



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2010

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin
Hugh Burns (until 7pm)

Manly Council (Chair)

Other Representatives

Eira Battagila
Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Jacqueline French
Richard Hewitt
Cheryl Rose
Rachel Miller

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
National Parks and Wildlife Representative

Observers

Associate Professor - Peter Banks
Julie Taylor Mills
Neil Ohlbach
Dave Thomas

University of New South Wales
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes
Robynne Millwood

Manager, Manly Environment Centre
Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 10th March 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

Angelika Treichler, Terry Metherell and Keelah Lam.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ACTION

ITEM 3	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS The Chair welcomed the new applicants for membership of the committee, Julie Taylor Mills, Neil Ohlbach and Dave Thomas. Application forms have been completed and will be sent to the General Manager for approval.	ACTION
ITEM 4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 February 2010 were confirmed. MATTERS ARISING The Minutes of the 10 February 2010 meeting were adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 8 March, 2010.	
ITEM 5	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE REPORT a. The Manly Environment Centre Current and Local Issues Report This Report was tabled and accepted. b. Manly Environment Centre Premises It is understood that the negotiations by the ICMS for leasing the former Rugby Union Club have not proceeded. The committee requests the Manly Council explore the possibility for Council to secure this property for the MEC. c. Manly Environment Centre (MEC) Program Manly Environment Centre Project Officer, Robynne Millward reported back to the Committee on the proposed MEC Program for 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity. The committee's ideas, including various biodiversity themes have been integrated into the plan and the first Marine event will be the "Day at the Bay" at Shelly Beach to promote and gain submissions to the new DECCW Draft Management Plan for Cabbage Tree Bay. A report to Council on the MEC Program for 2010 will go to the April Council Meeting.	
ITEM 5.1	PENGUIN REPORT a. Manly Wharf and Federation Point It was noted that Hugo's restaurant was using the penguins to promote their new Sunday 4pm to late sessions with a penguin cartoon with the caption "we love Hugos". The completed penguin interpretative sign has been installed but needs to be relocated so that it does not block wheelchair access to the promenade exit ramp and accommodates the park bench provided by Project Penguin students from Harbord school. Staff will follow up under wharf fencing and gate and CCTV coverage around the wharf. The Stencil design agreed to by council for on leash dog area on the footpath at Federation Point remains outstanding. The committee requests an update as to when these signs will be completed.	

Dave Thomas from Ecodivers advised that they had collected 700kg of rubbish for Clean Up Australia Day in the vicinity of penguin habitat in Manly Cove.

ACTION

b. Bathers' Pavilion

A Stop Work Notice for the ground floor has been issued for six months.

c. Penguin nest under the Bathers' Pavilion walkway

The committee discussed the boardwalk currently leased by Council from the western side of the Pavilion boardwalk to the steps at Federation Point. This area is not in designated critical habitat, however the Penguins nesting there are still considered part of the endangered colony and are therefore protected under the NSW Threatened Species Act.

The boardwalk forms part of the penguin nest 'roof' and a solution to avoid damage to this nest is required. A suggestion has been made that a new boardwalk be constructed over the current boardwalk leaving it intact. This of course would require a plan and funding.

Recommendation

Council prepares a plan and estimate of the cost for consideration in the upcoming budget.

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ITEM 5.2

NORTH HEAD ISSUES

a. Bandicoot Research Project in Manly LGA's Urban Areas on North Head

The Chair welcomed Associate Professor Peter Banks from the University of NSW to the meeting.

It is noted that Expressions of Interest were called for research, community consultation and education on the effect on the bandicoot population of the urban areas in the Manly LGA on North Head. The Manly Council Environment Levy has committed \$10,000 pa for the past few years to contribute to the Bandicoot Recovery program. The (as yet unspent) total of \$50,000 has been committed by Council to this Bandicoot Recovery project.

After some discussions with various members of the Recovery Team it has become apparent that the \$50,000 offered for a 12 month project will be inadequate to respond to the questions that have arisen as the result of there being little information on this interaction. The data required should be collected over no less than two years.

Since 1996, Associate Professor Peter Banks has been the lead researcher on the Bandicoot Recovery Programme on North Head. At that time he supervised his then student Rachel Miller, (now at NP&WS), who worked on a thesis on the subject. He suggested that the Council take advantage of

	significantly increasing the monies available for this project by joining him in applying for a grant through the Federal Government's ARC Linkage Program as a partner. Proposals for funding under Linkage Projects must involve a Partner Organisation from outside the higher education sector. The Partner Organisation must make a significant contribution in cash and in kind, to the project that is equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding. The proposed Bandicoot Research Project is to be in the urban areas adjacent to North Head and the National Park, within the Manly Council LGA and will answer the questions about the way that these native animals adjust to and survive at the interface between the urban and bushland environments. Further information on the funding rules can be found at http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingrules.htm. Recommendation The General Manager considers Council joining the University of NSW as a Partner Organisation in an application to the Commonwealth Linkage program for funding to expand the Bandicoot Research Project to two years to have a substantially better outcome for the bandicoots and the community. This research project as outlined by Associate Professor Peter Banks is to be carried out in the Manly LGA urban areas at North Head to determine their effect on the bandicoot population. b. Bandicoot Mortalities on North Head A resident of North Head Scenic Drive has claimed that he had sighted at least 15 bandicoot deaths in 2009, versus the 3 shown on the Bandicoot mortality sign. It appears that the security officers responsible for closing the boom and monitoring bandicoot road kill may not have been performing these tasks regularly. This has now been rectified by National Parks. The resident claimed that he had attempted to report these deaths to the phone numbers on the sign but most of these are office hours only. Rachel Miller provided copies of the "Wanted Dead or Alive" Bandicoot notice. Recommendation It was recommended that copies of the "Wanted Dead or Alive" Bandicoot notice be placed on noticeboards.	ACTION
		GM
ITEM 5.3	Australian Institute of Police Management Development A significant rockfall has taken place on the foreshore and it is believed that a geotechnical study will now be carried out prior to construction commencing. Concern is expressed about potential impacts from construction on nearby rockshelters containing items of aboriginal heritage and penguin nests. Recommendation: i) The committee requests Council to: a) inform the Aboriginal Heritage Office of the rockfall and	Staff
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	seek further advice as to the impact and potential loss of heritage significance b) Review the 1986 Heritage Study against the DECC Site Register to ensure that all known places are identified for protection c) Seek advice regarding the potential hazard risk on the foreshore when construction of the approved redevelopment of the site commences shortly. d) Work has started on the site but there is no indication on the gate of the name and contact details of the Private Certifier.	ACTION
	ii) The committee requests that Council write to the Department of Planning to ensure that the equivalent of the PCA be advertised on the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) gate together with contact details. Council write to the AFP and confirm when the Community Consultation will take place and who will represent Council at these meetings.	IBM
ITEM 5.4	International College of Management Sydney Advice was provided that the International College of Management Sydney is seeking additional classroom accommodation and are presently using off campus accommodation at the North Head Sanctuary. They are also considering erecting demountables on their site in the vicinity of the former St. Patricks Seminary. The committee expressed concern about the increased number of vehicles travelling to the ICMS and requiring parking. It was noted that cars are now being parked on grassed areas which represents a danger to the bandicoot population. No warning signs have been posted in the college alerting drivers. Recommendation That the information be received and noted.	
ITEM 5.5	North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Since the last meeting of this committee there have been a significant increase in the number of odour incidents and severity from the sewage treatment plant with complaints from numerous community members at various locations. At the February meeting of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation at the North Head Sanctuary, 30 people, including senior staff of the Harbour Trust, experienced severe odours for the two hour duration of the meeting. Department of Environmental Climate Change and Water DECCW and Sydney Water have been informed and staff will follow up with the DECCW inspector. Recommendation That the information be received and noted.	
ITEM 5.6	Quarantine Station Visit Staff has discussed a visit with National Parks & Wildlife Service staff at Quarantine Station and the date and time proposed is prior to the May meeting on Wednesday 12th May 2010 at 3pm. Committee members who will be available at that time are requested to advise Judy Reizes.	

	Recommendation	ACTION
	That the information be received and noted.	
ITEM 5.7	North Head Stakeholders Meeting As there are many current North Head issues of concern to this committee, it is desirable for a representative of this committee to attend these bimonthly meetings. Recommendation: It is recommended that a representative from this committee attend the bimonthly meetings. Rachel Miller (NPWS) will table this as an Agenda item at the next Stakeholders meeting.	
ITEM 6	ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY Members of this committee have been well briefed on the bids for previous financial years by staff since the levy's inception. However it is considered that inadequate time has been provided for proper consideration and discussion by the committee members of the bids for the coming budget. As the Levy bids are due for presentation to Council for consideration it is requested that the draft bids, including a summary, for the next financial year be provided to the committee members at least 3 weeks prior to the next meeting to allow for the committee to familiarise themselves with the contents of the bids and provide their comment. The committee requests that the carry over figures on particular projects for the 2009/10 levy be provided. The schedule provided in November identified what was spent & unspent and in order to get a full picture, the committee needs to know how carry forwards will be applied to current projects otherwise it is not possible for the committee to <i>"Report at the end of the financial year on whether the funds have been separately accounted for and, in particular, to express a view as to whether the additional revenue has been directed to new environmental initiatives additional to the Council's normal operational and capital budget expenditure."</i> as required by Levy guidelines. Recommendation That the information be received and noted.	
ITEM 7	COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR 2010 MEETINGS The committee will discuss the priorities for 2010 at the next meeting.	
ITEM 8	SEWAGE POLLUTION IN POPULAR SWIMMING AREAS It was noted that current Sydney Water Sewerfix information indicates that they are working to reduce the frequency of wet weather sewage overflows to Sydney Harbour at East Esplanade. Existing pipes will be removed and replaced with larger pipes and a new access chamber installed. Committee members reported that as constant sewage odours from this vicinity could indicate faecal pollution of the nearby swimming spot in Manly Cove which	

	is popular with small children, signs warning against swimming should be installed.	ACTION
ITEM 9	SUBMISSION TO NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO RECREATIONAL FISHING The Chair advised that Manly Council will provide a detailed submission to this inquiry. Dave Thomas pointed out that numerous fishing charter boats commonly carry 10 fishermen at a time and encouraged committee members to make their own submissions. Assistance in making a submission can be accessed on the National Parks Association website at www.npansw.org.au.	
ITEM 10	CONTAMINATED SOIL The committee requests an update on testing of contaminated soil at LM Graham Reserve and Ivanhoe Park for this committee's April meeting. This matter was referred to in an environmental levy bid in 2008/9.	
ITEM 11	COMPANION ANIMALS LEGISLATION It was noted that a committee member had recently provided Council enforcement staff with a copy of "A Review of Cat Ecology and Management Strategies in Australia" prepared by the Invasive Animals CRC at Sydney University. The committee looks forward to receiving a revised draft of Council's brochure to encourage responsible cat ownership. The request for this brochure was initiated early last year.	
ITEM 12	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday 14th April, 2010 Time: 6:30pm Venue: Councillor's Room, Manly Council Chambers, 1 Belgrave Street, Manly	

Meeting closed at 8:40pm