



NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that of a meeting of **Community Environment Committee** will be held:

DATE: Wednesday 13 October 2010

TIME: From 6:30pm to 8:30pm

PLACE: Councillors' Room, Council Chambers, 1 Belgrave St Manly.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councillors

Cllr Jean Hay AM, Mayor (ex officio)
Cllr Cathy Griffin

Manly Council
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia
Neil Ohlbach
Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Richard Hewitt
Keelah Lam
Terry Metherell
Cheryl Rose
David Thomas
Julie Taylor-Mills or Mark Mills
Jacqueline French
Angelika Treichler
Rachel Miller

Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Penguin Warden Representative
National Parks & Wildlife Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

All other Councillors are free to attend as observers and are invited to do so and to engage in discussions, but not in voting, on any matter before the Committee.

Stephen Clements

Executive Manager Environmental Services and Deputy General Manager

Date: 4 October 2010



AGENDA

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2010 AT 6.30PM

IN THE COUNCILLORS' ROOM MANLY COUNCIL

- ITEM 1 Apologies and leave of absence**

- ITEM 2 Declarations of Interest – Pecuniary
 – Non- Pecuniary**

- ITEM 3 Welcome and Introductions**

- ITEM 4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 8 September 2010 & Matters Arising**

- ITEM 5 Reports – Manly Environment Centre and Current Local Environmental Issues**
 - MEC Report

- ITEM 6 General Business brought to the Attention of the Chair Prior to the Meeting and Approved for Consideration**
 - Correspondence Received: A letter has been received from Sydney Water's Kel Taylor, responding to the letter forwarded from the Committee on 22 July 2010 - (attached).

- ITEM 7 Date for Next Meeting, Wednesday, 10 November 2010**



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD 8th SEPTEMBER, 2010

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cathie Griffin (chair)
Hugh Burns

Manly Council
Manly Council

Nelika Hughes, AWC

Invited speaker DECCW

Other Representatives

Rachel Miller
Eira Battaglia
Dave Thomas
Susan Buchan
Neil Ohlback
Cheryl Rose
Terry Metherell
Angelika Treichler

National Parks & Wildlife Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Penguin Warden Representative

Staff Representatives

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on 11th August, 2010, to consider the matters referred to it and now reports having reached the decisions taken and recommendations stated hereunder:

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 6.40pm	
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Jacqueline French, Keelah Lam, Julie Taylor-Mills, Richard Hewitt, and Diana Deeley (on leave).	ACTION
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil	
ITEM 3	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Councillor Griffin welcomed Nelika Hughes from Australian Wildlife Conservancy.	

ITEM 4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11th August, 2010 are confirmed. However, it was noted that the Cabbage Tree Bay item incorrectly referred to a meeting on interpretative signage which was a meeting related to NPWS regulation and branding. MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 6th September 2010 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee be adopted.	ACTION
ITEM 5	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE • Twentieth Anniversary Celebration 2011. Meetings of the organising committee continue to be held. A project sheet and call for papers is being prepared. • Sunday at the Sanctuary Congratulations to the staff and volunteers for a very successful day. • Australian Museum Exhibition for International Year of Biodiversity Staff, community groups and volunteers are preparing for a 3 day exhibition involving the whole of the Biodiversity Gallery on 12th, 13th and 14th September. • Beauty of Biodiversity Exhibition for Manly Arts Festival Staff and local artists are preparing for this 3 day exhibition at the ICMS on 17th, 18th and 19th September 2010.	
ITEM 6	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Plan Of Management For North Head - Closing Date 24th August The Trust was unable to extend the consultation time as there was a need to table the Plan for approval at their Board's last meeting. The new Board will be appointed by the incoming Federal Government. The committee's concerns as discussed at the last meeting were reflected in a submission by Julie Taylor-Mills.	
ITEM 8	QUARANTINE STATION Councillor Griffin advised that the following issues were discussed at the Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee: The rebuilding of two dormitory buildings in accordance with the original consent conditions, the possible relocation of the reception area to the entry car park area, reinstatement of a walking track that involves the removal of some Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. Dave Thomas reported that the Quarantine Station Seagrass Study shows an increase in the infestation of Caluerpa amongst the threatened Posidonia Seagrass.	

ITEM 8	PENGUINS	ACTION
	Penguin Warden, Angelika Treichler reported a. Manly Wharf Council has repaired the gate. b. Bathers Pavilion The ground floor of the Pavilion development will go before the Land and Environment Court on 20th and 21st October. The court site inspection will be on 21st October. c. Boardwalk An update is requested on the future of the boardwalk and whether it will be repaired and leased. The Committee requests that it be consulted on any future plans for the boardwalk. Consideration should be given to pushing the structure back from the building. The committee reaffirms its original recommendations of going back to the Scientific committee to include this area in Critical Habitat for the Penguins. It is not clear that the Pavilion's security camera is working satisfactorily and the committee requests a still photo.	
ITEM 9	MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MANLY COVE Since Council received a letter some months ago from DECCW that to protect the seagrass beds, anchoring will be prohibited off the swimming enclosure, this prohibition be included in the Management Plan.	
ITEM 10	REGULATORY SIGNAGE FOR CABBAGE TREE BAY AQUATIC RESERVE National Parks had a meeting with Council regarding the regulatory signage and branding for the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve Rachel Miller advised that: • DECCW has given Council \$50,000 to implement the priority objectives of the Cabbage Tree Bay Plan of interpretative signage and setting up a volunteer group. • It is planned that the LMUD and Environment Committees will do a site visit. Recommendation: This Committee requests that council organise an onsite meeting with representatives of the following committees, Community Environment, Landscapae Management and Urban Design , Heritage, Access and Fairy Bower Precinct to discuss interpretative signage and other aspects of the upgrade of Marine Parade walkway and around the Bay. Copies of this Committee's submission "Ideas for Proposed Upgrade of Marine Parade Walkway" be provided in advance to those attending the site visit. It is important that the interpretative panels relate to the aquatic environment to meeting DECCW's objectives for their funding allocation to Council of \$50,000.	

ITEM 9	CATHOLIC CHURCH WARNING SIGNAGE IN BUSHLAND ON NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY	ACTION
	National Parks have received a lot of complaints about these signs which have apparently been erected by the Catholic Church and are seeking a meeting with the Sydney Archdiocese. 1. Committee requests that Council write to the Catholic Church Archdiocese and state that there have been many complaints about the inappropriate signs that they have erected.	
ITEM 10	MANLY LAGOON • Lagoon Playground Refurbishment ◦ Council's Deputy General Manager, Stephen Clements will discuss with appropriate staff. • Pontoon /Safety Island for wetland birds ◦ The Chair of the Manly Lagoon Committee will raise this at their next meeting.	
ITEM 11	BANDICOOTS The Committee welcomed Nelika Hughes from Australian Wildlife Conservancy who has been contracted by the Trust as the Sanctuary's Environmental Manager until August 2011. Nelika is currently carrying out bandicoot monitoring. National Parks and Wildlife Representative, Rachel Miller gave an outline of monitoring data that NPWS's has collected over the last 10 years on North Head. The population had been relatively stable but has seen a slow decline. The numbers are now the lowest in 8 years with the population around the 100 mark which could be nearing the limits of viability. The decline has taken place between 2004-2010 when there has been a lot of developments on the various sites with an odd split in the population resulting in a male sex bias at Quarantine and females at St. Patricks. This could be due to the small population size but can only be determined by DNA testing. The sites with higher carrying capacity tend to be in the residential area where there is more attention to lawns. Trapping stopped after three days at the Police College site due to the noise from building works. At a recent meeting with the Police College it has been agreed that temporary plantings from regional stock will be made to provide protection for foraging bandicoots. Recommendation: The General Manager be requested to write to Mawlands and Harbour Trust to express concern at the declining population of the Longnosed bandicoot and encourage them to improve the foraging habitat quality on their lawn by watering regularly. Population Viability analysis 10 to 20 deaths on roads Nelika Hughes described: • Her monitoring program which is being conducted in	

conjunction with Earthwatch . To date the infrared cameras monitoring predators have shown two cats, one is domestic from Fairy Bower precinct and the other a runaway. The three volunteers from the MEC who participated in this full day program would like to thank AWC for the opportunity.

- The “bandicoot tunnels” of vegetation which are similar to the vegetated links on the St. Patricks Estate, provide shelter when foraging on adjacent lawns and nesting habitat. These can be designed so that they do not encourage bandicoots to cross the road.
- Nelika and Rachel will provide information to the Bandicoot Recovery Team which will meet soon.
- This committee requests a copy of the Annual Report which AWC will provide to the Trust. Terry Metherell suggested an “adopt a Bandicoot” program to reduce mortality from cars and cats.
- Instead of residents developing their property having to pay for a Species Impact Statement that they provide \$1,000 towards the bandicoot program. This could be used to fund DNA testing.

Recommendation:

That Council write to the Harbour Trust and request them to renew the contract for AWC for management of the Sanctuary. This contract expires in August 2011.

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2010

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors’ Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.45pm



TO: Manly Community Environment Committee
MEETING DATE: 13 October 2010
AUTHOR: Judy Reizes, Community Environment Committee Co-ordinator
SUBJECT: **MEC and Current Local Environmental Issues Report**

Manly Environment Centre Report

The MEC has worked on the following initiatives:-

INTERNSHIPS:

Two Masters students continue their work from the Environment Centre.

In October, November and December we will have two overseas Internships commencing and also two students coming in late December through to end of January from Southern Cross University in Queensland.

We also have a student from America coming for a 5 week placement in November.

VOLUNTEERS:

Volunteer hours of approximately 298.7 were logged in August/September in preparation for Australian Museum Display Space which ran from 12th 13th and 14th September from 9am until 4pm. and the Beauty of Biodiversity Art Exhibition at the ICMS on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 17th, 18th and 19th September 2010.

STUDENTS: There will be four students from TAFE and the NBBN undertaking work experience in late September/Early October

2 Duke of Edinburgh students continue to attend. One has finished her time with the Centre.

MEETINGS, TALKS, FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Proposed Conference of Environment Centres 2011 at North Head Sanctuary.

- Continuing discussions with SHFT regarding the proposed EC Conference in 2011.
- Conference Committee meetings to develop draft project report and web based Invitation.
- Meeting with Prof Robin Bushell and Bruce Simmonds UWS
- Meeting with Tourism Co-ordinator from the Manly Chamber of Commerce
- Robynne Millward attended Chamber of Commerce Meeting 29th September 2010

Australian Museum Display Space for the Year of Biodiversity

- Meeting with Australian Museum Staff in relation to the space available for the Exhibition and preparation for poster displays and information panels
- Meeting and liaison with Eco Divers, NHSF, Sydney Wildlife and Senior Penguin Warden for a joint Biodiversity presentation from Manly.
- 12, 13, 14 September – attendance at the Australian Museum Space for the Year of Biodiversity.

- Feedback indicated that the Australian Museum was more than happy with the information and displays provided from Manly for this space at the Museum. Further liaison and discussions

The Beauty of Biodiversity – Art Exhibition organised by the MEC in conjunction with Council for the Manly Arts Festival

- Robynne Millward attended meetings with several artists and liaised with the ICMS in preparation for the Event. Their contribution greatly appreciated – namely catering for the Launch on Friday 17th and also providing space at their Café Location for the 18th and 19th weekend.
- There were over 100 people at the Launch and the weekend was very successful with a number of paintings sold and funds able to be banked for the FOMEC group.
- Letters of appreciation have been forwarded to all involved in this Event.

Other Meetings

- Energy Australia Greening Breakfast to be attended by Robynne Millward
- Proposal for the Drain Stencilling Project – Meeting with Council Staff
- Judy Reizes Meet with new Catchment Education Officer from Council - Josh Crawford – 20 September 2010
- 29 September 2010 – Meeting for OCD preparations, ideas etc – Robynne

RECOMMENDATION:

Report be received and noted.

Robynne Millward for Judy Reizes
30 September 2010

17 AUG 2010

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER _____

DOCUMENT NUMBER _____

13 August 2010

General Manager
PO Box 82
Manly NSW 1655

Attention: Stephen Clements

Ref: Your letter dated 22 July 2010 to North Head Sewage Treatment Plant

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 July 2010. I received it on 5 August 2010.

The following is our response to the points for consideration mentioned in your letter.

1. The [Community Environment] Committee would like to be able to visit the plant at regular intervals.

We are unable to accommodate regular visits due to our other site work commitments, however due to the very successful Open Day held in May 2010 we are planning further Open Days in the future. The Open Day will be widely advertised and the Manly community will be invited.

2. The Committee would like you to consider the re-establishment of the Community Liaison Committee.

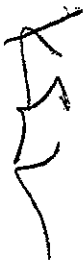
In May 2009 Sydney Water reviewed the charter for the existing committee as the PARF upgrade works was coming to an end. It was found that the charter had not been renewed in 17 years. SWC rewrote the charter bringing it up to date. SWC then called for expressions of interest from the community for members. Three responses were received within the nominated time. As three was not enough members to meet regularly and not a true representation of the community SWC decided to survey the 100 residents that would attend the May 2010 Open Day. The community members were asked to complete a survey which included questions about the preferred means of communication between Sydney Water and the community. The preferred method of communication was e-mail – with meetings to be held on an as needs basis. The first Newsletter was published in July with a six monthly frequency planned. Any interested party can apply to receive these Newsletters.

3. The Committee also noted that whilst on the tour there was distinctly high odour levels and noted that the sedimentation tanks were uncovered. The Committee attended an operating Sewage Treatment Plant and some local odours are present. Sewage odours are not a health hazard. The sedimentation tanks have never been covered and the PARF work scope did not include a requirement to do this.

4. No protective apparatus was provided to either visitors or staff. Sydney Water sent a letter to the Committee advising of the safety requirements for the site and the Committee signed off this advice. On the day of the tour everyone was given a brief site induction by our tour guide, wore enclosed shoes and were given a high-vis vest and a hard to wear. This is all the safety equipment that is necessary for visitors who are not performing physical work. Site personnel and contractors, who perform physical work, all wear steel capped safety footwear as well as high-vis clothing and hard hats.

Please phone me on ph: 9934 4413 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KST', written over a horizontal line.

Kel Taylor
Plant Manager, North Head STP