

# Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee

## Annual Report February 2019-February 2020

Independent Chairperson: Sandy Hoy

Co-proponent contact – National Parks and Wildlife Service – Jessica Dargan

Co-proponent contacts – Mawland Quarantine Station – Max Player, Suzanne Stanton

### 1 Background

A permanent Quarantine Station was established at North Head in Manly in 1838 to quarantine people arriving in Sydney by ship to prevent the spread of disease to the colony. The Quarantine Station ceased operation in 1984, after which its management was transferred to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The 27-hectare site comprises numerous historic buildings and roads, with a stunning backdrop of the native vegetation of Sydney Harbour National Park at the entrance to Sydney Harbour.

The NSW Minister for the Environment and Mawland Quarantine Station Pty Ltd (Mawland) signed a lease on 26 October 2006 for the North Head Quarantine Station Conservation and Adaptive Reuse Project. Mawland and the NSW Minister for the Environment/NPWS are co-proponents of the project to adapt the Quarantine Station site for cultural tourism purposes under a 21-year planning approval.

Q Station, as it is now known, has been operating since 2008 consistent with its approved uses for accommodation, conferences and functions, restaurant, visitor centre with a museum and cafe, environmental and cultural study centre, and guided tours. Open Days for the public are regularly held. Informal access to the site by the public is encouraged.

The Conditions of Planning Approval (CoPA) require that a Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee be established for the term of the project. 64 meetings of the QSCCC were held until November 2018 when a process for inviting expressions of interest for nomination of members for a new QSCCC was undertaken by NPWS in late 2018-early 2019.

Sandy Hoy was appointed by the then Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) as the Independent Chairperson of the QSCCC on 27 February 2019.

QSCCC members were selected from the nominations by the independent chairperson according to the criteria set out in the Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee Terms of Reference, Conditions of Planning Approval (CoPA), and the DPE Guidelines for Community Consultative Committees for State Significant Developments (January 2019).

Several current QSCCC members were members of the previous committee, including the former chairperson Cathy Griffin. Their knowledge and continuity of connection to Q Station has greatly benefited the current QSCCC.

Members selected for the QSCCC signed a code of conduct and submitted a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

## 2 Membership and attendance

The CCC is chaired by Independent Chairperson Sandy Hoy, and comprises the following members:

Organisation / interest	Name	Meetings attended			
		May 2019	August 2019	December 2019	February 2020
Community representatives	Cathy Griffin	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Adele Heasman	apology	✓	✓	✓
	Dr. Ian Lavering	✓	apology		
	Virginia McLeod	apology	apology	✓	apology
	Doug Sewell	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Jennifer Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Beaches Council (elected representative)	Cr Candy Bingham	✓	✓	✓	✓
NPWS (co-proponent)	Stephen Higham	✓			
	Carl Hollis		✓		
	Chad Weston			apology	✓
	Robyn San	✓	✓		
	Jessica Dargan		✓	✓	✓
Mawland (co-proponent)	Max Player	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Suzanne Stanton	✓	✓	✓	✓
Independent Chairperson	Sandy Hoy	✓	✓	✓	✓

Dr. Ian Lavering resigned from the QSCCC in late 2019. Stephen Higham, Carl Hollis and Robyn San were reassigned to other roles within NPWS during the year. I thank them all for their contribution to the QSCCC.

Attendance at the meetings is consistently high, reflecting the interest and commitment of the QSCCC members. Occasional apologies are received mainly due to unavoidable prior commitments. The QSCCC sets meeting dates 12 months in advance to avoid potential diary conflicts.

There is good rapport among all QSCCC members who understand the site and their roles well. Co-proponents NPWS and Mawland are co-operative and responsive to questions, feedback and issues raised by community members.

The community members of the QSCCC have a valuable contribution as a “sounding board” for NPWS and Mawland, providing advice and feedback to NPWS and Mawland from the various perspectives of community member, local resident, site visitor, activity participant, and overnight guest. The community members act as a conduit between NPWS and Mawland and local community groups, Northern Beaches Council, and the State Member of Parliament for Manly.

Feedback from community members about the QSCCC meetings includes the high level of expertise, everyone contributes, members’ length of involvement with the site, and the commitment from NPWS and Mawland. Meetings are considered to be well run with detailed minutes provided.

All co-proponents and committee members have their own fields of interest/responsibility and strongly-held views, but any disagreements are resolved amicably in a supportive way and in the best interests of the site.

As of March 2020 there are two vacant positions on the QSCCC. NPWS is advertising for nominations to fill the vacancies.

### 3 Activities of QSCCC over the past 12 months

The QSCCC operates according to the Department of Planning and Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects 2019, and the CoPA. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has advised that the CoPA for QSCCC take precedence over any inconsistency with the DPE CCC Guidelines.

Meetings were held quarterly at the Quarantine Station, 1 North Head Scenic Drive at Manly on 28 May, 14 August and 11 December 2019; and on 12 February 2020. The planned meeting on 13 November 2019 was rescheduled to 11 December 2019 due to catastrophic fire conditions requiring closure of North Head to visitors on that day.

Minutes are prepared after each meeting and are approved by the committee members at the following meeting with amendments if required. Following approval of the minutes a summary of the meeting minutes is placed by NPWS and Mawland on their respective websites: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NPWS/AdvisoryCommittees.htm>  
<https://www.qstation.com.au/our-story.html>

Activities that QSCCC members participated in during the year are:

- attendance at the Q Station Open Day on 28 April with the theme 100 years since the Spanish Flu epidemic
- attendance at the ceremony to declare Q Station as an International Peace Park on 22 May
- a guided site tour after the May meeting
- presentation on 'Save Our Species – Threatened Species' by NPWS staff at the August meeting
- lunch with NSW Heritage Council representatives and a ceremony to open the refurbished buildings P21 and P23 after the August meeting
- attendance at the Q Station Open Day on 15 September with the theme 'Life in Quarantine'
- inspection of the museum collection of Q Station historical items after the February meeting.

There were no joint meetings with any other CCCs.

### 4 Key issues

NPWS provides a report at each meeting on:

- North Head Precinct Planning
- Walking tracks
- Environmental audits and monitoring
- Wildlife management – penguins, long-nosed bandicoots, echidnas
- Pest management – rabbits, foxes, weeds

- Fire management – hazard reduction, fire plans, vegetation management.

Mawland provides a report at each meeting covering topics including:

- day-to-day operations
- visitation
- activities such as tours, events and Open Days
- education programs and support for local schools
- success in NSW Tourism and other awards
- site maintenance
- building refurbishments and other works
- support for artists and sculptors through providing a venue for their work
- response to weather and other events which impact on the site.

In addition to discussing the above issues, members of the Committee have raised issues and suggestions such as:

- impact of wharf lighting on fish in Sydney Harbour
- themes and activities for open days
- feedback on their experience as a guest or visitor at Q Station.

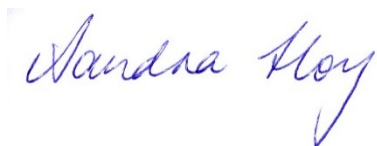
There are no significant issues outstanding as at the end of February 2020.

## 5 Focus for the next 12 months

Quarterly meetings are planned to continue in 2020-21.

The planned activities of the QSCCC for 2020-21 will be guided by the contributions and interest of the QSCCC members, and ongoing and arising management issues raised by NPWS and Mawland. Such activities will include:

- providing feedback and support for the ongoing activation of and increasing visitation to Q Station
- closer involvement in the review of site-wide management plans and environmental monitoring and audit reports to provide informed feedback and recommendations to the co-proponents
- continuing to liaise with community and interest groups and with Northern Beaches Council on Quarantine Station related matters.



Sandy Hoy

Independent Chairperson, Quarantine Station Community Consultative Committee

24 April 2020

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