

## **MINUTES**

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

**Held at Civic Centre, 725 Pittwater Road, Dee Why in the Flannel Flower room on**

Monday 4 December 2023

Beginning at 5:00pm

**Minutes of the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 4 December 2023 commencing at 5:00pm.**

## **ATTENDANCE**

---

### Committee Members

Cr Kristyn Glanville      Northern Beaches Council - Council Representative

### Community Members

David Beharrell      Environment Representative

Paul Lidgard      Recreational Representative

Robert Baker      Community Representative

### State Government Representatives

Mel Hall      NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

## **Council Officers**

---

Jeremy Smith (Chair)      Acting Executive Manager Parks & Recreation

Damian Ham      Manager, Open Space & Recreation Planning

Chris Buckley      Coordinator, Manly Dam & Stony Range

Brendan Smith      Acting Manager, Bushland & Biodiversity

Phil Jemison      Manager, Strategic & Place Planning

Scott van Trienen      Asset Management Officer

## **Quorum**

At least half the total of members is present including the Chair.

## **1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

## **2.0 WELCOME**

## **3.0 APOLOGIES**

- Stan Rees - NSW Department of Planning & Environment.  
Stan is no longer an employee of the NSW Department of Planning & Environment.

## **ACTION**

- Staff to write to the Department of Planning & Environment requesting new representation on this Advisory Committee.

## **4.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

- N/A

## **5.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The minutes from the meeting held on 17 July 2023 were adopted, moved by David Beharrell and seconded by Paul Lidgard.
- The notes from the meeting held on 18 September 2023 were distributed to the Advisory Committee for review. As there was no quorum at this meeting there can be no minutes for adoption, it was agreed that any issues from September's meeting will be taken on action for this meeting where agreed.

## **6.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS & PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

- The Advisory Committee have the link to the Actions List, which is updated regularly, for review at any time.
- Damian Ham informed the Committee that the Crown Land Categorisation Project to confirm Council preferred land categories for 35 crown reserves including the State Park will recommence in early 2024. This project is a requirement of the Crown Land Management Act 2016. A presentation on this matter will be made at the next meeting for the Committee.

## **7.0 AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Planning and Compliance Matters Update including Frenchs Forest High**

- Phil Jemison confirmed that the first Development Application for the Frenchs Forest precinct has been approved for 42 dwellings on the corner of Frenchs Forest Road West and Bluegum Crescent and a number of pre-lodgement meetings have been held in relation to this.
- Phil provided an update on the Forest High School Relocation project including the Site Plans and Council's Response to the Draft Conditions for the new Forest High School planning approval. Council's requested comments and changes were not, as we understand it, accepted.
- Council intends to set up a working group, including technical staff from across Council who will meet regularly, to monitor and ensure appropriate measures are in place for this project during and after construction including in relation to the water quality and other environmental targets.

- A copy of the information presented by Phil Jemison will be emailed to the Advisory Committee.

#### **ACTION**

- The Advisory Committee to be provided documents and information presented by Phil Jemison about the Forest High School Relocation.

#### **Pipeline Active Transport Corridor Project Update**

- An update was read out on behalf of Council's Transport Network team. Staff are working with Sydney Water on the draft REF for Section 7 adjacent to Manly Dam which includes a stormwater and contamination assessment. Once the REF process has been completed further design refinement maybe necessary to address both community concerns and approval requirements. The concerns previously raised by the Advisory Committee are being reviewed and will be considered as part of this process.

#### **ACTION**

- Ongoing and detailed updates on the Pipeline Active Transport Corridor Project to be provided to the Advisory Committee as and when information is available.

#### **Grants and Capital Works**

##### **Boardwalk Project**

- Jeremy Smith confirmed contracts are to be executed this week and Rare Environmental are the contractor. They have worked positively with Council previously, are very experienced and work especially well in sensitive environmental sites.
- An inception meeting will be set up with Council's teams including Rangers, Bushland and Construction Management teams and construction is due to commence in February 2024.

##### **Memorial Shelter Project**

- It was reported by Jeremy Smith that the feedback on this project has been very supportive overall. There were some concerns raised regarding the proposed kayak ramp, alternate locations and designs are being considered.

##### **Walking Track Upgrades**

- Jeremy Smith confirmed that only maintenance will be carried out on the walking tracks this financial year 23/24 and renewals are anticipated to resume in the next financial year 24/25.
- The question was raised if there is a planned schedule for the maintenance work and Chris Buckley confirmed that there is not and this maintenance is including surface repairs, drainage, vegetation and signage rehabilitation and is currently reactive and based on staff availability and budget.
- The suggestion of engaging volunteers to assist with the maintenance of the tracks and trails was raised and discussed by the group and working towards being more proactive than reactive. It was agreed that Staff would review the resourcing required and a way forward, including volunteering possibilities.

## ACTION

- Staff to review the resourcing required for the increased planned maintenance of the tracks and trails including volunteering possibilities and an update to be provided to the Advisory Committee when the information is available.

## Mountain Bike Trail Upgrade Project

- Scott van Trienen provided an update on the Mountain Bike Trail Upgrade Project outlining the proposed works including challenges, benefits and areas/details still being worked through. He confirmed that a list of priorities is being assembled with the following 4 x main areas being the focus in order of delivery and or priority:

### 1. 19<sup>th</sup> Hole



Goal: Making improvements including to the green line around the entire loop, fixing water issues and regeneration of vegetation with tube stock.

### 2. Manning Street



Goal: Addressing points of conflict and reducing safety risks. This work would ideally be carried out at same time as the Golf Club Entry upgrade.

Questions were raised on behalf of Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee (SMDCC) about the best route to avoid sensitive vegetation areas and minimise impacts to the environment. The question was also raised around the possibility that SMDCC requires improved communication on these matters. If the SMDCC have any matters to raise at an Advisory Committee meeting they are welcome to attend and present as a guest. It was noted that a representative of the SMDCC is on the working group.

Jeremy Smith confirmed that trail alignment has been driven by vegetation mapping by a third party consultant and worked through with Mountain Bike trail designers with the goal being positive outcome for the environment and riders. Brendan Smith also agreed that taking input and advice from consultants is important. Jeremy also said he was satisfied with the current proposed alignment,



the work carried out by the working group and where it has landed with a reduction of at least 170m.

There was a conversation around the potential impacts on a powerful owl nesting nearby. Brendan Smith had seen some commentary on the powerful owl and the trail was not considered a significant risk to it. Jeremy Smith also noted it is a control in the REF not to work during nesting seasons. There was further comment that the powerful owl is a versatile animal that would have the ability to move to adapt.

Paul Lidgard reminded everyone that the design is dramatically reduced from what was intended and if it scales back much more it loses rider benefits and could result in an erosion issue due to reduced speed control in the design.

It was confirmed that a presentation of the different design options that have been considered over the design process would be collated and provided to the Advisory Committee.

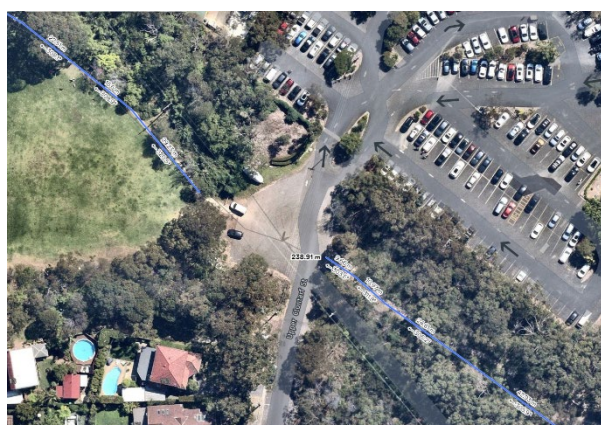
It was also noted the REF would be made publicly available and that the REF had already been provided to the SMDCC.

It was noted it is a difficult site and there are a lot of competing factors to consider.

## ACTION

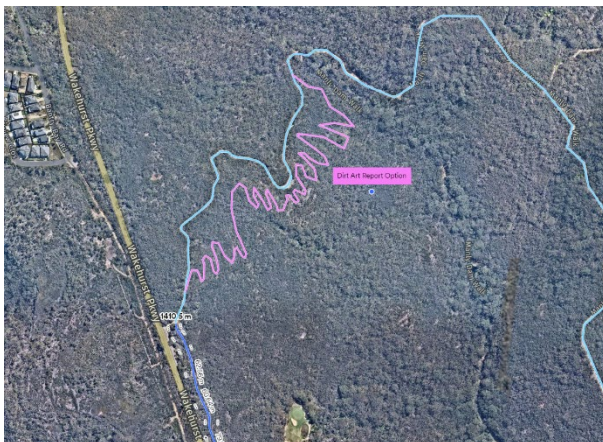
- Staff to provide a presentation of the different design options that have been considered over the time for Manning Street to the Advisory Committee.

### 3. Bantry Bay Reserve (Golf Club Entry)



Currently seeking advice from the Roads Team regarding the slowing of traffic and rider safety crossing

#### 4. Fire Trail



Goal: To improve the safety of this track

This location is a significant challenge and compromise will be required.

- Scott also mentioned that another objective is to create a green trail on the Manly Dam trail.
- The new approximate 200m illegal track near the pipeline was discussed. Very disappointing. Though the Manly Dam team, safety and environmental factors need to be investigated across teams with re-levelling, site demolish and revegetation required as a priority. Manual labour will also be necessary to move some of the dirt back.
- Question on Notice – Cr Glanville: Are we looking at offsetting some of the tree and vegetation loss, finding out how much loss there is and ensuring there is no net loss of bushland and could we look at planting replacements elsewhere on decommissioned tracks? Mel Hall also offered the suggestion of offsetting provisions and if appropriate, putting in plants that relate to and support endangered habitats in an additional way to offset loss e.g. plants that are supportive of the pigmy possums.

#### ACTION

- Council to remove the illegal track built near the pipeline and undertake maintenance and rehabilitation of the area.
- Staff to prepare a response to the Question on Notice: Are we looking at offsetting some of the tree and vegetation loss? How much is loss is there? With the aim to ensure is no net loss of bushland.

#### Water Quality Matters

- Wakehurst Golf Club Fauna Restoration

The Board of Directors of Wakehurst Golf Club recently agreed on a motion to remove and replace all nonindigenous plants at the Wakehurst Golf Course. The project is intended to bring the golf course area back to a natural habitat in keeping with the recent listing of the land on the State Heritage Register, it is envisaged that this project will be completed by the golf club's staff and volunteers over several years.

This will be funded both by the Golf Club and Grant opportunities. Council is assisting with advice regarding appropriate plants.

- Council's Catchment Planning

An update in relation to the Catchment Plan was provided on behalf of the Coast & Catchments team confirming that this is still being developed. A staff vacancy has meant there this project was delayed. This vacancy has now been filled. Staff will consult with the Advisory Committee once at a stage to do so.

- Question on Notice – Cr Glanville: Staff to provide the Advisory Committee with an update on managing water levels in the dam including during flooding.

- Lake Mixer Repairs

Chris Buckley confirmed that the lake mixer is under repair and is planned to be re-installed on 21 December and this will only take approximately half a day.

- Water Quality Study

David Beharrell followed up on the Water Quality Study from UTS. Damian Ham confirmed that Council has received this draft and it is currently being reviewed internally and it will be distributed to the Advisory Committee as soon as possible.

## **ACTION**

- Staff to send the Draft Water Quality Study from UTS to the Advisory Committee once Council's internal review is complete.
- The Advisory Committee is to be provided an update on the Catchment Plan project when information is available.
- Staff to prepare a response to the Question on Notice: Provide the Advisory Committee with an update on managing water levels in the dam including during flooding.

## **Community Use Matters**

- The matter of signage along the water's edge and what is permissible on water was raised by David Beharrell. It was confirmed Council's Studio Team are updating the wording (which aligns with the Plan of Management 2014) on these signs (as well updating the rear of the signs), a QR code will provide access to the approved waterski timetable. It is anticipated that these new signs will be ready in January 2024.
- It was confirmed that Council's website has been updated with wording about use of the power boat zone for swimming and other non-powered activities:  
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/parks-and-trails/parks/manly-dam/water-sports>
- There was a conversation around why use of the lake is not permitted during waterski times when there are no waterskiing bookings. Jeremy Smith confirmed that the Plan of Management defines this rule and is the final authority on the matter regardless of any valid viewpoints to the contrary.
- Jeremy Smith said that Staff could investigate ways to remedy the matter or review the Plan of Management around usage of the Lake when there are no waterskiing bookings, potentially making a small amendment or alternatively proposing.
- It was also agreed that formalising a usage audit would be a good start point to identify further the competing usage of the Lake to inform a future review lake use. Damian Ham said that the Manly Dam team are recording when they observe a boat on the lake.



- Damian Ham provided a brief update on the Bookings at Manly Dam noting that as usual the picnic tables have been booked well in advance for the Christmas New Year period. Also, there is a high-profile filming booked in Section 4.
- Jeremy Smith informed the Committee that Sydney Water need to undertake some work on the Dam wall and closure for 3 weeks will be required. Staff are currently working through the timing with Sydney Water.
- David Beharrell raised the question of safe passage (corridor) through the power boat zone. Chris Buckley confirmed he is waiting on a visit from Maritime NSW to provide additional advice on this matter and the discussion will be reported back to the Advisory Committee.

## **ACTION**

- Staff to investigate possible ways to safely permit non-powered activities within the power boat zone during the approved waterski times when there are no waterski bookings and report back to the Advisory Committee.
- Staff to provide an update on the advice received from Maritime NSW on the possibility of a corridor through the power boat zone to the Advisory Committee.

## **Policies, Strategies and Community Engagement Matters**

- No matters to discuss.

## **8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Safety Measures at Manly Dam**

- Cr Glanville raised questions around Council's safety measures in place at Manly Dam and the processes to review incidents in light of the near drownings at Manly Dam on 3 December 2023.
- Jeremy Smith confirmed that there are effective measures in place and Council has an internal process which has been followed in this particular case and the review of this case is in progress alongside the Police who are also independently investigating this incident.
- Chris Buckley also confirmed that red rescue life rings are strategically placed around the lake.

### **2024 Meeting Schedule**

- The Meeting Schedule for next year was confirmed.
- Jeremy Smith asked if any issues with the dates arise that notification be issued to staff to allow time to reschedule.

Monday, 19 February 2024	5pm - 7pm
Monday, 20 May 2024	5pm - 7pm
Monday, 5 August 2024	5pm - 7pm
Monday, 25 November 2024	5pm - 7pm

## **ACTION**

- Staff to issue the meeting invites for the 2024 meeting schedule.

### **Bush Regeneration Reports**

- Robert Baker followed up on the Manly Dam bush regeneration information to be provided to the Advisory Committee.

### **ACTION**

- Staff to issue recent Manly Dam Bush Regeneration Reports to the Advisory Committee.

### **Use of the former Frenchs Forest High School Site**

- Robert Baker asked what the former Frenchs Forest High School site would be used for and Jeremy Smith confirmed that the land would become a new town centre with mixed-use development, noting that this development is of relevance to Manly Dam.
- The meeting concluded with thanks to the Advisory Committee and best wishes for Christmas.

**The meeting concluded at 6.45pm.**

**This is the final page of the Minutes of the Manly Warringah War Memorial State Park Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday 4 December 2023.**