



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD 8 JULY 2009

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin

Manly Council

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia

Community Representative

Susan Buchan

Community Representative

Diana Deeley

Community Representative

Carole Douglas

Community Representative

Jacqueline French

Community Representative

Richard Hewitt

Community Representative

Keelah Lam

Community Representative

Terry Metherell

Community Representative

Cheryl Rose

Community Representative

Peter White

Community Representative

Peter Hay

National Parks & Wildlife Representative

Angelika Treichler

Penguin Warden Representative

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Rafiq Islam

Estuary Management Officer (For item 4.2)

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 8th July, 2009, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.40pm.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Louise Bochner.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil

ITEM 3 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
The Chair introduced Peter Hay, Local Area Manager, NPWS and welcomed him to the committee. Peter Hay apologised for his absence from last month's meeting, due to illness.

ITEM 4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	ACTION
	The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10th June 2009 are confirmed, as adopted by Council and as highlighted in Attachment A. The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the amendments resolved by Council to the initial minutes which were circulated for the 10th June 2009 Committee meeting. The Chair also wished it to be minuted that Council resolved at its meeting of 10th June 2009 that in future all draft minutes of Special Purpose Advisory Committees will be sent to the Chair of each Committee for their confirmation before being presented to Council for adoption. The Chair also wished it to be noted and minuted that it had not been the Committee's intention to remove the National Parks representative from the Committee.	
ITEM 4.1	MATTERS ARISING	
	It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy Committee meeting held on 6th July 2009 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee for the 10th June 2009 be adopted, as highlighted in Attachment A.	
ITEM 4.2	Update on the Extension of North (Sydney) Harbour Aquatic Reserve	
	The Committee welcomed Rafiq Islam, Estuary Management Officer and thanked him for the report circulated, and presenting the information to the Committee in person. It was noted that a Plan of Management for North Harbour is being developed for exhibition later in the year based on the completed North Harbour Coastline Management Study (see attached web link).	
	www.manly.nsw.gov.au/IgnitionSuite/uploads/docs/north%20harbour%20coastline%20management%20study%20-%20final%20report.pdf	
	It was noted that Council first expressed an interest in extending the Aquatic Reserve and the Marine Park process in 1998.	
	Area Manager, NPWS advised that the involvement of National Parks staff in the management of marine areas in Sydney Harbour, including the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve is under discussion at present.	
	Recommendation:	IBM
	The General Manager is requested to develop a one page fact sheet outlining the proposal for the extension of the North (Sydney) Harbour Aquatic Reserve to assist in gaining wide support for this concept.	
ITEM 5	REPORT Implementing Companion Animal Legislation 1998	
	Ms. Battaglia's presentation outlined the following:	
	Companion Animals Legislation 1998 and the responsibilities of local government for enforcement and ensuring compliance for the control of cats and dogs. The legislation will be reviewed in the near future.	

- Manly Council provides some information on its website (www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Companion-Animals.html) and holds an annual Dogs Day Out
- A wide range of information and resources is provided through a variety of other Councils through websites, brochures and programs. The level of information varies from extensive and easily accessible to little or no information. Various examples were tabled.
- There is no central database for the collection of injuries and mortality to wildlife in the Manly LGA. However, some local vets keep statistics based on animals brought to them, e.g. one local vet at Seaforth reported wildlife mortality figures the last twelve months of:
 - 31 ringtail possums (20 killed by cats and 11 by dogs),
 - 15 brushtail possums (11 cats and 4 by dogs)
 - 23 birds.

Discussion:

The Committee discussed:

- ways that the community could prevent deaths and injuries to wildlife in Manly by them being better informed about their responsibilities under the Act
- Given the death of 7 penguins from suspected dog attacks, Manly LGA could benefit from more education, compliance and enforcement of the Act.
- considered that the community were unaware of the need to keep cats indoors at nights because of the risk to wildlife from cats allowed out at night.
- NPWS Local Area Manager stated that he and his staff would be willing to work with Council on this issue, particularly as Manly is adjacent to several national parks.

