



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2015

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Hugh Burns

Chair

Other Representatives

Sue Matthews

Jacqueline French

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Rosanna Perillo-Boutin

Jan Ritchie

Keelah Lam

Dave Thomas

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Advisory Committee met on 9 September, 2015 to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

ACTION

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Michella Burgers, Lloyd Keen, Janne Seletto
Michael Treanor

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil.

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 12 August, 2015 are confirmed. MATTERS ARISING It is expected that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee will be presented at the Manly Council Meeting on the 14 September.	ACTION
ITEM 4	Update by Mel Tyas, NPWS on Fox Management on North Head and in Manly LGA Mel Tyas was unable to attend the meeting and it is anticipated that she will be able to present at the Committee's October meeting.	
ITEM 5	MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 6	Penguin Warden Report Sue Matthews reported that so far only one pair of penguins are making preparations to nest at Manly Wharf. A number of wardens have continued to assist NPWS by being on duty at North Head to protect the penguins from potential fox attacks.	
ITEM 7	Long-nosed Bandicoot Mortality Issues. Awaiting receipt of Minutes of Bandicoot Recovery Meeting from Department of Environment and Heritage to assist sub-committee to prepare a comprehensive discussion paper.	
ITEM 8	Manly's Threatened Populations of Bandicoots and Penguins and Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel. Website Law Reform Native Plants and Animals Natasha Hammond-Deakin advised that according to the EDO website the report on biodiversity had been made available to the Government on 18th December 2014 and we are awaiting the Government to release the report to the public.	
ITEM 9	Management of Sharks in New South Wales Waters The Investment, Industry and Regional Development Committee will inquire into and report on the management of sharks and the economic impact of shark attacks on communities in NSW. It will consider the impact of shark attacks on tourism and related industries, changes in shark numbers, behaviour or habitat, adequacy of management strategies and measures to prevent shark attacks. Comments are invited until 23 October, 2015. Read more and have your say at http://www.edonsw.org.au/hys_have_your_say_now?page=4	
	Recommendation: The Council's Community Environment Committee has advised that:	IBM

the Investment Industry and Regional Development Committee will:

- inquire into and report on the management of sharks and the economic impact of shark attacks on communities in NSW.
- will consider the impact of shark attacks on tourism and related industries, changes in shark numbers, behaviour or habitat, adequacy of management strategies and measures to prevent shark attacks.

The Environment Committee recommends that Manly Council and the MEC make submissions by 23 October, 2015.

ITEM 10 Event to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Community Environment Advisory Committee

An informal “brainstorm” by the Committee came up with the following ideas:

- A suggested date could be Saturday 21 November, 2015 or possibly early in 2016.
- The event should be held in front of the Manly Council Chambers, in the forecourt and on the lawn.
- All of former Committee members should be invited, Judy Reizes has already prepared a list of 88 former members.
- Celebrities who have been involved in the many successes projects of the Committee over the years, e.g. Peter Garrett and Phil Scott be invited.
- About one month prior to the event, a banner bearing the theme “Celebrating 25 years of Environmental Action” should be hung across the top of the columns of the Town Hall.
- Music, activities, banners and displays should be part of a program designed to draw crowds to enjoy the many successes of Council and the Community working together in a unique partnership to protect the environment.
- Every effort should be made to engage visitors and residents in clever, eye-catching installations and displays in the forecourt and on the lawn. These should tell Manly’s many success stories in environmental protection.
- It was suggested that one of the main themes could be **“POWERFUL AND POSITIVE PROTECTION PAYS”**.
- Afternoon tea should be served to guests.

Recommendation:

A project sheet for the event as discussed should be prepared so that the budget can be determined by the next Community Environment Committee meeting.

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ITEM 11 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

a. Odours from the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant

A discussion took place about the follow up action from the meeting attended by Sydney Water staff at the North Head Sanctuary.

Recommendation:

- That the organisation of the Public Meeting in the Council Chambers as recommended to Council in the Committee's minutes of the meeting of 12 August, 2015 proceed.
- That precincts and people who are experiencing sewage odours be invited.
- Suggested dates are: Tuesday 13 or 20 October or Thursday 15 or 22 October at 7pm.

b. Wet Weather Sewer Overflows Project

Judy Reizes has attended a series of three workshops that Sydney Water has been holding all over Sydney.

An evaluation of Sydney Water documents from 1990 to 2015 has revealed that one of the main goals of Sydney Water's Water Plan 21 (1997) was to reduce sewer overflows by 90% by the year 2020.

Although Sydney Water could not supply data on their progress towards achieving this goal, it would appear from the map they provided of priority overflows that they are a long way from reaching this goal.

In spite of this "shortfall", it was noted that Sydney Water's current funding submission on sewer overflows to IPART is 20% less than previous years. It was also noted that Sydney Water is licensed for nearly 150 DRY weather overflows (eg Manly has 3 in Balgowlah Heights). At last count, Manly Lagoon had 29 designed wet weather overflows.

Members of this Committee will recall the CEC Meeting at Council where they expressed their concern to Sydney Water Management about the poor level of treatment at the North Head STP, they were told that "there was no point wasting money on treatment because it was being discharged into the East Australian Current...And the EPA had declared Sewer Overflows as a priority".

ITEM 12 HAWKESBURY SHELF MARINE PARK PROPOSAL, INCLUDING SYDNEY HARBOUR

a. Submission to NSW Fisheries

Judy Reizes tabled the submission she made to NSW Fisheries on behalf of the MEC.

b. VIDEO FEATURING CABBAGE TREE BAY AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF MARINE PROTECTION SHOWN ON CHANNEL 2 IN PRIME TIME

Committee members reported that this excellent underwater video promoting the value of marine protection featured the marine life in the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve.

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ITEM 13 “POLLUTION IN SYDNEY HARBOUR; SEWAGE, TOXIC CHEMICALS AND MICROPLASTICS” – BRIEFING PAPER NO.03/2015 BY DANIEL MONTOYA – MAY 2015

This comprehensive 92 page report can be found on the NSW Parliamentary Website viz:

[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/publications.nsf/0/14EBAE23F46BE9B2CA257E0A00188305/\\$File/Pollution%20in%20Sydney%20Harbour.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/publications.nsf/0/14EBAE23F46BE9B2CA257E0A00188305/$File/Pollution%20in%20Sydney%20Harbour.pdf)

Whilst we were aware of the history of the Dioxins in the Harbour, and the research by Gavin Birch from Sydney University on heavy metal contamination, this Report appears to be the first that

- covers all four types of water pollution in the Harbour;
- highlights that Sydney Harbour has some of the highest recorded sediment concentrations of heavy metals in Australia and Internationally;
- categorises it as “**Severely modified by Heavy Metal Contamination**”.

As this report reveals that Sydney Harbour is classified as **SEVERELY MODIFIED BY HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION**, this Committee is concerned about the health impacts of eating fish caught in the Harbour. As NSW Fisheries notices warn the fishermen in Manly of the dangers of eating more than 150g of fish per month because of Dioxin, the question needs to be asked what are the cumulative health impacts of eating fish exposed to chemicals from Dioxin, Heavy Metals, Sewage Overflows and Microplastics?

**ITEM 14 STREET TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN –
Pallets of Trees Offered by Consultant**

In terms of community engagement with regard to this Plan, people need to be provided with information that they can understand. I.e actual photos of proposed species and habitat rather than just a list of botanical and common names.

Feedback from the precincts and the community is that the choice of trees offered by the Consultant’s pallets will change the long-established character of Manly’s streets forever. This is important as Manly was a leader with its Street Beautification Plan dating back to the 1870s, earlier than many European Capital Cities. That Plan was designed with input from the then Director of the Sydney Botanical Gardens, Charles Moore.

The Committee would like to see the brief that went to the Consultant.

The Overview given to the Precincts lacks information on the bird species habitat provided, scale of fully grown specimens and appearance of the proposed trees, and particularly the consultation material needs photographic images to make it easy to understand for the general public to make an informed consideration.

The Committee has the following concerns about feedback from the Precincts:

- Consultation with residents from Seaview Street.
- Fairy Bower residents advise there are no Cabbage Tree

Palms offered in the proposed palette for this precinct (significant for the high profile Cabbage Tree Bay) or similarly Fig trees which are one of the major trees which characterise that Precinct's streets and the Bower Street Park. Additionally trees not even native to Australia were noted on the pallet.

- There is concern that the scale of the trees offered in the pallets is not the same as existing trees, which will affect shading, habitat and a reduction of carbon sinks which large trees offer. With an evening temperature of 28 degrees on the road, it is essential that the endemic trees be maintained.
- The proposed new pallet offered to some precincts has limited overlap with the existing planted tree species and will change the character of the plantings within these precincts.

Recommendation:

Due to community concern, the Committee requests to see the Briefing Document and Terms of Reference for the Consultant as well as the draft Report to Council before it is presented to Council for formal adoption.

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NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 14 October, 2015.

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.