



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD 14th OCTOBER 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

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia

Community Member

Susan Buchan

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Peter Hay

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Cheryl Rose

Community Member

Angelika Treichler

Penguin Warden

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Observers

Jennie Minifie

Bev Trevenen

Jim Boyce

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 14th October 2009, to consider the matters referred to it and now reports having reached the decisions taken and recommendations stated hereunder:

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Anthony Hewton, Louise Bochner, Richard Hewitt, Jacqueline French, Carole Douglas, Terry Metherell and Peter White.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the Minutes of the meeting 9th September 2009.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on the 19 of October 2009 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee held on 9 September 2009 be adopted.

It was noted that the Notice of Meeting incorrectly set the meeting time as 6pm. The meeting time in accordance with the Committee's TOR continues to be 6.30pm.

Resignation of Committee Members Councillors Elder and Norek

That the formal resignations of Councillor Elder dated 27th May 2009 and Councillor Norek dated 6th July 2009 from the Community Environment Committee be received and noted.

Recommendation

That the formal resignations of Councillor Elder dated 27th May 2009 and Councillor Norek dated 6th July 2009 from the Community Environment Committee be received and noted.

ITEM 4 Presentation on Sydney Harbour National Park Review of Plan of Management

The Branch Manager of Planning and Strategy gave a presentation relating to the report provided to the committee. This report will go to Council to be used as the basis of a submission to National Parks & Wildlife Service prior to their preparation of the draft plan.

The presentation included the history of the development of a Plan of Management for Sydney Harbour National Park. The relevant provisions regarding the preparation of a Plan of Management under the National Parks and Wildlife Act were outlined including the requirement for objectives, how these are to be achieved, measuring achievements, as well as an operations plan.

Items for further consideration the committee wished to bring to the attention of Council and NP&WS were as follows:

- Special qualities already identified by SEPP 23 for Sydney Harbour and previous studies must be referenced and included, i.e. North Head is recognised as the largest area of high quality bushland in Sydney Harbour.
- Integrated management must be a key objective for the new plan.
- The resilience of sites and carrying capacity should be another key element.
- Site hardened areas are available for leasing for events.
- Sensitive areas, which include not only protected bushland but foraging habitat for bandicoots which could be disturbed by people/traffic need to be protected from large scale events
- More and more people are walking and cycling along North Head Scenic Drive, as well as a continuing increase in vehicular traffic. We need to work together to improve pushbike and walking access to North Head without increasing road width, whilst considering safety issues. Increased public transport over car use should be

ACTION

All to note

encouraged.

- North Head and Dobroyd are not suitable for mountain bike access
- Management of the Aquatic Reserves surrounding North Head, i.e. Cabbage Tree Bay and North Harbour Aquatic Reserve, need to be integrated into the plan.
- Appropriate management of stormwater runoff to Collins Beach, particularly from Manly Hospital which is causing increasing impacts to Littoral Rainforest which has the potential for listing as an endangered ecological community.
- Interpretation will play an important role in the conservation of the area. Internet technology could make it possible for visitors to download a kit onto their MP3 player.
- Council staff should make a submission on operational aspects, between strategic and operational.
- A Traffic policy for 3 years for events which is well advertised/promoted so that residents and visitors are aware of the procedures.

ACTION

Note from the Chair at the end of discussion on this item to Committee:

Committee Members are Invited to contribute further at the next meeting in November when the NP&WS will provide a presentation on the POM process for Sydney Harbour National Park.

Committee members are requested to consider the context of North Head in Sydney Harbour National Park and its role within that, in preparing their list of items for discussion with NP&WS at the November meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

- I. The committee supports the submission based on the Council report provided at this meeting. The committee requests that the General Manager put the submission for consideration by National Parks in preparing the draft Plan of Management.
- II. The committee resolved to thank the Manager for Planning and Strategy for her presentation.

GM

All to note

ITEM 5 Report. North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Issues

The committee received a presentation by Ms. Beverley Trevenen, representative of the Little Manly Precinct on the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant community consultative group (CCG).

The Little Manly Precinct representative on the CCG gave an extensive presentation in three sections and provided copies of supporting background information to committee members.

Key points the Committee wished to be specifically noted in their minutes from the above mentioned presentation were as follows:

ACTION

1. Timeline of Events from 1993 to 2009 relevant to the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant including the monthly meetings at the plant.

1993: North Head STP licensed by EPA to pollute to the ocean per annum:

Oil and Grease	5,910,020kg
Solids	35,010,800kg

1997: 50% Reduction in Oil, Grease and Solids proposed by EPA Pollution Reduction Program to Sydney Water. Sydney Water required investigating a means to achieve a specified effluent standard which would **reduce** Oil and Grease from 45mg/Litre to 25mg/Litre, Solids from 200mg/Litre to 100 mg/Litre

1998: Sydney Water reports to IPART that this 50% reduction will be met "by 1999/2000."

2000: Wasted Resources and Lost Opportunities for Sustainable Reuse of Effluent and Sludge15km Northside Storage Tunnel built without a return pipe for sludge and a functioning pipe for effluent.

2008: Last year's undertaking to Council by Sydney Water to ensure that sludge trucks will bear a name and phone numbers for reporting purposes has not been implemented.

2. Case Study on Ocean Outfall Wastewater Plant Discharges of a comparable scale to North Head in Florida and Hawaii.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection commissioned the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida to prepare an Ocean Outfall Study.

The study was completed in 2006 and as a result, Legislation was signed into law on June 30, 2008 to take effect on July 1, 2008. The Act requires South Florida Water Management District to:

- Include water supply development projects that promoted the elimination of ocean outfalls in its regional water supply projects.
- Providing priority funding for projects that implemented reuse that assist with the elimination of ocean outfalls to receive priority funding consideration.
- Prohibiting the construction of new ocean outfalls.
- Prohibiting the new construction of an expanded discharge to

ocean outfalls.

ACTION

- Each domestic wastewater ocean outfall shall be limited to the discharge capacity specified in the department permit authorizing the outfall in effect on July 1, 2008, which discharge capacity shall not be increased.
- Each domestic outfall wastewater facility that discharges through an ocean outfall July 1, 2008, shall install a functioning reuse system no later than December 31, 2025....a functioning reuse system means an environmentally, economically and technically feasible system that provides a minimum of 60% of the facility's actual flow on an annual basis.
- The discharge of domestic wastewater through ocean outfalls is prohibited after December 31, 2025, except as a backup discharge that is part of a functioning reuse system authorized by the department.

3. Current IPART Review of Sydney Water's Operating Licence.

Sydney Water's Operating Licence is due for review and IPART have an issues paper for the review on their website. Sydney Water's submission on the issues for review will be on IPART's website by 26.10.09 all other parties to lodge submissions by 23rd November 2009.

Some of the issues IPART is seeking comment on:

1. Does the form of the current Operating Licence reflect regulatory best practice?
2. How can the Operating Licence best reflect Sydney Water's Infrastructure management obligations?
3. What targets should be set for Sydney Water's SPS?
4. What sustainability and environmental management requirements should be imposed through the Operating Licence and how should they be expressed?

Comment:

Legislation to encourage recycling and reuse has been enshrined in the current Sydney Water Act 1994 with the long-term goal that no dry weather flows go to the ocean, yet unlike Florida, the current IPART Issues Paper regarding Sydney Water's Operating Licence, indicates that there is no intention to move in this direction. This is illustrated by the item on Recycling "Plans to recycle over 70 billion litres of water (12 per cent of Sydney's water needs) by 2015 and 100 billion litres a year by about 2032 are on track." Desalination plant will provide 15 per cent of Sydney's water needs.

The Committee requested that any submission form Council should also note the importance of eliminating dry weather flows to the

	ocean. This is encouraged by the EPA since there will be no change in the Sydney Water Licence from 1993 until at least 2023. Elimination of dry weather flows to the ocean will not occur unless it is enshrined in legislation requiring it by a certain date as it is in Florida. This would encourage decentralisation and de-voluming of the outfalls by major off takes upstream to require reuse and recycling. Recommendation: That the General Manager and Council prepare a formal submission, from Council to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) [who is the regulatory body of Sydney Water] who is conducting the 2009 Review of the Sydney Water Operating Licence. Such a submission to cover issues as those raised in the Minutes of the Community Environment Committee October 2009. A CC to be sent to The Minister for the Environment.	ACTION GM
ITEM 6	MEC REPORT The Manly Environment Centre Report on Current Activities and Local Environmental Issues was tabled. Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.	All to note
ITEM 7	Penguin Warden Report Penguin Warden reported that there are 8 penguins at Federation Point. Bathers Pavilion DA for ground floor development was rejected by the MIHAP. Recreational fishermen near Kilburn Towers are fishing onshore illegally in the critical habitat in the evening. The committee requests compliance/rangers to assist NPWS is requested to provide a Critical Habitat sign at the boat ramp at Little Manly alerting them to restrictions in Critical Habitat. Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.	All to note
7.1	Project Penguin Park Bench Proposal Report A report was presented to and discussed by the Committee regarding a Park bench which was decorated by Harbord Public School to highlight the predators and threats to little penguins as part of this project. The school would like Council's assistance for the bench to be placed in a public location. Recommendation: i) That the Committee receive and note the report; ii) That the Committee recommends the best location of the Bench would be in the vicinity of new signage at Manly Wharf. The final exact location to be finally determined by Council's design and technical team with consultation with Council's Landscape and Urban Design Committee (LMUD) Committee as well.	All to note IBM

- ITEM 8 Quarantine Station Report** **ACTION**
Report requested by this committee, including a letter to DECC was tabled.
- Recommendation:**
That the information be received and noted. **All to note**
- ITEM 9 Companion Animals Legislation Implementation in Manly LGA**
Committee members' responses to staff's draft brochure will be discussed by the Chair with Council Staff.
- ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING DATE:**
- Date:** Wednesday 11th November, 2009
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council

Meeting closed at 9pm.