Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Meeting Minutes

# Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee

Held on: 12/11/2025 – 9:00am to 10:24am

At: Q Station

Chaired by: Abigail Goldberg (Independent Chair)

## Attended – community representatives

- Helen Thompson
- Virginia Macleod
- Adele Heasman
- Julie Rigoni
- Doug Sewell

## Attended – NPWS and NHS

- Andrew Thornton, Principal Project Officer, NPWS
- Doug Hazell, Environmental Liaison Officer, NPWS
- Steve Carrodus, General Manager, Q Station, NHS
- Alan Brawn, Compliance Officer, Q Station, NHS
- Helen Drew, Interpretation Officer, Q Station, NHS

## Invitees

- Nil

## Apologies

- Kandy Tagg, community representative
- Clr Candy Bingham, Northern Beaches Council
- Chad Weston, Manager, Sydney North Area, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)
- Glenn Piper, CEO, North Head Pty Ltd (NHS)
- Jess Dargan, Environmental Manager, NPWS
- Rose Porter, Environmental Manager, NPWS

## Agenda item discussion and actions

| No. | Description | Action |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country<br>1.1. Doug Hazell provided an Acknowledgement of Country.<br>1.2. Attendees were confirmed.<br>1.3. Apologies were noted.<br>1.4. Minutes and action items from the preceding meeting were confirmed and adopted. | |

| No. | Description | Action |
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| | 1.5. As a 'refresher' the Chair summarised the key elements of the role of the QSCCC in relation to the Terms of Reference. | Chair to re-transmit Terms of Reference as a refresher |
| 2. | NPWS activities update<br><br>RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS:<br><br>2.1 Doug Hazell provided an update on actions to remediate and repair the Cannae Point signal mast, the condition of which was raised at the preceding meeting.<br>2.1.1 Members thanked NPWS for their responsiveness in this regard. A request was made to also check for weed infestation at the Point while work was ongoing, which NPWS undertook to do.<br>2.1.2 A member raised the issue of Aboriginal sensitivity of the site. NPWS responded that this was addressed in project planning.<br>2.1.3 NPWS also noted the presence of inscriptions on the mast.<br><br>STATUS UPDATES:<br><br>2.2 Noted that the wharf has been closed and discussions are ongoing regarding steps to repair the structure.<br>2.3 Members were advised that the concept design for the North Head safety and access project has been updated following stakeholder consultation. Consultants have also been engaged to address the downstream stormwater drainage while the procurement process has been commenced for a delivery contractor. The final draft of the concept design will be exhibited once completed.<br>2.4 The North Head stakeholder report will be shared once finalised.<br>2.5 An update was provided on annual monitoring of the Long Nosed Bandicoot and Little Penguins. Members advised that the Little Penguins were able to be heard at night over the past weeks for the first time in several years, while NPWS observed that some nesting sites were in active use.<br>2.5.1 A further note of optimism was sounded in that Grey Nurse Sharks had returned to the area of the wharf now that the water is warmer. NPWS are liaising with Fisheries NSW in this regard.<br>2.6 The APZ program is tracking to plan and seasonal works are being undertaken as needed.<br>2.7 Recruitment has commenced for a heritage curator for the site for a contract of approximately 1 year. The contractor will be required to develop a Work Program indicating how they will tackle matters ranging from the moveable heritage collection to the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan, Inscription Management Plan and overall Conservation Management Plan. | NPWS to provide photographs of weed infestation (if any) at Cannae Point, as well as inscriptions on the mast.<br><br>NPWS to advise c/o the Chair once it is known when the exhibition will take place<br><br>NPWS to share the North Head stakeholder report on completion<br><br>NPWS to update NHS on Fisheries advice<br><br>NPWS to provide an update on recruitment outcomes at the next meeting, and the work program once developed |
| 3. | NHS activities update<br><br>OPERATIONAL MATTERS<br><br>3.1. NHS noted that several approvals had been obtained as follows: | |

| No. | Description | Action |
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| | • Installation of the sauna has been approved by NPWS subject to conditions. The proposal is now with Heritage NSW while compliance with Australian Standards is being investigated<br>• The beach fence has been removed and 'looks fantastic'. Signage has been installed and security visits by the night manager increased to oversee the beach<br>• The application for paid parking has been withdrawn pending legal advice, to be procured by NHS when budget permits.<br>3.2. Applications underway / in preparation include:<br>• Wellness Centre<br>• General compliance matters<br>• Members queried the status of the proposed room upgrades, and noted that in terms of the Burra Charter a prototype could be trialled as long as the steps initiated are reversible. NHS undertook to investigate this option.<br>3.3. Regarding heritage items it was reported that work has commence on the restoration of key inscriptions, utilising the grant money received for this purpose. The upgrade will improve visibility of the inscriptions.<br>3.4. Sales for ticketed events for Xmas, Boxing Day and NYE were reported to be excellent. Noted that the ticketed Melbourne Cup event was a sell out and highly successful.<br>COMPLIANCE MATTERS<br>A general discussion took place on compliance matters. Agreed that the optimal timing for consultation with QSCCC members is when reports are at Final Draft stage, following agency and stakeholder inputs.<br>Members also expressed interest in participating early with NHS as proposals are being developed. | NHS to investigate a prototype for a room upgrade |
| 4. | Ideas for meeting topics<br>4.1 Members proposed agenda items for 2026 as follows:<br>• Oral history<br>• NHS approach to marketing, including target markets and events strategy, with a view to informing members and enabling them to communicate activities to their networks as well as provide advice on potential marketing channels.<br>• Several members observed how much they have enjoyed the CCC meetings and noted that they consider their inputs to be respected, 'heard' and taken on board by both parties.<br>4.2 Members observed how interested local community members are in the site, and how much they appreciate and support the diverse activities and entertainment offerings. NHS invited members to call for any information that would assist them in 'getting the message out'. | Chair to integrate member suggestions into future agendas.<br>Members to seek information when needed for community updates |

| No. | Description | Action |
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| 5. | Schedule of meetings for 2025 is:<br>• 4 February<br>• 6 May<br>• 5 August<br>• 4 November | Chair to transmit placeholders for meeting dates and times |
| 6. | Other business<br>Members noted that since the last meeting Virginia Macleod, a community representative, has led a history walk group through Quarantine Station looking at its many layers of cultural and environmental heritage.<br>Virginia also noted that she has reviewed some 70% of the Quarantine Station oral history collection, comprising approximately 52 interviews, and is working on a Statement of Significance for the collection on her own time and in a volunteer capacity.<br>Partctpants expressed their strong appreciation of Virginia's work on behalf of Quarantine Station and the recording and communication of its history. Members noted additional anecdotal stories and offered to add these to Virginia's oral history.<br>Agreed that Virginia will present a summary of the oral history findings at the February meeting next year.<br>The next meeting is scheduled for **9am** on **Wednesday, 4 February 2026.** | VM to provide a summary of oral history findings at the February 2026 meeting |
| 7. | Thanks and close<br>The Chair thanked members for their participation. Thanks were also passed on to NHS for hosting the meeting and supporting community initiatives such as site walks.<br>The meeting closed at 10:24 am. | |

## 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 | Annual monitoring:<br>• Long-nosed bandicoot<br>• Little penguins. | NPWS | Open, ongoing per annual reporting requirements |
| 13 November 2024 | Community assistance sought to avoid and report dead birds to help prevent the spread of potential avian flu. | All | Open, ongoing |
| 13 August 2025 | NPWS to report back regarding curatorial assistance for recording of the moveable heritage collection. | NPWS | Updated provided on 12/11/2025 - closed |
| 14 May 2025 | Suggestions of how the CCC could most effectively support endeavours as well as collaboration. | NPWS/NHS | Updated provided on 12/11/2025 - closed |
| 13 August 2025 | NPWS to transmit c/o the Chair presentation on North Head safety and access project. | NPWS | Updated provided on 12/11/2025 - closed |
| 13 August 2025 | NPWS to provide information on brush turkey management. | NPWS | Updated provided on 12/11/2025 - closed |
| 13 August 2025 | NPWS to investigate the Cannae Point flagstaff condition and requirements. | NPWS | Updated provided on 12/11/2025 - closed |
| 12 November 2025 | Chair to re-transmit Terms of Reference as a reminder | Chair | Transmitted 12/11/2025 - closed |
| 12 November 2025 | NPWS to provide status including photographs of weed infestation (if any) at Cannae Point, as well as inscriptions on the mast | NPWS | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | NPWS to advise c/o the Chair once it is known when the exhibition of the NH safety and access project will take place | NPWS | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | NPWS to share the North Head stakeholder report on completion | NPWS | Open |

| Meeting date | Action | Responsibility | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 November 2025 | NPWS to update NHS on Fisheries advice in regard to Grey Nurse Sharks | NPWS | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | NPWS to provide an update on recruitment outcomes at the next meeting, and the work program once developed | NPWS | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | NHS to investigate a prototype for a room upgrade | NHS | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | Chair to integrate member suggestions into future agendas.<br>Members to seek information when needed for community updates | Chair / Members | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | VM to provide a summary of oral history findings at the February 2026 meeting | VM / Chair | Open |
| 12 November 2025 | Chair to transmit placeholders for meeting dates and times | Chair | Open |