



## **Minutes**

### **MANLY WARRINGAH WAR MEMORIAL STATE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held on-line via Microsoft Teams on

**MONDAY 18 MAY 2020**

**Minutes of the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 18 May 2020 online, commencing at 3:00pm.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Advisory Committee Members**

Mayor Cr Michael Regan	(Chair)
Cr Stuart Sprott	
David Beharrell	Environment Representative (Community member)
Geraldine Hall	Recreational Representative (Community member)
Ann Collins	Community Representative (Community member)
Peter Bergman	Ranger Team Leader, Sydney North Area, Greater Sydney Branch,

**Council Officers**

Steven Lawler	Executive Manager, Parks & Recreation
Damian Ham	Manager Open Space & Recreation Planning
Chris Buckley	Coordinator Manly Dam
Chris Munro	Manager Bushland and Biodiversity
Jessica Currie	Coordinator, Recreation Planning

## **1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

## **2. APOLOGIES**

- Mell Hall - Senior Conservation Planning Officer, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Paul Harper - Natural Resource Management Project Officer, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands in place of Chris Wright - Senior Group Leader Property & Projects, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - Crown Lands.

## **3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

- There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

## **4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2020 were adopted.
- The DRAFT Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2020 were requested by the Advisory Committee as they are outstanding.

## **ACTION**

- That the draft minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2020 to be distributed.

## **5. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- The Advisory Committee meeting actions log was noted.

## **6. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **6.1. COVID-19 Response for the State Park**

- Damian Ham gave an overview of the actions taken at the State Park in response to COVID-19 (See Attachment 1, Presentation - pages 2 to 21).
- Geraldine Hall said that the water-skiing club had stopped their activities in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 restrictions. Their activities began again on 15 May 2020 following the easing of restrictions.
- Ann Collins questioned how groups of 10 are being monitored. In response Damian said that;
  - Temporary signs about self-distancing were placed at each picnic area, car park and at trail entry points.
  - Manly Dam staff, Rangers and other Council staff have been monitoring self-distancing at busy locations including at beaches, Narrabeen Lagoon and Manly Dam. People gathering are being asked to disperse.
  - Picnic tables and BBQs were taped off to prevent use.

- Manly Dam event and picnic table bookings were cancelled or postponed.
- Concerns were raised that there is still illegal trail building at the State Park. The Advisory Committee requested that Council engage with the mountain bike community about ceasing illegal trail building and also promoting trail riding etiquette. Increased trail signage about trail riding etiquette was requested by Cr Sprott.
- Steve Lawler reported that the Bare Creek Mountain Bike Park will be opened shortly. It is hoped that this will take some of the pressure off the State Park trail.

## **ACTION**

- That additional signs about mountain bike trail etiquette are installed at the State Park.
- The Council continues to work with the mountain bike community to cease unauthorised trail building.

## **6.2. Grants**

### **Update on the Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee Inc. Local Flora and Fauna Surveying and Monitoring Project**

- Ann Collins expressed her thanks to Council for the \$15,000 contribution to the Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee (SMDCC) Flora and Fauna Surveying and Monitoring Project at the State Park. The SMDCC are very excited about the project.
- Ann provided an update;
  - The plan is to work with a range of research experts covering for example flora and fauna, reptiles, frogs, birds, mammals and fish.
  - Citizen science is an important aspect of the project.
  - The project will also identify research and information gaps.
- Damian said that a funding agreement has been issued to the SMDCC and meetings will be held with SMDCC to assist in finalising the project brief.
- Chris Munro said he and his team will be involved.
- David Beharrell offered to provide the contact details to Ann for Beth from Bird Life Australia.

## **6.3. Capital Works**

### **Update on Current Projects – Playground and Trail Upgrades**

- The playground is due for completion at the end of June 2020, weather permitting. Trail works for 2019/20 are complete.
- Steve confirmed that \$200,000 is included in the 2020/21 draft budget for trail upgrades.
- Cr Sprott asked what percentage is allocated for mountain biking.

- Steve reported that the 2020/21 budget is not all for bike trails. It will include funds to upgrade the Southern Cross Walking Trail, Northern Circuit Walking Trail and replacement of the timber boardwalk that was damaged this year.
- David Beharrell asked about the bike and walking trail audits and how the numerous recommendations would be managed. Jessica Currie responded that the bike trail audit is currently being reviewed including what actions are; completed, outstanding, planned, budgeted for, a priority and no longer a priority. This is part of the work for the Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

#### **ACTION**

- That the outcome of the review of the State Park mountain bike trail audit be reported to the Advisory Committee.
- That a review of the State Park walking trail audit be undertaken.

#### **6.4. National Heritage List Application Update**

- The outcome of the National Heritage List application for the State Park is not yet known.
- Council is planning to submit a State Heritage Register Nomination for the State Park. The draft nomination application has been distributed to the Advisory Committee and comments can be made to Council by 29 May 2020.
- It was suggested by the Advisory Committee the Ivanhoe Park State Heritage Register Nomination would be beneficial as a comparison.
- Ann asked if there would be an opportunity to discuss the State Heritage Register Nomination with the team that are putting this together. Damian said that he would arrange contacts with Council's Strategic and Place Planning Unit.