Suggested actions for Manly LGA:

- Consider adding wildlife mortality and injury statistics to council website. Encourage collection of these statistics from vets, WIRES, Sydney Wildlife Rescue and eventually update monthly
- Review information on the Council website, research and recommend alternatives
- Develop new brochure in conjunction with NPWS explaining why compliance with the Act is important.
- Distribute information at local vets, real estate agents, through rate notices and precinct forums, etc.
- Continue the Dogs Day Out program and develop a similar program for cat owners – Cats Day In to promote responsible cat ownership
- Review on and off leash areas in the LGA in particular those in and adjacent to critical habitat and wildlife protection zones. Ensure signage is adequate and publication of these areas is easily accessible and enforced.
- Devise a proforma Council letter on the importance of complying with the legislation. This could be letterboxed in areas where a problem cat or dog has been identified using the assistance of residents.
- Consider responsible dog and cat ownership requirements for “conditions of consent” for new DAs, particularly in critical habitat and areas adjacent to bushland.

- The Committee suggested that the MEC be requested to initiate discussion of the suggestions outlined.

Recommendation

The General Manager is requested to consider Manly Council's education, compliance and enforcement of the Companion Animals Act, and provide a report back to the relevant Committee and/or Council on how this area is managed.

**IBM
ACTION**

ITEM 6 REPORT

The Manly Environment Centre Report on Current Activities and Local Environmental Issues was tabled.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

ITEM 6.1 Penguin Warden's Report

The submission on the Development Application for the Bathers' Pavilion was completed and submitted. The report and issues in detail were discussed at a meeting between Council staff and Committee representatives. In order to observe penguins currently nesting, staff agreed to provide a key to the Penguin Warden Co-ordinator to access the boardwalk area.

The 2009/10 breeding season has commenced. Penguin Wardens have commenced closing the barriers at the wharf at dusk each night and have observed nesting activities of several penguins.

Penguin Warden training by NPWS will be held on 25th July for new Penguin Wardens.

To celebrate the Penguin Breeding Season, a Clean-up Day will be held on 26th July at Manly Wharf. Dave Thomas from Eco Divers will lead a clean-up of the area to raise awareness of negative effects of rubbish on the penguins.

Seven penguins have been found dead in the critical habitat. Zoo autopsies have determined that a dog was the cause of death. NPWS tabled a letter calling on residents to contact them with any information on the deaths. NPWS and Penguin Wardens have started letterboxing the area.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

ITEM 6.2 North Head Issues

Area Manager, NPWS reported the following:

- NPWS has been encouraged by the support received from the media, Manly Council, Penguin Wardens, Taronga Zoo and residents in their enquiry into the cause of death of the 7 penguins and to protect the remainder of the colony from further attacks.
- Working with North Head stakeholders to improve signage on walking tracks and roads. The objectives are to make it more user friendly, destination based and consistent with DECC Signage Manual.
- Outlined the significant works on the Manly Scenic Walkway which will be completed by the end of next financial year

- Plan of Management for Sydney Harbour National Park is being revised.
- Stakeholder meetings are being held and issues papers being developed. The public will be notified of the process and opportunities to make submissions through the media and on the DECC website.
- Fox baiting program is in progress at North Head. There is a need to eliminate foxes in areas in close proximity to residential areas. As it is not permitted to use traditional baiting techniques, the support of the Committee and Council is sought to use soft-jaw trapping. The Committee will be updated on the extent of clearing of bushland in the National Park for protection against bushfires of the Police College.
- The Committee encouraged the NPWS to write to the General Manager to formally seek Council's support of soft/jaw trapping of foxes at North Head.

ACTION

Recommendation

That the General Manager and Council be advised that the Community Environment Committee supports the use of soft/jaw trapping of foxes in areas adjoining residential areas where it is not permitted to use traditional fox baiting.

IBM

ITEM 8

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 12th August 2009

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council

Meeting closed at 8:45pm