



Making Waves

April 2009

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update

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, now including details of the SCCG Capacity Building Program. 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

For more information on the **Alternative Energy for Coastal Councils Forum** to be held 27 May 2009. 9am – 5pm at the Marconi Terrace, Town Hall House City of Sydney see the Capacity Building Program Section on page 3.

Groundwater Education Workshop Series – Workshop Materials

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group is pleased to announce the workshop materials for Groundwater Education Workshop Series run in late 2008 are now available. The aim of the Groundwater Education Workshop Series was to deliver a series of free workshops, information and training on sustainable groundwater management targeting councils and industry. The education materials integrate information on the regulatory aspects of groundwater management with increased awareness of the dynamic nature of groundwater. The workshop materials can be downloaded from www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/groundwater.htm

Draft SCCG Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program Website– For Comment

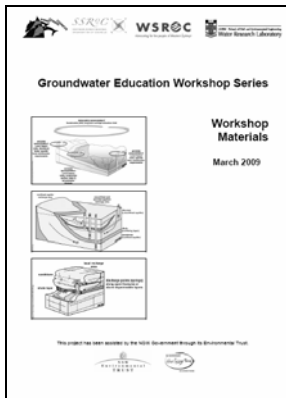
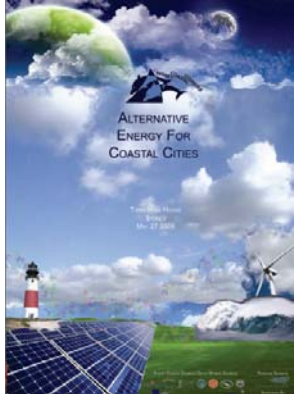
The SCCG is updating its Monitoring Program and Toolkit, originally launched as a CD-Rom in 2000. The SCCG has engaged Dr Ian Armstrong to improve the usability and accessibility of the Toolkit, including the development of a revised web-based format to provide information to users and regular updates. The final web page to be launched in mid 2009 aims to assist councils and other stakeholders in undertaking water quality monitoring projects and utilising the data gathered to identify and implement projects. The SCCG is now inviting interested individuals and organisations to provide comment on the draft webpage that assists the website in achieving its aim of being “a user oriented resource for the design and implementation of environmental monitoring programs”. Specifically feedback is being sought on: usability; content; gaps and navigation issues. The website can be found at by [clicking here](#). For more information please contact geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

SCCG presents to NSW Mid North Coast Councils

In Mid April SCCG Executive Officer and Senior Coastal Projects Officer were invited to speak to representatives from Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Greater Taree, Kempsey, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings Councils at the Greater Taree City Council Climate Change Forum. Council representatives at the forum sought information about the Systems Approach to Climate Change Adaptation project, the *Coastal Councils Planning for Climate Change Report* as well as the views of Secretariat and Member Councils on the NSW Government Draft Sea Level Rise Policy Statement.

Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities Inquiry

As noted in the previous update the SCCG and Senior Coastal Projects Officer appeared at the Australian Government Inquiry into Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities. Transcripts from the 22 public hearing conducted around Australia can be found at www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/ccwea/coastalzone/hearings.htm



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.



Estuarine vegetation mapping of the Hawkesbury Nepean

Hornsby Council has been working in conjunction with NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority to map the estuarine vegetation communities of the Hawkesbury Nepean. Maps for the Hawkesbury River estuary, including the main stem of the river downstream of Wiseman's Ferry, Cowan, Berowra, Mooney Mooney and Mangrove Creeks and Pittwater are currently being finalised. The mapping information will be used to identify current and potential pressures and threats, including vulnerability to climate change. More information about the project can be found at: www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/news/4612.html

Randwick Council extend home makeover rebates

Due to popular demand Randwick Council's Sustainable Home Makeover rebates for residents covering rainwater tanks, grey water systems, insulation, solar hot water and energy saving down lights have been extended until 30 June 2009. Residents are able to claim Sustainable Home Makeover rebates in conjunction with Federal and State government rebates. To find out more on how you can save go to: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Looking_after_our_environment/Sustaining_our_city/Community_participation/Household_rebates/index.aspx

