



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH, 2014

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Hugh Burns

Other Representatives

Karen Pitt

Diana Deeley

Lloyd Keen

Keelah Lam

David Thomas

Penguin Warden

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Jacob Sife

Manager, Manly Environment Centre.

Environmental Officer

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 12 March, 2014, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.20pm.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cllr Cathy Griffin, Michella Burgers, Jacqueline French, Natasha Hammond-Deakin, Neil Ohlbach, Jan Ritchie.

CHAIR:

In the absence of Cllr. Griffin, Cllr. Hugh Burns chaired the meeting.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ACTION

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 12 February, 2014 are confirmed.	ACTION
	MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 10th March 2014 that the minutes of the Community Environment Advisory Committee be adopted.	
ITEM 4	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted. The winner of the annual MEC Eco Award was Eira Battaglia, a former member of this committee, for her work in preserving wildlife at many levels. Eira received her award at the very popular Eco Award event held at Manly Sea Life Sanctuary. Eira has: • Shown over 10 years of commitment to conserving the Northern Beaches' marine and bushland ecosystems and the plants and animals they support • Roles of Fundraising Officer as well as Education Officer in Sydney Wildlife Rescue • Became an inaugural member of the Penguin Warden Program in 2005 and is still an active member. • Been a founding member of the Northern Beaches Road Kill Prevention Committee formed in 2006. • A regular contributor to the Manly Daily's Letters to the Editor pages, writing on conservation matters and lobbying for protection of wildlife, measures to reduce road kill of our native wildlife and conservation of bushland to retain wildlife habitats and corridors. • Is constantly nursing sick and injured animals at home to restore them to health and their original habitat.	
ITEM 5	PRESENTATION BY JACOB SIFE ON REPORT ON MONITORING PROJECT ON LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS IN RESIDENTIAL AREA. • Jacob Sife, Council's Environmental Officer, gave an excellent presentation on Sydney University's Final Report including trapping results. The major findings were: • The Eastern Hill bandicoots are likely to constitute approximately 15-20% of the total North Head population. Densities of bandicoots along Bower Street were as high as those observed within St. Patrick's estate during previous trapping sessions. • Eastern Hill is functionally important for the ongoing viability of	

the population, providing habitat for approximately 25% of the populations' breeding females.

- There seems to be less interchange between the urban and bushland community than previously thought. Currently it is not known where the bandicoots in the residential areas are nesting and further studies need to be undertaken.
- This project demonstrates that bandicoots are found over most of the North Head, extending as far as Ashburner Street. The original declaration of the Bandicoots under the Threatened Species Legislation only covered the area south of Addison Road, including St. Patricks Estate. Council's new LEP has zoned the area from there to and including Ashburner Street as requiring consideration of bandicoots in developments. It would be preferable to clarify the status of the bandicoots in the residential area as unlike Manly's Penguins, no Critical Habitat has been declared.
- The Report's main recommendation is to continue the urban trapping program throughout Eastern Hill to collect data on temporal patterns in populations size, demographics, genetics and movement between urban and bushland habitats. This should coincide with the OEH headland monitoring and continue for at least another 3-5 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This Committee recommends to the General Manager as follows:

- The final report should be made available on the Council website.
- The trapping should continue to further our understanding and run concurrently with the NPWS trapping in May. This should be funded via the Environment Levy. It was noted that Councillors have been advised by Stephen Clements, that bandicoot funding would be continued this coming financial year.
- An information sheet similar to that from Ashfield Council (which was tabled) should be created and sent to the residents on Eastern Hill. The information should include reference to the perceived link between ticks and bandicoots. The brochure should refer to the project's Bandicoot video on U tube and the Bandicoot Facebook page.
- The distribution map for the determination for this endangered population needs to be extended to include all areas of North Head to Ashburner Street as shown in Manly Council's new LEP as approved by the Department of Planning.
- Council should write to the Director General, Office of Planning to obtain a response to the Council's request for an exemption to compliant development in the area indicated in the Manly DCP 2013 for which an Assessment of Significance should be required.

JR to draft letter

- The Manly Environment Centre should take over the project's Bandicoots Facebook page.

ITEM 6 PENGUIN WARDEN REPORT

Karen Pitt advised that the Penguins at Manly Wharf have finished moulting.

The next Penguin Recovery Team meeting will be held on 28th April and will discuss the latest monitoring results for the Critical Habitat area.

Judy Reizes is liaising with OEH staff, who are preparing a Penguin Communication Program for the Residential Area. It was noted that there will be new residents moving in to the Spring Cove development in the near future.

JR liaising

ITEM 7 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

a. North Head WWTP Odour Management Review of Environmental Factors

The General Manager has sent a letter to the local member, Mike Baird expressing the concerns of eight Precinct Groups to the inadequacy of the solutions provided under the REF.

b. Decisions Report

Sydney Water has advised that the release of the Decisions Report is imminent and hard copies will be provided to those who made a submission and it will also be available on the their website.

c. North Head WWTP Community Consultative Group

The group will recommence meetings for the year on 13th March with the same membership as last year. Eduard McPeake is Council's representative.

d. Odour Impacts on the Community from Sedimentation Tanks and Sydney Water's Voluntary Audit Issues

A letter has been sent to local member, Mike Baird raising the issue of odours from the sedimentation tanks so that he could request Sydney Water to provide a more appropriate response via the North Head WWTP community Consultative Group. The letter asks why the primary sedimentation tanks were not included in the audit report, given the predicted odours detailed in numerous technical reports, and Minutes of meetings with Office of Environment and Heritage.

e. Performance of North Head H2S Monitors

Council has written to Kevin Young, Managing Director, Sydney Water about the poor response of these monitors to

sewage odours present during the committee's meeting at the plant with Sydney Water about the Voluntary Audit. Therefore there are concerns that results from these types of monitors at various sites around North Head could give a false impression that there are no odours, even though people are constantly complaining. It should be noted that instrument sampling of Hydrogen Sulphide levels represents only one component of the plant's spectrum of 'odour'. For example another component of this would be ammonia. It should therefore be noted that any failure to measure H₂S at a sample location could not be used to infer that no odour was present at that location; only that the H₂S component was not measured at detectable levels.

ITEM 8 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES

a. Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay (FOCTB) Working Group

Awaiting Council's response to the issues raised in last month's minutes.

b. Fish Pirates:

- A discussion took place about photographing the presence of fishing boats within or adjacent to the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve and feedback from the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay Group recommends:
- There should be a hotmail address which can be promoted to attract photos from residents and visitors.
- The Committee requests the General Manager to advise on Council resources for enforcement, i.e.

How many Council Rangers have authorization to issue infringements in the Aquatic Reserve?

What resources do they need to effectively enforce those powers? e.g. access and training to use small boats or jet-skis, say via MLSC.

c. Signage Audit

The MEC has conducted a signage audit along Marine Parade from South Steyne to Shelly Beach carpark.

ITEM 9 MANLY COVE ISSUES

a. Hugo's Wharf Redevelopment

Staff have made a submission to Council on this development and they are requested to obtain a copy of the report commissioned by Hugo's on damage to seagrass.

JR to Action

b. Seahorse Colony on the Swimming Enclosure Net

Dave Thomas reported that his recent audit had located 51 seahorses on the net.

ITEM 10 GENERAL BUSINESS

**MEETING ON COAL SEAM GAS AT THE MANLY LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM ON 8 APRIL, 2014 7pm-9pm.**

The 350.org environmental group has requested that the MEC assist with this community information meeting on Coal Seam Gas and the Maules Creek campaign. Sign up online at:

http://act.350.org/event/maules_creek_info_nights_attend/6816

This committee fully supports this request.

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 9 April, 2014

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.