

ITEM 4 MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE MEC Eco Award 2012

Committee members were advised that the MEC Eco Awards Presentation would be held at Oceanworld Thursday 8th March 2012. This year celebrates Sea Week with the theme of Marine Debris. Committee member were reminded that applications close on 24th February 2012.

ITEM 5 MEC REPORT

Penguin Report Manly Wharf

The remaining couple's second clutch is about 5 weeks old which makes it necessary for the wardens to watch them and their moulting parents for another 5 weeks, up to mid March 2012. This habitat at the wharf now appears to be used by the penguins all year round. There have been many spectators during the holiday time, but six wardens did extra shifts. New Year's Eve and Australia Day went well and they were watched during the day.

The position of the habitat being under the shower and the ramps make the summer months very difficult for the penguins, particularly when the longer days encourage the visitors to use the shower as the penguins start to come out.

We would like to repeat the recommendation of moving the shower closer to the swimming enclosure. The rotting board walk needs renewing. The Council could leave the area for the penguins but preclude access to people.

Federation Point

There have still been no sightings at Federation Point but it has been reported that some penguins have been exploring the rocks at Delwood Beach. The penguin wardens continue to remain concerned about the continued lack of co-operation of dog owners to keep their dogs on leash in this area.

A representative from the Penguin Wardens met with the Responsible Dog Owners and they are planning to seek a meeting with the General Manager to request better enforcement of the dogs off leash along the Scenic Walkway. In addition they will discuss the re- installation of the Wildlife Protection Area Maps.

The committee again expressed concern about the apparent lack of action in installing all the signs previously requested and agreed.

Visit to Tasmania

A Penguin Warden recently visited Tasmania where a discussion was held with a Marine Biologist regarding the high number of dead chicks found belonging to the Manly colony which had apparently died of starvation. There was speculation that the warming of the oceans was having a negative impact on the smallest marine creatures which the penguins feed on.

Recommendations:

1. The General Manager consider moving the shower from the

Wharf penguin habitat area to protect the penguins and provide swimmers better access to a shower in a location closer to the swimming enclosure. The General Manager note that the wooden planks that comprise the shower deck are rotting and the shower is a contributing factor to the deterioration of the board walk as well as being part of the penguin habitat.

GM

2. The General Manager confirm, in writing with a map, to the Environment Committee,
 - a. that the revised Wildlife Protection Area signs have been erected and in what locations they have been placed. If they have not been installed as previously agreed the General Manager is requested to advise when and where the signs will be installed.
 - b. that the Wildlife Protection Area signs on the cycle path have been replaced with the revised signs which include the area to Delwood Beach.
 - c. that the 'penguins about' stencils have been painted on the Scenic Walkway to Delwood Beach as previously agreed.
 - d. that the 'Dogs on leash' signs have been installed at eye level and face the correct way on the Scenic walkway to Delwood Beach and
 - e. what measures are being taken by Council to ensure that dog owners comply with the requirement to have dogs on leash on the Scenic Walkway in the Section designated the 'Wildlife Protection Area'.

ITEM 6 Draft Marine Bioregional Plan and Commonwealth Marine Reserve network proposal.

The committee discussed the importance of the Temperate East marine Region from the Southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef marine park to Batemans Bay. Public consultation concludes on 21 Feb 2012. Committee members were invited to attend the information workshop by NCC at MEC on 15th February to understand the details of the proposal.

ITEM 7 NSW Planning Review Consultation

Consultation is continuing on the Planning review in NSW.

ITEM 8 STORMWATER PIPES ON THE OCEAN BEACH

Committee members expressed concern about the quality of the water exiting the stormwater pipes on the Ocean Beach. With higher than usual rainfall over the holiday period it was noted that the volume of water coming from the pipes was high and contained not only plastic litter but also was black, greasy and had a strong 'chemical' smell. Concern was expressed that there did not appear to be any concern about the nature of the discharge by Council or other authorities. The committee discussed the possibility of the placement of GPTs in the entry points to the storm water pipes further up the catchment area.

Recommendation:

That Council staff from the Water Cycle Catchment Team be invited to present to the Environment Committee.

ITEM 9 GENERAL BUSINESS

Identification of Coastal Hazard Risk Areas to projected Sea Level Rise for the Manly LGA.

Committee members were informed that this report is available to viewing at the MEC and comments on the report can be submitted to Council via email.

ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 14th March, 2012.

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.