



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2011

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

Councillors

Cathy Griffin
Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
David Thomas
Lloyd Keen
Angelika Treichler

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Penguin Warden Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes
Robynne Millward

Manager, Manly Environment Centre
Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

Observer

Cameron Radford

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 14th December, 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

Richard Hewitt, Keelah Lam, Rosie Lempriere, Julie Taylor Mills, Jacqueline French, Neil Ohlbach, Eira Battaglia

The resignation of Julie Taylor Mills was tabled and it was noted that their family has moved to London for two years. Julie Taylor Mills has requested that when she returns she would like the opportunity to rejoin the committee.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 15 November, 2011 is confirmed.

ACTION

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 5 December 2011 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee meeting held on 15 November 2011 be adopted.

ACTION

ITEM 4 BANDICOOTS

Bandicoots – Cameron Radford gave an informal presentation on bandicoot roadkills on North Head Scenic Drive and suburban roads, ie Marshall Street, Darley and Addison Road. These have resulted in a very considerable increase in the last 12 months.

Ideas to reduce this mortality include: means to slow traffic down, more speed humps, flashing lights, provide maps of bandicoot hotspots, etc.

Cameron noted that video cameras located to observe bandicoot behavior on North Head had captured domestic cats (rather than feral) in close proximity to bandicoot nesting areas.

The chair advised Cameron that Council had funds from the Environmental Levy available for a bandicoot monitoring/education project in the residential area.

The proposed Council project with Peter Banks from Sydney University was not successful in attracting ARC funding in the 2011 round for the second year and the committee suggested that Cameron discuss with Peter Banks and Judy various options. After determining the best options, they could consider writing new terms of reference which would focus people's attention on the protection of the bandicoots from the significant threats of cars and cats.

In addition Cameron advised that the native Bogul rats that were released earlier in the year have begun to breed. It is too early to determine the impact on the black rats.

Recommendation:

Council consult with Peter Banks, consider writing terms of reference for a project to reduce bandicoot mortality in the residential area by focusing people's attention on the protection of bandicoots from the significant threats of cars and cats.

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ITEM 5 PENGUINS

Penguin warden, Angelika Treichler reported as follows:

Wharf habitat:

Good News: The one remaining couple, Mr Stickybeak and Mr Silverwing's merry widow, is sitting on a second clutch of eggs. They have become very shy though, making it less entertaining for spectators. Nevertheless, we continue to get quite large crowds, especially on the weekend.

For disappointed children we give out the 'Stickybeak' postcards and for adults the fridge magnets with the MEC's www for more info. We have run out of these, thus recommend a re-issue.

Federation Point Habitat:

No sightings or evidence of nests, just as well, since off-leash dogs on that part of the Scenic Walkway seem to increase every day. Having given up hope of getting any response from Council and educating the dog owners, I have ceased photographing them.

One ray of hope, the 'Responsible Dog Owners' group has promised

to help us liaise with the Council in the new year.

I would like it noted that the Wildlife Protection Area maps still haven't been re-installed since January when they were taken down for the inclusion of Delwood Beach.

In the light of the NSW Little Penguins Recovery Team's November meeting when this lack was noted, I would like to repeat our recommendation to re-install the 'Wildlife Protection Area' maps.

Quote from Recovery Team's minutes:

"action 11-07: Janneke Lade to investigate why the area immediately west of the Pavilion was removed during a revision to the Wildlife

Protection Area.

Has been added back in - its removal was an oversight. Council signage will be amended."

It is difficult to understand why this small action can take a full year to be implemented.

Uniforms:

The penguin wardens are in the process of getting fitted out with new NP&WS volunteer uniforms which can be tried and ordered at the Gate Cottage at Quarantine Station.

It looks as though we might finally get waterproof jackets, moleskin pants and summer polo shirts....all fluorescing, hope the penguins like them.

I am sure we will, with all this La Nina-rain persisting. I would like to thank National Parks for providing this protection and making our nightly shifts a little more comfortable.

ITEM 6 NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

A member of the Committee reported on the recent tour she organized of the Plant. Eight community members toured the STP for three hours conducted by Plant Manager, Kel Taylor. The plant manager advised that:

- Odour monitoring only includes hydrogen sulfide and chlorine however there are a number of other chemicals being emitted from the plant.
- 50% of the methane created in the digester is unused and burnt off.

Sydney Water has invited the community to participate in a consultative committee which would meet twice a year. Previously the Committee met monthly and members believe that the new committee should meet at least quarterly. This committee nominates Susan Buchan to be their representative.

Recommendation:

- The Committee is concerned that odour monitoring includes only Hydrogen Sulphide and Chlorine emissions, however there are a number of additional chemicals being emitted. It is understood that 50% of methane is being burnt off. The committee recommends that Council write to the Local Member and Sydney Water and request a more comprehensive monitoring program be carried out that includes all emissions. In addition Sydney Water be asked why 50% of the methane is burnt off.
- The Committee nominates Susan Buchan to be their

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representative on the Sydney Water Consultative Committee.

ITEM 7 PERMANENT PREMISES FOR MEC

ACTION

Judy Reizes and Julie Taylor-Mills discussion points tabled and various ideas discussed at length. Committee members agreed to meet out of session to further discuss and refine the submission to Council.

Recommendation:

It was agreed that a working party of interested committee members be formed which will meet again at MEC on 21st December 2011 to begin to put together a formal submission to Council on the future needs of the MEC.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 8th February, 2012.

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm