

QUARANTINE STATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (QS CCC)

MINUTES - FINAL

8:30am, Wednesday 10 February 2021

Q Station

Abbreviations

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

1	BUSINESS and GOVERNANCE	LEAD
1.1	Welcome	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SH welcomed all attendees to the 71st QSCCC meeting 	
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country	Jessica Dargan
	I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging	
1.3	Attendance and Apologies	Sandy Hoy
	Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adele Heasman Candy Bingham Cathy Griffin Douglas Sewell Jennifer Wilson 	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad Weston
1.4	Confirmation of agenda	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda was confirmed 	
1.5	Declarations of pecuniary or other interest	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil 	
2	ADDITIONAL ITEMS	
	Letter of support for early exercise of option to renew lease	Cathy Griffin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the last meeting SH drafted a letter to SS1 that was circulated to members. CG and VM made valuable changes that were unanimously supported by members. The committee requested a meeting with SS1, separately from Mawland, to discuss the early exercise of the option to renew the lease which was added to the last paragraph of the letter. SS: when SH sends the letter, please send a copy to MQS, and we will send it to parliamentary contacts. CB: Great team effort with the letter. SS: We are very thankful to the committee. 	

3	STANDING ITEMS	
3.1	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous meeting was held at Q Station on 18 November 2020 • CB moved to adopt the minutes and JW seconded 	
3.2	Review of Action Items from Previous Minutes	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Head IANP - During early 2021 NPWS will be re-assessing geotechnical risk, undertaking site investigations and preparing detailed designs for the access improvements. NPWS is planning to release concept designs for community feedback over the coming weeks, with construction scheduled to take place from mid-2021. • Vegetation around water tanks and vegetation maintenance – CG: The Banksia tree is resting on the asbestos corrugation on top of the tank, and the tea tree is leaning 2 metres over the tank. Action is Mawland and NPWS meet onsite and expedite any actions required. JD reminded the committee that it is Mawland’s responsibility under the lease, but NPWS is happy to assist MP and SS with prioritising works. • MQS option to exercise lease early – MP: we would like to have a meeting with the Minister, report back to the committee, and move forward from there. CG: I can also raise this at the Greater Sydney Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting. • Monitoring/Audit – still ongoing due to COVID-19 • Coral tree in Peace Park –The stump of the fallen coral tree is used as a bench. SS: Quotes for coral trees from Western Australia were about \$7,000 for a tree not higher than this room. The other coral tree is not looking good, so they may all have to come out. Not replacing the coral tree will open up the vista. SS: It allows us to clean up the area and beautify it to make the Peace Park attractive. • P11 toilets and stairs – MP: The toilets have been cleaned. The landing and the staircase are still there. DS: The problem is the stairs are too long to comply with Building Code of Australia (BCA). The ground level could be raised to bring it up to where you only need 18 stair rises, as a long term project. It would be better to remove the landing and stairs because they are a safety hazard, and close off the area. It would cost \$20,000 to replace. MP: As it is heritage we could rebuild it, and we have the other exit, but as a view it is important. Committee supports removal and storage of the stairs for safety and to improve visual amenity of the area. • Bluefish Banksia HR – no members wrote to NPWS about Bluefish Banksia HR • QS Roundabout bus stop – JD: NPWS engaged a consultant to undertake a traffic safety assessment to review the conditions at the bus stop, roundabout and adjacent roadways. We are working through short- and long-term options and finalising the report. • North Head buses: JW: Now bendy buses are coming up to North Head and they can’t turn around. AH: State Transit are probably using whatever buses are available. JD: NPWS has spoken with State Transit. SS: The bus timetable changes have mainly affected our staff. • Old Mans Hat access – SS: We are ready to submit our application to take tours to Old Mans Hat to NPWS. JD: The Old Mans Hat track is not a proposed formal track in the Plan of Management. MP: NPWS is still debating a North Fort to Q Station walking track. We want some walking tracks for guests. The Committee supports tours to Old Mans Hat in principle subject to safety issues being resolved. • Tours: The 11.30am tours are doing really well. Ghost tours are not as busy, because we can only have 15 people, and guides and visitors need to wear a mask. The committee is pleased that tours have restarted. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern beaches ratepayer's contribution to Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Team Program – CG: Is Northern Beaches Council contributing to the bandicoot recovery program? It is part of the Conditions of Planning Approval (CoPA) for bandicoots and penguins. CB to ask Council staff about whether Council is financially contributing to the Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Team Program. • Vacant QSCCC positions – The Expression of Interest (Eoi) is expected to be approved and to be issued in coming weeks. Committee members are encouraged to forward the Eoi to suitable candidates. • Bandicoot survey – JD: Analysis is ongoing, delayed by fire recovery works • AWC fundraiser – SS: This link and a link to the ferries is on our website • Vegetation on beach – JD: NPWS have discussed the pathways with MP who can apply for a licence if desired. 	
3.3	Correspondence In/Out	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil 	
3.4	Other administrative matters	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil 	
3.5	Proposed events	Mawland / NPWS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Mawland report 	
4	REPORTS	
4.1	NPWS Report	NPWS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Head Fire - Q Station has advised that they suffered significant financial losses and are looking to NPWS for compensation. NPWS Property and Commercial Branch and Sydney North Area have submitted a third party liability claim on behalf of QS, even though the lease has an indemnity clause in which Government is indemnified against any such occurrence. • QS Central Hazard Reduction - Mawland has notified NPWS that the verges are unsightly following the HR. The NPWS Greater Sydney Branch bushfire management team has inspected the verges with MP and LG, and has offered to assist with trimming back vegetation at the entrance in line with the Vegetation Modification Plan. This work will be added to their existing works schedule. • Pest Management - Rabbit shoots will be undertaken on a three weekly basis for the next 6 months. NPWS will liaise with QS to schedule shoots during low occupancy periods. Ongoing 6 weekly ongoing baiting program with 1080 capsules in canid pest ejectors and 1080 ground baits at North Head. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) release next week. • Bush regeneration volunteers - Call for volunteers for Garigal bush regeneration group on Thursday at North Head outside Bella Vista Café from 8-10am. SS would like to meet volunteers interested in doing bush regeneration and weed management at Q Station. CG: Garigal bush regeneration group has public liability insurance. If we trained new people we can expand around the headland. JD to send details to QSCCC members. 	
4.2	Mawland Report	Mawland
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bushfire insurance claim is with NPWS' insurer. • We are waiting on NPWS for help with cleaning up verges near reception. • SS wrote a response to Office of State Revenue about an exemption from land tax. 	

- We have been notified by Environment Minister Kean's office that we are visiting them in early March to discuss the lease option and longer-term stability of the site.
- Q Station was closed 21 December to 4 January because of the Northern Beaches COVID-19 lockdown. We lost a huge amount of business as we were fully booked for that whole time, and fully booked for Christmas lunch and dinner and the Sydney to Hobart the next day.
- We have opened again, and occupancy is going up slowly especially on Thursdays and Fridays. We are calculating the losses and are talking to government. We will be able to accept Dine and Discover vouchers. Leisure on weekends is ramping up when weather is good. Conferencing is starting to take off very slowly, with 'Reconnect with your colleagues' being our messaging. School excursions have started up again, with two this week. Weddings are coming back gradually. Business will pick up when social distancing eases from 4m² to 2m² per person.
- Alison Langley left QS last week. A new General Manager, Steve Carrodus, is starting next week.
- We are conducting recruitment as many casual staff go back to Uni at this time and we don't have any backpackers available to work.
- We are still needing to use plastic water bottles instead of jugs.
- A member of the public wrote to DPIE about not being allowed to fish at night on the wharf. We wrote back explaining that the beach is closed at night to protect the penguins, and suggested alternative fishing spots. We offered to meet with him.
- Our gardeners are working on Mother of Millions and lilies.
- Notices have been put up about not touching rabbits during shooting and baiting.
- Our echidnas had two babies in the Asiatic area.
- MP: a fig tree fell over up behind the penguin fence which was damaged, and is an insurance claim through NPWS. The stormwater drain next to the fence is silted and blocked with rubbish that had washed down. NPWS are going to clean it up. Once NPWS have cleared the fig tree and the rubbish we will reinstate the fence.
- Our education people think they may have found some new inscriptions on the exposed rock, which were photographed.
- There is a lot of Pampas Grass opposite the bus stop on NPWS land at the entrance.
- We are hosting Grace Tame, Australian of the Year, who is doing her media work from here.
- Thank you to the Friends of Quarantine Station (FROQS) group for coming in on Sunday 7 February. It was a really useful discussion and a chance to reconnect. Some of the FROQS members said they would start looking again at Indigenous access and guides on site.
- Applications are in for Les Sculptures Refusees which will be happening again this year. We are now with Sculptures by the Sea as an option for sculptors to exhibit here, with maybe 40 sculptures this year. Open Day will be tied into the sculptures.
- Jo Neville, our artist in residence, has an exhibition at Manly Art Gallery around responses to COVID. A lot of the pieces will come back to Q Station.
- In April two local sculptors will be working on highlighting the local area. 8-9 sculptures will be mostly around Third Class.
- Saturday Sessions are happening up on the Greenhouse Lawn from 5-7pm while the weather is good. It is a low key community event with local bands playing acoustic music, drinks, cheese plate, and a good crowd. 200 people is the maximum capacity

	<p>so bookings are required. The idea is that people will stay for dinner, but they need to book restaurants because they are at half capacity. Everyone is walking, no buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are seeing Q Station as a retreat during COVID because it is safe and clean. A lot of people are walking and riding, and guests “working from home” on verandahs. The idea of Q Station as a place of wellness, healing and serenity has really taken off. • Branding of Q Station has changed. The website is looking really clean and fresh • On 27-28 February and in March Jo Neville is conducting craft workshops in the G&Tea House with paper and calligraphy. • The G&Tea House is working well. It is a great example of adaptive reuse. • The 11.30am daily tours of the wharf and hospital costing \$5 are booming. All ages attend. The tour guides are training other staff. • It is intended that we will have two Open Days: a less formal one in April, and one in October during sculptures and history week with free tours. • We have been allowing retirement homes to bring their buses on site. • CG: From being here on a Sunday it would be good to have access to food and drinks from outside the cafe for the people coming from the beach. • SH: QSCCC members noted that the Q Station update is fantastic, things are looking up, well done. 	
4.3	Chairpersons Report	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DS invited committee members to attend the meeting with Friends of Quarantine Station (FROQS) on Sunday. I took up the invitation to meet members of FROQS and answer any questions about the QSCCC. Thank you for the hospitality from Q Station. The meeting was beneficial for all involved to help the relationship between the Friends and the committee. • The annual report of the QSCCC to DPIE is due after this meeting. The previous annual report was circulated to committee members last April. This year’s report will be COVID-focused and the impact it has had on Q Station and the committee meetings. The report will include topics we have discussed and continue to discuss over the past year. SS asked for clarification from DPIE about their requirements for Open Days during COVID so MQS are not in breach of their obligations. CB: The committee is working extremely well with good working relationships, and that we have robust discussions where any disagreements are resolved amicably. 	
5	PRESENTATIONS	
5.1	Nil	
6	ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS	
6.1	Update on Old Man’s Hat	Cathy Griffin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed in review of action items 	
6.2	Impacts of COVID on QS	Cathy Griffin
	SS covered in report	
6.3	Stairs	Virginia Macleod
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking down the funicular stairs from first class to the wharf is disconcerting because you can see through the steps to the ground. They should be assessed for safety. MP: Yellow edging has been placed on the landings. Looking between the gaps with edging on the stairs would be worse. We should have a sign at the top and bottom of the stairs saying to hold onto the hand-rail. 	

6	GENERAL BUSINESS	
6.1	• Nil	
7	MEETING CLOSE 10:25am	
7.1	Confirm action items	Sandy Hoy
7.2	Next Meeting/Site Visit: 8:30am on Wednesday 12 May 2021	Sandy Hoy