



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD 8 SEPTEMBER, 2010

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cathy Griffin
Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Rachel Miller
Eira Battaglia
Dave Thomas
Susan Buchan
Neil Ohlback
Cheryl Rose
Terry Metherell
Angelika Treichler
Nelika Hughes, AWC

National Parks & Wildlife Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Penguin Warden Representative
Invited speaker DECCW

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 11th August, 2010, to consider the matters referred to it and now reports having reached the decisions taken and recommendations stated hereunder:

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 6.40pm.	
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Jacqueline French, Keelah Lam, Julie Taylor-Mills, Richard Hewitt, and Diana Deeley (on leave).	ACTION
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil	
ITEM 3	WELCOME Councillor Griffin welcomed Nelika Hughes from Australian Wildlife Conservancy.	
ITEM 4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11 th August, 2010 are confirmed. However, it was noted that the Cabbage Tree Bay item incorrectly referred to a meeting on interpretative signage	

which was a meeting related to NPWS regulation and branding.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 6th September 2010 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee are adopted.

ITEM 5

MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

- Twentieth Anniversary Celebration 2011.
Meetings of the organising committee continue to be held.

A project sheet and call for papers is being prepared.
- **Sunday at the Sanctuary**
Congratulations to the staff and volunteers for a very successful day.
- **Australian Museum Exhibition for International Year of Biodiversity**
Staff, community groups and volunteers are preparing for a 3 day exhibition involving the whole of the Biodiversity Gallery on 12th, 13th and 14th September.
- **Beauty of Biodiversity Exhibition for Manly Arts Festival**
Staff and local artists are preparing for this 3 day exhibition at the ICMS on 17th, 18th and 19th September 2010.

ITEM 6

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Plan Of Management For North Head - Closing Date 24th August

The Trust was unable to extend the consultation time as there was a need to table the Plan for approval at their Board's last meeting. The new Board will be appointed by the incoming Federal Government.

The committee's concerns as discussed at the last meeting were reflected in a submission by Julie Taylor-Mills.

ITEM 7

QUARANTINE STATION

Councillor Griffin advised that the following issues were discussed at the Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee:

The rebuilding of two dormitory buildings in accordance with the original consent conditions, the possible relocation of the reception area to the entry car park area, reinstatement of a walking track that involves the removal of some Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub.

Dave Thomas reported that the Quarantine Station Seagrass Study shows an increase in the infestation of *Caluerpa* amongst the threatened *Posidonia* Seagrass.

ITEM 8

PENGUINS

Penguin Warden, Angelika Treichler reported

a. **Manly Wharf**

Council has repaired the gate.

b. **Bathers Pavilion**

The ground floor of the Pavilion development will go before the Land and Environment Court on 20th and 21st October. The court site inspection will be on 21st October.

c. **Boardwalk**

An update is requested on the future of the boardwalk and whether it will be repaired and leased. The Committee requests that it be consulted on any future plans for the boardwalk. Consideration should be given to pushing the structure back from the building.

The committee reaffirms its original recommendations of going back to the Scientific committee to include this area in Critical Habitat for the Penguins.

It is not clear that the Pavilion's security camera is working satisfactorily and the committee requests a still photo.

ITEM 9

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MANLY COVE

Since Council received a letter some months ago from DECCW that to protect the seagrass beds, anchoring will be prohibited off the swimming enclosure, this prohibition be included in the Management Plan.

ITEM 10

REGULATORY SIGNAGE FOR CABBAGE TREE BAY AQUATIC RESERVE

National Parks had a meeting with Council regarding the regulatory signage and branding for the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve Rachel Miller advised that:

- DECCW has given Council \$50,000 to implement the priority objectives of the Cabbage Tree Bay Plan of interpretative signage and setting up a volunteer group.
- It is planned that the LMUD and Environment Committees will do a site visit.

Recommendation:

This Committee requests that council organise an onsite meeting with representatives of the following committees, Community Environment, Landscapae Management and Urban Design , Heritage, Access and Fairy Bower Precinct to discuss interpretative signage and other aspects of the upgrade of Marine Parade walkway and around the Bay.

Copies of this Committee's submission "Ideas for Proposed Upgrade of Marine Parade Walkway" be provided in advance to those attending the site visit. It is important that the interpretative panels relate to the aquatic environment to meeting DECCW's objectives for their funding allocation to Council of \$50,000.

ITEM 11

CATHOLIC CHURCH WARNING SIGNAGE IN BUSHLAND ON NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY

National Parks have received a lot of complaints about these signs which have apparently been erected by the Catholic Church and are seeking a meeting with the Sydney Archdiocese.

Recommendation

The Committee requests that Council write to the Catholic Church Archdiocese and state that there have been many complaints about the inappropriate signs that they have erected.

ITEM 12**MANLY LAGOON**

- Lagoon Playground Refurbishment
 - o Council's Deputy General Manager, Stephen Clements will discuss with appropriate staff.
- Pontoon /Safety Island for wetland birds
 - o The Chair of the Manly Lagoon Committee will raise this at their next meeting.

ITEM 13**BANDICOOTS**

The Committee welcomed Nelika Hughes from Australian Wildlife Conservancy who has been contracted by the Trust as the Sanctuary's Environmental Manager until August 2011. Nelika is currently carrying out bandicoot monitoring.

National Parks and Wildlife Representative, Rachel Miller gave an outline of monitoring data that NPWS's has collected over the last 10 years on North Head. The population had been relatively stable but has seen a slow decline. The numbers are now the lowest in 8 years with the population around the 100 mark which could be nearing the limits of viability. The decline has taken place between 2004-2010 when there has been a lot of developments on the various sites with an odd split in the population resulting in a male sex bias at Quarantine and females at St. Patricks. This could be due to the small population size but can only be determined by DNA testing.

The sites with higher carrying capacity tend to be in the residential area where there is more attention to lawns.

Trapping stopped after three days at the Police College site due to the noise from building works. At a recent meeting with the Police College it has been agreed that temporary plantings from regional stock will be made to provide protection for foraging bandicoots.

Recommendation:

The General Manager be requested to write to Mawlands and Harbour Trust to express concern at the declining population of the Longnosed bandicoot and encourage them to improve the foraging habitat quality on their lawn by watering regularly.

Population Viability analysis 10 to 20 deaths on roads
Nelika Hughes described:

- Her monitoring program which is being conducted in conjunction with Earthwatch . To date the infrared cameras monitoring predators have shown two cats, one is domestic from Fairy Bower precinct and the other a runaway. The three volunteers from the MEC who participated in this full day program would like to thank AWC for the opportunity.
- The "bandicoot tunnels" of vegetation which are similar to the vegetated links on the St. Patricks Estate, provide shelter when foraging on adjacent lawns and nesting habitat. These can be designed so that they do not encourage bandicoots

to cross the road.

- Nelika and Rachel will provide information to the Bandicoot Recovery Team which will meet soon.
- This committee requests a copy of the Annual Report which AWC will provide to the Trust. Terry Metherell suggested an “adopt a Bandicoot” program to reduce mortality from cars and cats.
- Instead of residents developing their property having to pay for a Species Impact Statement that they provide \$1,000 towards the bandicoot program. This could be used to fund DNA testing.

Recommendation:

That Council write to the Harbour Trust and request them to renew the contract for AWC for management of the Sanctuary. This contract expires in August 2011.

ITEM 14

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2010

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors’ Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.45pm