



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin (Chair)
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Neil Ohlbach
David Thomas
Diana Deeley
Jacqueline French
Keelah Lam
Angelika Treichler

Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Penguin Warden Representative

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 11th July, 2012 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 AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Eira Battaglia, Susan Buchan, Lloyd Keen, Richard Hewitt.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil.

ITEM 3 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
The Chair welcomed Aleisa Lamanna the new Environment Officer from Natural Resources and Christian Chang, Intern from the Manly Environment Centre.

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held Wednesday, 13th June are confirmed with the following change to the last paragraph of the

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	recommendation as follows: "The committee also requests that Council writes to the NSW State Government Authorities responsible for the Sydney Ferries and Buses and request them to investigate alternative fuels so that they cease using diesel without delay."	
ITEM 5	MEC REPORT That the report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 6	UPDATE ON LONG-NOSED BANDICOOT PROJECT IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA Aleisa Lamanna (Environmental Officer) gave an update on items that were discussed during the recent Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Team meeting (held, 13th June). Much discussion focused on new developments on North Head including residential development on St. Patrick Estate land in Spring Cove as well as the new Childcare Facility approved by Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Both development will impact negatively on the Threatened Long-nosed Bandicoot population on Eastern Hill due to increased motor vehicles. Aleisa Lamanna briefed the Committee on plans for a research and monitoring project to be run with Catherine Price from Sydney University with the allocated Environment Levy funds. The proposed project is still in the early stages of development however scope for the project include a large focus on community education/awareness raising through letter box drops on Eastern Hill to gain interest in project, surveys, workshops and the possible use of infrared cameras in residents backyard (which residents would employ, maintain and provide all data to Catherine). One of the research question that may be asked through this project is: Which garden types in an urban setting do Long nosed Bandicoots prefer and possible explanations as to why? i.e. To obtain information on habitat utilisation/preferences in residential areas (urban setting)? The proposed project will also: • Identify any additional measures that can be taken by Council, the community and property owners to support the ongoing conservation of the bandicoot population in the residential areas of North Head in the longer term. • Where possible consideration is to be given to the perpetuation of the project beyond the designated project period by establishing a program that can be continued by Council / Manly Environment Centre in future years at minimal cost. Recommendation: The Committee • Supports, in principle, the plans to undertake a community research and monitoring project in conjunction with Sydney University. The project will be further developed and present it to interested parties and the Manly Environment Centre. It was noted that there was a level of frustration among some Committee members to have more on the ground action undertaken rather than an education/research project. Discussion around	ACTION

possible actions to decreased road mortality took place with Member, Hugh Burns, suggesting the possibility of trialing the use of sections of steel mesh in the roads to allow Bandicoots access under the road. Discussion around the possibility of tunnels under the roads or elevated platforms was also mentioned.

ITEM 7 CLEARING OF EASTERN WATER DRAGONS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA

Committee members expressed concern that extensive clearing of weeds along Bower Street is resulting in a loss of habitat for the Eastern Water Dragon. Natural Resources have consulted with National Parks but as they are not a threatened species with critical habitat, residents are not required to gain Council consent.

**ITEM 8 PENGUINS
a. WARDENS REPORT
Wharf Habitat**

The wharf penguins have gone about their business of nest renovating and family planning, despite the bad weather and the stormy tides.

We have begun to close the barriers every night, so the council staff will find a reliable routine. The lighter large gates have made it much easier to operate. We thank the council for this important improvement.

Federation Point

No sightings have been reported, but there is a better chance for that colony to return since, 19 months after the penguin killings by dogs, the Wildlife Protection map signs have finally been installed. Thank you to everyone involved!

Manly Sealife Sanctuary (former Ocean World)

Most penguin Wardens attended the launch of 'Penguin Cove' an indoors display of 12 Little Penguins. We had been advising Kris Lim, the manager, as well as the keepers and guides on the treatment and educational information on Penguins.

The occasion was a very happy one for us all, not only because the hiding display penguins came waddling out as soon as the speeches had finished, but also because this private business has promised ongoing support for the 'Wild Penguins'

Project Penguin with Taronga Zoo

Sue Matthews again taught the 10 schools involved in Project Penguin about the special situation our 'Town Penguins' have to live in. The project culminated in a Grand Expo Day for all the students, their projects and teachers at Taronga Zoo. Great success, thank you Sue!

Yearly warden training

The 'Oldies' to renew their certification; and the new volunteers to learn about the penguins have had a penguin training session at National Parks. It was very informative and helpful. Thank you to Mel Tyas for organising it.

Increase in Boat strikes

In the meantime we have had some sad news: more penguins are

found (this week 2 at Esplanade East), especially in Manly Cove with 'Blunt Trauma Syndrome' caused by fast unpredictably operated boats.

Could the council please make recommendation for an inquiry into the, we think, unnecessarily frequent traffic of criss-crossing fast ferries from 2 competing companies? This happens especially at night in the path of the returning penguins.

Uniforms

After already 6 weeks of bitterly cold nights for the wardens' vigil, we are very grateful to have been given uniforms by the national Parks' Foundation.

Thank you to Mel Tyas for organising this and the event of Presentation by the Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker. We look forward to a productive and safe breeding season.

b. Penguin Deaths Related to Boat Traffic

The increasing problems of penguin deaths from blunt trauma caused by boat strikes in Manly Cove needs to be investigated. It would appear that a probable cause could be the impact of fast boats/ferries at dusk on the western side of Manly Wharf in peak hour when the penguins are returning to their nest.

The committee would like to know whether an EIS was carried out when the Manly Fast Ferries starting operating from the wharf outside the Manly Hotel.

Recommendation: Council start an enquiry into the unnecessary traffic in fast ferries.

Council should write to the Government to enquire whether it is necessary to have two fast ferries operating together and to give consideration to restricting the route to exclude fast ferries operating on the western side of the wharf.

Council should also write to Road and Maritime Services to determine how they monitor the operation of the jet boat as it is frequently seen making a wash in a "no wash" zone.

c. Minister Parker's Visit to Manly

The committee wishes to thank the Minister for acknowledging the work of the Penguin Wardens and hope that National Parks continue to support them in the way they have done previously.

d. Development Applications in the Residential Area

A discussion took place about a number of development applications in the residential area in popular penguin habitat around Manly Point foreshore which are of concern. They include:

9 Addison Road where the replacement of existing boatshed could restrict safe access to nesting areas

2 Addison Road, where permission is sought to rebuild a staircase which ceased to exist prior to the Declaration of Critical Habitat

10-10A Addison Road, removal of a rock wall on the foreshore with the potential to seek permission to build access to the foreshore which had been refused by the Land and Environment Court.

The committee supports the work of the Natural Resources Team in preparing Threatened Species Assessments for DA Applications and it expects that this will continue as a matter of course and that DAs will continue to be referred to them.

ITEM 9 CABBAGE TREE BAY
a. Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Group
 Two meetings have been held including NSW Fisheries, Council staff as well as community members.
 The functions of the group and a rough program prepared including scientists, staff from Fisheries and Council, Ecodivers, MEC, community, etc.
 The General Manager has agreed that Council will auspice this group and an Information Day will be held in the Manly Council chamber on Saturday, 25th August at 2pm. Invitations will be sent out to the 120 people who have already indicated their interest in this group and it will be widely advertised. RSVP are essential to mec@manly.nsw.gov.au by 22nd August 2012.
 Council volunteer application forms, OH&S procedures and Risk Assessments will be used.
 The next meeting will be held on 30th July.

b. Access for Commercial Dive Groups

Recommendation:

In accordance with Council's resolution of 12th March and both Clauses 7 and 8 of DECCW Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve Draft Regulation and Implementation Strategy, ie
"7. DECCW will consider introducing licences for commercial tour operators whose operations have the potential to impact on habitat, plants and animals. This consideration will be part of a broader review of aquatic reserve management to be conducted later in 2010.

8. DECCW and Manly Council will convene a workshop with commercial diving companies and community diving groups to consider developing a scuba divers' code of conduct, and to review access, with the intention of relieving pressure on the reserve"

Natural Resources staff to discuss the nature and criteria for determining diving licences for next year and prepare it in draft to bring back to this Committee for input before it is finalized.

ITEM 10 INVITATION TO SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS FORUM
"BOUNDARIES AND BARRIERS – MANAGING THE INTERTIDAL ZONE" ON THE 14th AUGUST AT CUSTOMS HOUSE
 Judy Reizes will send this out to all committee members who are encouraged to attend. RSVP by 1st August at Rachael@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au or 9246 7702.

ITEM 11 MANLY LAGOON
 Judy Reizes will follow up with Michael Galloway on progress of the joint investigation with Warringah Council into sand deposition at the lagoon mouth
 The Committee notes that there is a lot of rubbish caught up in the reeds and requests that Council Waste Staff use long pole to remove it.

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ITEM 12 MANLY COVE SWIMMING ENCLOSURE AND RESTORATION OF THREATENED SEAHORSE HABITAT
 The Committee notes that Council's last State of the Environment Report included the commitment of" implementation of the adopted longer term recommendations for a more permanent solution will

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begin in 2012.” The committee requests that Council begin monitoring of the seahorse population and provide the committee with their plans for their “permanent solution”.
It was noted that the habitat net should be put on the inside of the existing net.

ITEM 13 CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2013

Last year, this highly successful summit was hosted by the University of Western Sydney from 27 to 29th April. There were many high profile speakers and their presentations can be viewed at www.climatesummit.org.au;

Next year’s summit was to be held in Brisbane but we have been advised that this arrangement has fallen through and therefore, they are seeking another group to take up the organisation. It is anticipated that the cost of running the conference would be about \$6,000.

Recommendation:

This Committee strongly support the MEC investigating seeking to host the summit for 2013 in Manly.

ITEM 14 POTENTIAL FOR AUGUST MEETING OF COMMITTEE

Councillor Burns advised that according to Local Government Regulations there should be an opportunity to have the last meeting of the Committee as originally scheduled on 8th August.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.40pm

Please insert IBM in the Action column if an item is to go to Council.