

SCCG Full Group Meeting Minutes Meeting Held June 19 2004, Leichhardt Council

Table of Contents

1.	OPENING	2
2.	APOLOGIES	2
3.	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – SCCG & UNSW (INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES)	3
4.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
5.	BUSINESS ARISING	5
6.	CORRESPONDENCE	6
6.1	Sent and Received Correspondence	6
7.0	ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	6
7.1	Performance Review and Contract of Employment for Coastal Project Officer	6
7.2	New Host Council for the SCCG 2004-2007	6
8.	PRESENTATION	6
9.1	The Sydney Coastal Councils Group – An Overview	6
10.	REPORTS	6
10.1	Beachwatch and Harbourwatch Programs – Clr. Harvey	6
10.2	Report on the Activities of the Sydney Harbour Catchment Management Board and the establishment of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority – Clr Harvey	7
10.3.	Review and Redevelopment of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Business Management Plan 2001-2004	7
10.4	SCCG Project Updates	7
	<i>GIS Working Group</i>	7
	<i>Groundwater Working Group</i>	8
	<i>Coastal Risk</i>	8
	<i>Geotechnical Expert Panel</i>	8
10.5	Stormwater Extension Officer (SEOP) – Sydney Harbour / Parramatta River	9
10.6	Water Sensitive Urban Design in Sydney	9
10.7	SCCG Submissions	9
10.8	Key Activities Report for June – 2004	10
10.	TREASURER'S REPORT	10
11.	GENERAL BUSINESS	10
11.1	Items for Press Release	11
11.2	Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting	12
11.3	Next Meeting	12

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC.
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 19 JUNE, 2004
AT LEICHHARDT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1.00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Clr Damien Cobley-Finch	Leichhardt Council
Clr Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Clr Judy Lambert	Manly Council
Clr Patricia Harvey	Mosman Council
Mr Warren Burgess	Mosman Council
Clr Jilly Gibson	North Sydney Council
Mr Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Clr Alex McTaggart	Pittwater Council
Clr Lynne Czinner	Pittwater Council
Mr Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Clr Margaret Woodsmith	Randwick Council
Mr Tony Watson	Randwick Council
Clr. George Copeland	Waverley Council
Ms Niki Carey	Waverley Council
Clr Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Mr Brian McDonald	Willoughby Council
Clr Wilhelmina Gardner	Woollahra Council
Clr Christopher Dawson	Woollahra Council
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG
Mr. Richard Phillips	SCCG

1. OPENING

The meeting opened at 1:30pm with Clr Harvey in the Chair. Clr Harvey welcomed delegates to the meeting, and thanked Leichhardt Council for hosting the meeting.

Clr Damien Cobley-Finch from Leichhardt Council welcomed SCCG and provided the Group with a brief introduction outlining the cultural history of his ward, and a number of environmental concerns for Leichhardt Council including water quality, spill response trailers and the redevelopment of inner suburban housing.

2. APOLOGIES

Clr Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Clr Nick Dyer	Leichhardt Council
Mr. Paul Smith	Manly Council
Clr Shirley Jenkins	Mosman Council
Clr Antony Andrews	Randwick Council
Clr Bob Spencer	Sutherland Council
Dennis Corbett	Warringah Council
Ms Emily Scott	Waverley Council
Clr Pat Riely	Willoughby Council
Prof Bruce Thom	Honorary Member
Mr Phil Coleman	Honorary Member
Ms Helen Papathanasiou	SEO SCCG
Mr Mark Matthews	SEO SCCG
Mr John Dahlenburg	WSUD Project Officer

Resolved that the apologies be received and noted

Councils not represented at the meeting Botany Bay, Hornsby, Rockdale, Sutherland, City of Sydney, Warringah and Woollahra.

3. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – SCCG & UNSW (INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES)

The Collaborative partnership program between SCCG and UNSW aims to address current environmental issues and needs identification for SCCG member councils. The projects selected are intended to be applied at a regional level, i.e. for all SCCG member councils. Four (4) projects have been selected for 2004 and they include:

1. Community education programs to decrease greenhouse gas emissions – Rockdale Council.
2. Biodiversity Management in urban environments – Pittwater and Rockdale Councils.
3. Assessing and managing coastal risk – SCCG, Sutherland and Pittwater Councils.
4. Educating for sustainability community needs and engagement strategies – North Sydney.

It is expected that member councils will nominate future projects for review in the next round of submissions, late in 2004.

Collaborative Projects

The RCEO provided the Group with a list of proposed projects for 2004.

Ecological Footprint – Prof. Ronnie Harding / Phillip Woods

Professor Ronnie Harding Director of IES from UNSW is developing the concept of Ecological Footprint (EF) used to address sustainability. UNSW Masters student Phillip Woods provided the Group with a 20 minute presentation outlining the major findings for phase 1 of his Ecological Footprint study, conducted for North Sydney Council between August 2003 and January 2004.

Phase 1 of the study looked at the appropriateness of EF as a sustainability measure for Nth Sydney Council. The Australian average is 8.1, whilst the global average is 2.3 and the global capacity is 1.7. This means that Australia has a Ecological Footprint 3.5 times larger than the global average and 4.8 times larger than the global capacity.

Ecological Footprint has 6 main categories including:

1. Food;
2. Housing;
3. Transportation;
4. Goods;
5. Services; and
6. Waste.

The strengths of EF is that is a beneficial communication tool but has been criticised for producing limited data sets.

Local Governments in the United Kingdom use EF regularly, so to the Victorian EPA and Surfcoast Council where it is applied to both community and council activities. These agencies report that they gather good results that are often linked to other councils to compare data. Sydney Water have also used EF to produce generic data sets.

One of the recommendations that came out of the study was for EF to be implemented for within the community and among SCCG member councils after the results of the North Sydney study have been finalised. SCCG is considered to be a launching pad for the EF program given it has 15 councils for which data and results of implementing EF can be compared.

FGM2-04

Phase II of the study will commence later this year and will begin calculating EF for Nth Sydney Council. To calculate results for the community is still considered a major challenge for EF. The United Kingdom approach however, will be used as a benchmark for calculating community EF.

MOU SIGNING & PROJECT PRESENTATION

At the completion of Phillip's presentation the MOU between IES UNSW and SCCG was signed off by the SCCG Chair (Clr Patricia Harvey), the SCCG Executive Officer (Mr Geoff Withycombe) and by Professor Ronnie Harding (UNSW).

Professor Harding thanked the Group for providing UNSW and Phillip Woods with the opportunity to present to the SCCG and the Full Group. Both Prof. Harding and Phillip were officially thanked by the Chair for providing the Group with the results of the study.

Question Time

Mr Warren Burgess asked what methodology could be recommended for Council implementation. Phillip responded by stating that each Council is unique and there will always be differences among councils. Therefore it is important to work through what different methods EF offers, trial them and then when one is found to be most suitable, then implement.

Clr Copeland asked whether the effects of tourism were factored into the EF community calculation? Phillip responded by saying not specifically but it does take into account the population of a Council community.

It was resolved that

1. SCCG to obtain a copy of the study from Phillip for distribution to its member councils.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 28 February at Sutherland Council

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 28 February at Sutherland Council be confirmed.

4.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 18 March at Mosman Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 18 March at Mosman Council be received and noted.

4.3 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting held on 19 February at City of Sydney Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting held on 19 February at City of Sydney Council be received and noted.

4.4 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting held on 15 April at Waverley Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting held on 15 April at Waverley Council be received and noted.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

SCCG Hosting

The SCCG hosting contract with Randwick Council is due to end at the end of June 2004. The Group has been given a one-month extension in which to find a new host. At this stage, SCCG has not had a single offer from any of their member councils to host the Group for the period 2004-2007.

The RCEO requested delegates to contact their respective councils to inquire about available space. Hosting the Group is a cost neutral expense. Payroll services are required from the hosting council, as well as 3 work stations over 3 years.

Caulerpa taxifolia

Clr McTaggart inquired what has been done about addressing the Caulerpa issue because there has been no assistance from any State agency including NSW Fisheries, the EPA or Waterways. Clr McTaggart recommended that Councils rely on their own resources.

The RCEO informed Clr McTaggart and the Group that the NSW Fisheries Minister has twice been formally written to since February attempting to determine what they have done to address the issue. SCCG has not received any response to date from NSW Fisheries. Furthermore, the Federal Government will not give the NSW State Government money to address the problem because *Caulerpa taxifolia* is native to Queensland waters. Remedial action to date has been to smother Caulerpa with salt but the effects to the remaining aquatic ecosystem are not known.

Clr McTaggart informed the Group that Caulerpa had been identified in three locations within Pittwater. At each site, Caulerpa was located in less than 2m of water. Clr Harvey informed the Group that there has also been an outbreak in Chowder Bay and within Middle Harbour.

It was recommended that

1. SCCG to send information through to Clr Jilly Gibson (Nth Sydney).
2. SCCG to write a press release on Caulerpa to coincide with the Boat Show (due to commence 2nd week in August).
3. Confirm with NSW Boating when the Boat Show commences.
4. Contact Bill Talbot from NSW Fisheries to get an update on the issue.
5. Contact Beachwatch (EPA) on what they are doing to address the issue.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Sent and Received Correspondence

It was resolved that all correspondence be received and noted for the period February 29 – June 19.

7.0 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7.1 Performance Review and Contract of Employment for Coastal Project Officer

The SCCG Executive Officer noted that the CPO had undertaken a 3 month performance review since commencing with SCCG on January 19, 2004. The RCEO informed the Group that the new CPO (Richard Phillips) had adjusted quite well into the position and was encouraged by the progress he was making with the Groundwater and GIS projects.

It was resolved that the CPO enter a 3 year performance based contract with the Group for the period April 2004 – April 2007.

7.2 New Host Council for the SCCG 2004-2007

Refer to item 4.1. of the minutes.

8. PRESENTATION

The RCEO presented to the Group the new environmental education banners that are available to all member councils for display. The banners were displayed to the Group showing the three main themes of environmental awareness (beach rubbish, oil leaks and cigarette butts).

The banners are available for a 3 week loan period and come with an instruction leaflet outlining how to maintain them. The banners are 6m x 1m. Contact the CPO to arrange for loan details. Delegates from Manly, Nth Sydney and Willoughby indicated they would be interested in exhibiting the banners.

9.1 The Sydney Coastal Councils Group – An Overview

The RCEO provided the Group and more specifically, the newly appointed Councillor delegates with an overview about the SCCG. The presentation aimed at providing the new delegates with a comprehensive background to who the SCCG are, what they do and what products and service they provide their member councils. The presentation addressed the following issues:

- SCCG History;
- aims and objectives;
- roles and responsibilities;
- achievements;
- published material;
- strengths; and
- activities.

10. REPORTS

10.1 Beachwatch and Harbourwatch Programs – Clr. Harvey

Clr Harvey indicated that after July 8, after the next Beachwatch Advisory Committee meeting, a more robust update will be provided to the Group. The draft release for Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Waters is available for comment and review until July 30th, 2004. For more information go to the following web

address www.nhmrc.gov.au/advice/consult.htm.

Resolved that after more information is provided on the programs, Clr Harvey provide the Group with a more comprehensive update at the next meeting.

10.2 Report on the Activities of the Sydney Harbour Catchment Management Board and the establishment of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority – Clr Harvey

Approximately \$5.4 million has been granted to the Sydney Metropolitan Environment volunteers National Heritage trust. Clr Harvey informed the Group that there is not much to report other than the Sydney Harbour CMA will soon be announced.

Some of the projects that have been previously been funded under the NHT program include:

- Green Web – Integrated Biodiversity Management for Local Government
- Integrated weed management
- Urban Stream De-channelisation program
- Sydney Harbour Sea Grass and Estuary Vegetation
- Sydney Harbour Riverine Corridor Ecology
- Community Support Program

It was resolved that a more comprehensive update will be provided at the next meeting after more information on the program is released.

10.3. Review and Redevelopment of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Business Management Plan 2001-2004

The SCCG CEO extended the invitation to all delegates to contact the SCCG Secretariat for any feedback or comments on developing the new Sydney Coastal Management Strategy (SCMS) 2004 – 2007. The aim of the new Strategy is to combine the existing 2 policies that are in place, to come under one management umbrella.

Clr McTaggart suggested that the Group work in tandem with other ROC's along the NSW Coast, particularly given the fact the NSW Coastal Council was dissolved earlier in the year. Clr McTaggart reinforced the importance for SCCG to monitor regional coastal work carried out by other ROC's in order to reduce any potential duplication of project work.

The RCEO informed the Group that SCCG is unique because it is the only ROC that specifically deals with Coastal Environmental issues. Prof. Bruce Thom is a valuable asset to SCCG because he provides the Group with up to date coastal related information.

It was resolved that

1. Delegates to provide the SCCG Secretariat with comments / suggestions on the proposed SCMS for the period 2004-2007.
2. SCCG to work in tandem with other regional ROC's so as to reduce any unnecessary duplication.

10.4 SCCG Project Updates

Briefing Notes"

The CPO and RCEO

provided the Group with an update on SCCG main projects for 2004.

GIS Working Group

The CPO provided the Group with an outline of SCCG GIS project for 2004. The GIS working Group was formed in June 2004 to address GIS issues and needs for its member councils. The role of the Group will be to provide GIS project facilitation and coordination.

FGM2-04

The working Group met for its first meeting on June 9 and established some short term goals including gathering more comprehensive information about data sets. The major outcomes from this meeting were to determine what data sets member councils and State Agencies have and what data sets they would like to have access to. It is anticipated that a database library would be established for the benefit of all SCCG member councils.

The second major outcome of the meeting was to investigate the possibility of having a GIS forum for all SCCG member councils. This would enable GIS officers from member councils to showcase what they are currently doing with GIS. Council professional staff, including Directors and General Managers would be invited to attend the forum to demonstrate that GIS can be used as a tool to improve NRM project deliverables.

The GIS working Group will meet next on 4 August. A progress report on the Group performance will be provided by the CPO at the next Full Group meeting (18th September).

Groundwater Working Group

The Groundwater Working Group established in April 2004 is now gathering momentum. The Group is working hard toward producing a groundwater manual that will be made available for SCCG member councils, industry and the community.

Representatives from both DIPNR and DEC are on the working Group and SCCG have approached both agencies to sign off on the proposed manual. At this stage DIPNR have given in principal support for a joint manual sign off. SCCG also believes that the proposed manual will aid both State Agencies in

The working Group has also been successful in entering a data exchange licence with DIPNR's GIS department. DIPNR has already provided the groundwater working Group with free groundwater bore data for all SCCG member councils, complete with attribute information such as age of the bore, depth to groundwater, the license holder etc. It is believed this information is not currently available for SCCG member councils. The digital information can be used in a GIS to assist SCCG member councils with groundwater and Natural Resource Management issues.

It is anticipated that obtaining further groundwater data sets will be investigated throughout the project. The working Group is due to meet on 30th June. A report on the progress of the working Group will be provided by the CPO at the next full Group meeting (September 18).

The proposed manual is likely to be available by December 2004.

Coastal Risk

At the December meeting of the Technical Committee delegates expressed concerns for the need for attention of various issues related to Risk Management in the coastal zone. Issues noted include:

- Safety and access issues in relation to headlands and coastal walkways
- Coastal fencing issues in general
- Risk Management plans and action plans for the coastal zone

The SCCG has resolved to convene a coastal risk forum in 2004 (similar to the successful geotechnical forum, 2003) to explore common risk issues and risk management activities of local government. A Working Group has been established to further scope the forum and begin planning the event.

Geotechnical Expert Panel

Following the very successful SCCG Geotechnical Forum and field trip held at Warringah Council in September 2003, the SCCG has convened the SCCG Geotechnical Expert forum. The inaugural meeting of the forum occurred on the 14 April 04

The Expert Panel includes: Prof. Bruce Thom (Coastal Guru), Angus Gordon (Pittwater Council - General Manager), Paul Hardie (Pittwater Council (Executive Officer), Allen Coker (Woollahra Council - (Director Planning & Development), Geoff Reinhard (Waverley Council - (Director Beach Park & Rec. Services), Peter Tobin

(Wollongong Council - (Geotechnical Engineer), Doug Lord (DIPNR (Manager - Coastal Ecosystems Branch), James Alexander (DIPNR (Building Surveyor - Alpine Region), Andrew Leventhal (Australia Geomechanics (Chairman), Richard Phillips (Engineers Australia (Executive Director), and the SCCG Secretariat

The aim of the first meeting is to review, update and action scope. It will:

- Assess where we are now, (following the SCCG forum, Pittwater's Policy, Snowy Mountains Policy, Government lobbying, recent grant applications etc etc),
- Review recent activities of key players over the last 5 months (ie round table updates, issues and needs identification),
- Define potential gaps and areas of focus for the Panel and the SCCG including issues such as:
 - Development and adoption of a State Geotech Policy
 - Review, clarify and address Geo Tech mapping and risk assessments
 - Geotech management intervention and associated planning (regional and local)

Additional technical and policy advice / tools needed by practionors, management authorities and industry etc etc

It was resolved that an update of all SCCG projects and project outcomes be provided to the Full Group at the next meeting.

10.5 Stormwater Extension Officer (SEOP) – Sydney Harbour / Parramatta River

Mark Matthews, SEO with SCCG provided the Group and new Councillor delegates with a background to the SEO Program as well as a summary of the latest program activities for the period June – September 2004. Mark provided a detailed summary of all current and proposed activities for the SEO Officers. Cllr Harvey and Cllr Czinner thanked Mark for the presentation and for all the work the SEO Officers are doing under the program.

It was resolved that

1. SCCG and the SEO Officers investigate the possibility of running a rainwater tanks forum for Southern Sydney, similar to the one held at Nth Sydney.

10.6 Water Sensitive Urban Design in Sydney

Twenty five (25) out of 44 Sydney Councils undertook the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) challenge in 2003. In August this year, the WSUD seminar and Water Sustainability Challenge will again be contested by Local Councils throughout Sydney. The RCEO invited all member councils to participate in this year's Water Sustainability Challenge. For more details, contact WSUD Officer John Dahlenburg on 0422 0088 69 or on email john@wsud.org or website www.wsud.org

10.7 SCCG Submissions

The RCEO informed the Group that SCCG had submitted 5 submissions since April. Two of the major submissions were the Port Botany Expansion submission and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management submission. The RCEO informed the Group that the discussion paper failed to outline any substantial policy framework that would address Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The SCCG therefore requested that the committee re-address the proposal to adequately outline an integrated coastal zone management framework

Delegate Mr Tony Watson, Strategic Planning Team Leader from Randwick Council provided a summary of why the Port Botany Expansion has been postponed. The following information is a summary of the course of events over recent time.

One recommendation made from the recent Commission Of Inquiry was that the Minister for Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources ensures that any expansion of the Port Botany terminal facilities is only to be

FGM2-04

undertaken after the identification and rigorous evaluation of all viable alternatives, including the current proposal.

DIPNR in essence requested an adjournment of the inquiry to allow the applicant, Sydney Ports, to collate the additional information required. This was accepted by Sydney Ports and the Commissioner, thus the Commission of Inquiry has been adjourned to a date to be confirmed in approximately 3-4 months.

Next Steps

Following submission of the additional information the Commission will be required to readvertise and exhibit the additional information and recommence the inquiry process. Sydney Coastal Council will make a supplementary submission at this time if required.

It was resolved that the submissions be received and noted for the period February to June 2004.

10.8 Key Activities Report for June – 2004

It was resolved that the key activities report and summary provided by the RCEO be received and noted for the period April to June.

10.9 TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Statement for the period ending April 2004

Recommended that the Final Audited Financial Statement and auditors report for the financial year 2003-2004 to be circulated to full Group delegates as soon as possible.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cigarette Bans On Beaches

Manly Council

- Manly will proceed with a routine notice to ban smoking and confirmed the motion that Manly will ban smoking in children's playground areas.
- Manly received a great National response to the banning of cigarette's on Manly beach.
- Manly has received support from Pittwater, Mosman and Waverley Council's.
- They are waiting on legal advice if Council should go ahead with the motion.
- The concept is to have a self supporting, peer pressure program to discourage people from smoking at the beach.
- The Sydney Morning Herald survey had a no smoking on the beach 68% in favour.
- Manly believes that current littering laws have not adequately addressed the issue of beach smoking and littering.
- Manly encouraged SCCG could produce some education material on the issue
- Clr Aird requested that SCCG write to the Federal Government to get their position on the issue.
- Manly also seeking legal advice on the issue. They are also interested in determining whether the issue is one of health or environment or both.
- Geoff Withycombe commented that the SCCG being an environmental ROC, would like to see Manly look at the issue as one of litter and contamination and for Manly to focus on that.

Waverley Council

- Waverley Council have followed suit by passing a motion to ban smoking on their beaches.
- Waverley have put in a tender for a beach cleaning machine that would rake cigarette butts out of the sand. Council realised that if people were not smoking on the beach, then it would save the council money by not having to invest in such a machine.
- Pittwater Council have given in principal support for banning cigarettes on beaches. They are in the process of seeking legal advice on legislation as well as a staff report.
- Niki Carey inquired whether the funding under the cigarette butt trust was strictly for education. Geoff responded by saying no, explaining that there are three (3) avenues available for funding and \$400,000 to spend Nationally.

Pittwater Council

- Clr McTaggart indicated that the RTA contract out their maintenance on traffic island refuges on main roads. He has noticed that a lot of drains near these Islands are full of cigarette butts.

General Discussion

- . Clr Harvey suggested that SCCG should contact Keep Australia Beautiful and determine what they are doing in terms of;
 1. Legal Advice
 2. Potential Funding
 3. Proposed education programs
- Mosman Council delegates suggested that SCCG raise the issue with SHOROC

Clean Beach Challenge

- Clr McTaggart informed the Group that the member councils are invited to participate Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 2004 Clean Beach Challenge. Entry forms are available online at: www.kabnsw.org.au
- Clr McTaggart also informed SCCG about the Sea Change Task Force that is located in Victoria. A workshop was recently held in Melbourne. A report that was produced from the workshop titled “ “ was tabled by Clr McTaggart because of the content had coastal implications. SCCG was requested to forward a copy of the report to all Full Group delegates.

It was resolved that

1. SCCG write to the Federal Government requesting them to spend money on education material for Local Councils.
2. Pittwater and Waverley Councils to forward a copy of their respective reports to SCCG
3. SCCG to contact Keep Australia Beautiful regarding legal advice, funding and education advice/potential programs.
4. Warren Burgess to contact SCCG on outcomes of the next SHOROC meeting.
5. SCCG to forward a copy of the Sea Change Task Force report to all Full Group delegates.

11.1 Items for Press Release

It was resolved that SCCG prepare a media release on Caulerpa to coincide with the launch of the NSW Boat Show in early August.

11.2 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

Resolved that delegates consider additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for Saturday 18 September 2004.

11.3 Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Group be held on Saturday 18 September at North Sydney Council pending confirmation.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm

Confirmation of Minutes:

/ /
