



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST, 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

Michella Burgers

Jacqueline French

Keelah Lam

Rosanna Perillo-Boutin

Janne Seletto

Penguin Warden

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Guest Presenters

Catherine Price

Georgia Moore

Sydney University

MEC Intern

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Advisory Committee met on 12 August, 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

Natasha Hammond-Deakin, Lloyd Keen, Jan Ritchie, David Thomas, Michael Treanor, NPWS.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil.

ACTION

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 8 July, 2015 are confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 10 August, 2015 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.

ITEM 4 Presentation of Drafts of 22 Signs for the MEC Biodiversity Communications Project by Writer and MEC Intern Georgia Moore.

Georgia Moore, writer and MEC Intern gave an excellent powerpoint presentation on the 22 signs she has prepared over many months, which include:

Brushtail possum, Creating a Bird Friendly Garden, Domestic Cats (Everyday predator), Eastern Whipbird, Frill Neck Lizard, Green and Golden Bell Frog, Grey Butcherbird, Grey-headed Flying Fox, How to Make Your Garden Animal Friendly, Laughing Kookaburra, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Magenta, Lilly Pilly, New Holland Honeyeater, Peron's Tree Frog, Pied Cormorant, Powerful Owl, Red Fox, Ringtail Possum, Red-crowned Toadlet, Ringtail Possum, Short-Beaked Echidna, Southern Giant Petrel, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo.

Georgia also presented 6 of the signs in hard copy in A0 size to demonstrate how the signs will look installed. The artwork has been designed to fit on the (blank) back of existing Council hooped signs which are spread around the LGA. They are at sporting fields/playing fields, parks, bushland reserves, playgrounds, etc.

The species chosen are those listed as being present in the locality of the various signs.

Each sign covers just one species (documented as being present in the locality) and has been prepared after intensive research which has been used to present intriguing facts and graphics for each species. The use of a clever play on words, and eye-catching graphics will have viewers looking for the next one.

Recommendation:

Georgia Moore was commended for her excellent work in preparing suggested artwork for 18 species of fauna.

1. The Committee suggested that some of the signs should be located at bus stops as they provide the opportunity to create a lot of interest in our local biodiversity
2. An Adopt-a-sign program could be considered where residents could display a sign in their front garden for a month, it would be particularly good for bandicoot signs

ITEM 5 Longnosed Bandicoot Issues – Presentation by Catherine Price from Sydney University.

a. Monitoring Bandicoots in the Residential Area

Catherine Price, University of Sydney gave a detailed presentation on the latest bandicoot trapping and an update on this project.

Bandicoot numbers had increased to 23 animals in May 2015 compared to the recent low of 8 animals in November 2014.

The colony in the residential area appears to be recovering. Distribution of females has shifted down towards The Corso. This highlights that breeding habitat occurs in many areas of Eastern Hill and is not limited to the areas adjacent to St. Patrick's Estate and the National Park.

It is important to continue the monitoring in May and November next year to coincide with the Office of Environment & Heritage bushland monitoring. May 2016 is due to be a full headland survey, which means trapping will be for 5 nights. Budget requirements for both monitoring sessions is at least \$30,000.

After that a full report with management recommendations will be prepared.

Recommendations:

1. Researcher Catherine Price from Sydney University provided a report on Bandicoot monitoring in the residential area in 2015. Bandicoots in this area have risen to 23 animals, compared to 8 animals in 2014.

As a full headland survey and trapping is being conducted by OEH in the bushland area in 2016, it is important to continue to fund Sydney University to carry out further trapping in the residential area as well. The committee recommends that Council allocate \$30,000 from next year's Environmental Levy for monitoring and a full report with management recommendations.

2. That "Bandicoot Crossing Here" signs be installed on Darley Road and Marshall Street.

b. PRESENTATION TO BANDICOOT RECOVERY TEAM MEETING

Judy Reizes gave a presentation to the meeting on Signage Audit of the Bandicoot High- mortality Area on Darley Road near Manly Hospital. This audit was carried out by a MEC Intern and showed

- Location of all existing signage on a large GIS map of Darley Road between Marshall Street and the Stone Arch
- There are approx. 20 signs on this 400 metre strip of Darley Road
- Individual photos of the many different types of sign, ie a 35kph curve, 40kph school zones, 40kph truck and bus zone, 50kph zone, Children crossing sign (but no crossing).

ITEM 6 HAWKESBURY SHELF MARINE PARK PROPOSAL, INCLUDING SYDNEY HARBOUR

It was noted that the recent Reef Life Survey of Sydney Harbour by the Underwater Research Group found that Manly has:

- four out of the top ten sites for Species Richness in Sydney Harbour
- three of those sites are in Manly's Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve

Council staff will make a submission to this proposal with a particular emphasis on North Harbour. The existing North (Sydney) Harbour Aquatic Reserve has little protection as fishing is still allowed, unlike

Cabbage Tree Bay which is a No-take Aquatic Reserve. As noted in Manly Council's North Harbour Plan of Management, the Australian Museum has stated that there are 600 marine species in North Harbour.

This is detailed by the Australian Museum Paper released in 2013: "Sydney Harbour: Its' Diverse Biodiversity" by Pat A. Hutchings, Shane T. Ah Yong, Michael B. Ashcroft, Mark A. McGrouther and Amanda L. Reid.

This paper states that there are over 3,000 species in Sydney Harbour, this is double to triple the number of species found in the neighbouring Hawkesbury River, Botany Bay and Port Hacking.

Members of the Committee are asked to make their own submissions by 28th August at:

www.communityremarks.com/Hawkesbury/

and click on 'Make general comments'

ITEM 7 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

At the invitation of the Australian Museum, MEC will be participating in the 3 day Primary School Program for again for this year's Science Week at the Museum.

Video Conferencing equipment has been installed in a secure cabinet at Manly Library but Electroboard have advised that the equipment cannot be commissioned until a high speed connection is installed by Council. In the meantime, MEC has been carrying out their recent Video Conferencing sessions at Electroboard.

ITEM 8 Progress on Fisheries Regulatory Signage for Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve.

All of the 5 signs have now been installed and members of the Committee commented on how their striking appearance and excellent underwater photographs were attracting groups of adults and children to gather and admire the high quality photos of nearly 40 different species.

The opportunity to have a public opening of the signs is currently being considered by staff from NSW Fisheries and they will determine whether their Minister is available to officially launch the signs. Availability of the Mayor and General Manager has been passed on to Fisheries.

Recommendation:

The Committee would like to congratulate the members of the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Working Group for an excellent result.

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ITEM 9	BALGOWLAH ENDANGERED GREY-HEADED FLYING-FOX COLONY This Committee's recommendations a. to c. from the July meeting were approved by the Manly Council meeting of 10th August, with the addition of the following two clauses: "d. Consult with Pittwater Council and determine what was done to move on the Pittwater colony and determine how effective the move was and how humane the process was and e. A report be brought back to this Council outlining the above and it will be made available to the Community Environment Committee.	ACTION
ITEM 10	Street Tree Management Plan. As previously recommended to Council when they approved the funding of this project from the Environmental Levy, the Committee requests that the Consultant give a presentation to the Committee now that the draft report is available.	
ITEM 11	Penguin Warden Report. Sue Matthews reported that there are two pairs of penguins at the wharf. The Chair asked about the infra-red security camera and Sue advised that there is no camera at the moment and it is not possible for the Wardens to monitor the penguins once they go under the wharf. The Chair will request advice from Council as to when the infrared camera will be replaced. A new training course is being held for this year's Wardens. Sue reported that following the 27 Penguin deaths at North Head, that there has been no fox activity for 3 weeks and no penguin mortality.	
ITEM 12	Manly's Threatened Populations of Bandicoots and Penguins and the NSW Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel For further information and to register your interest go to http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/index.htm It is important to ensure Council makes a submission. Members of the Committee are asked to check out the website to familiarise themselves with how our threatened species will be affected and submissions will need to be made.	
ITEM 13	25 Year Celebration of Community Environment Advisory Committee. Rosanna, Jacqueline, Jan, Keelah and Michella volunteered to assist Judy Reizes. It was suggested that an exhibition be mounted in the Manly Art Gallery Museum to demonstrate the history of the Committee, its achievements as well as Meldrum cartoons from the early years,	

ITEM 14 Sydney Water – MEETING AT NORTH HEAD SANCTUARY REGARDING SEWAGE ODOURS FROM THE NORTHERN SUBURBS OCEAN OUTFALL SYSTEM (NS00S) AND THE NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

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This meeting was arranged by the North Head Sanctuary Foundation so that Sydney Water could respond to odour complaints from the community over many years. Sydney Water staff included North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Manager, James Fearey and Technical Officer Louise Vorriter and Community Relations Officer from North Head.

Sydney Water advised that:

- the plant is limited in how much captured solids it can handle by the fact that the digesters cannot handle any more than about 30% of the solids which enter the plant. The residence time in the digesters is too short and hence the odorous sludge. They have asked the government for additional funds for extra digesters; the number not being specified.
- It was claimed that underground works associated with the installation of the bio filter (replacement NSOOS Scrubber) would significantly reduce fugitive odours from underground; apparently a large source of odours.
- Because an additional generator had been installed to produce electricity, the flare and its control has been improved, an additional flare has been installed as well, H₂S odours from the digesters should be reduced.
- Since odorous gases from the digesters are not scrubbed, SO_x production from the plant would continue and possibly increase with the extra flare and generator. When asked whether more than 50 tonnes per annum of SO_x (an unknown mixture of sulphur dioxide and trioxide) were produced and released to the atmosphere, the only comment was agreement from the Sydney Water representatives.

The community had experts in attendance that were able to engage Sydney Water representatives in a rigorous debate where questions were asked about the effect of odours on the Manly community from the plant as well as the Sewage Pumping Stations at Whistler and Ashburner Streets.

Following a question from a medical researcher on what information they had on the long-term effects of low concentrations of H₂S on populations, the Sydney Water representatives indicated that they had no information.

The Notice of this meeting (which followed an article in the Sun Herald about Sydney Water's Odour Reduction Research Program some months ago) referred to an odour wheel and an app which were being prepared by Sydney Water to assist residents making odour complaints to identify types of odours by their smell characteristics. However, they were only mentioned by Sydney Water in passing.

A large research program to reduce H₂S by injecting Odourlok into the major sewers was briefly described. It was made clear by Sydney Water that they did not have the reduction of the impact of odours on the community as the main focus, just the protection of

Sydney Water's assets from corrosion caused by the production of H₂S.

An inspection tour possibly on a weekend was to be organised by Sydney Water.

Recommendation:

Council should consider that an appropriate approach for the public meeting in the Council Chambers to be attended by Sydney Water, would be to invite Precincts and people who are experiencing odours.

ITEM 15 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 9 September, 2015.

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.