

**QUARANTINE STATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (QS CCC)**

**MINUTES - FINAL**

**08:30am, Wednesday 12 February 2020**

**Q Station**

**Abbreviations**

Adele Heasman	AH	Douglas Sewell	DS	Ron Edgar	RE
Alison Langley	AL	Jennifer Wilson	JW	Sandy Hoy	SH
Candy Bingham	CB	Jessica Dargan	JD	Stuart Schramm	SS1
Cathy Griffin	CG	Lee De Gail	LG	Suzanne Stanton	SS
Chad Weston	CW	Max Player	MP	Virginia Macleod	VM
Deon van Rensburg	DR				

<b>1</b>	<b>BUSINESS and GOVERNANCE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SH welcomed all attendees to the 68<sup>th</sup> QSCCC meeting</li> </ul>	
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CW – I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging</li> </ul>	
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Attendance and Apologies</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adele Heasman</li> <li>Candy Bingham</li> <li>Cathy Griffin</li> <li>Chad Weston</li> <li>Douglas Sewell</li> <li>Jennifer Wilson</li> <li>Jessica Dargan</li> <li>Max Player</li> <li>Sandy Hoy</li> <li>Suzanne Stanton</li> </ul>	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virginia Macleod</li> </ul>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Confirmation of agenda</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	Agenda confirmed	
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Declarations of pecuniary or other interest</b>	<b>All</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIL</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>STANDING ITEMS</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	Minutes confirmed	
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Review of Action Items from Previous Minutes</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration was given to an alternative location to the Peace Park for school students to eat their lunch on excursions, as a built structure will affect the view-shed of the Peace Park area. School lunches will now take place at the former Coal Shed area</li> </ul>	

	<p>behind the Boilerhouse which is not otherwise used during the day. This area has toilets and shade which are required by schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Returfing of the Peace Park is now possible due to the recent rain. MQS has met with NPWS about replacing the coral tree. The Peace Park will now be for passive use by visitors.</li> <li>• VM has catalogued QS documents, and is checking with Friends of QS if there are any documents to be added.</li> <li>• Fire management was a key item for discussion after the recent bushfires.</li> <li>• The fence at the bus stop is an ongoing issue. In the short term there is no space to move the fence back from the road where there is a 1.5 metre drop. As there is no verge and the bus stop is at the widest point at the roundabout the current bus stop is the only safe place for buses to stop.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Correspondence In/Out</b>	<b>All</b>
	NIL	
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Other administrative matters</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIL</li> </ul>	
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Proposed events</b>	<b>Mawland / NPWS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered in MQS and NPWS reports</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>NPWS Report</b>	<b>NPWS</b>
	<p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxing Day – NPWS met with Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT), Q Station, St Paul’s College and NSW Police regarding road closures at North Head for pedestrian safety. The road closure was moved further down Darley Street to allow vehicles to turn around and for St Paul’s to open their car park for vehicles.</li> <li>• New Year’s Eve – The decision was made to close Bradleys Head and North Head in the interest of public safety. This was due to several factors including a severe Fire Danger Rating and the potential for damaging winds during the evening. Ticket holders were contacted by the events team and closures were announced in the media. NPWS staff were present with a focus on public safety and customer service, offering alternative viewing locations for visitors.</li> <li>• Australia Day weekend – NITV and SBS live-streamed the Sunrise Ceremony from North Head on 26 January. For the first time, the Sunrise Ceremony was simulcast by Channel Ten. Professor Dennis Foley, Gai-maragal elder, welcomed all viewers to country. Dennis Foley also held a healing ceremony at Collins Beach on Sunday afternoon which was very popular with visitors. NPWS are talking with Dennis Foley and The Gai-maragal Group to extend this next year. Security advised visitors to Collins Beach of the alcohol-free zone.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wildlife management – water stations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five water stations have been installed across North Head to provide supplementary water for wildlife. The water stations will be monitored with cameras by students at St Pauls.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wildlife management – Penguins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penguin numbers were down this season but rose remarkably late. RMS have contributed \$27,000 for navigation signs and larger buoys around the Little Penguin Critical Habitat area. The signs will indicate no anchoring and speed limits around critical habitat area.</li> </ul>	

- NPWS Penguin wardens have been riding in the wheelhouse of Sydney ferries to spot rafting penguins and assist ferry drivers with ways to avoid disturbance to penguins.
- NRMA has developed postcards for distribution to boat owners and calendars to inform people of the plight of the penguin and to observe critical habitat regulations.
- Information about penguin avoidance and critical habitat was presented to the Professional Vessels advisory group, and will be presented to the Recreation Vessels advisory group early this year.

**Wildlife management** – update from the Long-nosed Bandicoot (LNB) Recovery Team meeting 30 January 2020:

- The biennial cage trapping survey is planned across North Head for five days in May 2020. NPWS will lead the survey with assistance from Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), Taronga Zoo and Sydney University.
- The Recovery Team (RT) noted that QS provides an annual financial contribution to LNB monitoring. RT members recognised that LNB monitoring is needed to satisfy both QS requirements (CoPA) and stakeholder/community expectations that this population continues to be well managed and monitored. There was interest from North Head stakeholders to formalise contributions to funding feral animal control and monitoring. NPWS is working to determine costs per stakeholder to cover feral animal control and monitoring and obtain agreement from the NH Stakeholder group. Other grant and funding sources will be looked at.

CG: \$10,000 per year from the Manly Environment Levy was given by Manly Council to NPWS for the Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Team Program. The QSCCC should ask Northern Beaches Council if/why ratepayers pay for LNB. CB will investigate if Northern Beaches Council will continue with that contribution, and advise JD.

A representative from Northern Beaches Council is on the RT. MQS have been invited to the Bandicoot Recovery Team meeting.

- The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health assists in investigation of predation events at NH and provides a range of diagnostic services and education programs. They are keen to receive as many bandicoot bodies as possible to further their research. Please notify NPWS of any LNB bodies found on the headland so they can be collected for research.
- A Sydney University PhD candidate is working with residents and their perception of bandicoots and ticks. The student will compile information into a simple one-page fact sheet to educate the public on the importance of bandicoots in the ecosystem and that ticks are not linked entirely to bandicoots. The fact sheet will be placed at reception.
- A Sydney University representative gave a summary on the findings from the May 2018 survey. The results showed that LNB numbers have been stable since 2016 after an increase from a low in 2010. The modelled population estimate was  $167 \pm 15$ . The QS population has fluctuated but is now increasing and female dominated, which may lead to population growth.
- A Sydney University Honours student presented results from a genetic study that aimed to identify levels of connectivity and structure between North Head LNBs and other northern Sydney LNBs. The study found that NH LNBs are genetically isolated from other populations in northern Sydney, but that genetic diversity has remained constant. There were low rates of inbreeding in the population and genetic intervention is not currently vital for the NH population. Vehicle/LNB strike mitigation and predator control remain important for maintaining connectivity and gene flow.

### **Rabbits**

- A rabbit shoot is planned for the third week in February.

	<b>Fire Management</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazard reduction (HR) burns have been deferred. QSCCC will be advised when proposed HRs at Fairfax and QS Central come back into prescription.</li> <li>Asset Protection Zone works were completed along Bluefish wall. <i>Acacia terminalis</i> ssp <i>terminalis</i> plants were tagged to avoid damage during vegetation clearance works.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Mawland Report</b>	<b>Mawland</b>
	<p><b>Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December and January are usually the busiest time, but visitation to Q Station for school excursions, family reunions, conferences and weddings has been compromised by bushfires and smoke, storms, and coronavirus.</li> <li>New association with Trinity Grammar School which has a new arts program. They have stayed here and invested themselves in the site, and will have an exhibition at the school.</li> <li>Lady Jean Foley's book is on sale in the foyer, with about 50 books sold so far. Her book has added to information about the Second Cemetery.</li> <li>Sand was lost on QS beach during the storm on the weekend of 8-9 February. NPWS is replenishing the sand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water refill stations have been installed around the site for people to fill reusable water bottles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two new temporary sculptures by Tania McMurtry have been installed. Tania spoke at the opening and conveyed themes of migration and new hopes reflected in "A Terrible Beauty" on the wharf. We have had a good response from visitors. The artworks are immersive with the smell and rust. They are a popular spot for wedding photos. The idea of shale and slate being broken into many pieces but still being beautiful in the Peace Park artwork "A Fragile Peace" reinforces the migration connection.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moveable Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Q Station lease requires that NPWS is to provide 10 hours per week for hands-on maintenance of the museum collection. An NPWS representative will be contributing 10 hours per week to work with the museum collection and eHive, and possibly obtaining some volunteers to assist with eHive.</li> <li>MQS public relations people are writing a story about a lost koala toy that was put into lost property in 1923, and will be running a competition.</li> </ul>	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Chairpersons Report</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	Nil	
<b>4</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	
	Nil	
<b>5</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Annual Report to DPIE</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An annual report to DPIE from the Chair is a requirement of the Community Consultative Committee Guidelines. SH will report that four meetings were held, and the major issues discussed.</li> </ul>	

<b>5.2</b>	<b>Old Mans Hat track</b>	<b>Candy Bingham</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MP will write a letter to NPWS and copy in the QSCCC to request permission to take tours to Old Mans Hat. CW advised that there are risks associated with the track and MQS would have to accept the risks. NPWS will also look at the cultural sensitivity of the track.</li> <li>JW noted there is an issue of Pampas Grass at Old Mans Hat. NPWS will monitor the Pampas Grass.</li> </ul>	
<b>6</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	
6.1	NIL	
<b>7</b>	<b>MEETING CLOSE</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Confirm action items</b>	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Next Meeting/Site Visit:</b> Wednesday 13 May 2020 - 8:30am – Q Station [Note: May meeting not held due to closure of Q Station during COVID-19 restrictions]	<b>Sandy Hoy</b>

The meeting was followed by an inspection of an interesting range of historical items from Q Station in the museum store.