



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2009

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin

Manly Council - Chair

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Peter White

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Richard Hewitt

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Cheryl Rose

Community Member

Angelika Treichler

Penguin Warden

Staff Representatives

Anthony Hewton

Divisional Manager, Corporate Planning & Strategy

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

David Stray

Manager, Environmental Services Division

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 12 August 2009, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Community members Louise Bochner, Eira Battaglia, Terry Metherell, Carole Douglas, and Peter Hay from the National Park and Wildlife Service.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the meeting 8th July 2009. The minutes were confirmed as correct with the addition of a dot point denoting a separate item for the Asset Protection Zone. It was noted

ACTION

that the Manager, MEC had sent an email to NPWS (Peter Hay) requesting an update.

In the interest of conserving resources, the Chairperson requested that only two hard copies be provided at the meetings.

Staff Officer

MATTERS ARISING

ITEM 3.1 Adoption of 8 July 2009 Meeting Minutes by Council

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 3 August 2009 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee held on 8 July 2009 be adopted.

ITEM 3.2 Hugo's Restaurant Proposed Development

An officer from Council's Environmental Services Division explained the technical aspects of the proposal.

The NSW Heritage Council and NSW Maritime have raised a number of issues which will be considered during the assessment process. Other issues to be considered in the assessment process include:

- Is the development subject to a Master Plan?
- Is there is a provision for the Minister for Planning to issue a waiver?
- Permissibility is questioned under SREP 23.

Committee members discussed the preparation of a submission to Council on the development. The Chair (on behalf of the Committee) to coordinate and sign off the final submission to be submitted to Council's Development Assessment Unit.

Recommendation:

The Community Environment Committee recommends to the General Manager that Council notes a submission from the Committee on Hugo's Restaurant proposed development.

C'tee members to workshop and circulate draft submission by email within a week.

Submission to be referred to the Development Assessment Unit as a formal submission as part of the DA assessment process.

ITEM 4 PRESENTATION

Presentation by Underwater Australia on Contemporary Underwater Art and Photography

Representatives from Underwater Australia (UA) attended the meeting and gave a presentation on their proposal to build a website for councils on the marine environment which they felt would be a great asset for environmental education. UA's proposal has the support of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group who will be recommending the participation of their member councils. UA's proposal is for Manly Council to be a pioneer council, with the website to be launched at Manly's Ocean Care Day on 6th December 2009. The cost to Manly as a pioneer council would be \$9,800 for two years.

Following discussion it was agreed by the committee to support UA's proposal in principle subject to more detailed analysis on the level of specific content such a site would contain.

Resolved

The information was received and noted.

Recommendation

That the General Manager be requested to provide a recommendation (following more detailed analysis) on Underwater Australia's proposal to host an Underwater Manly website.

GM

ITEM 5 REPORT**Improved Consideration of Environmental Levy Programs**

A PowerPoint presentation by staff provided a strategic overview of the Environment Levy, a summary and brief evaluation of the Environment Levy expenditure and programs over the past 12 years to the program level, and identified future funding opportunities for the Environment Levy, based on a strategic review of implementation of the Manly Sustainability Strategy.

Points noted from the discussion were as follows:

- that the Committee would like to see an increased expenditure on fauna protection measures under the Biodiversity category of expenditure in future years.
- whilst the Committee wholeheartedly supports environmental education programs it would like to receive a detailed briefing on the current programming taking place and planned for the future, given a number of changes that have taken place to the program in recent years. This will enable the committee to make more informed decisions when recommending funding initiatives in the future from the Environment Levy.
- a general feeling was expressed that it would be good to phase up activities relating to environmental education and environmental information generally utilising e-Services technology.
- expenditure on bushland restoration should remain outside of the general operational Open Space Maintenance activities of Council.
- the general mix of funding across the program areas was supported as opposed to just funding one or two areas.

Resolved

The report was received and noted.

Recommendations:

- i. That the General Manager note the committee's comments in relation to expenditure on the Levy.
- ii. That the General Manager be requested to ask the appropriate staff to provide a briefing to the next meeting.
Note: the committee was prepared to meet during business hours to assist the relevant staff to attend.

GM

ITEM 6 REPORT**Extension of Penguin Critical Habitat Federation Point**

The report was tabled. It was noted a number of committee members still are of the view that the critical habitat areas for Little Penguins should be expanded. However this will be the subject of further reports in due course. Staff were thanked for their advice.

Resolved:

The report was received and noted.

ITEM 7	REPORT	ACTION
	The Manly Environment Centre Report on Current Activities and Local Environmental Issues was tabled. Resolved The report was received and noted.	
ITEM 7.1	Penguin Predator Update – Report by Local Manager NPWS The NPWS's local Manager (Peter Hay) advised that: - NPWS is closely monitoring our 27 bait stations across North Head and cautiously feel that we may have had success with taking out the foxes; - NPWS will continue to keep pressure on dog owners of the south east Manly area in order to keep the message alive regarding being responsible. Recently NPWS was alerted to tracks on 'Oyama Beach' that were potentially dog, these were found to be possum and water rat, however large dog prints were also found there, so NPWS has requested that one of the Rangers contact Manly Council to again door knock nearby resident dog owners. Recommendation: In view of the report by Local Manager NPWS that dog prints have been sighted on the beach near Oyama Avenue, the Committee requests the General Manager if Council's compliance staff could assist further in some way, for example, to door knock nearby resident dog owners again, advising the need to keep dogs on leads.	GM
ITEM 7.2	Penguin Warden Report The Penguin Warden reported that the first nest at Federation Point is occupied but the two nests closer to the building site are empty. At Manly Wharf 4-5 nests are in use, one more than last year. Resolved: The report was received and noted.	
ITEM 7.3	Manly Penguin Information Signage at Manly Wharf Council has agreed to install double sided signage about Manly's Penguins in the empty frame near Manly Wharf and at other locations as required with DECC approval. It is the committee's opinion that these should be in the form of interpretative panels as a means of informing visitors, and answering questions they may have. Recommendation: The Community Environment Committee recommends to the General Manager that staff circulate the draft signage to the Committee members for comment before his final sign off.	GM
ITEM 7.4	Student Work from Project Penguin Taronga Zoo The latest Project Penguin organised by Taronga Zoo has seen a number of schools produce many creative and valuable artworks which contribute to positive understanding of the value of Manly's Penguins. One local school has persuaded South Steyne Surf Club to display its work permanently. Other schools have written to Council requesting that Council display their works. These items include a park bench painted with penguin cartoons, penguin tiles for public	

	and restaurant toilet walls, and a statue. Taronga Zoo has documented all of the many ideas and it would be useful to have a comprehensive list of these projects and their outcomes which could be displayed.	ACTION
	Recommendation: It is recommended that the General Manager considers the requests to display the work permanently, and that Council write to Taronga Zoo Project Penguin Manager requesting a complete list of their projects, outcomes and products so that if the decision is made to display them, Council can design their placement for optimum educational effect.	GM
ITEM 7.5	North Head Report by Local Manager National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) In the absence of the NPWS representative committee member Angelika Treichler updated the Committee on advice she had received from the NPWS in regard to the clearing of vegetation around the perimeter of the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) site at North Head. This issue had been raised previously by the committee. This issue was subsequently discussed by the committee. A number of concerns were noted and it was requested by the committee if Council could seek a formal clarification from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the nature of the clearing that had occurred. Recommendation: The Community Environment Committee requests that the General Manager writes to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) seeking clarification of the nature and purpose of the clearing of vegetation around the Australian Institute of Police Management site (AIPM) at North Head.	GM
ITEM 7.6	Companion Animals Legislation Implementation in Manly LGA Following last month's discussions, and as per the minutes Council's, Manager Regulatory Services Unit, prepared a brochure which is to be finalised by the General Manager's Unit. Resolved: The information was received and noted.	
ITEM 8	NEXT MEETING DATE: Date: Wednesday 9th September 2009 Time: 4.00pm Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council	

Meeting closed at 8.45pm