#### **ACTION**

- That the Advisory Committee note the draft State Heritage Register Nomination for the State Park.
- That the final State Heritage Register Nomination for the State Park is presented to the Advisory Committee for their information and a report provided on the outcome.

#### **6.5. Crown Land Reserve Categorisation for the State Park Update**

- Jessica provided an update on land categorisation for the State Park.
- As agreed the views of the Advisory Committee arising from the Extraordinary Meeting held 2 March 2020 have been considered.
- In regard to the request from the Advisory Committee that the Area of Cultural Significance Category be overlaid across the entire State Park.
  - The view of Council staff is that the Area of Cultural Significance Category be overlaid across State Park excluding Aquatic Reserve.

- Council's Aboriginal Heritage Office has indicated that there are no known Aboriginal sites at this reserve and the highly disturbed nature of the reserve means the presence of unrecorded sites is unlikely. While acknowledging that the whole of the Northern Beaches could be considered an Aboriginal cultural landscape, the Aboriginal Heritage Office supports the exclusion of Aquatic Reserve from the Area of Cultural Significance overlay.
- Aquatic reserve (sportsground, aquatic centre) has historically served a different purpose to the remainder of the State Park, supporting formal sport and recreation.
- The bushland areas within Aquatic Reserve does not fit with the category objectives of an Area of Cultural Significance.
- Ann didn't think that exclusion of Aquatic Reserve from the area of cultural significance overlay should be on the grounds of it not falling within the current Manly Dam Plan of Management boundaries.
- Ann highlighted the importance of protecting the bushland at Aquatic Reserve. Jessica reiterated that natural significance does not fall within the category objectives of 'cultural' and that the category of natural area category for the bushland in this area proposed covered this.
  - A point was raised by the Advisory Committee that categorisation needs to consider future use and protection of the bushland for the State Park. Jessica indicated that the categorisation process does not allow categories that reflect desired future use. The category of natural area and relevant legislation and approval processes provides protection. Future desired use can be canvassed through a Plan of Management process for example.
  - Jessica confirmed that a report has been prepared on the recommended land categories for the next available Council meeting.
  - The environmental value of the trees and bushland in Aquatic Reserve, and behind the aquatic centre, was discussed. It was requested that environmental reports about the trees and bushland at Aquatic Reserve be made available for the Advisory Committee.

## **ACTION**

- That environmental reports about the trees and bushland at Aquatic Reserve be made available for the Advisory Committee.
- That the outcomes of the land categorisation for the State Park be reported to the Advisory Committee.

## **6.6. Open Space and Recreation Strategy Update**

- Jessica provided an update on the project (See Attachment 1, Presentation, pages 9 to 10).
- Jessica reported that the:
  - Water Ski Club and Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee will be consulted.

- Advisory Committee would be given regular updates on the project.
- It was agreed that a workshop be held to:
  - Gather members' ideas for the Strategy and the State Park
  - Discuss community input received for the Strategy about the State Park.

#### **ACTION**

- That a workshop is arranged about the Open Space and Recreation Strategy prior to the next Advisory Committee meeting.

### **6.7. Management of the Lake**

#### **Overview of the lake's management in the Plan of Management (2014) and current use.**

- Damian provided an overview of the lakes' management (See Attachment 1 Presentation, pages 15 to 21).
- David Beharrell initiated a discussion about equitable use and the State Park as a place for peaceful reflection and referred to the Plan of Management.
- Geraldine reported that the ski club were disadvantaged as the amalgamation happened whilst the licence was being finalised and it is not yet finalised. Noted by the Advisory Committee.
- Matters discussed included; what is equitable, other lake use apart from skiing, how the ski club operates, skiing by non-member and members, signage at the boat ramp, the club measures noise, if booking hours reduced club not viable, 10 competing ski families, data indicates winter use is low.
- A workshop will be planned to review the use of the lake including the following items:
  - Working within the current Plan of Management
  - Water ski days and hours, seasonal and daily use, water ski licence.
  - Review of data.
  - What is equitable use? Next steps.

#### **ACTION**

- That a workshop is arranged about the management and use of the lake prior to the next Advisory Committee meeting.

### **6.8. Comparison of capital works on trails and trails for the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park and the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park.**

- This information was not available for this meeting and will be scheduled for the next meeting.

#### **ACTION**

- That the Advisory Committee are provided with a comparison of the

capital works spend over last 10 years on trails and trails for the Narrabeen Lagoon State Park and the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Ann raised concern about unauthorised mountain bike trails being built in the bushland at Aquatic Reserve and around the pipeline and entering in to Manly Dam. Can these be closed off? Chris Munro and Chris Buckley to arrange inspections and take required actions.
- Next Ordinary Committee Meeting Monday 24 August 2020.

*The meeting concluded at 5.03pm*

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee meeting held on Monday 18 May 2020.