



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY, 2016

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Hugh Burns

Other Representatives

Sue Matthews

Michella Burgers

Jacqueline French

Lloyd Keen

Rosanna Perillo-Boutin

Jan Ritchie

Janne Seletto

Penguin Warden

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre

Visitor:

Daisy Barham

Campaigns Director, Nature Conservation Council, NSW.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 9 December, 2015, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.10pm.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Natasha Hammond-Deakin, Keelah Lam, Rosie Lempriere, David Thomas.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 9 December, 2015 are confirmed. The minutes were approved by Council at the Planning and Strategy Meeting of the 1 February, 2016.

ITEM 4 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES
That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

ITEM 5 'STAND UP FOR NATURE' – NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY
Daisy Barham, Campaigns Director for the Nature Conservation Council, NSW, gave a comprehensive presentation to the Committee.

This NSW Government proposal will

- rewrite the laws protecting nature across NSW in the city and country and is a threat to Biodiversity
- could lead to broadscale clearing of vegetation
- the biodiversity offsets policy does not require a like-for-like offset, where developers will be able to pay money into a fund in exchange for destroying habitat
- will result in a significant loss of wildlife habitat, release millions of tonne of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, reduce air quality, increase soil erosion and impact water quality in some of our driest regions. Farmlands and city regions alike will suffer.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that Manly Council write to Mr. Baird to seek his commitment to do whatever is in its power to protect existing biodiversity laws and build on them for even more effective laws to fulfill the Government's election promise to enhance outcomes for nature.

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ITEM 6 FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, COUNCIL'S FIRST COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council has advised their various Committees that there are only two further scheduled meetings, ie March and April. However, as some Councillors have successfully recommended that some Committees continue meeting, ie Community Safety Advisory Committee, this Committee requests the Chair, Councillor Burns to recommend that this Committee continue to meet.

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Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that this Committee, the Council's first Community Advisory Committee and is auspiced by the General Manager, continue to meet even in the event of any dismissal of Council or appointment of an Administrator, on the grounds that the matters which the Committee deals with have status with stakeholder groups and are of interest to the community, ie Penguin and Bandicoot Recovery Teams, Penguin Wardens, Taronga Zoo's Project Penguin, NSW Fisheries and Friends of

Cabbage Tree Bay, North Head Sanctuary/Harbour Trust, Sydney Water/North Head Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Committee members should make contact with groups in both Mosman and Warringah to espouse the benefits of a Community Environment Advisory Committee to Greater Manly or Pittwater through interactivity of our community and meeting external obligations.

ITEM 7 25 YEAR CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Last year it was resolved that this combined celebration would be held in September this year.

However, the Government has since stated that with the planned Amalgamation of Councils, that Councils will be dismissed and an Administrator will take over on 1 June, 2016.

Council Committees have also recently been advised that there are only two more meetings of this Committee planned. The Committee believes that it would be preferable to have the celebration in May, 2016.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that the 25 year celebration of this Committee and the MEC should be held no later than May 2016.

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ITEM 8 MEC ECO AWARDS – THURSDAY 17 MARCH

Nominations are open for the 11th Annual MEC Eco Awards and close on 4 March, 2016. Committee members are requested to assist with nominating this year's candidates and/or promoting the Award to others. To download the form go to:

<http://www.mec.org.au/images/2016/NominationFormEcoAward2016.pdf>

ITEM 9 PENGUIN REPORT

Sue Matthews reported that this is the last week of the season as penguins are moulting.

However, she has expressed concern that no progress has been made with securing under the wharf and Wardens are constantly having to alert parents to the danger to their children wandering under the Wharf.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that before next breeding season, access to under the wharf should be limited;

- network with the Lessee and RMS regarding securing under the wharf to prohibit access
- Appropriate and prominent signage should be designed and installed with appropriate words to alert the public to the dangers – “confined spaces, sharp edges, etc.”
- When the area is secured, the penguin monitoring camera

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donated by Sea Life Sanctuary can be reinstalled.

Taronga Zoo has begun already scheduled for April their 10th year of Project Penguin involving hundreds of Peninsula secondary and primary schools. The Manly Wharf Penguins and the book about them are a focal point of Project Penguin's Habitat days for students.

ITEM 10 LONG-NOSED BANDICOOT MORTALITY ON DARLEY ROAD

Awaiting the Minutes of the Recovery Team from the Office of Environment and Heritage.

ITEM 11 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES

It was reported that although the Palm Tree on Shelly Beach was cut down to the ground by mistake, it is now beginning to sprout and staff should encourage it to regrow.

In addition, the Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay and Robynne Millward have reported that there is plenty of shade from other sources around the sign.

ITEM 12 'A MARINE PARK FOR SYDNEY' CAMPAIGN - HAWKESBURY SHELF PLAN

The following campaign actions were reported:

- Join the Paddle Out at Shelly Beach on Valentine's Day on Sunday 14 February.
- Fill out the postcards from the MEC.
- Join the upcoming consultations coming up in March.
- See and hear about 'our Manly underwater treasures who star in the Sydney Marine Park videos' from the filmmaker himself at the Eco Awards on 17 March at Sea Life Sanctuaries.

ITEM 13 NORTH HEAD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ISSUES

a. Odour Forum, Tuesday, 24 November in the Council Chamber at Manly Council from 7pm to 9pm

It was noted that the full 5 page summary of the Forum which appeared in this Committee's 9 December Minutes was sent to Sydney Water. However, Sydney Water's December newsletter reported the Forum as follows:

"Partnership with Manly Council

Last month Manly Council and Sydney Water worked together to hold an evening session with residents from local precincts.

About 25 local residents attended and they had presentations from the plant and Manly Council. The evening then continued with attendees asking a range of questions about odour.

An outcomes report will be written in collaboration with Manly Council. It will outline the evening and provide information on a way forward in 2016. This report should be available in the New Year."

The above statement about attendance and future action is misleading, to quote from the Committee's December Minutes:

'This Forum was organized by MEC staff and Sydney Water. It was well attended by about 30 local people, including representatives

from NPWS, Harbour Trust, North Head Sanctuary Foundation Executive, members of this Committee, representatives from Precincts and residents.

Sydney Water staff included Jennifer Fisher, Kelly Munro, Vanessa Smith, Louise Vorreiter (Sydney Water Head Office) and Ivan Jadric, Acting Manager, NHWWTP.

Cr. Hugh Burns welcomed and introduced the speakers and Matthew Taylor from North Head Sanctuary Foundation facilitated.'

All of the 27 questions raised were listed as well as the next steps and our Committee recommendations were approved by Manly Council on 1 February, 2016. They can be viewed on the Manly Council website at:

<http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/council/council-and-committees/special-purpose-committee-2012---2016/community-environment>

The MEC is sending a communication to all Precincts with a link to the above and asking them to indicate their interest in attending the next Sydney Water Workshop at Council. The MEC will work with Sydney Water to organise a mutually suitable date to which everyone will be invited, contrary to the Sydney Water newsletter.

b. Biosolids Truck Movements

Little Manly Precinct has proposed that the Sydney Water 34 tonne B-double trucks carrying Biosolids run at 8.30pm and 10.00pm. There are 2 trucks in and 2 trucks out per day.

Recommendation:

The General Manager that no change should occur to truck movements until the residents of Darley Road have been consulted and advice sought from the Longnosed Bandicoot Recovery Team and Office of Environment and Heritage.

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ITEM 14 MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NSW

Watch the 4 Corners program on iView at:

<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/four-corners/NC1604H002S00>

The NSW Shark Meshing and Bather Protection Program January 2016 and 5 Year Review is on public Exhibition – Submissions close on 31 March.

Review of Hammerhead Sharks - Hammerhead Shark Harvesting Plan - Proposal to declare an approved wildlife trade operation under Part 13A of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for the **harvest of hammerhead sharks** (*Sphyrna lewini*, *S. mokarran* and *S. zygaena*)

Submissions due 26 February, 2016 Please visit:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/comment/wto-hammerhead-sharks>

- ITEM 15 DRAFT STREET TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**
This Plan is on exhibition on the Council website. Submissions close on 28 February, 2016 which is before some Precincts have met. The exhibition period should be extended until all Precincts have met to ensure that the pallet of trees offered each Precinct is acceptable.

Sue Matthews noted that large street trees provide safe road crossings for possums.

There have been a number of criticisms of the Plan:
Fairy Bower Precinct section has only one picture of tree and it does not include the traditional Cabbage Tree Palms and Moreton Bay Figs.

- ITEM 16 IVANHOE PARK BOTANICAL GARDEN**
The Council kindergarten in the Park is being relocated to the Kangaroo Street Hall.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that it wishes to support the closure and subsequent demolition of the Kindergarten building and restoration of its footprint to include in the Park area.

GM

- ITEM 17 BALGOWLAH FLYING FOX MANAGEMENT PLAN**
This Plan has been on exhibition from 1 February and submissions close on 14 February. Related documents can be viewed at:
<http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/council/public-exhibitions/>

- ITEM 18 QUARANTINE STATION REVIEW**
It was noted that a review of the Quarantine Station Lease is open for public comment on the Department of Planning website until 29 February at:
http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7448

There are many community/North Head stakeholder concerns including:

- the significant expansion of the outdoor eating area of the restaurant and the impact on the Penguins returning to their adjoining nests after dark
- Additional lighting and the playing of amplified music which was prohibited under the existing lease
- Screening vegetation around the penguin nests adjoining this area was “accidentally removed” recently and the area will be replanted
- The nests at Quarantine Station represent about 20% of Manly’s penguin population.
- to discontinue the on-site NPWS Environmental Manager who oversees the site.

The Office of Environment and Heritage have advised that there will be a Community Consultation from 9am to 12noon at the Quarantine Station on Saturday, 20 February, 2016.

Recommendation:**GM**

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that because of the impact on threatened species, the Manly Environment Centre should make a submission.

ITEM 19 MANLY VALE RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

Concerns were raised about the Department of Education's plan to dramatically increase the population of Manly Vale Public School by building new class rooms on what is currently a critical native bush land area containing various threatened species in the Manly Lagoon Catchment area. Should this proceed, there is then a likelihood of even more clearing of native bushland in this vicinity to create a fire buffer zone in the Manly Dam Reserve for the new development. The whole concept was considered an environmentally poor plan for the school's expansion and building on the existing playground area was noted a better option.

The matter has been raised in the Manly Lagoon Catchment Co-ordinating Committee over a number of Meetings.

ITEM 20 CHEMICAL FREE BUSH REGENERATION

This Committee is concerned about recent reports that Monsanto's Roundup which is used extensively by Councils to kill weeds, has a toxic effect on the users.

Accordingly, this Committee will invite Mia Dalby Ball to give a presentation at our next meeting on Chemical Free Bush Restoration.

ITEM 21 NEXT MEETING DATE:

Date: Wednesday 9 March, 2016

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.