

Environment Levy Programs 2012/13

REPORT ON LEVY FUNDED PROGRAMS

Biodiversity Program

Threatened Species Program

Manly Council continued implementation of the Threatened Species Program during 2012/13 with particular focus on the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) and Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Parameles nasuta*) Programs.

The Little Penguins and Long-nosed Bandicoots are endangered populations found in Manly LGA.

Little Penguins

Council worked with a range of stakeholders to undertake a range of Little Penguin habitat protection and improvement works and initiatives including:

- Penguin protection signage at Little Manly
- Re-design and installation of improved penguin protection barrier at Manly Wharf;
- Creation of a photographic GIS layer of the state/condition of Little Penguin Critical Habitat around Manly Point.
- Preparation of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Council and NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage for co-management of the Volunteer Penguin Warden Program.

Long-nosed Bandicoots

Council continued to undertake actions and responsibilities outlined in the Draft Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Program including commencement of the Long-nosed Bandicoot Education, Research, Monitoring and Community Engagement Project in partnership with Sydney University. This project aims to better understand the ecology of the endangered Long-nosed Bandicoot population living in the urban-residential area of Manly's Eastern Hill in Manly and to engage the community in its conservation.

This Project entailed development of an online survey for Eastern Hill residents (over 150 completed), media realises, project presentations at Manly Precinct and Community Environment Committee meetings and administration of project social and digital media. It also involved bandicoot trapping and micro-chipping within the urban area of Eastern Hill (conducted in November 2012 and March 2013) to gain more information about the species living within the urban environment of Eastern Hill.

In November, a total of 21 bandicoots were recorded with 17 new animals and 4 recaptures from previous trapping sessions. In March, a total of 31 bandicoots were recorded with 19 new animals and 12 re-captures from previous trapping sessions. Preliminary results indicate that the Long-nosed Bandicoot living in the urban area of

Eastern Hill are likely to constitute approximately 15-20% of the total endangered population at North Head.

Other aspects included radio tracking of females to attempt to locate nesting sites and habitat manipulation experiment to see whether the activity of bandicoots can be changed by using simple garden techniques such as mulching.

Council intends to continue trapping and monitoring of the urban population in 2013/14 following the completion of the Project.



Photo: Bandicoot trapping on Manly's Eastern Hill

Council also continued it's active involvement in the Little Penguin and Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Teams and progressed the direction of a Biodiversity Study and Strategy for Manly LGA.

Coastal Management Program

Estuary Hazards Study for Clontarf/Bantry Bay area

The Estuary Hazards Study is a technical study to advise the planned Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary (Middle Harbour). This project is a High priority action of Council's adopted Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan.

The study will assess current and future hazards including projected sea level rise, beach erosion, shoreline recession, coastal inundation, tsunami risk and slope instability hazards. The impacts of these hazards on estuarine habitats, storm water systems, public access and other critical infrastructure such as sea walls will also be assessed.

The study is expected to be completed over 12 months. The allocated budget is \$81 000, which is to be funded 50% by the State Government and 50% through Council's Environment Levy.

Tsunami induced erosion took place at Clontarf Reserve in May 1960



Seawalls are features along beachfront residences at Monash Crescent



Estuary Health Assessment for Middle Harbour along the foreshore of Manly LGA

The Estuary Health Assessment is a technical study to advise the planned Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary (Middle Harbour) and is also an action of the adopted Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan.

The Estuary Health Assessment will describe the components of the estuarine ecosystem, the key biological, physical and/or chemical processes and interactions and the key pressures impacting on estuarine processes and estuary health. It will assess the status of the estuary health through monitoring of indicators, e.g. phytoplankton biomass, seagrass and mangrove extent. The project will work in partnership with the Sydney Metropolitan CMA's 'Sydney Harbour Catchment Water Quality Improvement Plan'.

The study is expected to be completed over two years. The allocated budget is \$101,000, which is to be funded 50% by the State Government and 50% through Council's Environment Levy.

Mangroves at Powder Hulk Bay



Intertidal Fauna at Castle Rock Beach { SHAPE * MERGEFORMAT }

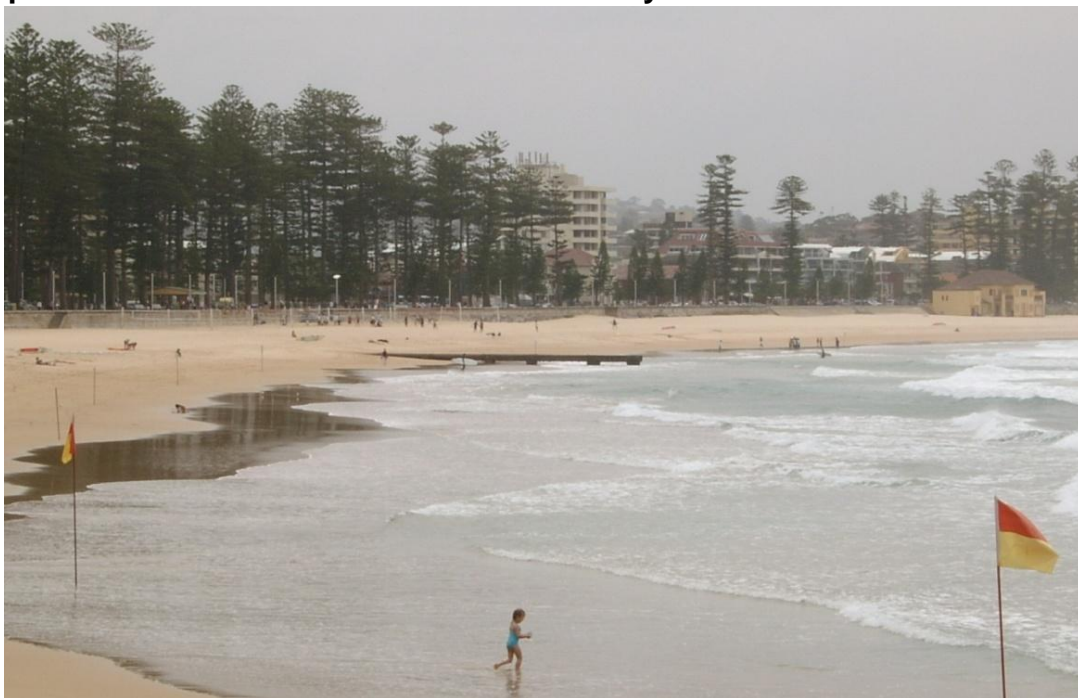
Coastal Zone Management plan for Manly Ocean Beach and Emergency Action Sub-Plan

This project aims to update the existing Coastal Zone Management Plan and Emergency Action Sub-Plan for Manly Ocean Beach with new legislative requirements and to consolidate with other relevant plans and studies, including Cabbage Tree Bay Management Plan for Aquatic Reserve.

The plan area extends along the coastal foreshore from Queenscliff to Cabbage Tree Bay. It will identify coastal hazard risk areas, based on the latest projections of sea level rise, including areas vulnerable to inundation and coastal erosion and devise measures necessary to respond to risks.

Completion of the project including development, public exhibition, revision and certification is expected to take 18 months. The allocated budget is \$89 000, which is to be funded 50% by the State Government and 50% through Council's Environment Levy.

The wide sandy beach, surf zone, rows of Norfolk Island Pines, seawall and promenade are dominant features of Manly ocean beach



A variety of habitats and large number of fish and invertebrates are found within the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve



Education For Sustainability Programs

Dream... Inspire... Grow... DIG Manly is a sustainable living education program that aims to inspire the community to...

***D*ream of the world as it could be**

***I*nspire others to question the status quo**

***G*row as a community and work together in creating positive change.**

Through stronger community networks, improved knowledge and skills and support in integrating sustainability action into everyday life we can build a community that is resilient to present and future challenges, whatever they may be.

Over a dozen workshops were held over 2012-13 including:

- The Manly Retro Ride
- Seasonal summer salads
- Modern cloth nappies
- Rocky shore rambles
- Measuring and monitoring energy consumption