



**ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES NOTES FOR 10 JUNE 2015** The Meeting Notes for the Meeting of 10 June 2015, which are attached, were confirmed.

**ITEM 4 Powerpoint Presentation by Beth Medway, Ecological Australia on their Management Plan for the Balgowlah Grey-headed Flying Fox (GHFF) Camp Management Plan (see attached).**

The following significant issues included in the Plan and presentation were highlighted by Beth and discussed by the Committee:

- **Overview of the colony:**  
Established in 2010 and is now made up of around 6000 individuals.  
Site is accessible to the public.
- **Policies and laws** – listed as vulnerable to extinction under the TSC Act and EPBC Act. – Significant reduction in numbers, ongoing threats, keystone species, e.g. pollination & seed dispersal. Council needs to manage the camp in accordance with NSW Govt. Flying Fox Camp Management Policy (March 2015).
- **What are the issues** – there is a lot of media attention and misinformation. Neighbours have concerns about noise, odour, faecal drop, and disease, eg. Lyssavirus, Hendra virus.
- **Other Issues affecting camp numbers:** Flying foxes move around, habitat availability, dispersals from elsewhere, camp sustainability, eg weed infestation, tree dieback, heat stress events.
- **Actions Adopted by Council:**
  - Protect and manage the colony in situ.
  - Obtain a 5 year licence from OEHL to cover routine maintenance activities such as mowing, bush regeneration and Gross Pollution Trap maintenance.
  - Obtain a 132C licence for bush regeneration activities at the site.
  - Educate the community (e.g. using signage).
  - Support ongoing monitoring by Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.
  - Respond promptly to issues raised, by monitoring data and the community.
- **Other options – Buffers, Nudging or Dispersal:**  
It might not work. Dispersal needs ongoing effort, which impacts neighbours, is very expensive and can cause problems elsewhere.

Dispersal programs in the Sydney area were discussed in detail and given the high costs, the uncertain results and the impacts on the bats, dispersal is an expensive option. As regards a buffer, we need to consider potential destabilisation of creek bank.

- **Community Involvement**
  - A Community Engagement Strategy is essential.
  - Council should share basic knowledge with the community about the importance of the bats as a keystone species and what to do if a sick or injured bat is found, ie contact WIRES.
  - Monitor bat numbers.
  - Don't use loose fruit netting.
  - Plant flowering gums for bats to forage.
  - Help during heat stress events.
  - As examples of positive public involvement, Wollie Creek Preservation Society have been monitoring the fly out in their area and it is possible that similar community activities are happening in Lane Cove.
  
- **Emphasis should be on the unique and critical role that Flying Foxes play in our ecosystem**, providing a "free" pollination and seed dispersal service to various tree species. Bats can travel 100km in a single evening to source the freshest seasonal produce, consisting of a huge range of native fruits and blossoms. Honey bees by their very size are confined to areas closer to their hives.
  
- **Signage** can play a vital role in communicating with the community. The MEC presented a draft of suggested informational signage.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This Committee recommends that Manly Council should:

- a. Have a public exhibition of the Management Plan for the Balgowlah Grey-head Flying Fox Camp.
- b. Prepare a Community Engagement Strategy with an emphasis on facilitating the public's understanding of the unique role the Flying Fox plays in pollinating and seed dispersal of vegetation over an area of up to 100km per night, compared to the small range of bees.
- c. Evaluate the research which has been done by other communities in relation to education and management.

**ITEM 5 MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES**

That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.

The Committee were advised that there is a great display of local Birds woven by the community for this year's Guringai Festival on the Queenscliff Bridge.

**IBM**

**ITEM 6 Membership of the Committee**

The Committee accepted the resignation of Diana Deeley with regret. The Committee unanimously expressed its appreciation and thanks to Diana for her years of service with the Environment Committee.

Diana has been a member of this Committee since July 2004 and has had an excellent attendance record. Since her move up the coast, Diana has been unable to attend meetings, however, this Committee would like to extend an invitation to her attend when she is in town.

There is now a vacancy on the Committee and the Committee requests that Council advertises the position.

**ITEM 7 Progress on Fisheries Regulatory Signage for Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve**

All completed signage panels from Signmaker have been received by Council and construction of the signage frames is progressing. Plans for installation of the signs have yet to be finalised.

**Recommendation:**

Lloyd Keen will contact the Premier's Office regarding a suitable date for him to officially launch the signs. Fisheries NSW staff are likewise contacting the Minister for Fisheries.

IBM

**ITEM 8 25 Year Celebration of Community Environment Advisory Committee**

Committee members are asked to bring further ideas for our celebration in November to the next meeting

**ITEM 9 Plastic Free July Update**

Robynne Millward will conduct one of the Video Conferencing sessions for schools on the theme of Plastic Free July.

**ITEM 10 Sydney Water Issues**

**a. Talk by Sydney Water about Odour Issues from North Head Sewage Treatment Plant at North Head Sanctuary Foundation on Wednesday, 29 July at 7pm, Bandicoot Heaven, North Head Sanctuary.**

The Plant Manager, James Fearey and Technical Officer. Louise Vorreiter will be giving a talk about an App they are designing for the community to report sewage odours. All welcome.

Committee members noted that the Whistler Street Sewage Pumping Station was very odorous at 6.50pm recently.

**b. Sydney Water Sewer Overflow Workshops**

Judy Reizes and a member of the North Head Sanctuary

Foundation attended the first of three workshops for our region at Chatswood. There will be a further 2 workshops.

**ITEM 11 Manly's Penguins**

**a. Penguin Warden Report**

Sue Matthews is the new Penguin Warden Representative. Along with other Penguin Wardens, she has been assisting NPWS in protecting the penguins from fox attack on North Head.

Penguin Wardens are continuing at Manly Wharf. One pair of penguins have been at Manly Wharf for about 3 to 4 weeks.

**b. 10-10a Addison Road, Manly**

The prosecution of the owner and the architect over works carried out in the Little Penguin Critical Habitat at 10 Addison Road is proceeding in the Land and Environment Court. The matter is scheduled for hearing from 24 August - 4 September.

**ITEM 12 Progress Report on Longnosed Bandicoot Monitor Residential Area.**

Catherine Price from Sydney University will give a presentation to this Committee at the August Meeting.

**ITEM 13 Sydney Marine Park Update / Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion**

The NSW Government is considering greater marine protection for the Sydney region and Dave Thomas reported that he has been involved in one of the consultations.

Last November, the Manly Environment Centre and Student Interns played a significant role in the Sydney Marine Park Conference organised by the National Parks Association. Since then a further number of Student Interns have been researching and preparing information on local marine species to support the need for protection of Sydney Harbour.

You can have your say and sign a letter to Rob Stokes and the Hon. Mark Speakman at

[www.marineconservation.org.au/petition.php/38/Sydney-marine-park](http://www.marineconservation.org.au/petition.php/38/Sydney-marine-park) on the Australian Marine Conservation Society website.

**ITEM 14 NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**Date: Wednesday 12 August, 2015.**

**Time: 7.00pm.**

**Venue: Manly Council Chambers.**

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.