



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 10 April, 2013

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Cathy Griffin

Manly Council (Chair)

Other Representatives

Karen Pitt

Penguin Warden

Susan Buchan

Community Member

David Thomas

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Community Member

Lloyd Keen

Community Member

Jan Ritchie

Community Member

Council Staff

Judy Reizes

Manager, Manly Environment Centre.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The **Community Environment Advisory Committee** met on 10 April, 2013, 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

Clr. Hugh Burns, Keelah Lam, Neil Ohlback and Michella Burgers

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ACTION

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held 13th March are confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

It was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting held on 8th of April that the minutes of the COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE of 13th March be adopted.

ACTION

ITEM4 ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY BIDS 2013-14

Eduard McPeake presented the summary of bids to the Committee and the following issues were discussed:

a. **Manly Environment Centre Bids:**

20 th Ocean Care Day	\$18,000 (bid \$22,000)
Bike Life Festival	\$20,000 (bid \$22,000)
Biodiversity Communication Strategy (incl. \$10,000 for Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay)	\$30,000

b. **New Project – Replacement of Protected Seahorse Habitat on Manly Cove Swimming Enclosure**

Council has agreed at their meeting of 8th April to allocate funds for a plan to be developed in stages to attach trampoline style nets to the swimming enclosure structure. The project could take a number of years to complete and grant funding could be sought to assisting in funding project. It would be preferable if the first stage could commence before December this year as the breeding season takes place between March and September.

Council is also considering the possibility of installing similar systems for seahorse habitat in other harbour pools, like Little Manly.

c. **Community Gardens in Manly**

Funds will be available to encourage the development of community gardens in the Manly LGA \$18,000

d. **Fair Trade Markets**

The committee questioned the need to fund the Fair Trade markets from the Environment Levy. The committee requests that Council consider other options for promoting Fair Trade, ie inclusion in the World Food Markets.

ITEM 5 MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES

a. **MEC Report**

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

b. **Day at the Bay, Sunday 21st April at Shelly Beach**

Completed poster was tabled and much admired by the committee. However, they expressed concern that the poster included the Surf City logo and that Manly is being promoted as a City.

The Committee is disappointed in the lateness of the poster, particularly after the successful meeting with Communications staff and members of the Committee.

ACTION

c. **MEC Premises:**

Committee members discussed MEC accommodation and the possibility for the need to relocate should the lease expire on the current premises. The Committee understands that there are not any Council owned properties available in the foreseeable future.

ITEM 6 PENGUINS AT MANLY WHARF

Karen Pitt, Penguin Warden reported on behaviour changes in the one remaining penguin at Manly Wharf.

Judy Reizes advised that after many months of discussion with National Parks and Wildlife, they have prepared a beautiful book on the penguins at Manly Wharf and the role the Penguin Wardens have played over many years in their protection has been completed. The book will be launched at Manly Sea Life Sanctuaries on 1st May. Preliminary comments of teachers involved in Taronga Zoo's Project Penguin this year are very enthusiastic.

ITEM 7 A. NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Letter from Local Member, Mike Baird was tabled stating that he had made representations on Council's behalf to Sydney Water, and attaching the reply from their Managing Director, Kevin Young. Both letters are attached.

Mr Young advised that he would be attending an extra session of the North Head Consultative Committee so that "he could address the issues raised by Council further. Part of this session will also involve examining Sydney Water's monitoring and providing a national/international comparison of licence standards."

Mr Young also suggested that if Council or Clean Oceans Foundation would like to know more about this event, they can contact a specific Sydney Water officer. Committee members would like to take the opportunity of attending this meeting.

Recommendation: that Council request, the Local Member, Mike Baird to facilitate the attendance of members of this committee when the Managing Director of Sydney Water addresses the special meeting of the North Head Consultative Committee.

In addition, a letter from the Robyn Parker, Minister for the Environment, in reply to the concerns raised by Clean Oceans Foundation was tabled. (see attached). To quote from the information provided by the Minister, there were a number of statements which the Committee believes supports Council's view that Sydney Water's Sewage Treatment Plant and Systems are well past their use by date, e.g.

- that "...the EPA considers the performance of Sydney Water Corporation's Northern Suburbs Sewage Treatment System, including the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant to be

appropriate considering the age and design of the infrastructure.”

and

- “There have been several licence non-compliances for the Northern Suburbs STS, mainly relating to overflows from the sewerage network. Dry weather overflows in the network system prior to reaching the treatment plant are usually the **result of blockages and breaks in sewer pipes, often caused by tree roots or pipe failure due to age.**”

ACTION

B. NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ODOUR MANAGEMENT

It was noted that the Local Member, Mike Baird has not responded to Council's request that he make an announcement about the funding allocated to this treatment plant under Sydney Water's \$80 million Odour Management Project. This Project run by Abigroup began in 2010, to reduce the odour impact on the communities around North Head, Malabar and Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plants.

ITEM 8 BUSHLAND PRESENTATION

The committee would welcome a presentation on Council's bushland from Chris Kraus, Bushland Manager.

ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE:
Date: Wednesday 8 May, 2013
Time: 7.00pm.
Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.