



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2011

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

NOTE: These minutes were adopted at Ordinary Meeting 9 May 2011, with exception of Item 8 as Council's resolution 82/11 overrides this

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Keelah Lam
Richard Hewitt
Jacqueline French
Julie Taylor Mills (left early)
David Thomas
Julie Nettleton

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

Observer

David Jenkins

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on Wednesday, 13th April, 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 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Angelika Treichler, Rosie Lampriere, Neil Ohlbach and Eira Battaglia.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ACTION

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9th March 2011 are confirmed. MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 4th April, 2011 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee be adopted.	ACTION
ITEM 4	REPORT a. MEC and CURRENT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES REPORT The report was accepted. b. MEC CONFERENCE MEC staff reported on progress to date. 2 Keynote speakers are confirmed: • Professor Janet Richardson, Health Faculty, University of Plymouth – founder of Transition Towns UK. • Polly Higgins, International Environmental Barrister. Request for papers closes on 20 April 2011. A committee has been established to review contributions and then additional speakers will be approached in line with the themes of the conference. Weekend program for community conference is now being developed. It is crucial that as new developments occur in relation to the conference we need to be able to update the website quickly in order to encourage registrations for the conference going forward. Once the program is finalized we will commence seeking sponsorship for various aspects of the conference. The MEC Eco Award will now be held on Saturday 10 September as a late afternoon event at North Head...it will be a prestigious event. Recommendation: To encourage registration, that info be put up on the MEC website without delay as it is critical for the conference success.	ACTION
ITEM 5	PROTECTED SEAHORSES AND HABITAT Dave Thomas from Ecodivers addressed the Council Meeting of 14th March on this issue and advised them of the severe disturbance to the seahorse habitat on the old net which is lying on the harbour floor and the nearby seagrass. The colony has decreased from 300 to 400 seahorses to approx. 50. Council resolved to investigate and report on a viable seahorse habitat friendly and sustainable replacement for the suspended netting currently used for the swimming enclosure at Manly Cove. Dave Thomas will investigate other seahorse habitat sites and provide cost estimates to Council staff for an immediate alternative solution involving a section of the old net. Councillor Griffin will raise this matter at Sydney Coastal Councils so that Council can learn from the experiences of other councils. Recommendation: It is requested that Council staff action the resolution to reduce impact	

on the seahorses and seagrass.

ITEM 6 SYDNEY HARBOUR PLAN OF MANAGEMENT SUBMISSION

Judy Reizes and other committee members will prepare a committee submission to be included in Council's submission.

ITEM 7 CABBAGE TREE BAY

The NPWS sign for the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve from the Shelly Beach carpark appears to have been removed. It was also noted that the contact phone number on the other signs is not consistent with those being given out by NPWS and Fisheries. Whereas these numbers consistently generate a response, the numbers on the signage do not.

Recommendation:

Write to Gary Dunnart from NPWS and:

- advise him of the need for a Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve sign in the Shelly Beach carpark and an updating of other signs with the appropriate telephone numbers to facilitate reporting fishing offences.
- request an update on compliance and actions proposed for Cabbage Tree Bay.

ITEM 8 LITTLE PENGUINS

Following the deaths of seven penguins, for which the autopsy results were consistent with a large dog attack, the Little Penguin Recovery Team held an Extraordinary Meeting on 28th January and devised a 10 Point Penguin Action Plan. The Plan involving NPWS, Council, Police and the penguin wardens states:

Action 5 "Prohibit dogs from entering the public reserve including the Federation steps

Recommendation:

The committee supports Wildlife Protection Area inclusion of the Federation steps and walkway in accordance with Companion Animals Legislation S.14 and Little Penguin Recovery Team Action Plan.

ITEM 9 WWW.WHALESPOTTER.COM.AU

David Jenkins gave a presentation on his concept. 'Whale spotter' is an interactive, community based website that allows the general public to learn about whales, how and where to go and see them and to record their sightings when they do.

Recommendation:

The committee supports any assistance that council may provide in sourcing a grant to provide seed funding to establish the project. The committee endorses referral of this project to Sydney Coastal Councils.

ITEM 10 NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ISSUES

Susan Buchan reported back to the committee on a telephone conversation she had with the Plant Manager, Kel Taylor, with whom the committee had corresponded.

Susan raised a number of issues including:

- Making the 2005 Report on the impact of the sewage treatment plant on workers' health available to the Committee.

- Providing the plant's bi-monthly E-newsletter to interested residents to keep them informed of ongoing issues.

Recommendation:

Council to write to the Plant Manager, North Head Sewage Treatment Plant, with a copy to DECCW, requesting Sydney Water to:

- Provide a copy of the 2005 Report on the impacts of the sewage treatment plant on workers' health (as mentioned in the Review of Environmental Factors of the plant's PARR Project.
- Promote the availability of the Plant's E-newsletter to interested residents, through various means, including placing an advertisement in the Manly Daily and in precinct newsletters, and a letter box drop of the eastern hill.

ITEM 11 LONG NOSED BANDICOOTS – “BANDICOOTS ON THE BRINK PROGRAM”

Earthwatch are holding “Bandicoots on the Brink” conservation days are up at North Head with Wildlife Ecologist Nelika Hughes from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy so that the public can learn about the threats facing the bandicoots and use scent lures to attract and film predators.

A recent Earthwatch announcement about the program broadcast on ABC National Radio news stated that due to loss of habitat, bandicoot numbers are down to 80, compared with the 140 advised at the Recovery Team meeting last October.

ITEM 12 “RETHINK THE SHARK MENACE IN AUSTRALIA” – SYDNEY UNIVERSITY FORUM

This forum was organized by the Politics and Wildlife Societies at Sydney University, in conjunction with Christopher Neff a postdoctoral student and attended by committee members from the Manly CEC.

The panel included Dave Thomas from Eco divers, Dennis Read, former Fisheries staffer of 30 years, Kate Lee researcher on Wobbeongs, Oceanworld representative and Michael Brown from Surfwatch.

ITEM 13 NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 11th May, 2011

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room

Meeting closed at 8.45pm