



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia
Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Jacqueline French
Richard Hewitt
Keelah Lam
Terry Metherell
Cheryl Rose
Angelika Treichler
Rachel Miller

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Penguin Warden Representative
National Parks & Wildlife Representative

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 10th February, 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 6.45pm	ACTION
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Louise Bochner.	
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil	
ITEM 3	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The meeting commenced at 6.45pm at the Manly Environment Centre chaired by Councillor Burns until Councillor Griffin arrived late due to confusion over the venue change of the meeting.	
ITEM 4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 9 th December, 2010 were confirmed.	

	MATTERS ARISING The minutes of the December meeting were adopted by Council at the Planning and Strategy meeting on 1st February 2010.	ACTION
ITEM 4.1	ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS As noted at the last meeting, two committee members, Carole Douglas and Peter White have resigned. In addition it was noted that Louise Bochner had only attended one meeting. The following members of the community have expressed interested in joining the committee, Julie Taylor Mills, Dave Thomas, and Neil Ohlbach. The members present felt that these three individuals would make valuable contributions to the committee. Recommendation: Council seek to contact Louise Bochner and ascertain her interest in continuing as a member of the Committee. Council seek to appoint Julie Taylor Mills, Dave Thomas and Neil Ohlbach as members of the Committee	Secretariat
ITEM 5	Manly Environment Centre (MEC) REPORT MEC Premises The Manly Environment Centre (MEC) Lease continues on a month by month basis. The Committee expressed concerns that permanent premises should be secured for the MEC in a central location as soon as possible. MEC Program The Draft Concept Plan for the MEC Annual Program of Events was presented to the Committee for perusal. The theme and focus of the program will be International Year of Biodiversity with the sub themes of land, sea, flora, fauna and aboriginal heritage. The Committee endorsed the program and supports the MEC's submission of their annual report to Council on MEC Program of Events and Activities for 2010. In particular the Committee strongly supported the following: • "A Day at the Bay - Cabbage Tree Bay" event in April in conjunction with Department of Environment and Climate change to promote submissions to the new DECC Plan of management. • The successful Manly Lagoon Festival be continued in August as the National Science Week Event. • Monthly talks for the general community about wildlife habitat and protection at the MEC on a Saturday. A committee member volunteered for these based on those she is doing for the evening college. • Consultation with Community Environmental Projects to ensure integration with their annual program. The MEC staff briefed the Committee on their collaboration with external groups and organisations. Brief preliminary discussions have taken place with the Exhibition Curator for the Australian Museum, which will provide opportunities to showcase the various groups in Manly protecting the environment, i.e. Penguin Wardens, Eco Divers, and North Head Sanctuary	

	Foundation.	ACTION
	In addition, the MEC will take advantage of opportunities to work with the National Maritime Museum, Department of Environment and Climate Change and Macquarie University on events and North Head stakeholders on an interpretative strategy for North Head	
	The MEC will continue to be part of the National Science Week Committee.	
	The Committee encourages the MEC to seek \$10,000 funding from the Environment Levy to develop a Manly Biodiversity website.	
	Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.	All to note.
5.1	PENGUIN WARDEN REPORT The Penguin Warden reported: a) Manly Wharf and Federation Point: The 2009/2010 breeding season has been shorter at Manly Wharf and Federation Point with only one clutch. This means that there have only been 5 penguins at the wharf, compared to 7 last year and 6 at Federation Point compared to 8 last year. As the breeding season has concluded and the adult penguins are now moulting there is no need for penguin wardens to attend at the wharf or close the gates to prevent access. Angelika Treichler will continue to monitor. Crowds watching the penguins continued to grow with up to 500 people at a time during the holiday season. National Parks are printing a postcard of the penguins at the wharf for the wardens to give away at the wharf. The postcards will include the MEC website link where additional digital pictures of the penguins are available for downloading. Interpretative penguin signage completed. The location needs to be confirmed to include the sign and the park bench made by Harbord Public School as requested by the Mayor. Dog control has improved. Council has approved the dogs on leash stencil will be placed on footpath near Federation Point. Litter continues to be a problem with 3 dirty nappies a day being dumped under the wharf. It has been noted that the penguins at the wharf have become shy and there is a concern that people could be accessing the nesting area under the wharf after the penguin wardens have gone. The committee expressed concern about the safety of the public and the fencing under the wharf needs to be kept in good repair by the wharf management. We need to ascertain whether CCTV covers this area to ensure the safety of the penguins. Recommendation: Council seek to ensure that the area under the wharf where the penguins nest is secured by an appropriate fence and a gate so that	
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maintenance people and penguin monitors can access it.

b) Bathers Pavilion:

Penguin Warden Representative, Angelika Treichler, is in constant contact with the pavilion's development consultant to monitor the presence of moulting penguins. There is an agreement that they will not start work on that section of the boardwalk until the penguins have left.

c) Australian Institute of Police Management Development:

Construction is expected to commence in March at the conclusion of the penguin breeding season. Susan Buchan will be the community representative on the AIPM advisory group, with Eira Battaglia as her alternate. Angelika Treichler will represent the Penguin Wardens, on the AIPM advisory group. As yet the Committee has not met and the Committee requested that Council determine when and where the AIPM proposes to establish and conduct the community advisory committee meeting.

Recommendation:

It is requested that Council write to the relevant Government Department to determine when and where the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) will establish and conduct the AIPM Advisory Committee meetings

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5.2

NORTH HEAD ISSUES

Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management

Committee ideas have been put on the Sydney Harbour National Park POM community forum website.

It was anticipated that the draft plan will be on exhibition in March/April. If available this Draft will be placed on the Agenda for discussion.

Quarantine Station Tour

The Committee expressed interest in progress of the Mawland Q Station lease and it was suggested that the ideal time for this Committee to have the tour offered by DECC could be at 5pm after a Q Station Community Consultative Committee meeting.

North head sewage treatment plant

The field day on 20th February 2010 has been deferred by Sydney Water. It was suggested that Susan Buchan contact Sydney Water and find out when it would be possible to organise a field trip for the Committee.

Recommendation:

That the report be received and noted.

All to note.

ITEM 6

MANLY COVE SEAGRASSES

Council report tabled and discussed. Boats continue to anchor in the seagrass adjoining the swimming enclosure in Manly Cove (West). The Eco Divers have provided a map and photographic evidence of significant damage to the seagrass to Council. NSW Maritime and Fisheries should respond in a more robust way to this evidence.

Recommendation:

	The Committee suggested that Council write to NSW Maritime to: • Encourage them to respond in a more robust way to evidence which has been previously provided. • Provide the latest maps and photographs as evidence of damage. • Request that urgent action be taken to implement signage, installation of seagrass friendly moorings and follow up to ensure compliance with the NSW Maritime's Boating Handbook 2003-2004 and Boating Industry Associations Guide regarding not anchoring over seagrass. • Council to ensure that the Manly Cove Coastline Management Plan includes and considers the urgent need for signage and compliance.	IBM
ITEM 7	GENERAL BUSINESS Companion Animals Education The Chair will follow up progress on the responsible cat ownership brochure with senior staff and report back to the March meeting.	
ITEM 8	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday 10th March, 2010 Time: 6.30pm Venue: The Cove Room, Manly Council Chambers, 1 Belgrave Street Manly.	

Meeting closed at 9.00pm