



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2010

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cathy Griffin
Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives:

Neil Ohlback
Terry Metherell
Jacqueline French
Keelah Lam
Angelika Treichler

Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 13th October, 2010, to consider the matters referred to it and now reports having reached the decisions taken and recommendations stated hereunder:

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.40pm.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

Susan Buchan, Diana Deeley (on leave) Julie Taylor-Mills, Richard Hewitt, David Thomas, Cheryl Rose, Eira Battaglia, Rachel Miller

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 8th September, 2010 are confirmed.

ACTION

ITEM 4 MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

a. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT CENTRES 14-16 APRIL 2011 TO CELEBRATE MEC'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Project sheet is awaiting sign off by the General Manager. The conference invitation has been prepared and the call for papers closes on 30th November 2010. Thus the committee suggested that should there be a significant delay in the signing off process, that consideration be given to deferring the conference for a couple of months.

This Conference will focus on Environment Centres and their unique role in the conference theme of "Driving Environmental Change from the Street".

b. OCEAN CARE DAY SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2010

Preparations are well underway.

ITEM 5 SYDNEY WATER

Reply from Sydney Water tabled and the committee will consider its response before replying.

ITEM 6 PENGUINS

Penguin Warden, Angelika Treichler reported as follows:

Federation Point:

There are two families with chicks and 2 couples and 5-6 nests. Bathers Pavilion development Land and Environment Court hearing will be held on site on 21st October.

Oyama Site

A post mortem of another dead penguin has revealed the penguin died of a trauma to the head by a blunt instrument. Such injuries could have been caused by a boat. This is consistent with observations by the volunteer who monitors the penguin raft when he observed and reported a power boat deliberately driving through the raft the evening prior to the discovery of the dead penguin. The committee expressed the concern that the behaviour of speed boats and big cruisers are a continuing threat to penguins.

Manly Wharf

Angelika met with an environmental consultant regarding extensions to Manly Wharf to accommodate new restaurants.

The state of the bars underneath Manly Wharf are a safety issue and have been needing attention for quite some time as children, unleashed dogs, etc. can squeeze through them and reach electrical wiring, rubbish (with a risk of needlestick injuries) and the penguins. This committee has raised the issue a number of times without result and requests that Council write to Maritime and Manly Wharf Management.

Hugos continues to attract large numbers of boats to anchor off the swimming enclosure over the seagrass. Council has been advised that Posidonia seagrass is now listed as a threatened species and Dave Thomas will provide maps showing its location.

Recommendation:

As Maritime are part of the Penguin Recovery Team, Council is requested to write to them again to take action on the following matters:

1. Outlining concerns about fast jet boats and large cruisers on the harbour and their impact on penguins.
2. Since Council received a letter six months ago from DECCW stating that to protect the seagrass beds, anchoring will be prohibited off the swimming enclosure, Maritime is requested to enforce this ban.
3. As it is a safety issue, to direct Manly Wharf management to repair the bars under the wharf to prevent the access of dogs and children.

ITEM 7 PLANNED REMOVAL BY COUNCIL OF STORMWATER PIPES ON THE BEACH

Neil Ohlback tabled the Coastline Committee's resolutions which were opposed to removal of the stormwater pipes and expressed his concern as a surfer on the potential impact on surfing conditions. The committee also noted the severe scouring caused by the foreshortening of the pipe at Denison and Collingwood Streets.

Recommendation:

This committee does not support the removal of the pipes on the beach and requests a report which includes an assessment of impact on beach sand movement and in-water sand banks, surfing conditions and marine ecosystem of the beach from the high tide line to 100 metres offshore.

The committee cautions Council against removal of the pipes at Raglan and Pine Streets until these matters are resolved.

ITEM 8 CABBAGE TREE BAY

The committee looks forward to attending an onsite meeting with representatives of the LMUD, Heritage, Access and Fairy Bower Precinct to discuss interpretative signage and other aspects of the upgrade of Marine Parade walkway.

Staff will get an update on progress with Water Dragon signs and CCTV.

ITEM 9 MARINE PARKS

Recfish Australia has released a report "Recreational Fishing in Commonwealth Waters: a preliminary assessment" funded by the Department for the Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts. According to David Lockwood, Fishing writer for the Sun Herald, "The report

found most recreational fishers support marine parks but would prefer to see multi-use areas rather than a complete ban on recreational fishing." View the report at www.recfish.com.au/index.php?option=com-content

ITEM 10 DOMESTIC CATS ATTACKING WILDLIFE

Little Manly Precinct has been taking action on cats attacking native wildlife by publishing their photographs on the Precinct website. Thanks are due to Council Rangers who assisted and National Parks who have been writing to residents and letterboxing the area.

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 10th November, 2010

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.05pm