Northside Storage Tunnel was that it would contain a return sludge pipe so that sludge would be processed nearer to the source where it is composted.

NEXT STEPS:

Clr. Burns reported on a brief meeting which he attended with Judy Reizes and the Sydney Water Communication Consultant, Kelly Munro on 9 December to evaluate the workshop and come up with an action plan. It was agreed that the meeting notes will be sent out to all participants and the next workshop should be in late February.

The Consultant suggested that:

- because there could be differing levels of interest in certain topics that we have smaller meetings about each topic, to engage the people who have expressed an interest in that topic and then later attract the wider community: ie

North Head Site specific
Trucking and Biosolids
Complaints Recording Process
Fugitive Emissions
Local Sewage Pumping Stations, ie Whistler Street, East Esplanade

- the Complaints Recording Process could be through the Sydney Water Talks Website

The above was discussed by the Committee and the following recommendations are made:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee discussed ideas for the next meeting in February on North Head WWTP Odours and recommends that future meetings continue to encourage broad participation by addressing the problem of odours whilst at the same time prioritising the next steps, ie.

1. BIOSOLIDS

As research indicates that complaints increased significantly in 2007 when the biosolids process and trucking changed, that the following should be prioritized for discussion:

- Introduce tight-fitting lids to trucks (there are only 2 trucks daily).
- Carry out a cost benefit analysis to install more digesters to: improve sludge quality, reduce trucks movements, increase power generation, accommodate mooted 40% increase in catchment population and increasing tourism visitation to North Head
- Investigate potential of installing sludge pipe in the Northside Storage Tunnel so that the biosolids could be processed closer to where the sludge is composted.

2. COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCEDURE

A direct method of complaint handling is preferred, rather than a website like Sydney Water Talks.

The Manly Environment Centre will investigate a Mobile Phone App which could be developed to meet the needs of most kinds of complainants. This would give complainants position, weather data, ie wind direction, temperature, and description of the type of odour.

In the meantime, complaints should be continue to be directed to EPA Pollution Line on 131555 or North Head WWTP.

3. ODOUR MANAGEMENT

a. 2016 Independent Odour Assessment to Reset the Odour Boundaries

The scale of odour emissions from NHWWTP, ie 8 million litres per minute, require that an Independent Odour Assessment be carried out in 2016 to identify the sources of all fugitive and other emissions in the plant.

b. Sydney Water should identify and publicly report on these odour sources

c. Work Towards eliminating Odours, ie 2 Odour Units at the Plant Boundary

**4. STRATEGIC PLANNING SHOULD CONSIDER THE EVER
INCREASING TOURISM VISITATION TO NORTH HEAD**

ITEM 11 SHARKS

Read the submissions to the NSW Parliamentary Enquiry to The Management of Sharks in NSW Waters at:

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/V3ListSubmissions?open&ParentUNID=91CF190BC9907D72CA257EAE00095FAD>

ITEM 12 STREET TREE MANAGEMENT

The Committee is still awaiting the Final Report to be presented to Council and looks forward to having input into items to replace the Street Tree Management Plan allocation or to be advised what the allocation was used for from the Environment Levy.

ITEM 13 IVANHOE PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Council has retained a new consultant to progress the Ivanhoe Park Botanical Gardens Strategic Plan

**ITEM 14 “OPERATION CRAYWEED” RESTORING SYDNEY’S
UNDERWATER FORESTS**

Scientists from the University of New South Wales have received a grant of \$150,000. Read all about it at:

www.OperationCrayweed.com

ITEM 15 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 10 February, 2016

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.