



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER, 2013

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

Other Representatives:

Michella Burgers

Community Member

Diana Deeley

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Lloyd Keen

Community Member

Keelah Lam

Community Member

Jan Ritchie

Community Member

Dave Thomas

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 11 December, 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

Karen Pitt, Susan Buchan, Natasha Hammond-Deakin, Neil Ohlbach.

ITEM 2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	The minutes of the Committee meeting held 13 November, 2013 are confirmed.	ACTION
ITEM 4	MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES	That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 5	MONITORING OF NORTH HEAD LONGNOSED BANDICOOTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA PROJECT	This item will be deferred to the next meeting – February, 2014.	
ITEM 6	PENGUIN WARDEN REPORT	There was no penguin report.	IFBM
ITEM 7	ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY	The Committee supports the submission of a bid for the implementation of the Draft Precinct Street Tree Plan. This will be considered in the context of all other bids. Manly's Environmental Levy started in 1994 and it was one of the first Councils to have an Environmental Levy separate to the rates. The environmental levy criteria for projects remains unchanged. The Committee supports bids that meet the criteria and the Committee considers the Precinct street Tree Plan meets the criteria for consideration. Concern was expressed about severe pruning of the fig trees in Sydney Road.	
ITEM 8	COUNCIL PROPERTY AT 34 STUART STREET	Committee members expressed their concern at the proposal to move the Manly Environment Centre to 34 Stuart Street. The Committee believes that the Manly Environment Centre should remain as a shopfront in the Central Business District as per the requirements previously agreed to. Council should consider accommodation of other community groups at this property. Recommendation: This Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is concerned at the proposal to move the Manly Environment Centre to 34 Stuart Street • Believes that the Manly Environment Centre should remain as a shopfront in the Central Business District as per the requirements previously agreed to. • Requests that Council consider the accommodation of other community groups at this property. 	

ITEM 9 SYDNEY WATER ISSUES

a. Sydney Coastal Councils and the Future of Sewage Treatment in Sydney

This Committee supports the work of Sydney Coastal Councils and its advocacy for ending ocean outfalls.

15 Coastal Councils have agreed to conduct a scoping exercise in February with a Workshop in March to discuss the future of Sewage Treatment in Sydney.

Lloyd Keen tabled a paper by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering "Water Recycling – Time for a New Paradigm to Preserve a Valuable Resource". This concludes that Sydney will run out of water in the next ten years and re-use will be essential. Copies will be sent out to the Committee.

b. North Head WWTP REF for Replacement of Odour Scrubber

MEC prepared and forwarded submission on behalf of Manly Council and this Committee by the extended closing date of 22nd November. Copies have been forwarded to the Local Member and Manager for Infrastructure, EPA.

Sydney Water have advised that this submission will be part of the Decisions Report which will become available in the new year.

A number of Precinct Groups have expressed their concern to Council staff about the inadequacy of the plans detailed in the REF and have requested that Council take their concerns to the Local Member.

Recommendation:

Council write to the local member to express the concerns of a number of Precincts that the REF Odour Scrubber Proposal is a totally inadequate solution to a significant long term problem which has been the subject of an Ombudsman's Report.

In order to clarify the issue and what it means for Manly, Lloyd Keen will raise these matters at the Joint Precincts Forum in the new year.

c. Meeting at North Head WWTP on 21st November to Discuss Progress with their Voluntary Audit in 2012

Although this meeting was scheduled for 30 minutes it lasted for nearly 3 hours. Attendees from Sydney Water were Plant Manager, Kel Taylor and Community Relations Officer Jennifer Fisher and seven community representatives, including members of this committee, as well as North Head Sanctuary Foundation.

It would appear that emptying and cleaning out the sedimentation tanks without any precautions re odour impacts on the community is a weekly event. Community members pointed out that they had already experienced odours when that happened. However, Kel Taylor said that the H2S

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monitors which have been installed around North Head had not recorded high levels. He displayed a number of these portable monitors in the meeting room. However, although there was a strong odour in the meeting room, the monitors did not record any levels of H2S at all.

Meeting notes including future actions which were provided by Sydney Water were extremely brief and inconclusive. They did record our suggestion that a better way of recording community complaints be investigated.

Recommendation:

Write to Sydney Water stating that after observing the poor performance of the H2S monitors in the meeting room, committee members do not have confidence in their ability to detect odours at North Head.

JR to draft letter for approval.

ITEM 10 CABBAGE TREE BAY ISSUES UPDATES

• **Friends of Cabbage Tree Bay**

Over 49 new people signed up on Ocean Care Day.

Volunteer Program and End of Year Thank You

New volunteers are being followed up.

The Volunteer Program is having a positive effect on people's behaviour.

As a MEC Volunteer Thank You, Dave Thomas from Ecodivers will conduct a snorkeling tour for them which will be followed by a morning tea at LeKiosk.

• **Designated Swimming Zone**

Council should confirm with RMS the area that Manly Council has authority over as this appears to be a large portion of the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve and therefore Manly Council may be able to manage the process of exhibiting the proposal and implementing it itself. (This information is in the LEP document maps). RMS could then be asked to implement the proposal for the area that they control which appears to be in the centre of the Aquatic Reserve.

Recommendation:

- That the committee continues to seek that Cabbage Tree Bay be a designated swimming zone within the Reserve boundary.
- That Council develop a proposal with RMS for exhibition
- That Council investigate Council Rangers being given an exchange of powers with RMS (as already exists with Fisheries).

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Dogs

- It was noted that Rangers using a scanner were able to identify the owner of a dog on the beach, because of unpaid fines of \$500.

Council should continue to enforce "no dogs on beach reserves and rocks".

ITEM 11 NORTH HARBOUR SEAHORSE AND SEAGRASS ISSUES - UPDATE

a. Community Consultation on Nomination for Protection of Posidonia Seagrass Meadows as an Endangered Ecological Community Under the EPBC Act

Council staff have advised that this will be on exhibition until 16th February, 2014. For more information google "listing of posidonia under EPBC Act"

Committee members are encouraged to make a submission.

Recommendation:

That this committee strongly endorses the listing of Posidonia Seagrass Meadows as an Endangered Ecological Community under the EPBC Act.

JR to draft submission.

b. Manly Cove Seagrass Issues

Council should write to RMS and:

- thank them for installing the seagrass-friendly moorings and request that they encourage compliance by policing them over the holiday season.
- Put out a press release explaining the reason for the buoys as it was noted that boat owners are still tying their boats up to the swimming enclosure pylons.

JR to draft letter for approval.

c. Manly Cove Seahorses

Dave Thomas will carry out a seahorse count next week.

ITEM 12 HUGOS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON MANLY WHARF

The Committee strongly objects to Hugo's proposed extension of their restaurant facilities onto the public area on Manly Wharf and endorses Vivian Coulson's letter to the General Manager.

ITEM 13 GOVERNMENT CUTS TO SCIENTIFIC STAFF AT AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Recommendation:

That Council write to local federal and state members expressing concern regarding severe cutbacks in the scientific staff at the Australian Museum. This will affect a lot of the Museum's scientific studies related to the harbour.

It is suggested that a petition be set up on the Cabbage Tree Bay Facebook site.

JR to draft letter for approval.

ITEM 14 Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday 12 February, 2014

Time: 7.00pm.

Venue: Manly Council Chambers.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm