



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2010

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Richard Hewitt
Keelah Lam
Cheryl Rose
Julie Taylor Mills
David Thomas
Angelika Treichler
Lee de Gail

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Penguin Warden Representative
National Parks Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 10th November, 2010, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.40pm

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Eira Battaglia, Terry Metherell and Neil Ohlbach.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held 13th October, 2010 are confirmed.

**ITEM 4 MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT CENTRES TO CELEBRATE
MEC'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**
Julie Taylor Mills updated the Committee on behalf of the Conference Working Group. It has been decided to defer the Conference and the new dates are 8th, 9th and 10th September 2011.
A draft of the proposed electronic conference invitation and call for papers was tabled and the Committee's support for funding of \$6,000

to retain the services of an experienced web designer to set up a website and send the invitation out both internationally and nationally. Input is invited from committee members to ensure that the wording clearly reflects the focus of the conference as Environment Centres.

Recommendation:

That Council support the conference by providing seed funding of \$6000 to employ a highly skilled web-based conference strategy, design and content management person to run the conference section within the MEC web site.

IBM

ITEM 5 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES RELATING TO NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

a. Operating Licence

Some months ago, committee members made substantial submissions to DECCW to the Licence Review Process but there has been no further advice from DECCW to date.

However, an email from Bev Trevenan was tabled advising that DECCW is now considering relaxing the Operating Licence for the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant to permit an increased discharge of grease and solids to the ocean by 25%. There is no proposal to seek public input to this process.

Recommendation:

It is requested that the General Manager write to DECCW and Sydney Water (with a copy to the local member) expressing Council's concern at the proposal to relax the Licence for the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant which will permit an increased discharge of grease and solids to the ocean of 25%.

GM

b. Odour Issues

DECCW is proceeding with the case against Sydney Water over the odour event in February.

ITEM 6 PENGUINS

Penguin warden, Angelika Treichler reported as follows:

Breeding Success at Manly Wharf and Federation Point

First clutch is proceeding well and to date there is only one chick for the three observed breeding pairs.

Wardens

Wardens are going well with different Team Leaders for each night which makes it easier for Angelika to delegate. The Wardens participated in NPWS Island Hopping on Shark Island with Bush regeneration weeding and education

Development –

Bathers Pavilion

Still awaiting the verdict from the Land and Environment Court on the Bathers Pavilion.

19-21 Addison Road

Discussions with the proponent on this matter is ongoing.

NSW Maritime Issues

Staff will follow up to ensure that Council has written to Maritime as detailed in last month's minutes.

The community will be encouraged to write to Maritime in this regard as well.

ITEM 7 MANLY COVE ISSUES AND COASTLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Before the Manly Cove Plan is accepted by Council, the working group needs to ensure inclusion of the following issues in the plan to protect the marine environment.

Loss of Protected Seahorses from Swimming Enclosure Net

The swimming enclosure net was home to one of the largest colonies of protected seahorses in Sydney Harbour. This colony was severely impacted in 2002 when Council's contractors replaced the net.

Previously the contractors were also regularly required to remove all of the vegetation growing on the net to prevent it sinking below the waterline.

The need for the regular removal of this seahorse habitat was to be eliminated by the installation of a new system of net and cables capable of supporting the then existing old net with the added objective of encouraging continued growth of this wonderfully diverse seahorse habitat on the new structure.

Dave Thomas reported on Ecodivers' recent inspection of the apparent vandalism of the old net which is now lying on the harbour floor outside the swimming enclosure. All of the cable ties holding it up had been cut by a person unknown.

At last count this colony had consisted of 300 to 400 White's seahorses and 9 Potbellied seahorses and these have been reduced to just over 100 and 2 respectively.

Recommendation

The Committee request that the General Manager seek a permanent solution to conserving the habitat for this high profile seahorse colony. Rather than have the old net extend to the surface, it is suggested that enough habitat could be provided by fixing a one metre width of it to the pylons on the outside of the enclosure, two metres below the water line.

GM

Members of the committee will seek a meeting with the Deputy General Manager to discuss the issues and options and ensure that they are included in the Council Management Plan for Manly Cove. It is further recommended that this be recognised in the Manly Cove Coastline Management Plan as a priority. Consideration be given to funding a seahorse friendly enclosure.

Protection of Seagrass

The Committee is pleased to hear that Posidonia Australis has been listed as a threatened species by NSW Fisheries as there is a high risk of it becoming extinct. Manly has the highest percentage of this seagrass in Sydney and the committee is concerned that it is not accurately mapped.

The Committee is concerned that the latest NSW Fisheries map of Caluierpa taxifolia infestation does not include areas in Manly Cove. The committee reiterates its request that the seagrass in Manly Cove be accurately mapped.

ITEM 8 PLANNED REMOVAL BY COUNCIL OF STORMWATER PIPES ON THE BEACH

The Committee seeks feedback from Council and the Coastline Committee.

ITEM 9 CABBAGE TREE BAY

The Committee is awaiting feedback on their suggestion for an onsite meeting about the proposed Marine Parade upgrade with various committees.

ITEM 10 NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE

Sydney Harbour Plan of Management

It is anticipated that the public consultation will take place early next year.

Signage

As National Parks are upgrading their signage at present, Council is requested to write to Gary Dunnart, the Regional Manager and request that the MEC logo & contact information be included on their signage around Manly as a source of information.

New Representative

The Chair thanked Lee Degail for attending the meeting to represent NPWS and look forward to a continued working replacement.

ITEM 11 Manly Beyond 2021: 10 Year Community Strategic Plan Issues Paper

The Issues paper prepared by Manly Council in September 2010 was presented to the P & S Council Meeting on 8th November.

The paper was discussed and a working group formed to contribute to the chapter on Environment and ensure that there is appropriate recognition, particularly of the marine environment.

ITEM 12 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 8th December, 2010.

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm