



MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER, 2015

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Hugh Burns

Chair

Other Representatives

Sue Matthews

Penguin Warden

Michella Burgers

Community Member

Jacqueline French

Community Member

Natasha Hammond-Deakin

Community Member

Rosanna Perillo-Boutin

Community Member

Jan Ritchie

Community Member

Janne Seletto

Community Member

David Thomas

Community Member

GUEST PRESENTERS:

Melanie Tyas

NPWS

Sharnie Connell

No Shark Cull

VISITORS:

Aida Copeland

Community Member

Rosie Lempriere

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 14 October, 2015 to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

ACTION

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Lloyd Keen, Keelah Lam.

ITEM 2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	ACTION
	Nil.	
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES NOTES FOR 9 SEPTEMBER, 2015	
	The Minutes for the meeting of 9 September, 2015 were confirmed at the Manly Council meeting of 6 October, 2015.	
ITEM 4	MEC REPORT and MANLY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ISSUES	
	That the monthly MEC Report as tabled be accepted.	
ITEM 5	PENGUINS	
	a. Foxes on North Head	
	Mel Tyas from NPWS gave a comprehensive rundown on the fox attacks on penguins on North Head and future security planning. It was noted that the fox kills of Penguins now total 27 birds. Security plan includes:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to Base Cameras • Fox lights • Increased signage including: Report all Fox sightings and About dogs and penalties apply • Self closing gate at the hole in the wall on the Shelly Beach track, with warning signs about heavy penalties for taking dogs into the National Park. Security cameras show that this is the most popular entrance for dog owners with dogs. • A fox-proof fence was considered but providing access through the fence for Bandicoots without foxes taking advantage of it was fraught with difficulties and abandoned. 	
	b. Manly Wharf	
	Sue Matthews reported that there is one breeding pair under the Wharf and:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that better security arrangements need to be made to: prevent people getting underneath Manly Wharf and interfering with the Penguins, • and for the installation of a working camera so that wardens can monitor Penguins. 	
	c. Award for Penguin Wardens	
	At the recent Keep Australia Beautiful Awards held in Manly, a well-deserved Award was presented to Manly's Penguin Wardens.	
	<p>Recommendation: In view of the recent KABC Award to Manly's Penguin Wardens that Council erect a plaque on the promenade near the Manly Wharf Penguin habitat about the award and the long years of service of the volunteer Penguin wardens.</p>	

IBM

ITEM 6 MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NSW

a. Shark Summit at Taronga Zoo

Sharnie Connell from No NSW Shark Cull briefed the Committee on the Shark Summit held at Taronga Zoo. This was attended by 70 Shark Experts from around the world to discuss the best technologies available to stop shark attacks. They also discussed the results of the review and discussed ways to develop other ideas, including bubble curtains, shark repellent cables and personal shark shields.

The summit was called after a number of attacks and sightings in New South Wales this year, including a fatal attack on a Japanese surfer at Ballina on the North Coast in February.

An independent review into shark deterrent technologies commissioned by the NSW Government, identified a number of options for potential trials in NSW waters, including electrical and physical barriers, sonar detection and tracking.

Websites: nonswsharkcull.net and nosharkcull.net

Lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Sydney, Dr Christopher Neff is among speakers and said netting and culling sharks would be out of step with public opinion. He said that new research showed more than 80 per cent of people in the Ballina and Byron shires are opposed to killing sharks. "The data that I've seen for the last years, whether it's from Sydney or whether it's in Cape Town or whether it's in Ballina have all said 'don't kill the sharks.'

The scientists attending were from South Africa, Hawaii and North America where great white sharks are prominent.

Some of the technologies discussed were:

Clever Buoy – uses Spatial Recognition pattern of sharks - \$350,000 for 1 kilometre of beach.

Present cost of meshing is \$200,000 per month or \$1,500,000 per annum.

Beach nets are not really functioning well and are considerably less than the length of all beaches, e.g. Manly Beach is 1,500 metres long and the total length of the 3 nets is only 450 metres; Avalon Beach is 500 metres long and the net is only 150 metres and Stockton Beach is 32 kilometres long and the net is only 150 metres. In any case there have been 40 incidents on meshed beaches.

The scientists confirmed that Sharks are an apex predator and have roamed the world's oceans for hundreds of millions of years and have become essential to maintain the health of marine ecosystems. It is estimated that there has been a loss of 80 to 90% of the shark population. Scientific research has proven beyond doubt that their role as top predator is key to the functioning of complex food webs and the continued existence of environments from coral reefs to seagrass meadows. An example given to illustrate this was the unintended consequences of removing wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Deers proliferated with the resulting destruction of vegetation with the subsequent erosion causing serious issues.

See also Attachments provided by Sharnie Connell.

b. Submission to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry Into Management of sharks in NSW Waters from Manly Environment Centre. Closing date: Friday 23 October, 2015.

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/91CF190BC9907D72CA257EAE00095FAD>

Headings are as follows:

- i. The impact of shark attacks on tourism and related industries
- ii. Changes in shark numbers, behaviour or habitat
- iii. Adequacy of Management Strategies
- iv. Measures to Prevent Attacks by Sharks Including Strategies Adopted in other Jurisdictions.

It was noted that the MEC submission should address these issues in the above order.

Dave Thomas advised sharks would not normally come in close to the beach but they could be attracted by the smell of dead marine animals or fish caught on hooks or in the shark nets. These are often deliberately attracted by burleying around nets and drum lines. Research shows that only 30% of the species caught in the nets are target species with 70% being non-target species. In Manly our much loved Dusky Whalers are unprotected and are regarded as target species.

For further information on shark attacks visit:

www.sharkattackfile.net/spreadsheets/GSAF5.xls

ITEM 7 Manly's Threatened Populations of Bandicoots and Penguins and the NSW Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel
For further information and to register your interest go to:
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/index.htm>

For further information read the Humane Society's 'Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030' – An Independent Review of Progress at www.hsi.org.au/assets/ublications/ABCS_review_2015.pdf.

And "A Review of Biodiversity Legislation in NSW" December 2014 by Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel, Dr. Neil Byron, Dr. Wendy Craik, Dr. John Keniry and Professor Hugh Possingham.

ITEM 8 Seahorse Colony in Manly Cove

Dave Thomas reported that he conducted a recent survey on the Manly swimming enclosure net and there were 72 seahorses, 40 females, 32 males and 5 juveniles. Only 10 were tagged.

ITEM 9 25 Year Celebration of Community Environment Advisory Committee and Manly Environment Centre

Judy Reizes will prepare a project sheet for a joint Celebration next year.

ITEM 10 Sydney Marine Park Information Night at Manly on 29 October, 2015 at the Boathouse, Shelly Beach. Cost \$38.00.

This evening is being organised by the peak groups involved in the Sydney Marine Park project.

It is a 'gathering of community leaders, local business owners and passionate ocean users coming together to celebrate Manly's unique marine life and hear about the opportunity for a Sydney Marine Park to protect our incredible coastal lifestyle for the future'.

See the wonderful local short film "My Saltwater Sanctuary" and hear from experts and high-profile local supporters.

**ITEM 11 Sydney Water Issues:
Meeting at Manly Council Chambers re Odours on Tuesday 24 November from 7pm to 9pm**

This has been approved by the General Manager and the Precinct Officer advised so that she can inform the Precincts.

A meeting is planned with Sydney Water to discuss the format for the evening and program of speakers.

**ITEM 12 NEXT MEETING DATE:
Date: Wednesday 11 November, 2015.
Time: 7.00pm.
Venue: Manly Council Chambers.**

Meeting closed at 10.00pm.