



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST 2011

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

Councillors

Cathy Griffin
Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia
Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Jacqueline French
Keelah Lam
Rosie Lempriere
Julie Taylor Mills
David Thomas
Angelika Treichler

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Penguin Warden Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Observer

Myriam Pitre

Community Observer

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 10th August, 2011, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.40pm.

ITEM 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened and the Chair welcomed Myriam Pitre.

ITEM 2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Richard Hewitt and Lloyd Keen.

ITEM 3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 13th July, 2010 are confirmed with the addition of:

ACTION

Item 7 Little Penguins the breeding season commences on 1st June not 1st July as stated in the new OEH Penguin brochure, tabled by the Penguin Warden representative at last meeting.

ITEM 5 MEC AND CURRENT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES REPORT

Conference Report

Council has approved the employment of a part time casual employee to assist with the organization of the Conference until the closure of the conference.

All program details and speakers have been finalized for the 4 days. Dinner and Eco Award arrangements have been finalized for Friday evening and can be viewed on the website.

Members of the Committee are encouraged to assist by volunteering and are invited to attend the Eco Awards which will be presented by keynote speaker Polly Higgins, followed by dinner at the ICMS.

ITEM 6 PENGUIN REPORT

Penguin warden, Angelika Treichler reported as follows:

- **Wharf**

National parks have, for the first time, monitored the Manly Cove penguins.

Lisa O'Neill checked out the visible nest near the beach shower and found one male penguin who was sitting on 2 eggs. He is micro chipped, but Lisa could not find the number on the OEH's list. Seeing his large scar, I assume that he was chipped at the zoo where he was delivered with a boat propeller wound.

In the meantime we have had even higher tides than last year and we think the eggs got spoiled. This assumption is caused by a strong rotten smell coming from under the shower platform. Also, the breeding pair are not coming back to this burrow, using one under the wharf instead. Usually Rakalis, native water rats, clean out the burrows, but we haven't seen any this year.

- **Federation Point**

The boardwalk up to the staircase is being repaired. We would like to thank the council for carrying out this work so well and during the time before the new generation of penguins will return after their parents were killed last year.

Unfortunately, there are still dogs off-leash seen every night, even on the Federation steps, but mainly on the Scenic Walkway near Delwood Beach. Being attached very high above the huge 'No-Bicycle' icon, the 'Dogs-On-Leash' signs are very difficult to read, especially at night.

We would like to request the Wildlife Protection Area maps be installed in positions where they can be deciphered. The same maps were part of a Dogs-On-Leash flyer letter-boxed in the area.

Please note that in Manly Cove the penguin season begins 1st June, contrary to the flyer which used the 'Critical Habitat' regulation for fishermen in Spring Cove.

- **Wharf Development**

The rally against a 2nd level on the east Wing of Manly Wharf with 4 new licensed restaurants was very successful. With 60 submissions already written, we are expecting more objections as a result of the rally.

Further matters raised in the meeting:

All penguin wardens have recorded continuous problems with dogs off leash and there is a need to enforce the law. There are concerns that some of the signage is not at optimum height.

Recommendation:

In order to improve visibility to dog owners, the Committee recommends that all dog regulation signage be re-erected at eye level particularly the signage.

Protocol for Injured Penguins

As there continues to be confusion about what to do if an injured penguin is found, the Penguin Warden representative suggested that the Council install signage at Manly Cove detailing the protocol from the new OEH brochure tabled at last month's meeting.

Recommendation:

To facilitate prompt rescue of injured penguins, Council install signage at Manly Cove detailing the protocol for injured penguins, as detailed in the latest OEH brochure.

ITEM 7 REMOVAL OF PIPES FROM THE BEACH AT NORTH STEYNE

No further report from Council following the surfing community's meeting with staff in July. Neil Ohlback will follow up with Council staff.

ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 MANLY 2015 PROJECT

Carpark site under the oval:

The committee expressed the following concerns:

- Recent statistics on car use in Manly indicate that 61% people drive to work by car and 58% of cars have a single occupant. Therefore, the community questions the sustainability of the increased car traffic generated particularly on adjoining streets.
- Energy requirement of fan forced ventilation of the underground carpark
- The impacts of flooding and wishes to view the Hydrology/ Report.

Recommendation:

That Council staff give a public presentation and/or presentation to this committee on the underground car park addressing the specific

issues of increased car traffic on adjoining streets, energy requirements of fan forced ventilation and impacts of flooding.

8.2 MANLY COVE SWIMMING ENCLOSURE AND SEA HORSE COLONY

Dave Thomas reported that:

- this population whose numbers were in the hundreds before the net was cut down in October had now decreased to approx. 10 animals. The net is still lying on the sand and needs to be reattached to the main net.
- at his recent meeting with Council staff and the contractor, he stressed the need to reattach the net without delay as the breeding season is imminent.

Recommendation:

The committee recommends that Council arrange for the old net to be reattached to the main net without delay as the breeding season of the seahorse colony is imminent.

8.3 CABBAGE TREE BAY AQUATIC RESERVE

Dave Thomas reported that there are ongoing problems with illegal fishing and boats in Cabbage Tree Bay marine sanctuary.

Recommendation:

- That Manly Environment Centre write to Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay list advising that no effective action has been taken by the Government in the last year and encourage them to write to their local member and request an update on progress now that National Parks and Fisheries no longer fall under the one department.
- That Council write to the Minister, Robyn Parker for an update on the Cabbage Tree Bay Plan of Management which closed for comment on 29th April, 2010. The community rejected the department's recommendation for three fixed moorings as it was believed that no boats would make it easier for compliance.
- That subject to confirming Council has the authority to enforce fishing and boating matters from the State Government that council investigate and bring back a report to council and the committee for Council to acquire a boat which could be quickly launched into Cabbage Tree Bay to assist enforcement in this Aquatic Reserve, Manly Cove and Spring Cove.

8.4 SYDNEY HARBOUR PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The Chair advised that the final plan should be released in the next couple of months.

8.5 SYDNEY WATER ODOUR ISSUES

The Sydney Water website indicates that a Review of Environmental Factors has been completed at Malabar Sewage Treatment Plant to reduce the odour impact on residents. Council should write to Sydney Water with a copy to the local member seeking information

on what is being done at North Head Sewage Treatment Plant to reduce the odour impacts on residents and when it is intended to conduct the community consultation process.

Recommendation: As the Sydney Water website reveals that significant works are proposed to the Malabar Sewage Treatment Plant to reduce the odour impact on residents, Council should write to Sydney Water, with a copy to the Local Member, seeking information on similar proposals for North Head and when it is intended to conduct the community consultation process.

8.6 DRAFT VERGE GARDEN POLICY

A community member expressed concern that this Council draft policy requires verge garden width to be three meters minimum which affects the scope for such gardens in Manly. The committee is concerned that Council appears to have adapted their Verge Garden Policy from Subiaco Council, which as a planned suburb has wide verges. Given that the majority of verges in Manly are more within the two meter range, the three meter minimum would severely limit verge gardens in Manly.

Judy Reizes to make a submission to this policy on the Committee's behalf before the closing date.

ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 21 September, 2011

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm