



# Making Waves

May 2008

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update  
[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)

Welcome to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) Monthly Update. The aim of the update is to provide Member Councils and interested stakeholders with a quick and easy to read summary of the Group's recent activities. If you would like more information on any of the projects or issues discussed please contact the SCCG Secretariat on (02) 9246 7702.

## SCCG Key Activities

### **Australian Government – Inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities**

The SCCG has made a formal submission to the *Inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities*. The submission noted that, with guidance and assistance from State and Federal Governments, Local Government was well placed to assist local communities manage the likely impacts of climate change in the coastal zone. To adequately respond and adapt to climate change Local Government requires guidance and assistance from State and Federal Governments in the following areas:

- Defining the roles and responsibilities of each sphere of Government;
- Legislative, policy and regulatory guidance;
- Information and data provision;
- Trial initiatives and demonstration projects;
- New funding and investment strategies; and
- Monitoring and evaluation programs.

The SCCG strongly urged the Inquiry to ensure full consideration of climate change issues in the coastal zone and the role Local Government will play in addressing these issues when making its recommendations.

### **NSW Legislative Assembly - Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change)**

The SCCG was invited to appear at the public hearings of the "Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management (Climate Change)" on Friday, 16 May. The transcript from the hearing can be found at

[www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/FC6268A7F07696DBCA25745E000DF112](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/FC6268A7F07696DBCA25745E000DF112)

### **Collaborative Partnership Program with SCCG & Institute of Environmental Studies (Uni of NSW)**

The current round of project(s) for the first session of 2008 are being undertaken for the following projects:

- Critical review of key components within Local Government Biodiversity; and
- A critical Review of Going Carbon Neutral options.

These projects will be completed and distributed to all Member Councils in July. The partnership program is designed for the SCCG and council members and the IES to jointly focus on addressing contemporary and strategic environmental management issues.

Copies of all other research projects undertaken as part of the partnership are available via the SCCG web site or UNSW IES: [www.ies.unsw.edu.au/partnerships/sccg.htm](http://www.ies.unsw.edu.au/partnerships/sccg.htm).

### **Development and testing of a GIS tool to assess coastal building vulnerability to catastrophic marine floods (tsunami)**

The SCCG has partnered with the University of New South Wales to undertake a research project that will apply and test a newly developed and highly novel GIS tool to assess the vulnerability of coastal infrastructure to catastrophic marine floods. The outputs may be used by council to make decisions about long-term strategic planning and development. On Monday 19 May all member councils and other key stakeholders were invited for a 2 hour seminar where the results of the project were presented. The project has utilised a highly novel semi-quantitative model integrated into a GIS in order to display the vulnerability on maps. For more information go to:

[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCFactSheet-CoastalFloodModellingProject.pdf](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCFactSheet-CoastalFloodModellingProject.pdf)



## Member Council Actions and Issues

Every Month the Sydney Coastal Councils uses this section of the update to provide a summary of some of the actions being undertaken and emerging issues for Member Councils.



### Sea level Rise Seminar

On the May 29 Pittwater, Warringah, Manly and Mosman councils hosted a very successful sea level rise seminar at the Royal Motor Yacht Club. The seminar examined the case for early government intervention on rising sea levels. Some of the issues that were explored at the seminar included:

- Is it appropriate for individual councils to determine future sea level rise scenarios and their effects on planning;
- What guidance and leadership on the issue of sea level rise is required from State and Federal Governments; and
- What is the capacity of councils to adapt to sea level rise?

The presentations from the seminar can be found at.

[www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/council\\_publications/sea\\_level\\_rise\\_seminar\\_presentations#Sea%20Level%20Rise%20Seminar%20-%20Presentations](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/council_publications/sea_level_rise_seminar_presentations#Sea%20Level%20Rise%20Seminar%20-%20Presentations)

### Local Councils to prepare Risk Management Plans for climate change

The SCCG secretariat would like to congratulate all Member Councils who were successful in attaining funding through the Local Adaptation Pathways Program. The Local Adaptation Pathways Program provides funding to help local governments build their capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change through the development and implementation of Risk Management plans. Successful SCCG councils included Manly, Randwick and Rockdale councils. For more information

[www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts/localgovernment/lapp.html](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/impacts/localgovernment/lapp.html)

### Woollahra Council Community Environmental Grants

Woollahra Council's 2008-2009 *Community Environmental Grants* are now open for applications. The *Community Environmental Grants* program aims to support local schools and community groups to implement their own environmental projects that help protect or enhance the environment. This year, eligible groups and schools may apply for grants of either up to \$500 or up to \$1000, depending on the cost of the project they wish to implement. Applications for the *Community Environmental Grants* close **30 June 2008**. For more information [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/news/news/community\\_grants\\_now\\_open](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/news/news/community_grants_now_open)

### Councils encouraged to apply for Community Coastcare grants

The Community Coastcare grants program, part of the Australian Government's \$2.25 billion *Caring for our Country*, has now opened and the SCCG encourages all coastal councils to apply. Coastcare project activities may target any coastal environments including intertidal zones, beaches, dune ecosystems, estuaries and coastal wetlands, islands and reefs and coastal vegetation. Coastal environments also include coastal waters. Application forms can be found on the *Caring for our Country* website at [www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare.html](http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare.html) Applications will close on Friday 25 July 2008. For further information contact 1800 552 00

If you would like a copy of the Making Waves the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update please contact SCCG Coastal Project Officer, Craig Morrison at: [craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](mailto:craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.**  
C/- City of Sydney Council  
Level 14, 456 Kent Street  
GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY NSW 2001

