



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER, 2011

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

Councillors

Cathy Griffin	Manly Council (Chair)
Hugh Burns	Manly Council

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan	Community Member
Diana Deeley	Community Member
Jacqueline French	Community Member
Keelah Lam	Community Member
Julie Taylor Mills	Community Member
David Thomas	Community Member
Lloyd Keen	Community Member
Angelika Treichler	Penguin Warden Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes	Manager, Manly Environment Centre
Robynne Millward	Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

Observer

Myriam Pitre	Community observer
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TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 21st September, 2011, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.40pm

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Eira Battaglia, Neil Ohlback, Richard Hewitt, Rosie Lempriere.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the Committee meeting held 10th August, 2011 are confirmed.

ACTION

ITEM 4 MEC AND CURRENT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES REPORT

MEC Project Staff Post Conference Update

MEC Staff will provide a written report to the next meeting. A verbal report was made to the committee by the MEC project staff.

ACTION

4 day Conference including 4 associated events

- Participants World Cafe BBQ event held at Le Kiosk including talk at Shelly Beach by Eco Divers.
- Manly Arts Festival – 16 artists in residents - exhibition
- Eco Awards presentation by Mayor, Jean Hay hosted by ICMS – record number of nominations – award - painting by Nick Hollo Deputy CEO Harbour Trust
- Conference Dinner – ICMS

Highlights

International Speakers were well received by attendees and appreciated audience enthusiasm

- Polly Higgins, environmental author and lawyer, UK
- Professor Janet Richardson, Plymouth University, UK
- George Malakwen, East Africa Environment Network, Kenya
- Brian Walker, Stockholm Institute

Conference Opening and Welcome – Aboriginal smoking ceremony

Positive feedback from speakers and participants – online feedback survey to follow

Keynote speakers appreciated support and assistance from Manly Council

Conference Finances – under budget total cost \$16,000 against

70 volunteers assisted - prior to, during and after the conference

Website considered successful – regular updates - conference papers and photos to be uploaded

Green Short films

Guided walks and plantings on North Head conducted by members of the North Head Sanctuary Foundation

The Conference supported the following resolution:

That the community meet with the local Member for Warringah, Tony Abbott and Mark Ogge from Beyond Zero Emission.

The committee discussed various options with regard to facilitating such a meeting with interested community members, Beyond Zero Emissions representatives and Tony Abbott.

POST CONFERENCE ACTIONS

- MEC staff to email on-line survey to all speakers and attendees.
- MEC staff and volunteers meet and discuss a report for Council. This formal debrief with staff and volunteers to be facilitated by MEC staff before the next meeting of the Committee to report back on all aspects of the Conference. Staff to write a report for Council.
- Friends of Manly Environment Centre (FOMEC) invited to

meet more regularly.

Recommendations:

1. Council congratulates the MEC staff and volunteers involved in the Conference of Eco Idea on the success of the conference Congratulations to speakers, staff and volunteers;
2. A report on the Conference is written for notation by Council.
3. Manly Council to write to Tony Abbott outlining the success of the Conference and the resolution of the Conference that the community members meet with him to discuss climate change and related environmental issues, particularly those raised in the Beyond Zero Emissions presentation by Mark Ogge.

ITEM 5 MARINE ISSUES

Dave Thomas from Ecodivers gave a presentation, including the following:

- **Clean Up the World Weekend:**
Ecodivers are cleaning up the coastline of North Harbour one beach at a time starting with Reef Beach. Part of this program will include a marine biodiversity snapshot.

Committee members were provided with a copy of the new Ecodivers Coastal/Marine Debris survey form and asked to list and prioritise their ten most damaging items to the local coastal/marine environment.
This survey will be used to monitor community attitudes in this program.

- **Seahorses at Manly Cove**
There are now only 16 whites seahorses left and no potbellied Seahorses on the old net and it has still not been reattached to the supporting net by the Council contractor.

Recommendation:

The committee continues to be alarmed at the lack of action on Council's resolution of 6th June, which was to reattach the old net without delay. The Committee requests that Council comply with this resolution immediately.

- **Submissions To Independent Scientific Audit Of Marine Parks**

The NSW Government has commissioned the above and submissions close on 30th September. Committee members are urged to make their own submissions, based on information provided by Dave Thomas.

It was noted that less than 1% of marine areas have any protection and these protected areas could be lost under the unscientific approach being used.

Recommendation:

Council write to the NSW Government supporting the Marine Parks program which was based on solid science and expressing concern at the approach of this review.

ITEM 6 PENGUINS**ACTION**

Penguin warden, Angelika Treichler reported as follows:

There is only one pair of penguins at Manly Wharf. A penguin has been heard at Delwood Beach.

Dogs off leash continue to be recorded by penguin wardens and photographs of signage demonstrate the need to address signage prominence and visibility issues as described in this Committee's August recommendations.

Lloyd Keen spoke about the aims of the Responsible Dog Owners group and it was agreed that a meeting would be held by members of that group, and the penguin protectors. The objective of the meeting would be to develop a strategy to reduce the number of dogs off leash in the Wildlife Protection Area and on beaches.

As part of the Penguin Recovery Team, Angelika has provided comment on the statutory review of the Penguin Recovery Plan. She has submitted that Little Manly Point as a contaminated site whose adjoining waters are heavily fished is not suitable for "potential habitat."

Recommendation:

Committee wishes to draw the attention of the Recovery Team in its statutory review, to the fact that Little Manly Point as a contaminated site whose adjoining waters areas are heavily fished, is not suitable for potential habitat.

ITEM 7 NSW PLANNING CONSULTATION ON PLANNING REVIEW – LOCAL SESSIONS 9TH NOVEMBER AT 3PM AND 6.00PM, MANLY LEAGUES CLUB

The NSW Government has just announced that it is holding a NSW-wide consultation with key groups and community members, please see the website www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/consultation.

This website will publish notes of all meetings to ensure maximum transparency in the process of the review.

All written material submitted to the Review Panel will be published on the website.

Tim Moore and Roy Dyer are the Co-chairs and notes on their meeting with the National Trust on 11th August, state "the only outcome instruction that has been given to us is that the Minister requires our outcomes to maximise the use of information technology capabilities."

General timelines:

- A listening and scoping of key principles and objectives for system will be undertaken from now until mid November 2011.
- A discussion paper outlining identified issues and tensions within the system will be put on exhibition in the first week of December 2011 for public comment until 17 February 2012\

- A green paper will be submitted to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure before the end of April 2012.

The Chair drew the committee's attention to a document on the Environmental Defenders Office website which is relevant to this issue – google "*state of planning nsw edo*". In addition the EDO has another relevant document – google "*edo briefing note on state planning review nsw*".

Recommendation:

The date of this Committee's November meeting be changed to Wednesday 16th November to encourage committee members to attend one of the sessions of the Review Panel on 9th November at Manly Leagues Club, 563 Pittwater Road, Brookvale.

ITEM 8 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON POSSIBILITY OF WARRINGAH COUNCIL MERGING WITH MANLY AND PITTWATER

An independent report, commissioned by Warringah Council "Discussion Paper for Voluntary Consolidation" is on public exhibition for comment until October 21. Submissions will be assessed in November and findings presented to Warringah Council on 13th December.

A brief discussion took place and the following points for retention of the status quo were noted:

- Manly's unique local environment; designated as the only "metropolitan attractor" by the Department of Planning in their Metropolitan Strategy.
- need to respond quickly,
- detrimental effect on local environment because of lack of accountability.

ITEM 9 SUBMISSIONS TO MANLY 2015 Project

Angelika Treichler encouraged individual committee members to make submissions on sustainable transport issues to Manly 2015 Project, and will provide details by email.

ITEM 10 LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS

Judy Reizes with assistance of volunteers has provided a map of bandicoot sightings on the eastern hill over the last 14 years to Council planners

ITEM 11 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

Susan Buchan advised if any committee members were interested in taking part in a tour of the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant, she would be happy to arrange it.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 19th October, 2011.

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm