



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD 9 SEPTEMBER 2009

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin

Manly Council - Chair

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Terry Metherell

Community Member

Carole Douglas

Community Member

Cheryl Rose

Community Member

Angelika Treichler

Penguin Warden

Staff Representatives

Anthony Hewton

Divisional Manager, Corporate Planning & Strategy

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Ed McPeake

Manager, Community & Environmental Partnerships

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 9 September 2009, to consider the matters referred to it and now reports having reached the decisions taken and recommendations stated hereunder:

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 4.00pm.	
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Eira Battaglia, Louise Bochner, Richard Hewitt, Peter White and Peter Hay.	ACTION
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil.	
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the meeting 12th August 2009.	

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 7 September 2009 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee held on 12 August 2009 be adopted.

ACTION

ITEM 4

Presentation – Environmental Education Programs by Manager of Community & Environmental Partnerships (CEP): Environmental Levy Programs

The presentation and handout provided a comprehensive overview of the activities of the Community & Environmental Partnerships team, their funding sources and projects (past and present), and resources. Briefly staff positions include:

Education for Sustainability Officer, (Levy Funded)

Schools education and grants program, environmental programs for OOSH, Library.

Community programs include Science of the Surf and Sustainability Fair.

Staff events include Walk and Cycle to Work Days.

Climate Change & Special Projects Officer (funded from General Revenue) Environmental Levy project funding for Community Garden of \$20,000.

National Solar Schools Rebate Uptake, free water and energy audits of schools, Earth Hour Schools' Competition.

Sustainable Business Awards.

Community programs include Green Up Your Life Sustainable Living Workshops, Car Pool Promotion, Rainwater Tank Referrals, Water Bubblers Program.

Community Volunteer Co-ordinator, (3 days pw) funded from General Revenue and includes Environmental Levy project funding for Fair Trade \$5,000 and Ambassadors \$4,000.

This role includes volunteers for all parts of Council and their events. It was noted that due to the current economic situation, there are more volunteers than opportunities.

Waste Minimisation Education Officers, two staff are funded from the Garbage Rate.

Discussion

As the education staff were unable to be present, various ideas were discussed with Manager CEP which he offered to take back to them for consideration.

- **Relationship building with schools which integrate with curriculum and other school activities.**
Manager CEP advised that they were considering setting up a committee of interested parents and teachers to share ideas and participate. Feedback should be available in two months time.
- **Adaptive Reuse of Homes**
There is a need to reverse the present trend in Manly of demolishing solid homes with a strong potential for adaptive reuse, resulting in considerable waste of resources.

It was suggested that a one page document on Embodied

	Energy in Sustainable Buildings be provided with each referral. Local 350 Climate Change Event - 24th October The Penguin Warden advised that Climate Action Pittwater and Pittwater Council are hosting a local event at Newport Beach as part of the International 350 Event (see www.350.org). The Manly Warringah Climate Action Group of which the Penguin Warden is a member, is keen to have such an event at Dee Why and North Steyne Beaches. The Penguin Warden suggested that the Community Environmental Partnerships team might assist with a North Steyne event. Resolved: The Committee resolved to thank CEP and MEC staff for their many efforts in promoting environmental education programs.	ACTION
ITEM 5	MEC REPORT The Manly Environment Centre Report on Current Activities and Local Environmental Issues was tabled. It was noted that the Lagoon Life Festival was a huge success, attracting thousands of participants to an extensive program of activities. Upcoming MEC events include: - Sunday 13 September 2009, National Sustainable House Day the opening of five houses by Friends of Manly Environment Centre (FOMEC) in conjunction with Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society. - Thursday 17 September 2009 Manly Arts Festival Event Safety Wolf Tapas Bar Exhibition of work by local artists at the Lagoon Life Festival Saturday, 26th September 2-4pm Launch of Wildlife of Australia by Prof. Mike Archer for National Biodiversity Month, Manly Arts Festival Event. Joint launch by MEC, Alan & Unwin and local author Louise Egerton at the Manly Art Gallery. Resolved: That the report be received and noted.	All to note
ITEM 5.1	Penguin Warden Report The Penguin Warden reported that the number of nests occupied at Manly Wharf has varied from 4 to 5 to 2 to 4, and that the numbers at Federation Point have increased from 3 to 5. This includes a nest under the walkway, 1.5 metres from the proposed restaurant. Council's Independent Planning Assessment Panel will discuss the Bathers Pavilion development next week. Manly Penguin Information Signage at Manly Wharf A draft of the signage will be discussed at the Penguin Recovery Team Meeting this week.	All to note

	Student Work from Project Penguin Taronga Zoo A winners list has been provided by Taronga Zoo. Manager MEC will make contact with schools co-ordinator to obtain further details of student works. Resolved: That the report be received and noted.	ACTION All to note
ITEM 5.2	North Head Report Plan of Management for Sydney Harbour National Park As part of the preliminary process, community ideas and feedback are being sought through a special website at: http://sydneyharbourpom.net.au/ It is important to encourage community participation in this process to ensure future uses and management of National Parks within the Manly LGA in particular and in the broader Sydney Harbour National Park strike the right balance between conservation and recreational values. For this purpose, the Committee requests that: • Council prepares a media release as well as including it in the Mayor's Message; • This matter be placed on the Agenda for next meeting and National Parks staff (Margaret Bailey and Peter Hay) be invited to provide a presentation to the Committee; • The Committee would appreciate a short summary of critical issues for the October Committee meeting. Recommendation: The Committee recommends to the General Manager and Council that: i. A media release on the Plan of Management for Sydney Harbour National Park be prepared by Council staff, and a related notice included in the Mayor's Message; ii. Staff prepare a short summary of critical issues relating to the Plan of Management for Sydney Harbour National Park, for the October Environment Committee meeting.	Manager MEC to action for next meeting (October) IBM/GM GM
ITEM 5.3	Companion Animals Legislation Implementation in Manly LGA The Committee looks forward to having input into the brochure on responsible cat ownership being finalised by the General Manager's Unit. The Committee seeks information on Council's Dog Control Policy regarding dogs barking. Recommendation: The Committee requests that the General Manager provided it with information on Council's dog control policy regarding barking dogs.	GM
ITEM 6	GENERAL BUSINESS	
ITEM 6.1	Community Garden Community Member Keelah Lam gave a verbal report on a new proposal where Council resolved to enter an arrangement with the Cancer Council to set up and operate a community garden at 100 Griffith Street. Keelah addressed Council to express the views of the many community groups in Manly with expertise in this area who appear to have been excluded from this process.	

	Council accepted the proposal of the Cancer Council and a public meeting is to be held later in the year. It was noted \$20,000 was allocated for a Community Garden in the Environmental Levy for 2009/10.	ACTION
	Resolved: The information be received and noted.	All to note
	For many years, community conferences in Manly have advocated this program which is popular in most states of Australia. It involves groups of children walking to school, supervised by volunteers. A number of informal groups exist in the district but insurance of volunteers is a problem. It was suggested that local identity, Geoff Toovey, Director of Community Programs, NRMA Insurance be approached to consider supporting a pilot program in Manly by providing volunteer insurance. Councillor Griffin requested Council staff formulate a report to Council. It was noted such a program not only improved fitness of those involved but would also reduce vehicle emissions within the local area.	
	Recommendation: That the General Manager be requested to ask staff to prepare a report to Council on the concept of a Walking School Bus and of Council facilitating local schools adopting such a program.	GM
ITEM 7	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday 14 October, 2009 Time: 6.30pm Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council	

Meeting closed at 6:15 pm