



MINUTES OF MEETING
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2011

NOTE: These minutes were adopted at Planning & Strategy Meeting on 7 November 2011, apart from Item 9 – Removal of Stormwater pipe at North Steyne, which is to be referred to Council's Water Cycle Management Team Leader

Councillors

Cathy Griffin
Hugh Burns

Manly Council (Chair)
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Eira Battaglia
Susan Buchan
Diana Deeley
Keelah Lam
Rosie Lempriere
Neil Ohlbach
David Thomas
Lloyd Keen
Angelika Treichler

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Penguin Warden Representative

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Observer

Jodi Adams

Friends of Manly Environment Centre (FOMEC)

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Community Environment Committee met on 19th October, 2011, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN	The meeting commenced at 6.40pm. The Chair welcomed Jodi Adams, Chair, Friends of Manly Environment Centre (FOMEC)	ACTION
ITEM 1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE Richard Hewitt, Jacqueline French and Julie Taylor-Mills.	
ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST Nil.	
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the Committee meeting held 21 st September, 2011	

are confirmed.

**ITEM 4 MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT CENTRES TO CELEBRATE
MEC'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

Implementation of the resolutions from the conference was discussed and it was agreed that:

- FOMEC would be reinvigorated with invitations to interested residents at a public meeting in Manly
- Mark Ogge from Beyond Zero Emissions would give a free presentation to the community.
- FOMEC will liaise with Mark Ogge to arrange a suitable date in conjunction with Nina Burridge
- The Federal Member, Tony Abbott will be invited to be present at the community meeting and presentation by Mark Ogge.

CONFERENCE DEBRIEF MEETING will take place before the next committee meeting and provide a report to the committee.

PENGUINS

Penguin warden reported as follows:

ITEM 5 Wharf Habitat:

At the September meeting it was reported that there was only one penguin pair left at the wharf. Also the coordinators had decided to come out with this sad news, because of the many disappointed spectators who don't get to see any penguins. Even the ones who are there have become very shy.

The Sun Herald printed an article plus a photograph of Stickybeak with his boat propeller scar. It also mentioned the 3 more penguin deaths, 2 killed by boats and one by a dog.

The only remaining breeding pair seems to have 2 chicks, about 3 to 4 weeks old.

Even though we managed to stop the stormwater pipes work last month while the penguins were sitting on eggs, the council managers have decided to go ahead with the work next week for which they have to dig up the sand about 2 to 3 metres away from the burrow where the chicks spend the day while their parents are out foraging. Council staff advised that the work had to be carried out because the strata managers of a block of units at corner Eustace and Gilbert streets threatened the council with court action. Apparently their basement was flooded in August by the higher than normal stormwater flows.

After a site meeting with Council staff I was assured that the penguin protectors, would be permitted to be under the wharf during the 5 days of construction to observe at a safe distance. As soon as one penguin is sighted, the work will stop.

Nevertheless, I am worried that the very last penguin family in Manly Cove West might be driven away by the noise and the disturbance.

Federation Point: No sightings.

Along the Scenic walkway dog owners continue to let their dogs off leash (about 4 to 5 per hour) to let them run free, even down to the rocks of Delwood Beach.

Hoping to get help with this problem, we are meeting with Denise Keen, the founder of the 'Responsible Dog Owners' group. Perhaps education from fellow dog owners will be more convincing than the Penguin protectors' efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Dog Compliance Issues

As dog owners continue to ignore council signage, it is requested that the General Manager meet with the Penguin Protectors to discuss these issues

2. Stormwater Issues at Manly Wharf

The committee expressed concern that Council intends to discharge untreated stormwater into the harbour adjacent to the swimming enclosure. It has been suggested that the foul odours from this stormwater relate to vegetation waste in the stormwater.

The committee requests a set of working drawings.

ITEM 6 LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS

Judy Reizes tabled a map showing Bandicoot sightings in the residential areas from Ashburner Street to the National Park. This GIS map was prepared by skilled volunteers based on records of sightings over the last 15 years. The map was prepared at the request of Council for the new LEP.

ITEM 7 MANLY COVE WEST ISSUES

Seagrass Issues

A draft of the letter to the Minister for the Environment, including EcoDivers underwater photographs of Endangered Posidonia seagrass and Caluerpa infestation was tabled and discussed.

Seahorses

Still awaiting re-erection of seahorse habitat net by Council contractor.

ITEM 8 NATIONAL PARK ISSUES

The committee expressed concern that budget cuts may result in reduced staffing levels which could impact on safety, security and waste management issues in the National Park on North Head

Recommendation:

That Council seek an assurance from National Parks & Wildlife for the following

- The gates continued to be closed each evening in accordance with the signage and as required to protect the wildlife after dusk at North Head, particularly given Bandicoot mortality.
- Collection of waste bins is continued and in particular the removal of litter from Collins Beach.

ITEM 9 REMOVAL OF STORMWATER PIPE AT NORTH STEYNE

The committee and the community continue to be concerned about the impact on the surfbreak and the sandbanks by the removal of this

stormwater pipe.

The committee considers that the groyne effect of the pipe has not been adequately taken into account by either consultant.

It was noted that there are visible changes to the throat of the lagoon with the sand moving inland along the lagoon.

The committee requests that the effectiveness of the low flow pipes exiting by Queenscliff Pool be reviewed

Recommendation:

That Council review the effectiveness of the Low Flow Pipes against the Manly Lagoon Entrance Low-Flow Pipes Extension Statement of Environmental Effects and Monitoring Program and Assessment of Options 1998 to determine whether it is meeting those objectives.

ITEM 10 REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTINGS IN PINE STREET

On the corner of Smith and Pine Street, a mature Casuarina, a local species is being removed to be replaced by Tuckeroo trees, a northern Australian species.

Recommendation:

This mature Casuarina should be retained to ensure biodiversity of species and habitat on the street verges. Planting only tuckaroo trees will create a monoculture of habitat.

ITEM 11 CORAL SEA PROMOTION EVENT

The committee supports this event and associated activities by the Pew Foundation on January 8, on the foreshore adjoining Oceanworld. Oceanworld will also be involved.

ITEM 12 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Tuesday, 15th November, 2011

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Councillors' Room, Manly Council Chambers

Meeting closed at 8.40pm