



NOTICE OF MEETING

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

DATE: 9 March 2011

TIME: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

PLACE: The Councillors' Room, Manly Town Hall, 1 Belgrave Street, Manly

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councillors

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

Other Representatives

Angelika Treichler	Penguin Warden Representative
Cheryl Rose	Community Representative
Jacqueline French	Community Representative
Keelah Lam	Community Representative
Richard Hewitt	Community Representative
Susan Buchan	Community Representative
Terry Metherell	Community Representative
David Thomas	Community Representative
Julie Taylor- Mills or Mark Mills	Community Representative
Neil Ohlbach	Community Representative
Lee DeGail	National Parks & Wildlife Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes	Manager, Manly Environment Centre
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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
Deputy General Manager
Executive Manager – Land Use & Sustainability

Date: 3 March 2011



AGENDA

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2011 AT 6.30PM

COUNCILLORS ROOM, 1 BELGRAVE STREET, MANLY

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|---------------|---|
| ITEM 1 | Apologies and leave of absence |
| ITEM 2 | Declarations of Interest – Pecuniary
Non- Pecuniary |
| ITEM 3 | Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 9 February 2011 and
Matters Arising |
| ITEM 4 | Report – MEC and Current Local Environmental Issues Report |
| ITEM 5 | Report – Environment Levy – Budget Bids (to follow) |
| ITEM 6 | General Business brought to the Attention of the Chair Prior to the
Meeting and Approved for Consideration |
| ITEM 7 | Date for Next Meeting: 13 April 2011 |



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY, 2011

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Keelah Lam
Cheryl Rose
Jacqueline French
Julie Taylor Mills
David Thomas
Neil Ohlbach
Eira Battaglia
Angelika Treichler

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member

Observer

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Environmental Defenders Office

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Committee** met on Wednesday, 9th February, 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 and Terry Metherell.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Nil.

ACTION

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 8 th December 2010 are confirmed.	ACTION
	MATTERS ARISING It was resolved at Council's Planning and Strategy meeting held on 7th February, 2011 that the minutes of the Community Environment Committee be adopted.	
ITEM 4	MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE Julie Taylor Mills, on behalf of the Manly Environment Center's Conference Committee reported to the Committee on an Environmental Levy Bid for 2011 for \$40,000 to facilitate the International Conference for Environment Centres in September 2011. Recommendation: The Committee strongly supports this bid for inclusion in this year's bids to go to Council for approval.	IBM
ITEM 5	URGENT REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR DREDGING OF WITCHES GLEN. Report from Fenton Beatty on the urgent need to dredge the pool at the base of Witches Glen. Officers from DECCW have assisted in the temporary relocation of aquatic life. Council's Bushland Manager has advised that \$40,000 remains from the current year's Environmental Levy and is requesting the Environment Committee's support to use these moneys to fund the immediate dredging. Recommendation: The Committee supports the staff recommendation that residual moneys of \$40,000 from the current year's bushland funding from the environmental levy be used for dredging Witches Glen.	
ITEM 6	ENVIRONMENT LEVY a. ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY BIDS 2010-11 The Manager, Community and Environmental Partnerships will present these bids to the committee at the next meeting. b. ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER 2010 The Committee endorsed this report. Recommendation: The Committee endorses the Environment Levy Annual Report 2009/10 and Community Newsletter 2010 for publication on the Council's website.	
ITEM 7	PENGUINS At its meeting of 13 th December 2010, Council unanimously accepted the recommendations of the Committee in their minutes of 8 th December for "zero tolerance" for dog infringements including "dogs being prohibited from entering upon the public reserve including the Federation Steps. Dog walkers will be required to walk behind the Art Gallery.	

The Committee expressed its disappointment that the “zero tolerance” resolution is not being enforced and in spite of “flashing light” signage being used for some weeks after the 7 penguin fatalities at Federation Point, no temporary signage warning of the approved changes has been installed by Council. In addition strong community feedback has indicated their disappointment at Council’s lack of official response two months after the event.

However, the Penguin Warden representative reported the Penguin Wardens have had more attacks on their work in protecting the penguins.

On 1st January, 2011 one of the oldest members of the Wardens was physically assaulted by a young boat and dog owner and she was badly shaken.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NP&WS) has provided the wardens special security guards for the weekends to ensure their personal safety for the rest of this season.

Unfortunately, the behaviour of some of the ever increasing holiday makers has not improved and now that the penguins are moulting they are in even greater danger. It appears that some penguins have abandoned their second-clutch of eggs and began moulting 2 months early.

More boats have been anchoring in Manly Cove west and one third of these have dogs on board. Boat owners are bringing the dogs ashore wherever they like and lately they have been using Delwood Beach where they were joined by local dog owners.

Council Rangers appear not to have been briefed and there is confusion regarding the On-leash area having been extended to include Delwood Beach. Dog owners have apparently been directed to the rocky part of the foreshore adjacent to the beach where community members had reported numerous sightings of three penguins moulting on the rock platform.

Photographs have been provided to Council of 3 rangers talking to one of these boat owners, with his dog frolicking in the water next to the wharf on Australia Day. Two moulting penguins were around and numerous families playing in the water. The boat owner in question is the dog owner whose dog has been DNA tested by NPWS but he kept saying he did not know about the penguins. He was not fined.

Recommendation:

That the Council resolution be implemented as soon as practicable.

- i) Extension Critical Habitat – Federation Point
An emergency meeting of the Penguin Recovery Team was organised by NPWS to discuss the extension of the Critical Habitat to Federation Point. The Recovery Team did not reach consensus on this issue. At this stage support for the extension was not forthcoming. Further research and analysis was agreed on and NP&Ws will discuss a Penguin Action Plan in conjunction with Manly Council, the police, penguin wardens and MEC in the near future for implementation for the next season.

- ii) The Committee discussed various options to further protect the Little Penguins at Federation Point from continuing interference by dogs and humans. One option considered worthy of further exploring was predator proof fencing the foreshore area from Federation Point along the Scenic Walkway. The Wildlife Conservancy which is currently working with the Harbour Trust at North Head has expertise in this area.
- iii) The Committee requests that the General Manager examine available options for predator proof fencing and contact the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to seek advice and further information.

ACTION

ITEM 8 MANLY COVE ISSUES AND COASTLINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

a. Loss of Protected Seahorses from Swimming Enclosure Net

Dave Thomas reported that he is still waiting for a meeting with the Deputy General Manager to discuss a permanent solution for the seahorse habitat on the swimming enclosure net.

He noted that there has been a highly significant drop in numbers of this threatened species to between 20 to 40 seahorses.

Councillor Griffin will follow up

b. Protection of Seagrasses in Manly

We understand that there is a new policy now which will need to be enforced to prevent boats anchoring in the seagrass, particularly in Manly Cove West.

It is noted that boat owners have told Penguin Wardens that maps from Maritime show permitted anchoring near the swimming enclosure and over the seagrass.

c. Committee Submission to the Manly cove Coastline Management Plan

Richard Hewitt will pass on the committee's submission.

Recommendation:

That Council write to NSW Fisheries and Maritime to clarify these issues.

ITEM 9 COMMERCIAL USAGE OF CABBAGE TREE BAY

Residents have provided their observations about commercial usage of Shelly Beach over the last year. At least six months of the year, groups of up to 150 school children per session for over 1 hour at a time are occupying the waters and beach area of Shelly Beach. On days where there are three sessions this can amount to 450 students per day at Shelly Beach.

Recommendation:

The General Manager be alerted regarding this increase in commercial activity within the aquatic reserve and its impact on marine life of the area.

GM

ITEM 10 NPWS SYDNEY HARBOUR PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Committee members will form a working group to formulate a submission. Tuesday evening is preferred and committee members should contact Judy Reizes to indicate availability.

ACTION

ITEM 11 NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 9th March, 2011

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

DRAFT



TO: Manly Community Environment Committee

MEETING DATE: 9 March 2011

AUTHOR: Judy Reizes, Community Environment Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT: **MEC and Current Local Environmental Issues Report**

1. INFORMATION

Manly Environment Centre Report

The MEC has worked on the following initiatives:-

Conference Update:

The International Conference for Environment Centres website has been launched. Go to www.mec.org.au to view initial information for the Conference. The final sections of site are being progressed by the web developer.

Meetings and communications are continuing with a wide range of individuals and groups and organisations in relation to participation over the 4 days conference.

Draft letter to Tim Flannery to be a guest speaker at the Conference has been prepared.

INTERNSHIPS:

Yuji Abe from Japan is undertaking an internship for 3 months.
There is a continuous stream of enquiries about internships both international and local.

A number of Duke of Edinburgh students from a variety of local secondary schools will be commencing this month and another is completing by end of February.

A number of work experience students through TAFE have been programmed for this term.

MEETINGS, TALKS, FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Meetings/discussions with the following:

- 1/2/11 Underwater Sydney Website meeting – Council
- 12/2/11 North Head Sanctuary Foundation meeting
- 15/2/11 Earthwatch Meeting held at North Head Sanctuary
- 20/2/11 Talk by Dennis Foley and Fran Bodkin on Aboriginal matters

Visits

Visit by film makers interested in the work of the MEC, following Susan Buchan's visit to the Fairfield sustainable community hall.

Proposed visit arranged for March by new manager of Macarthur Sustainability Centre at Mt. Annan, as well as Campbelltown Council staff. Although the centre opened some years ago, it ceased to exist for some time through lack of interest. They are interested in learning from the MEC and sharing experiences and resources.

2 February 2011 - World Wetlands Day

Guided Tour of Manly Lagoon by Louise Egerton, author of Wildlife Australia was a great success. 25 people were part of this informative tour, including staff from Civic and Urban Services of Council.

18 to 20th February Art Exhibition at Narrabeen

Michael Legge-Wilkinson who has donated artworks to the centre over the years, featured in the Manly Daily with his touring art exhibition of Australia in a bus. He plans to donate a percentage of his sales to Manly Penguin Wardens.

This is where you put the main body of your message including justification through logical and reasoned arguments, and detailed conclusions and recommendations.

Use sub-headings if it helps clarity

The quality of this section depends on the thoroughness of preparation. Don't leave any questions unanswered.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the report be received and noted.

Judy Reizes

**Manager – Community Environment Committee
23 February 2011**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil