

QUARANTINE STATION COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (QS CCC)

MINUTES - FINAL

8:30am, Wednesday 12 May 2021

Q Station

Abbreviations

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

1	BUSINESS and GOVERNANCE	LEAD
1.1	Welcome	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SH welcomed all attendees to the 72nd QSCCC meeting 	
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country	Chad Weston
	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 Chad Weston Douglas Sewell Jennifer Wilson Max Player Sandy Hoy Suzanne Stanton Virginia Macleod 	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cathy Griffin Jessica Dargan
	SS introduced Steve Carrodus, Q Station General Manager, to the QSCCC members.	
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	
2.1	Plaques for nurses Annie Egan and Elizabeth McGregor - JW, VM	
	Refer to Mawland report	
2.2	Weed control, including Pampas grass - CG	
	Refer to NPWS report	
2.3	October 2020 bushfire update - CB	
	Refer to NPWS report	
3	STANDING ITEMS	
3.1	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	Sandy Hoy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous minutes were adopted 	
3.2	Review of Action Items from Previous Minutes	Sandy Hoy
	Long-nosed Bandicoot Recovery Team Program – CB advised that Northern Beaches Council is contributing ongoing staff time and support in excess of \$10,000 per year. Council	

	will continue to provide in-kind support, and take their lead from the Recovery Team pending a response/request for support from NPWS.	
3.3	Correspondence In/Out	All
	SH sent a letter on behalf of QSCCC to Stuart Schramm at NPWS regarding starting the process for early renewal of the lease on 12 March 2021. A reply was received from Stuart Schramm on 15 March 2021.	
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	Chad Weston
	<p>Jess Dargan moving to temporary new role</p> <p>JD has taken a temporary position as Team Leader Rangers, Sydney North Area, until June 2022.</p> <p>The Environmental Liaison Officer (ELO) role was advertised internally, and has now been advertised externally, with the recruitment process expected to take a minimum of 12 weeks. Several processes will ensure Mawland is supported throughout the transition while recruitment is underway.</p> <p>CB offered her thanks to JD for a great job. SH had spoken to JD and thanked her for her valuable secretariat assistance over the past two years.</p> <p>Flood event - Emergency drain clearing works/Beach erosion and rock fall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A piece of rock approximately 1 cubic metre fell off the walkway near the inscriptions during the rainfall event. Rockfalls on NPWS land are subject to the NPWS Rockfalls and Landslides Policy. NPWS assisted Mawland in stepping through the procedures. Mawland engaged a geotechnical engineer. The site was deemed safe and reopened. • NPWS engaged a contractor to undertake emergency drain clearing works of the drain next to the Boilerhouse. The drain is within the Little Penguin Area of Outstanding Biodiversity (formerly known as Critical Habitat) and was not functioning properly due to large amounts of soil and vegetation within the drain. This resulted in the drain overflowing during the recent rainfall/flood event and significant beach erosion. The beach erosion was a hazard to visitors. NPWS engaged contractors to replenish sand. <p>North Head fire in relation to Q Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD added all QSCCC members to the mailing list for fire recovery newsletter updates <p>Boom gate</p> <p>SS: A contractor damaged the Q Station boom gate. JD is following up to return the compensation from the boom gate operator to MQS.</p> <p>QS Central Hazard Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mawland notified NPWS that the verges are unsightly following the HR • LG contracted an arborist to assist with trimming back vegetation at the entrance in line with the Vegetation Modification Plan. • MP to arrange to move stumps out of the way. <p>Bus stop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPWS engaged a consultant to undertake a traffic safety assessment to review the conditions at the bus stop, roundabout and adjacent roadways. Short term options, including line marking for visibility, signage and fence repair, are being implemented by NPWS. Long term options will address access issues. • NPWS will fix the bus stop fence by the end of the financial year. 	

	<p>Bandicoots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPWS is undertaking the whole of headland bandicoot survey this week. • Thanks to Mawland for continuing to facilitate access for this survey. • The bandicoot survey is showing good numbers so far. • NPWS will report back on the bandicoot survey results. <p>Pest Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit shoots continue to 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. <p>Fairfax Loop walking track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One kilometre of temporary fencing for the Fairfax Loop walking track is required. • CW is waiting for supply of fencing, then detailed design and tendering will take place. <p>North Head Concept Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept plans have been released for community feedback. • Jess added all QSCCC members to notification. Comments can be submitted online and close Monday 17 May. <p>https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/north-head-upgrade</p> <p>Community engagement for the Draft Concept for North Head Sanctuary closes on 11 June: https://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/en/community/public-consultation/north-head-sanctuary-consultation/</p> <p>IMAMS and sustainability reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports submitted to DPIE for 2019 and 2020. • IMAMS reports are now prepared on a calendar year basis. <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A power pole has been installed next to S7. SS and SS1 are reviewing the issue. MQS raised issues about a server at S7 which NPWS is investigating. <p>Weeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CW: Volunteers and contractors will address weed issues. \$24,000 is intended to be spent on weed work. <p>QSCCC members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Expression of Interest (Eoi) advertisement for new QSCCC members was approved by the Deputy Secretary of NPWS. The Eoi will be advertised after the ELO role is filled. <p>Water tank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPWS provided advice and assistance to MQS who is responsible for the water tank regarding contractors who could undertake the work. 		
4.2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Mawland Report</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Mawland</td> </tr> </table>	Mawland Report	Mawland
Mawland Report	Mawland		
	<p>General Manager</p> <p>SS: Steve Carrodus is the new General Manager of Q Station, who has now been here for 3 months. Steve has previously worked elsewhere in Sydney and in London.</p> <p>Steve's vision is to lift up the guest experience whether it be a holiday or a self contained get-away. Steve wants to offer more experiences at Q Station.</p> <p>Alison Langley, the previous General Manager, has accepted another position on the south coast.</p>		

Occupancy and visitation

Occupancy has been up and down, with occupancy good on weekends.

Conferences are coming back, but are smaller than normal. COVID cases make conference organisers nervous. Government conferences are cancelled first.

Weddings are coming back.

School excursions are back because teachers want to get out of the classroom.

30 HSC art major works are being prepared at Q Station on themes such as nature and migration. An exhibition of these HSC major works is a possibility.

Compliance

MQS is meeting with DPIE next week about the annual inspection, compliance, and lodging IMAMS for the past 2 years. SS to send documents to SH for distribution to the QSCCC.

Lease

A QC has signed off on the lease, and the paperwork has been submitted to NPWS.

Feedback is that government is happy that the lease is being exercised early.

Thanks to the QSCCC for talking with NPWS about the early exercise of the lease.

Insurance claim

MQS has not heard back from icare about the bushfire insurance claim from October 2020.

Land tax

MQS has not heard back from Office of State Revenue about paying land tax.

Sculptures

Salon de Refuses will be held for a month in October. Of 100 applications received MQS has accepted 40. Sculpture by the Sea at Bondi is supportive of Salon de Refuses by asking applicants for Sculpture by the Sea if they would be happy to be considered for Salon de Refuses if not accepted for Sculpture by the Sea.

Pieces from Salon de Refuses last year are still on site. QR codes can be used to obtain information about the sculpture and if it is available for sale. On the Q Station website "What's On" follow the link to the Salon de Refuses website.

The 'Sculptures in the Spotlight' exhibition will be held in the Hospital Precinct at Q Station on 10 July. The exhibition will showcase sustainable and recycled art using polystyrene etc. to create a fake coral reef.

Saturday Sessions

The Saturday Sessions are popular, and will now be held on Sundays going into winter.

Community Building Partnership Program

SS tabled the 2021 Community Building Partnership Program Guidelines:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-04/CBP-2021-Program-Guidelines.pdf>.

\$300,000 is available in each electorate in 2021 for recreational and other infrastructure. As a not-for-profit entity the QSCCC could apply for a grant to revamp the museum and lighting. The Friends of Quarantine Station could also be involved as a not-for-profit entity. The closing date for applications is 14 May.

Plaques

SS: An event and a plaque to remember nurse Annie Egan has been suggested by descendents.

JW: Both nurses (Annie Egan and Elizabeth McGregor) should be remembered. JW tabled examples of designs and wording for the plaques.

SS: Q Station has offered morning tea and discounted accommodation, but that offer has not been accepted by the family. An event involving the plaques has not been planned yet.

VM is concerned about a potential proliferation of different plaque styles at Q Station.

	<p>CW: NPWS has a 'Memorials in Parks' policy: https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/memorials-in-parks</p> <p>Under the policy NPWS must approve applications for plaques in National Parks. As a State Heritage listed site approvals for plaques must be considered under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>.</p> <p>North Head Concept Plan</p> <p>CB: The Draft Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and NPWS North Head Concept Plan has been released.</p> <p>SS: The proposal for events at the Parade Ground could tie in with working with Q Station for use of the wharf as part of packages.</p> <p>Buses</p> <p>SS: Bendy buses are operating to Q Station, but the bus stops at 7pm which is inconvenient for staff. Q Station operates a shuttle bus for staff.</p> <p>VM: an increase in the number of people visiting North Head will require an electric shuttle bus such as the Hop Skip and Jump bus.</p> <p>SS asked the QSCCC to write to the State government about a dedicated electric shuttle bus service to North Head.</p> <p>Ferry</p> <p>SS: The ferry to Quarantine Wharf is still not operating. No word from NRMA about the ferry restarting.</p> <p>SS: The IMAMS report requires MQS to report on use of public transport to access the site, with a benchmark of 30% of visitors to arrive by water or public transport. With the ferry not operational the use of public transport score goes down.</p> <p>SS asked the QSCCC to write to NRMA about reinstating the ferry.</p> <p>VM will draft a letter to NRMA from the QSCCC about reinstating the ferry.</p> <p>Transport at North Head</p> <p>DS identified the opportunity to pull together transport at North Head.</p> <p>The QSCCC to write a letter to seek support for integrated transport at North Head, involving the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Q Station, and James Griffin MP.</p> <p>CW: if the transport option is a commercial concern an Expression of Interest will be required.</p> <p>VM will draft a letter to Transport for NSW from the QSCCC about an electric shuttle bus service and improving transport to North Head.</p>	
4.3	Chairpersons Report	Sandy Hoy
	Nil	
5	PRESENTATIONS	
5.1	Nil	
6	ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS	
6.1	Nil	
6	GENERAL BUSINESS	
6.1		
7	MEETING CLOSE 10:25am	
7.1	Confirm action items	Sandy Hoy
7.2	Next Meeting/Site Visit: 8:30am on Wednesday 11 August 2021	Sandy Hoy