



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD 11 AUGUST 2010

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Hugh Burns
Cathy Griffin

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council (late)

Invited Speaker

Margaret Bailey

DECCW

Other Representatives

Rachel Miller
Eira Battaglia
Dave Thomas
Susan Buchan
Neil Ohlback
Julie Taylor-Mills
Jacqueline French
Richard Hewitt
Keelah Lam
Terry Metherell
Angelika Treichler

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

Observer

Michella Burgers

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes
Robynne Millward

Manager, Manly Environment Centre
Project Officer Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 11th August, 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
Cheryl Rose and Diana Deeley.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil.

ITEM 3 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ACTION

Councillor Griffin was late and Councillor Burns took the chair. The Chair welcomed Robynne Millward, Project Officer MEC and Michella Burgers as an observer.

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th July, 2010 are confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 2nd August 2010 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee be adopted.

ITEM 5 MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 2011

Robynne Millward reported that a meeting had been held with Nick Hollo, 2IC of the Harbour Trust, followed by a site inspection of the North Head Sanctuary and its various buildings and facilities. It has since been confirmed that the Building 1 facilities, including ballroom and associated rooms, as well as the gymnasium building will be available free of charge for this event.

The conference dates have been confirmed as 14th to 16th April and will feature best environmental practice. A small steering committee, including Julie Taylor Mills, Judy Reizes and Robynne Millward is progressing the issue.

ITEM 6 SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR NORTH HEAD...CLOSING DATE 24TH AUGUST

Concern was raised regarding the bandicoot habitat in the proposed North Head Sanctuary:

- Lawn areas of the site must be preserved for bandicoot foraging and not replanted with native vegetation
- Revegetation of grassed areas around buildings would create bushfire hazard issue
- High visitation night time events
- Traffic generated by night time events would be a risk to bandicoots
- Are extra carparks planned? What is the purpose of the one behind houses at North Head Scenic Drive?

ITEM 7 NATIONAL PARKS DRAFT SYDNEY HARBOUR PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Margaret Bailey gave a brief outline of this pre-exhibition draft plan on which she sought our input. It is anticipated that it will be signed off in August and will be on exhibition for 90 days. Improved visitor access is proposed through a regular harbour shuttle which will call in at Quarantine Station. The committee had concerns about impacts from the size of the boat and number of visitors and how that would impact on the daily limits via water imposed by the Commission of Enquiry

Margaret stressed that North Head and Dobroyd because of their unique and high quality bushland will be treated differently to other sites. However, the committee noted that www.sydneyharbourpom.net.au features "A Strategy for the Development of a Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk" (pages 28 and 29) which show a clifftop walk around North Head and to Collins Beach

through undisturbed bushland, and that this is in direct opposition to previous NPWS's attitudes to risk management and putting walking tracks through undisturbed and highquality bushland exposing it to weed invasion and integrity of habitat and bushfire risks, etc.

It was noted that the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust draft POM includes a map which shows the NPWS proposed clifftop walks described above.

Ms Bailey requested that we email her a copy of the papers tabled at the meeting which included:

- . North Head Sanctuary – A Statement of Support (draft 24/2/2005)
- . Issues raised by this committee initially,
- . Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Access & Parking Map 2010

Councillor Griffin raised the issue of increasing protection of the Littoral Rainforest at the rear of Collins Beach by the inclusion of bushland from the clifftop at the rear of Manly Hospital into the National Park.

Recommendation:

In order to protect the Endangered Ecological Community of the Littoral Rainforest it is recommended that consideration be given to the incorporation of the bushland from the cliff top at Manly Hospital down to the rear of Collins Beach into the Sydney Harbour National Park. It is recommended that Manly Council write to the appropriate authorities and request this be considered.

ITEM 8 PENGUINS

Penguin Warden reported that:

- Three king tides had wiped out the penguin nests and eggs under Manly Wharf and the penguins had to start nesting again.
- Council is fixing wheels on penguin gates at the Wharf
- Security Camera at Federation Point was found to be pointing at the ocean but this has now been adjusted.

ITEM 9 CABBAGE TREE BAY

Councillor Griffin advised that DECCW had given Council \$50,000 for interpretative signage.

Rachel Miller advised that she will be attending a meeting on interpretative signage next week with Council. Rachel has been requested to send the agenda on to Councillor Griffin and Judy Reizes at the MEC.

Eira Battaglia suggested that interpretative signage include information on reporting injured animals.

Jacqueline French presented a hard copy of the results of the survey of residents and visitors using Cabbage Tree Bay. The committee requested that she email them this information together with the wording of Question 5.

In the past it was agreed that all Cabbage Tree Bay signage should show the phone number to report illegal fishing as 94385046 which will direct callers to the appropriate Sydney North Duty Officer. New signage includes the Fishwatch 1800-043-536 number which does not include any after-hours service or referrals.

ITEM 10 GENERAL BUSINESS

**a. ROADKILL MEETING ON 13TH SEPTEMBER AT 7PM
AT THE TRAMSHED**

Eira Battaglia reported that the Roadkill Committee is holding a Fundraising event for a fence to protect wildlife. MEC will put it on their What's On and committee members are asked to publicise it widely.

b. MANLY LAGOON

i. Lagoon Playground Refurbishment

Council is considering refurbishment of this playground to accommodate its popularity and increasing use. Artworks in this playground and adjoining Lagoon Reserve are part of the national award-winning MEC Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon project and led to the Lagoon's listing as one of 19 National Wetland Education Centres in Australia. Preservation of the artworks which were the subject of considerable consultation with staff and the community should be considered in the redesign of the Playground.

Recommendation:

That staff write to Marianne Novakovic to advise her of the history of the involvement of the Hop in and Help Manly Lagoon project in the playground and its subsequent national listing and recognition.

ii. Pontoon /Safety Island for wetland birds

A local resident has suggested that a pontoon-like structure should be installed in the lagoon to protect nesting plovers. At the moment, the chicks of these birds are being killed by local cats roaming around the area at night.

Recommendation:

The committee requests that staff investigate installation of a pontoon/safety island type structure in order to protect the young of nesting plovers who are vulnerable to a night-time cat attack.

c. BIKE PATH ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Terry Metherell reported that next year it will be one hundred and ten years since the opening of the bike path which started in Manly and ultimately reached Bayview.

We request Council put it on their events calendar and put on a special event next year.

Recommendation

In view of next year being the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the launch of the bike path from Manly to Bayview, that Council put it on their events calendar and put on a special event next year.

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 8th September, 2010

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.45pm