

Minutes

Meeting	Meeting #8
Location	Q Station
Date	Wednesday, 12 February 2025
Time	9:00 am – 10 am
Chairperson	Abigail Goldberg, Independent Chair (minutes)
Attendees – community representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Sewell • Helen Thomson • Julie Rigoni • Virginia Macleod • Clr Candy Bingham, Northern Beaches Council • Adele Heasman
Attendees – NPWS and NHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad Weston, Manager, Sydney North Area, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) • Andrew Thornton, Principal Project Officer, NPWS • Jess Dargan, Environmental Manager, NPWS • Steve Carrodus, General Manager, Q Station, NHS • Helen Drew, Interpretation Officer, NHS • Alan Brawn, Compliance Officer, NHS
Invitees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kandy Tagg, CCC Member • Glenn Piper, CEO, North Head Pty Ltd (NHS) • Rose Porter, Environmental Manager (NPWS)

Agenda items

No.	Description	Action
1.	Welcome and meeting opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Chad Weston provided an Acknowledgement of Country. 1.2. Attendees were confirmed. 1.3. Apologies were noted. 1.4. Minutes and action items from the preceding meeting were confirmed and adopted. 1.5. Community outreach activities in the form of North Head Sanctuary newsletters were noted. 	

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2.	<p>NPWS activities update</p> <p>2.1 Chad Weston advised that management of threatened species is ongoing with the next scheduled review of the long-nosed bandicoot population imminent</p> <p>2.2 Fire-related Asset Protection Zones (APZs) management is ongoing with NPWS having provided guidelines to NHS.</p> <p>2.2.1 Members sought further information. NPWS suggested that a map of the APZs could be sent to participants, which the community welcomed</p> <p>2.2.2 Further discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the APZs as well as fire hazard preparation and how this is managed</p> <p>2.3 Wharf and sea wall assessment has progressed and a Stage 1 report has been submitted to NPWS by the consultants that is under review. A Stage 2 report will follow that will propose management actions required as well as the capacity and accessibility of the wharf.</p> <p>2.3.1 The potential of novel ferries, such as non-propellor vehicles, or smaller boats, as well as alternative wharves such as a floating pontoon, and additional moorings outside of the seagrass area was discussed</p> <p>2.3.2 The importance of arrival by water, which also offsets car parking requirements, was raised and agreed by all</p> <p>2.3.3 Noted that volunteers may be available to participate in staffing a ferry service</p> <p>2.4 Confirmed that preparations for avian flu remain in place while bush regeneration is ongoing</p> <p>2.5 Noted that a safety ladder is on order for the upper reservoir</p> <p>2.6 A community-led question was posed regarding a proposed footpath from Q-Station to North Head. NPWS advised that rather than a singular proposed footpath, NPWS are investigating issues with regard to access and safety for the whole of the headland so that they can pull together a plan to address this. It was noted that community members may have seen survey markers in relation to these investigations, which made them think a footpath is planned.</p>	<p>NPWS to provide map of APZ's</p>
3.	<p>2024 Annual Environmental Report for North Head Quarantine Station (NHQS)</p> <p>3.1. Members noted that fire prevention matters are not included in the current reports. NPWS confirmed that this is the case however fire prevention is a legal requirement and addressed elsewhere (see discussion re APZs above) as well as through other channels such as the Bushfire Management Committee.</p> <p>3.2. Power outages at Q-Station were raised and discussed. NHS advised that while the network is aged, they undertake continual maintenance and upgrades. A high-voltage engineer is available to provide advice, and Ausgrid are on call when needed. The front office is prepared with torches</p>	<p>NPWS to provide information about bushfire management planning</p> <p>NPWS to identify locations where 'very high' fuel</p>

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	<p>and communication materials, while IT is cloud based. Mobile phones continue to operate.</p> <p>3.3. Matters related to support for the endangered long-nosed bandicoot and little penguin populations were discussed.</p> <p>3.4. A query was raised regarding the use of overflow parking, noting that the report monitors this use in relation to special events only where at other busy times Q-Station provides a point person on site at the carpark to assist with traffic and parking management.</p> <p>3.5. The potential for solar panels was raised and advice received that changes to the Government approach to heritage may now make these possible where they were not supported on heritage buildings in the past.</p> <p>3.6. Members noted their congratulations on the material provided, which they consider addresses issues well, however sought further advice regarding the allocation of responsibility under the new approval for areas of ambiguity, such as the ongoing management of the reservoir and Cannae Point (which contains important Aboriginal heritage items as well as being potentially vulnerable to weeds and erosion. NPWS offered to consider these matters and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>3.7. Members reiterated that overall they found the draft material to be well presented and easy to read</p>	<p>loads were recorded in the AER</p> <p>NPWS to provide advice on roles and responsibilities in relation to the reservoir and Cannae Point</p>
4.	<p>Planning approvals</p> <p>4.1. Members noted their ‘delight’ that the approval was achieved in time for NHS operations on site to continue.</p> <p>4.2. Confirmed that the approval enables continuing operations, as well as some modernisation of conditions and streamlining of the process for technical amendments going forward as well as any major project work. With regard to the latter NPWS observed that the input/ approval of other agencies, such as Heritage NSW, Transport for NSW as well as Council is likely to be required, with public consultation also needed for some types of applications. Accordingly, while the process is streamlined by making NPWS the approval authority, it can still be time consuming for applications to progress.</p> <p>4.3. With this in mind, members sought advice from NHS as to their plans going forward in relation to the Vision for the site that has been presented to them. NHS advised that they are now assessing the cost implications of the Vision and working out a prioritised approach for moving forward. Meetings are also being held with NPWS to determine the planning pathway options and information requirements.</p> <p>4.4. Members noted that there are some overlaps and some contradictions in conditions provided by NPWS and Heritage NSW. NPWS agreed that this was the case, and in some instances related to the timing of submissions by the applicant, which may go to NPWS prior to other agencies. In other cases, the differences in approach are being considered together with NHS.</p>	<p>NPWS to recirculate guidelines for planning pathways</p>

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	<p>Overall both NPWS and NHS are seeking to reduce the compliance load, e.g. through validation checks of the currency of plans at set intervals rather than requiring complete rewrites. Members proposed inviting a representative from Heritage NSW to a QSCCC meeting (online is ok), so that they can hear from them the intentions of their conditions, and also so that they can hear from the community their concerns and objectives for the site. Agreed that this would be a constructive way forward.</p>	<p>On behalf of QSCCC members, NPWS to invite a Heritage NSW representative to join a meeting ASAP.</p>
5.	<p>Site Wide Management Plans</p> <p>5.1 Confirmed that plans are now final and endorsed with the exception of those requiring Heritage NSW approval.</p>	
6.	<p>Community outreach initiatives</p> <p>6.1 NHS advised that the next community day is planned to coincide with National Trust's Heritage Festival and is likely to be over the weekend of 17 and 18 May. The proposed theme is 'unearthed'.</p> <p>6.2 Community members supported and expressed interest in the day.</p>	
7.	<p>Moveable heritage collection</p> <p>7.1 QSCCC members noted ongoing progress, constrained by limited resources, with recording of the moveable heritage collection.</p> <p>7.2 NPWS have commenced internal discussions regarding their curatorial assistance commitment and will provide further feedback on this as discussions progress.</p>	<p>NPWS to advise outcomes of their discussions re curatorial assistance for recording of the moveable heritage collection.</p>
8.	<p>Schedule of meetings for 2025</p> <p>The proposed schedule of meetings for 2025 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 May • 13 August • 12 November <p>The chair will follow up with calendar bookings in the new year.</p>	
9.	<p>Other business</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding meeting format and the potential to move to online or hybrid (part online and part in-person) meetings. Members noted their strong preference for remaining in-person however were accepting that some attendees may need to join online e.g. when distance or health concerns make travel prohibitive.</p> <p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 9am on Wednesday 14 May 2025.</p>	

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10.	<p>Thanks and close</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for being well-prepared for the meeting and for the lively discussion which resulted. Thanks were also passed on to NHS, for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 10:53 am.</p>	

Action list

Meeting date	Action	Responsibility	Status
Members are encouraged to report operational matters (such a signage / gates / pampas grass) at any time c/o the local NPWS Area Mailbox - Sydney North: npws.sydneynorth@environment.nsw.gov.au .			
27 February 2023	Monitoring reports to be distributed on completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-nosed bandicoot. 	NPWS	Open
13 November 2024	Community assistance sought to avoid and report dead birds to help prevent the spread of potential avian flu.	All	Open
13 November 2024 / 12 February 2025	NPWS to report back regarding curatorial assistance for recording of the moveable heritage collection.	NPWS	Open
12 February 2025	Provide map of APZ's	NPWS	Open
12 February 2025	Provide advice on roles and responsibilities in relation to the reservoir and Cannae Point	NPWS	Open
12 February 2025	Provide information about bushfire management planning Identify locations where 'very high' fuel loads were recorded in the AER	NPWS	Open
12 February 2025	Recirculate guidelines for planning pathways	NPWS	Open
12 February 2025	On behalf of QSCCC members, NPWS to invite a Heritage NSW representative to join a meeting ASAP	NPWS	Open