Sutherland Shire Council works with schools to increase biodiversity

As part of its Greenweb program Sutherland Shire Council is supporting four schools to undertake regular working bees are undertaking bush regeneration to assist with the creation of wildlife corridors and enhancing existing bushland in their grounds. More information about the Greenweb program can be found at:

www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au/ssc/home.nsf/Web+Pages/B98F0BE05D2B7C5CCA256EA8001A7301?OpenDocument

Seagrass friendly Moorings

Through funding provided by the Australian Government Bringing Back the Fish Program Pittwater Councils in a partnership project with the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA, NSW Department of Primary Industries and NSW Maritime to trial seagrass friendly moorings in an attempt to minimise the impact of boating on seagrass beds. In Pittwater over 45 trail moorings have been installed. Monitoring of their benefits will begin shortly. More information about seagrasses and seagrass friendly moorings can be found at www.waterways.nsw.gov.au/rec_boating/seagrass.html

Waverley Council cuts water use in half

Through the implementation of a number of water saving strategies Waverley Council has managed to cut its water use almost in half since 2002. Some of the initiative employed include:

- Waterless urinals and rainwater tanks to flush public toilets at Marks Park and Bondi Beach South
- Stormwater reuse system used for toilet flushing, pool cleaning and irrigation at Bronte
- Use of groundwater to irrigate Barracluff Park and Waverley Oval
- A Water Sensitive Urban Design demonstration project at the aged housing facility in Waverley.

More information about other environmental services and water saving initiatives of Waverley Councils can found at www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/council/enviro/index.asp

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



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SCCG Capacity Building Program Update

Page three of the Making Waves Monthly update is dedicated to providing a regular update of the initiatives of the new SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming events or grants of interest.

Recent Activities

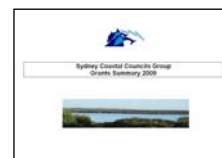
Alternative Energy for Coastal Councils Forum (AE4C²)

This Forum will showcase the most current innovations in renewable energy production, world energy demands, energy efficiency technologies, development and planning issues for councils. The principal sponsor for the forum is **EnergyAustralia** and it is offered at no cost to Staff and Councillors of SCCG Member Councils. To register your interest in attending please contact ragnar@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au
For more information please click on the picture or go to www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/AltNRGForumInvite_001.pdf



SCCG NRM Grants List

The Grants list details funding that is available under a variety of grant programs for councils, individuals, businesses and communities and can be found at: <http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCGGrantsList09ver3.pdf>



Grants

Upcoming grants available to Councils, environment groups and individuals include:

DEEWR Jobs Fund - First call for Proposals

The Australian Government is seeking proposals for innovative community, environmental and heritage projects that will create jobs and build skills for the future. Closing time and date for proposals is 4.30pm 22 May 2009. For more information www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobFundfirstcallforproposals.aspx

Community Heritage Grants

The Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program aims to preserve and provide access to locally held nationally significant cultural heritage collections across Australia. Applications close 05 June 2009. More information can be found at www.nla.gov.au/chg/

Events

Facilitated by the SCCG

Alternative Energy Forum – 27 May 2009

Town Hall House, Level 4, Marconi Terrace, 456 Kent St, Sydney, 27th May 2009, 8:30am – 5pm

SCCG-ACE Estimating Sea-Level Rise in an Uncertain Future, June 9, 2009

Registrations Open. To register your interest in attending please contact ragnar@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

3 Climate Change Forums on the impacts of climate change and opportunities for adaptation.

- Adaptation Planning Forum for Councils (June)
- Community Climate Change Information Forum (July)
- Councillor Climate Change Information Forum (August)

More information to be provided shortly

Other Important Events

Recent approaches and techniques in managing wetlands workshop 4 – 5 June Sydney Olympic Park Authority www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/education_and_learning/Wetland-Education-Training-Workshops

The 10th International Congress of Ecology 16 – 21 August Brisbane www.intecol10.org/default.asp.

18th NSW Coastal Conference 3-6 November, Ballina NSW www.coastalconference.com/

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT