



**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011**

**Councillors**

|                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cathy Griffin                    | Manly Council (Chair) |
| Hugh Burns (part of the meeting) | Manly Council         |

**Other Representatives**

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Susan Buchan       | Community Member              |
| Diana Deeley       | Community Member              |
| Keelah Lam         | Community Member              |
| Jacqueline French  | Community Member              |
| Neil Ohlbach       | Community Member              |
| David Thomas       | Community Member              |
| Lloyd Keen         | Community Member              |
| Angelika Treichler | Penguin Warden Representative |

**Council Staff**

|                  |                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Robynne Millward | Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|

**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Community Environment Committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011, to consider matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>ACTION</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>OPEN</b>   | The meeting commenced at 6.45pm. The Chair welcomed the committee members.                                                                                                                                 |               |
| <b>ITEM 1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b><br>Richard Hewitt, Julie Taylor-Mills, Eira Battaglia and Judy Reizes.                                                                                               |               |
| <b>ITEM 2</b> | <b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b><br>Nil                                                                                                                                                                      |               |
| <b>ITEM 3</b> | <b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</b><br>The minutes of the committee meeting held 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2011 were confirmed.                                                                                  |               |
| <b>ITEM 4</b> | <b>LONG NOSED BANDICOOTS</b><br>Discussion regarding the lack of success in securing the ARC grant and how best to progress the Bandicoot recovery program in Manly/North Head deferred till next meeting. |               |

## **ITEM 5 MEC REPORT**

### **Ocean Care Day Sunday, 4th December 2011**

Staff briefed the committee on Ocean Care Day 2011. The event has been popular with exhibitors and stallholders and is now oversubscribed. New stalls include the Cleanoceans Foundation from Melbourne who are hoping to start a Sydney Chapter, Beyond Zero Emissions, Responsible Dog Owners, and HEAL. The layout has been changed slightly on the advice of Council Events staff. Volunteer numbers are good and they are all meeting the Council requirement for induction. Volunteers are required in numbers for the early 'bump in' and afternoon 'bump out'.

### **Penguin Report**

Two chicks, Storm and Pipe fledged this week leaving the adults to consider another clutch. The Penguin Stakeholders committee met and discussed a variety of issues, including the recent installation of the stormwater pipes under the wharf. The committee thanks Janneka Lade for her work whilst at Council and wish her the best in her future employment. The Penguin habitat marker buoys have been reinstalled in Spring Cove after being cut loose by boat owners. Dogs off leash from boats continue to be a problem on the beaches in Spring Cove.

The Penguin protectors expressed concern and disappointment about the NPWS publicity about the 'sniffer dog' trained to sniff out foxes and feral cats etc. This has encouraged dog owners to suggest that it is now safe for their dogs to be around penguins.

A boat was reported to have damaged the netting in the swimming enclosure in Manly Cove. The committee discussed their growing concern with the number of boats mooring in the area and causing damage to the sea grass meadows and the recently resurrected seahorse habitat net. Concern was also expressed with the increasing number of boats waiting in the area adjacent to the wharf apparently waiting to collect pizzas from Hugos. This is now becoming a safety issue with the boats continuing to motor around the area in close to the beach and swimmers. The committee also expressed general concern about the piecemeal approvals for activities on the Wharf which are having a negative impact on the amenity of the entire East and West Coves. Committee members reported that staff from the various restaurants are using the public access areas to service their customers, no action is being taken to reduce littering, despite complaints to the police by residents noise from functions is not being effectively controlled. The committee felt that the fun rides placed on the wharf during the school holidays were also noisy and unnecessary.

### **Recommendations:**

The General Manager writes to the Minister responsible for the Manly Wharf and activities on the Harbour, as well and the Wharf Management expressing concern about the following: the number of boats in Manly Cove damaging the seagrass, swimming enclosure, and creating a safety hazard by motoring around the area waiting to collect pizzas from Hugos because there is nowhere for them to moor at the wharf or in the cove.

The General Manager writes to the Minister responsible for Manly Wharf and the Manly Wharf Management and express concern

regarding general downgrading of the amenity and public space of the Manly Wharf and its surrounding area.

**ITEM 6 MEC Permanent Premises**

The committee discussed options for the future permanent premises for the MEC. Various options were discussed and consideration was given to the option presented to a recent Councillor workshop which involves the construction of a new purpose built building on the former Baby Health centre site on the corner of Pittwater Road and Raglan Street.

**Recommendation:**

The General Manager provide the Environment Committee with the concept plans and parameters for the site to allow discussion on the form that any future MEC on this site would take.

**ITEM 7 NSW PLANNING REVIEW CONSULTATION**

Deferred to next meeting.

**ITEM 8 SYDNEY WATER NORTH HEAD STP**

The committee acknowledged the recent Mayoral minute.  
A tour of the NHSTP is available in November

**ITEM 9 SYDNEY CHAPTER OF CLEANOCEANS FOUNDATION**

Committee members are encouraged to visit the Clean Oceans foundation stall on Ocean Care Day.

**ITEM 10 MARITIME COMMITTEE CALL FOR REPRESENTATIVES**

Eco Divers members offered to submit an application to join this committee.

**ITEM 11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**STORMWATER PIPE AT NORTH STEYNE**

The Committee supports the Council's intention not to remove the pipe.

The Committee expressed concern about the amount of sand that appears to be moving 'up' the lagoon and discussed the impact that this was having on the micro environment and how this could be stopped or slowed. The effectiveness of the low flow pipes adjacent to the pool was questioned.

Despite the installation of the Gross pollutant trap placed on the storm water pipe beach north of the North Steyne surf club the immediate area is being polluted. A disgusting scum is being deposited in the area with the sand being discoloured and scoured away from the wall. It was also noted by committee members that the 'sink hole' along the grassed area north of the North Steyne Surf Club was becoming deeper and this was considered to be dangerous as people sitting in the area could not be seen from the surrounding areas.

**Recommendations:**

That Council review the effectiveness of the Low Flow Pipes against the Manly Lagoon Entrance Low-Flow Pipes Extension Statement of Environmental Effects and Monitoring Program and Assessment of Options 1998 to determine whether it is meeting those objectives.  
That Council consider how best to stop the scouring, discolouration and pollution of the beach caused by stormwater flowing directly onto

the beach.

That Council provide advice on its intentions to rectify the 'sink hole' and refer the situation to the risk manager to determine there are any public safety issues resulting from the depth and width of the hole.

**REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTINGS IN PINE STREET**

Between Smith and Collingwood Streets in Pine Street, mature Casuarinas, a local species are being removed to plant Tuckeroo, a northern Australian species.

**Recommendation:**

Plantings of mature Casuarinas should be retained as their seeds encourage a greater diversity of local species, whereas Tuckeroo, a northern Australian species creates a monoculture of habitat.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**Date:** Wednesday 14th December 2011

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Venue:** Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm