

# Community / Environment Advisory Committee Minutes



Meeting held: 4:00pm, Wednesday 30th April 2014 at the Education Pod (Summerlands)

1	Welcome & Apologies		
1.1	<p>The Acting Chair declared the meeting open at 4:00pm, acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land and paid respect to the elders past and present. Attendance / Apologies are listed below.</p> <p><b>Environment Committee:</b> Andrew Paxton (CHAIR and Board), Joel Geoghegan, Mike Cleeland</p> <p><b>Community Committee:</b> Stephen Davie (ACTING CHAIR and Board), Jane Daly, Margaret Hancock, Patsy Hunt, Jan Fleming, Stephen Fullarton, Michael Whelan, Deborah Holland.</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Kevin Love (Board), Matthew Jackson (Chief Executive Officer), Dr Roz Jessop (Environment Manager), Jarvis Weston (Ranger in Charge), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - <b>Minutes</b>).</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Stella Axarlis (CHAIR and Board), Christine Grayden, Anne Davie, Gill Hardman, Tania Maddigan, Penny Manning, Deirdre Griepsma, Bessie Tyers, Kay Nair (Mohan Nair), Tim Ealey, Cr. Kimberley Brown, Pauline Taylor, Paul Smith, Louise Parsons.</p>		
2	Minutes from Previous Meeting	ACTIONS	STATUS
2.1	<p>The minutes of the meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were accepted as a true and correct record. Moved: Margaret Hancock.</p>		
3	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	ACTIONS	STATUS
3.1	<p><u>Prescribed Burns</u> <b>Comment:</b> Deborah Holland raised that a recent Nature Parks burn was on a warm day and was not displayed/alerted via the CFA's Fire Ready App which caused her concern. <b>Response:</b> The Ranger in Charge advised that the burn met all burn prescriptions (including air temperature). All authorities including CFA and Fire-Ready are notified of Nature Parks' planned burns. Adjacent neighbours are notified via letter drop and via the local paper.</p> <p>Update 30/05/2014: The Ranger in Charge advised that the matter has been raised with CFA who will investigate to see what happened in this instance. A report will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Ranger in Charge to pass on feedback to CFA that the fire was not displayed on the Fire Ready App.</p>	<p>Update: see left. Complete.</p>
4	Phillip Island Nature Parks Update	ACTIONS	STATUS
4.1	<p><u>Port of Hastings Development</u> <b>Comment:</b> Michael Whelan enquired regarding availability of the terms of reference (TORs) for "Porticipate" (the environment consultative group for the Port of Hastings Development). <b>Response:</b> The Environment Manager advised that the document is currently in draft and that she would enquire at the next Porticipate meeting as to if the TORs can be made public.</p>		
4.2	<p><u>General Update (Chief Executive Officer)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently <b>visitation</b> is estimated 20,000 visitors up YTD. The Easter period was very successful with international visitation up (including China 21%). If high visitation continues, the Nature Parks will this year receive its highest visitation ever.</li> <li>• Numbers of <b>penguins crossing the beach</b> at the Penguin Parade in March were down however have increased in April to over 2,000 penguins.</li> <li>• Thank you to all who attended the <b>Regional Growth Funding announcement</b> at the Nobbies centre on 20<sup>th</sup> March regarding a new partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and a Nature Parks' water-based tour (launch date:</li> </ul>		

	<p>December 2014). The project with WWF involves a revamp of the Nobbies basement integrating the theme “Phillip Island to Antarctica” (scheduled completion: Nov-Dec 2015).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Churchill Island Key Area Plan</b> has been approved by the Board and is now closed. The document is available on the Nature Parks’ website <a href="http://www.penguins.org.au">www.penguins.org.au</a>. The next stage of the project (Conservation Management Plan) has commenced.</li> <li>• Landscape architects and specialist consultants have been engaged to commence the <b>Penguins Plus Feasibility Project</b> (in progress).</li> <li>• There has been no response from Government as yet regarding the <b>Summerlands Business Case</b> for a new Penguin Parade building.</li> <li>• The <b>Surfing Teams Challenge</b> held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April was a successful event. Congratulations to the Phillip Island National Surfing Reserve Working Group who organised and conducted the event.</li> <li>• The Nature Parks Board has agreed in principle that the Nature Parks will work with the Port of Hastings Development Authority (POH) on studies as an independent technical expert. Reports by the Nature Parks will be publically available in line with POH process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comment:</b> Michael Whelan asked if reports provided by the Nature Parks will be publicly available (including timing).  <b>Response:</b> The CEO advised that the reports will be released by the Nature Parks in line with POH process and once published by the POH.</p> <p>It was noted that prior to ministerial decision, reports go to a panel which includes community representation (information is available before Minister decision).  <b>Comment:</b> Deborah Holland asked if preliminary studies had been conducted on projected speed of tides regarding dredging.  <b>Response:</b> The CEO advised that hydrodynamic modelling of Western Port is among the future studies to be completed for the project.</p>		
4.3	<p><u>Environment Update - April (Environment Manager):</u>  The Environment Report for April was distributed to committee members and taken as read.</p> <p>Short-tailed shearwaters experienced a bad breeding season this year. It is believed that this is due to the “wreck” which occurred in November 2013. Penguins and terns experienced a bad year also. It is believed that it is food related.  <b>Comment:</b> Jan Fleming advised that BirdLife Magazine stated that it is the worst year ever.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Michael Whelan enquired regarding a person he had seen wearing a vest on the roadside examining dead animals.  <b>Response:</b> The Environment Manager advised that various studies are in progress including on short-tailed shearwaters and wallabies (which involves examining road-kill). The people attending are most likely students.  The CEO updated that studies on Phillip Island wallabies (including population estimate) are in progress.  <b>Comment:</b> Deborah Holland discussed an idea that road-kill could be collected and placed in a visible location as an education technique to road users.  <b>Response:</b> The CEO discussed possible negative media that it could create and disruption of council process around road-kill. The Nature Parks can pass on feedback to Vic Roads and to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).</p>		
The committees remained joined for the duration of the meeting.			
<b>5</b>	<b>Matters Arising and Advice from Committee Members:</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
5.1	<p><u>Fox Dogs</u>  <b>Comment:</b> Michael Whelan asked if the dogs purchased to assist with the fox eradication program had arrived at the Nature Parks.  <b>Response:</b> The Environment Manager advised that the dogs would arrive on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May and they will be undertaking further training with their new owner.</p>		

5.2	<p><i>Wallaby Studies</i></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Mike Cleeland advised that Dr Duncan Sutherland has presented to Landcare at their recent meeting regarding the Nature Parks' studies on wallabies and asked if a report will be provided to the Board at the end of financial year.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The CEO advised that a report would be provided to the Board and to DEPI along with community concerns and feedback with a request to review and make comment.</p>		
<b>6</b>	<b>South and North Coast Beaches Key Area Plan</b>		
6.1	<p>The CEO introduced representatives from Inspiring Place, the consultant firm appointed for the South and North Coast Beaches Key Area Plan project. The team were present to provide an overview of the project, to gather input and discuss community values and key issues and regarding relevant areas of the coast to assist the study and inform recommendations.</p> <p>After development of the draft plan consultants will discuss key topics including reasons why certain things were (or were not) included in the plan during further community and stakeholder sessions scheduled for October 2014.</p> <p>The overview presentation outlined key area plan purpose, process and stages of the project (including consultation structure and dates), areas and topics of focus and benefits.</p> <p>The presentation is available here via the Nature Parks website:  <a href="http://www.penguins.org.au/assets/About/PDF-Local-Community/Community-presentation-Sth-and-Nth-Coast-KAP-040514PINP.pdf">http://www.penguins.org.au/assets/About/PDF-Local-Community/Community-presentation-Sth-and-Nth-Coast-KAP-040514PINP.pdf</a></p> <p>Committee members discussed various topics with the consultants including around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various public land managers working together</li> <li>• Access (including shared tracks and paths)</li> <li>• Balance between conservation and tourism (including capacity)</li> <li>• Protection from pest plant and animal invasion</li> <li>• Protection of the environment and habitat for native wildlife</li> <li>• Traffic management and car parking</li> <li>• Protection of sites of significance</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Infrastructure needs and locations</li> </ul> <p><b>Comment:</b> Jane Daly highlighted the Community Plan as a reference document for the project.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Patsy Hunt invited the consultants to attend a bird count.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Stephen Fullarton offered to meet with the consultants regarding further discussion on beach access.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Joel Geoghegan asked if there would be recommendations provided to Council on areas of the coast that they manage.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The CEO advised that recommendations would be provided to Council who would also be regularly briefed on the project.</p> <p>Committee members noted that a Consultation Response Sheet would be distributed for members to provide any additional and more comprehensive feedback for each key area including issues, aspirations and opportunities.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Executive assistant to email Consultation Response Sheet to committee members.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Committee members to complete and return Consultation Response Sheet as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Stephen Fullarton to meet with Inspiring Place regarding further discussion on beach access.</p> <p>Executive assistant to email Consultation Response Sheet to committee members.</p> <p>Committee members to complete and return Consultation Response Sheet as soon as possible.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Other Business</b>		
7.1	Nil.		
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>		
8.1	<p>The Chair thanked members for their contribution.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 6:00pm. The next (regular) meeting will be on Thursday 26th June 2014 at 4:00pm.</p>		