



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY, 13 JUNE, 2012

*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 (Observer)

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Lloyd Keen

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Neil Ohlbach

Community Member

Dave Thomas

Community Member

Council Staff

Robynne Millward

Project Officer, Manly Environment Centre

Michael Galloway

Water Cycle Management Team Leader

Christina Femia

Catchment Project Officer

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 13th June, 2012, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 6.45pm

ACTION

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Eira Battaglia, Richard Hewitt, Angelika Treichler and
Judy Reizes

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 9 May, 2012
were confirmed.

ITEM 4	PRESENTATION ON WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN	ACTION
	The committee welcomed Michael Galloway and Christina Femia, Manly Council Water Cycle Management Team. The presentation highlighted on the projects undertaken by Manly Council including the work on the Burnt Bridge Creek and the installation of the dam in the Balgowlah Golf Course. The presentation is attached. Several committee members expressed interest in identifying additional areas that could benefit from the installation of some of the WSUD elements in the LGA. Further information can be obtained from www.wsud.org Recommendation: The CEC endorse the approach taken by Manly Council on Water Sensitive Urban Design.	
ITEM 5	MEC REPORT FOMEC Event RIO+20 Launch of the International year of Sustainable Energy for all. Wednesday 20th at the Moonshine Bar, Steyne Hotel, Manly. Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay – meeting with Fisheries Staff 25th June 2012 to progress the establishment of the FoCTBAR The committee discuss the ongoing poaching of marine animals from the CTBAR and the failure of authorities to prevent such activities. Recently a large and organised group of Asians removed a large quantity of fish from the area via Bower Lane. Residents reported that divers apparently ‘stunned’ the fish with poison which is a common method of catching fish in Asia and then put the catch in large containers in the boots of a number of cars which left the scene before police arrived. Recommendation: Manly Council consider installing surveillance cameras at Bower Lane to assist in preventing further poaching of marine life from the CTBAR. Further discussion on the cleaning methods used by Council for the rock pools. The committee is concerned that the continued use of chlorine to clean these pools is damaging the marine environment.	
ITEM 6	PENGUIN REPORT Angelika Treichler provided the following written report. Wharf Habitat: 3 weeks ago, one sole penguin couple returned to a nest under the boardwalk. One week later Council's new Environment Officer, had achieved approval for the removal of the shower. It was carried out under the Penguin wardens' observation to assure that both penguins had left for the day. The council's plumber had to jack-hammer an entry to the water supply 15 metres south-east from the shower, on the promenade. During this process he finally found the huge leak under the wharf we had reported one year ago. He turned off all the water and closed the hole in the boardwalk by nailing a witches hat to the boardwalk. The creek-like water-course under the wharf has now been halted, which makes us hopeful that the other penguin couples will return to the habitat (nest building is never done close to flowing water). These works by Council staff will make a great improvement to the Wharf Habitat.	

The council is also working on improving the barriers, having taken away the largest gate in order to decrease its weight. We are not using the gates yet, since the weather has kept away the crowds, and the penguins have become quite reticent to show themselves. We are staffing a skeleton vigil only, one warden per night without uniforms in order to keep it low-key.

The recent king tide reached the active nest, but there were no eggs yet and not much damage has been done. We can only hope that there will not be another such tide when the eggs have been laid or the chicks have hatched.

Federation Point Habitat:

There are still no Wildlife Protection Area maps installed 18 months after 7 penguins were there by a dog.

I am referring to all the Little Penguins Recovery Team Meeting Minutes of 2011/12 as well as the Penguin Operational meetings, requesting this action be implemented, as well as the repeated recommendations for this action from this committee ever since the deaths of the penguins at Federation Point in December 2010.

Recommendation:

The Committee wishes to express its concern that the Federation Point Wildlife Protection Zone signs are yet to be erected.

ITEM 7 NSW MARINE PARKS AUDIT

This can be viewed at www.marineparksaudit.nsw.gov.au. Submissions close on 30th June, 2012.

ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Committee members noted the recent declaration by the Experts at the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirming diesel engine exhaust fumes can cause cancer in humans.

Diesel exhaust fumes belong in the same potentially deadly category as asbestos, arsenic and mustard gas. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has reclassified diesel exhausts from its group of probable carcinogens, to its group of substances that have definite links to cancer. Diesel emissions cause lung cancer and increase the risk of bladder cancer.

Committee members expressed concern that the Manly Ferries use diesel and passengers and staff can often be exposed to diesel fumes when travelling on the ferry.

Recommendation:

1. Manly Council note the recent declaration by the WHO and consider reviewing the use of diesel run equipment. Council take action to ensure the health of the staff who may be exposed to diesel fumes during the course of their work for Council.
2. The committee also requests that Council writes to the NSW State Government Authorities responsible for the Sydney Ferries and Buses and alert them to the issue.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 11th July, 2012.

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers
Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

