



Coastal Currents

Edition 55 The Newsletter of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group December 2009

From the Chair

Welcome to the Christmas 2009 edition of 'Coastal Currents'. The summer holidays are very much a time for discovering and enjoying Sydney's Coastline with family and friends. So it is with this in mind that I encourage everyone to participate in the SCCG 2010 Summer Activities Program. More details can be found on the inside pages of the newsletter.

It has been an interesting time in coastal management with the release of the Draft NSW Planning Guideline: Adapting to Sea level rise from the NSW Government and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change Report: Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coasts. Coastal management is a partnership between all spheres of Government and the release of these

documents provide coastal councils with some much needed information and policy guidance in their activities to build the resilience of coastal communities in response to climate change. I would like to conclude this newsletter by noting my pleasure at attending the SCCG 20th anniversary dinner on the 5th of December. The night celebrated the growth and successes of the Group over the last 20 years. My thanks and congratulations go to all those who have contributed to the SCCG's success over the last 20 years.

On behalf of the Executive, Secretariat and all our Member Councils, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break.

Thank you Cr. Wendy McMurdo



SCCG 20th ANNIVERSARY DINNER



SCCG Staff and delegates
Enjoying the festivities

On Saturday December 5 past and present delegates and staff of the SCCG celebrated the Group's 20th Anniversary at a gala dinner. The dinner offered the opportunity for many people who have contributed to the SCCG and the protection of Sydney's coastline to catch up and mark the 20 years of growth and success of the SCCG. Throughout the night many passionate conversations could be heard involving sewage tunnels, sea walls, beach amenity, surfing, oyster farming and sustainable fisheries. The evening left everyone looking forward to the next 20 years and beyond.

INSIDE

Major Projects	1
News in Brief	2
Submissions/consultation	3
Coastal News	4

NSW Government Coastal Reform Package

During the NSW Coastal Conference held between 4-6th November 2009 the NSW Government announced the finalisation of the NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement as well as the release of the following documents for consultation:

- Draft NSW Coastal Planning Guideline - Adapting to Sea Level Rise
- Draft Coastal Risk Management Guide: Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in coastal risk assessments
- Draft Flood Risk Management Guide: Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in flood risk assessments

All of these documents apply to all coastal areas of NSW, including the NSW Coastal Zone, as well as Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. Submissions close on the draft document on 11 December 2009 (late submissions can be lodged up until mid February). To assist all Member Councils the SCCG facilitated a 1 day workshop on 1 December 2009 to:

1. Hear from the NSW Department of Planning and NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water on the content of the documents.
2. To have a regional forum that enables Member Council staff to discuss their councils information and technical needs in applying the guidelines.
3. Assist the SCCG in preparing a regionally representative submission on the guidelines and guides on behalf of SCCG Member Councils.

The SCCG Secretariat is currently preparing a submission for consultation with its delegates in mid December.



SCCG News and Upcoming Events

SCCG Project wins Coastal Conference Award

On 5 November the SCCG and the CSIRO won the NSW Coastal Award under the category "Innovations" for the project "A Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises". The award was proudly accepted at the NSW Coastal Conference Dinner on behalf of the entire research team by SCCG Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe. The Innovations award is awarded to an individual, group, organisation or agency for initiation or development of innovative methods and techniques to address a coastal management issue.

Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation in the SCCG region

This project is being delivered in three stages.

Stage 1: Effect of Climate Change on Sea level Rise and Extreme Sea Levels. **Stage 2:** Development of Model Planning provisions to integrate sea level rise and extreme sea level events into relevant planning strategies of the SCCG. **Stage 3:** Develop and distribute community risk disclosure information and corresponding community and stakeholder education program. A stakeholder technical workshop was facilitated in late November to finalise key project expectations and deliverables for SCCG Member Councils. The project will run throughout 2010.

Education empowerment of Landslide risk Management to regulators and practitioners

This project aims to build the highly successful landslide risk management guidelines and commentaries including AGS 2007 and aims to improve:

Awareness of landslide risk management issues amongst local and state government instrumentalities as well as practitioners; and the ability to implement landslide risk management into land use planning. The project steering committee have prepared a stakeholder survey which was distributed to geotechnical practitioners and regulators throughout Australia to assess key areas of focus and methods of information delivery for the 10 National workshops to be delivered as part of this project in 2010.

Valuation of Sydney's Beaches Project

In coordination with project partners the University of New South Wales, the project aims to quantify the value of Sydney beaches in order to assess cost / benefit of necessary coastal protection / abatement measures as a result of enhanced climate change impacts. This information will assist Local and State Governments to make more informed decisions on how to protect coastal property, infrastructure, beach environments and amenity at threat of coastal erosion. The PhD Candidate undertaking the project is currently performing data analysis on the responses to the joint-estimation beach valuation survey. Overall, there are 530 completed responses, with over 30 data points for each respondent. Interestingly, 54.3% of respondents indicated a positive willingness to contribute to a coastal management fund for erosion prevention measures as described in the survey.

Matters of interest

Australian Government Department of Climate Change Report: Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coasts

The report maps the impacts of climate change on coastal communities as part of the Australian Government's National Coastal Risk Assessment. For more information and to download the report visit,

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/publications/coastline/climate-change-risks-to-australias-coasts.aspx>

A snapshot of future sea levels: photographing the king tide More than 250 people joined in photographing NSW foreshores in January 2009 when NSW experienced a king tide. See these images and learn more about tides, sea levels and climate change. For more information and to download the publication visit,

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/kingtide.htm>

Landform & stability maps module

Nationally-consistent coastal geomorphology and stability maps in segmented line format and beach information for the entire continental Australian open coastline (including many large islands), using a line map format for which the project team coined the term 'Smartline'. To use the interactive map online visit,

<http://www.ozcoasts.org.au/coastal/smartline.jsp>

Coastal Community Engagement Small Project Grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000

Project areas to be focussed on:

- on-ground works that improve the condition of coastal native vegetation,
- increase community awareness of coastal issues (e.g. workshops, training & awareness raising events)
- encourage new or existing community groups to recruit and keep volunteers while involving the coastal community in caring for their local area.
- enhance Ecologically Endangered Communities

For more information,

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/news/expressions-of-interest-coastal-community-engagement.html>

SCCG Water Quality Monitoring Web Site

Dr Ian Armstrong has now finalised the SCCG Environmental Monitoring Web site. Over the last 8 months Ian has been developing the web site and also seeking firstly internal comment via the SCCG Technical Committee and then via broader promotion to SCCG State, national and international networks. The website will be launched shortly. In the first month the website is operating visitors to the site will go into the draw for a lucky door prize. To visit the site when its launched and find out more about the lucky door prize go to

www.monitor2manage.com.au

COP15 Copenhagen: United Nations Climate Change Conference

The goals of the climate change convention are to stabilize the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous man-made climate changes.

To keep up-to-date with what's happening in Denmark,

Visit: <http://en.cop15.dk/frontpage>



House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts presented its report on the inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities. -

On Monday 26 October 2009, the House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts presented its report on the inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities. The report titled **Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: The time to act is now** consolidates the written and verbal evidence presented during the inquiry. Based on this evidence the report makes 47 recommendations aimed at defining the necessary actions for national leadership can be provided in a collaborative framework with state and local government on the issues of climate change adaptation. The inquiry received over 100 written submissions and facilitated 28 public hearings held around Australia. The SCCG participated in the inquiry through the preparation of a written submission. Additionally representatives of the SCCG appeared at inquiry hearings on the following occasions.

- Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe: In Darwin as part of the hearings held at the 2008 Australian Coastal Conference Tuesday 19 August 2008.
- Chairperson Cr Wendy McMurdo and Senior Coastal Projects Officer, Craig Morrison: At the Sydney hearing held Wednesday 25 March 2009.

The final report makes reference to the SCCG 22 times.



Discover Sydney's Coastline

January: there's no better time to discover Sydney's coastline with family and friends. From rock pools to snorkelling, wetland tours to coastal walks, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Summer Activities Program offers something for everyone. With the kids on holidays and parents looking for ways to keep them active, why not take the time to discover Sydney's magnificent coastline together - and learn a thing or two at the same time - by taking part in the Summer Activities Program.

So, what's the Summer Activities Program all about?

A range of planned, supervised activities will run right the way through January. There are dozens of locations - from Pittwater in the north, to Sutherland in the south. They're open to people of all ages and levels of fitness. And there's something for everyone, from rockpool walks to snorkelling, wetland tours to bushwalking. It's all good fun - but there's a serious side, too. The aim is to help preserve our beautiful coastal environments - to celebrate them, and learn to appreciate them that little bit more.

Activities include;

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Aquarium displays; | Heritage tours; | Sea kayaking; |
| Bushwalks; | Guided Eco walks; | Snorkelling; |
| Coastal bike rides; | Low cost enviro tips for your home; | Water saving information sessions; |
| Coastal walks; | Native plant nursery visits; | Wetland tours; and |
| Educational talks; | Rockpool walks | Worm farming demonstrations. |



This program has been supported by Coastcare and the Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi.

Full list of Activities

This years Summer Activities Program is featuring over 80 events all over Sydney throughout the month of January. For the full list of activities go to www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

The 2010 Summer Activities Program is brought to you by:

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group, all of its Member Councils, Coastcare and Sony.

50% Off by showing your Summer Activities brochure

The Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Beach is a not-for-profit environmental education facility with a mission to 'conserve the marine environment through entertainment, education and collaboration'. Housed in the historic Bondi Pavilion overlooking beautiful Bondi Beach, and within an easy walk of highly diverse rock-platforms, the Discovery Centre creates a wonderful learning opportunity for all ages. Show your Summer Activities brochure and receive 50% of your Marine Discovery Experience. This offer is available to everyone, throughout January 2010 and is proudly supported by Randwick City Council and Waverly Council.

For more information please contact

Ragnar Haabjoern at the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Phone: 02 9246 7810, ragnar@sydneycostalcouncils.com.au



National and International Coastal News

Climate change quickens, seas feared up 2 meters

Global warming is happening faster than expected and at worst could raise sea levels by up to 2 meters by 2100, a group of scientists said on Tuesday in a warning to next month's U.N. climate summit in Copenhagen. In what they called a "Copenhagen Diagnosis," updating findings in a broader 2007 U.N. climate report, 26 experts urged action to cap rising world greenhouse gas emissions by 2015 or 2020 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Many of the authors were on the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which in 2007 foresaw a sea level rise of 18-59 cms. "This is a final scientific call for the climate negotiators from 192 countries who must embark on the climate protection train in Copenhagen," said Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE5AN4L620091124>

Acidification takes growing toll on ocean life: Marine scientists in Maine (US) and elsewhere say it threatens to do more harm than global warming.

The world's oceans are getting more acidic, scientists say, as they absorb excess carbon dioxide, put into the atmosphere by the burning of oil, coal and gas. Ocean acidification, known as "the other carbon problem," has not attracted the same level of attention as global warming. In fact, the oceans' absorption of carbon dioxide has widely been considered a good thing, because it takes the heat-trapping gas out of the atmosphere and slows the rate of climate change. Now, however, marine scientists in Maine and around the world are warning that the effects of acidification are potentially more disastrous. University of Maine Professor Robert Steneck has seen coral reefs weakened by it in the Pacific Ocean. "In my opinion, acidification is a bigger problem than warming," said Steneck. "You're talking about complete collapse of our biosphere. You're talking about things that play these little supporting roles, like making oxygen for the planet." <http://pressherald.maine.com/story.php?id=297976&ac=PHnws>

NOAA: Combined Global Surface Temperature Was Sixth Warmest for October

The combined global land and ocean surface temperature was the sixth warmest October on record, according to NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. The global land surface temperature for October 2009 was 1.48 degrees F above the 20th century average of 48.7 degrees F. Average Arctic sea ice coverage was 2.9 million square miles during October. This is 19.2 percent less than the 1979-2000 average http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20091117_globalstats.html

Conferences

2010 Floodplain Management Authorities Conference, 23-26 February, Gosford

Gosford 2010 will celebrate what has been achieved and look forward to the new challenges ahead of us. It will not be just about emerging issues in floodplain management, but will be a balanced discussion of practical, on-ground floodplain management and the policies and programs that impact on floodplain management across New South Wales, Australia and the globe. More information can be found at <http://www.iceaustralia.com/gosford2010fma/>

2010 Climate Adaptation Futures Conference, 29 June—1 July, Gold Coast

Co-hosted by Australia's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, this conference will focus solely on climate impacts and adaptation. It will bring together scientists and decision makers from developed and developing countries to share research approaches, methods and results. It will explore the way forward in a world where impacts are increasingly observable and adaptation actions are increasingly required. More information can be found at <http://www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010>

Oceans'10, 24—27 May, Sydney

Showcasing Advances in Marine Science and Engineering, and bringing together delegates from universities, industry and government organisations with policy makers and other stakeholders. Info @ <http://www.oceans10ieeesydney.org/>

The SCCG consists of 15 member councils with sea and harbour frontages in Sydney, including, Botany, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra. Collectively we represent over 1.3 million Sydneysiders. The Group is concerned with the promotion, cooperation and coordination of member councils to achieve the sustainable management of the urban coastal environment. **Sydney Coastal Councils Group Contact Details: Website: www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au Email: info@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au**

