



## MINUTES OF MEETING

### Manly Lagoon Catchment Coordinating Committee

**HELD THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

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

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Citizen Members:**

Clr Hugh Burns  
Clr Candy Bingham  
Dr Judy Lambert  
Mr Terrence Murphy  
Mayor, Clr Michael Regan  
Clr Sue Heins  
Dr Helen Wilkins  
Mr Mark Roberts  
Mr Frank Gleason  
Mr Tom Hazell  
Mr Malcolm Fisher

Manly Council (Chairperson)  
Manly Council  
Manly Community Representative  
Manly Community Representative  
Warringah Council  
Warringah Council  
Warringah Community Representative  
Warringah Community Representative  
Warringah Community Representative  
Proxy for the State Member for Manly  
Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee

##### **State Government Representatives:**

Mr Wayne Lyne  
Mr Greg Davis  
Ms Allison Flaxman

Warringah/Pittwater SES Unit  
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage  
Sydney Northern Region SES

##### **Manly Staff Representatives:**

Mrs Christina Femia  
Mr Patrick Stuart  
Mr Eduard McPeake

Water Cycle Management Team Leader  
Catchments Project Officer  
Environmental Programs Manager

##### **Warringah Staff Representatives:**

Mr Adrian Turnbull  
Ms Jodie Crawford  
Mr Jason Ruszczyk  
Mr Todd Dickinson

Coast and Waterways Manager  
Senior Environment Officer - Lagoons  
Environment Officer – Lagoons  
Group Manager Natural Environment

##### **Guest Speakers**

Mr Duncan Howley

Floodplain Management Officer, Warringah Council

##### **Observers** (all observers present may not be listed)

Dr Conny Harris  
Ms Anne Sharp

## TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCILS

The **Manly Lagoon Catchment Coordination Committee (MLCCC)** met on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Manly and Warringah Councils.

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                     |
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| <b>OPEN</b>    | The meeting commenced at 17:00hrs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>ACTION</b>                                                       |
| <b>ITEM 1</b>  | <b>APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b><br>Apologies were received from the following members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Clr, Mayor Jean Hay AM (Manly Council)</li><li>- Mr Norm Nikolich (Sydney Water)</li><li>- Mr Marcel Green (NSW Fisheries)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                     |
| <b>ITEM 2</b>  | <b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b><br>No declarations of interest were received from Committee members or attendees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                     |
| <b>ITEM 3</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b><br>The Minutes of the Committee meeting held 30 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015 are confirmed, subject to the following amendment:<br><br>After some discussion and in light of the alternative below, it was agreed P6. Item 7: Recommendation (part 2) for Manly Council (letter to Crown Lands to transfer the land to a community trust) be removed from Minutes and the item moved to reconsidered as part of the current meeting agenda.<br><br>Moved: Dr Helen Wilkins<br>Seconded: Clr Candy Bingham<br><br>Mayor, Clr Michael Regan arrived at approximately 17:10.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                     |
| <b>ITEM 3a</b> | <b>Crown Land Owned Lots Adjacent to Mermaid Pool</b><br><br>Options for the MLCCC to lobby for land zoning changes with greater environmental protections was discussed for the following four lots identified as Lots 7369 and 7370 in DP 1165551, Lot 7371 in DP 1165577 and Lot 2501 in DP 752038.<br><br>It was noted Warringah Council had been authorised to undertake environmental management works on two of the four lots by the owner, NSW Crown Lands. The Committee discussed recommending the two councils allocate resources to preparing a planning proposal to support the recommended letters to the Minister for Planning.<br><br><b>Recommendation</b><br>Warringah Council provide an update on timeframes for changing the zoning of the 4 lots to environmental zoning.<br><br>The two Mayors write on behalf of the Committee to the Minister for Planning to seek that the four lots be rezoned from R2 to E1 or E2 using Department of Planning resources.<br><br>Amendment moved: Mr Malcolm Fisher<br>Seconded: Dr Frank Gleason | <b>Warringah Council</b><br><br><b>Manly and Warringah Councils</b> |

**ITEM 4      Report – Update on the Manly Lagoon Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan**  
*Submitted by Warringah Council*

Mr Duncan Howley, provided an update on the Manly Lagoon Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. The project has experienced some delays due to data validity issues stemming from a software update, however this issue has been overcome to the satisfaction of all project partners. It was noted a sensitivity analysis will be undertaken on model parameters including sea level rise and other climate change assumptions.

Stage 1 of the project is now continuing. The timing of initial community consultation activities was discussed and is now planned to be conducted in February 2016, after the summer school holiday period. The target completion timeframe for the study was by the end of 2016.

The question was raised whether the manual should be revised to cover tsunami risks, more extreme weather events (eg low pressure system) and climate change risks.

It was noted that tsunami modelling is outside the scope of the study as determined by the NSW Floodplain Development Manual (2005), and that this matter is managed by the NSW SES.

The SES noted they expect to be able to give an update presentation briefing on tsunami data modelling around April next year

Ms Allison Flaxman, provided an update on the Northern Beaches Local Flood Sub-plan, which is being developed by the SES and will include the Manly Lagoon Catchment. It was noted that the SES will give the opportunity for community consultation and the MLCCC to provide informal feedback on the draft plan when appropriate. It was noted that current and future alerts are/will be issued by the SES based on impact areas defined by polygons derived from Council and other best available information.

Mr Eduard McPeake left at 6pm.

**Recommendation**

The information be received and noted.

**ITEM 5      Report – Overview of the Manly West Park Sediment Basin Project and Other Burnt Bridge Creek Water Quality Improvement Programs**  
*Submitted by Manly Council*

Mr Patrick Stuart provided a presentation on the Manly West Park Pollutant Interception Basin Project in lower Burnt Bridge Creek. The basin is designed to capture sediment, organic matter and attached heavy metals and nutrients, before it smothers sea grass and contaminates Manly Lagoon. The project was 50% grant funded by OEH. The basin is fed from a 376 hectare upstream catchment and the flow can be over 16 cubic metres of water per second during a flood event. An overview was given of the extensive design stage and significant challenges the project has overcome. The construction

was successfully completed in May 2015 using a sheet pile structure. Material within the structure (504 tonnes) was successfully excavated in September/October 2015 resulting in the creation of a submerged basin with a storage volume of 285m<sup>3</sup>. The design is based on use of sheet piling. In response to a question, it was noted the drop in water velocity in the trap allows the coarse material to settle out of the flow running through the trap. The project costs and maintenance budgets were explained (total project cost was \$246,000). Committee members expressed support for Councils initiative in installing the sediment basin.

The presentation concluded with a brief summary of other water quality improvement projects solely or primarily managed by Manly Council during the past 5 years since the 2010 ICMS Review.

Projects included the:

- Burnt Bridge Creek Integrated Restoration Project for which the councils won awards, aspects of the project included;
  - o Bush regeneration
  - o Various education projects
  - o Stormwater harvesting dam in Balgowlah Golf Course
- Manly Lagoon Dredging Project;
- Duck Weir Sediment Cleanout;
- Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) cleaning (noting 60% are in the Lagoon catchment) including review of frequency;
- Rain-gardens and Water Harvesting;
- Active Sewer Leak Detection in storm water pipes by analysing the water for ammonia and bacteria; and
- Water Sensitive Urban Design Policies and Planning in the Manly LEP and DCP (2013).

See Attachment 2 for the presentation slides.

Clr Candy Bingham, Ms Allison Flaxman, Mr Wayne Lynne, Mr Malcolm Fisher left the meeting at approximately 18:20. Mr Malcolm Fisher requested that the Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee be represented by Ms Anne Sharp for the remainder of the meeting.

It was noted that the rate of sediment refilling of the 2.2m deep basin up to the current creek invert level will be monitored. Maintenance budget had been allocated though Manly Council's Environment Levy for one cleanout per year (subject to approval each subsequent year).

### **Recommendation**

That the information be received and noted.

## **ITEM 6      Report - Update on the Manly Lagoon Integrated Catchment Management Strategy (ICMS) Action Matrix** *Submitted by Warringah Council and Manly Council*

Warringah and Manly staff have met to assess the progress of actions identified in the Manly Lagoon Integrated Catchment Management Strategy (2005), reported to the Committee as an Action Matrix (see Attachment 2). Reviews of the Action Matrix have previously been undertaken in 2006, 2010 and 2012. Significant progress has been made with 79 of the 84 actions completed or underway. The remaining five actions are tasks which have been considered non-viable for various reasons, including changes in

science and technology, improved understanding of estuary and flood processes, and unavoidable loss of support from partners. Further discussion is contained within the Action Matrix.

The matter of not dredging of the lagoon around Pittwater road bridge was discussed including noting past dredging at this location. The issue clarified that dredging was not considered beneficial enough to warrant the cost. The issue of communication of outcomes was discussed. The issue of any dredging at the bridge was that it may benefit the many properties at risk of flooding upstream but is expected to increase risk to properties downstream.

In light of the success of the Strategy and the high number of completed actions, The Manly Lagoon Catchment Coordinating Committee may recommend that Warringah and Manly Councils formally complete the ICMS, and initiate discussion on a new iteration for future management of the Manly Lagoon Catchment. If this avenue is pursued, it is recommended the document have a catchment focus, and that objectives are values based and evidence driven. It is suggested that Manly and Warringah staff investigate planning and funding opportunities with OEH.

It was requested by the Committee that Documentation of 2004 ICMS, (including Volume 1 and 2), be distributed to committee members (see Attachment 3). The completed ICMS (2004) be included in an induction for new committee members.

At the relevant stage in the process of creating a new Management Strategy, it was noted that the MLCCC anticipated the following items would be considered during the scoping stage (Manly and Warringah staff to action):

- The staff compile a literature review of latest research and reports to inform the committee's forward planning, including community attitudes and the built environment.
- The action evaluation matrix shall consider social, environmental, economic, recreational values.
- That community consultation be used to develop the new planning documentation.
- The completed ICMS be made part available as part of future induction to new committee members
- Consult MLCCC Members and allow input for the updated Management Strategy and new action matrix for implementation.
- It was considered there was a need to form a stakeholder consensus of a guiding vision between the mission statement and the plan, to outline the uses of the various parts of the lagoon to do and be for.
- A request was made for an evaluation column to be included in the reporting framework.
- The staff noted there needed to be plans of potential projects and actions including feedback from the community. There needs to be a weighted evaluation matrix of criteria (eg aesthetics/amenity) for potential projects. The need for a balance between restoration to original pristine condition vs what looks attractive was noted. The need for a higher level more holistic view was raised.
- Ideas should be forwarded to our secretariat for circulation to both Council's staff.

### **Recommendation**

That the original strategy documentation for the ICMS be circulated to the committee between now and the next meeting.

**Manly  
Council**

In light of the success of the Strategy and the high number of completed actions, it is recommended that Warringah and Manly Councils consider the ICMS complete, and initiate discussion on a new iteration for future management of the Manly Lagoon Catchment. It is recommended the new management document have a catchment focus, and that objectives are values based and evidence driven. It is suggested that Manly and Warringah staff investigate planning and funding opportunities with OEH.

**Manly and  
Warringah  
Councils**

That the information be received and noted.

## **ITEM 7      General Business**

### **7.1 Update on Possible Threats to Bushland Surrounding Manly Warringah Memorial Park (Manly Dam)**

*Submitted by Mr Malcolm Fisher*

Mr Mark Roberts and Dr Judy Lambert left at approximately 19:10.

Regarding the potential sell off of Sydney Water land at Seaforth was discussed. It was noted that as of the last update given to Committee Members, Sydney Water sale of reservoir land at Seaforth has been put on hold. Committee Members expressed an interest in receiving an update from Sydney Water and the Premier on any plans for future sale for the site.

Regarding the proposed lease of land by Warringah Council at Aquatic Reserve The assessment report is being reviewed and Warringah council will provide an update at the next MLCCC Meeting on the Aquatic Reserve site. Community members noted they remained concerned about this matter.

Concern was again raised by community members about the proposed Manly Vale School Development and its footprint into remnant bushland. It was considered the department were not addressing or considering the critical issues involved with the plans (eg placement and fire protection and possibly threatened species on the site.) A brief update was provided on the assessment process of the Crown development application for the School. A view was expressed by a community representative that it is considered desirable for an appropriate state government agency to conduct a higher strategic review on the project to ensure the project is meeting environmental statutory requirements.

Road extensions associated with the Frenchs Forest Hospital Development were mentioned in regards to their impact on local bushland.

It was requested that Council Staff suggest recommendations for each item in future MLCCC agendas.

**Recommendation**

That the drafted letter recommended at the July 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 MLCCC meeting, expressing concern for the Proposed Manly Vale School Development, be sent to the following people:

- Minister for Infrastructure, Premier of NSW, the Hon. Mike Baird;
- Minister for Planning, the Hon. Rob Stokes;
- Minister for Lands and Water the Hon. Niall Blair; and
- Minister for Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli.

**7.2 Update from Sydney Water**

*Submitted by Sydney Water*

The Committee was notified that the October 2015 written update from Sydney Water providing information on relevant projects will be attached to the Meeting Minutes.

See Attachment 4 for the Sydney Water MLCCC update for October 2015.

**Recommendation**

That the information be received and noted.

**7.3 Administration of MLCCC Meetings**

Councillor Sue Heins made a request that MLCCC meetings be recorded for production of the minutes. Cllr Hugh Burns informed the Committee that he had previously made such a request to Manly Council staff to have the meetings recorded but this had been declined for this meeting. Council staff advised at this stage it was intended to assist future proceedings by pre-drafting recommendations.

**Recommendation**

That the information be received and noted.

**7.4 Assistance with Bush Regeneration in the Mermaid Pool Precinct.**

Dr Helen Wilkins advised the Committee that the Bushlink Organisation had been contacted regarding bushland management in the lots surrounding Mermaid Pool, however, Bushlink have initially advised that management of bush regeneration on this land by them was not viable and that seed funding needed to be sought.

**Recommendation**

The assistance of the MEC be sought towards preparing a submission to seek grant funding for an on-going restoration program covering the four sites.

**General Manager's Note:**

It is not appropriate for a specific section of Manly council to be recommended to seek grant funding for a site outside the Manly Local Government Area.

**ITEM 8    NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**Date:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**Time:** 5pm

**Venue:** Manly Council Chambers

Following the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 meeting, the subsequent meeting is proposed for 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Meeting closed at 19:30hrs