

Making Waves

April 2010

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. If you would like more information on any of the projects or issues discussed please contact the SCCG Secretariat (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

NSW Coastal Reform Package

In response to the Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 as well as the Temporary Emergency Coastal Protection Works Ministerial Requirements and Guidelines the SCCG has consulted with its Member Councils and technical experts on the potential outcomes of these aspects of the reform package. This consultation has identified that SCCG Member Councils have a number of concerns with the intent and implementation of the proposed reforms as well as the extremely short consultation period.

As a result the SCCG has formally written to the NSW Minister for Planning requesting further time for consultation in relation to the *Coastal Protection and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010*; the associated *Minister's requirements for Temporary Coastal Protection Works* and the *Guide to the Statutory Requirements for Temporary Coastal Protection Works*.

Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coast – A First Pass National Assessment Priority Issues

Chapter six of the *Climate Change Risks to Australia's Coast – A First Pass National Assessment Report* highlights 12 issues requiring further attention as part of a national coastal reform agenda. To assist in providing the Australian Government with the views of coastal councils in Sydney the SCCG consulted with its Member Council representatives to rank these 12 issues in order of priority. From this consultation process it was identified that the top 5 priorities were:

- 1) National standards and benchmarks for coastal development
- 2) Regional risk assessments
- 3) Ecosystems review
- 4) Review and update Building Codes
- 5) National audit of critical infrastructure in the coastal zone

The SCCG is now writing the Federal Government with the findings of this survey and highlighting where the SCCG can assist in addressing these issues.

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) – Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan Expressions of Interest

The SCCG partnered in four Expressions of Interest for the NCCARF – Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan for the following projects:

- Vulnerability assessment of critical infrastructure (Key project partners: Sydney Water and DECCW).
- A National Assessment of Coastal Adaptive Capacity (Key project partners Macquarie University).
- An assessment of climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity in four coastal communities on the eastern seaboard (Key project partners UNSW).
- Adaptability and resilience index for urban design (Key project partners UNSW).



Member Council Actions and Issues

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



Great Mackerel Beach Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan on exhibition

The draft Great Mackerel Beach Floodplain Risk Management Plan is on public exhibition for comment from Thursday 6 May to Friday 2 July. The plan has been produced to enable Pittwater Council to effectively manage the impacts of flooding at Great Mackerel Beach through actions such as undertaking works and controlling development. The Great Mackerel Plan is the first in a number of flood risk management projects that Pittwater Council is undertaking. Others include Mona Vale/Bayview, Nareen Creek at North Narrabeen and Narrabeen Lagoon. More information can be found at www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/documents_on_ex/document_pages/great_mackerel_beach_floodplain_risk_management_study

New environment page of the Woollahra Councils website

To help residents easily find the details of its environmental services, information and activities, Woollahra Council have developed an environment section of their website. The new section of the website offers fast and convenient access to environmental issues and information that is becoming increasingly important as councils and residents move towards a sustainable future. The webpage can be found at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment

New seawalls make positive impact at Spit West

Through the use of an ecological engineered seawall Mosman Council has increased the presence of marine life in Sydney Harbour at Spit West Reserve. The seawall's innovative design balanced structural restoration with maximising habitat diversity. The rock armor on the seawall was designed to provide habitat for newly formed vegetation in addition to providing protection for smaller marine species. The result has been that whitebait fish are constantly visible along the seawall and accordingly attract other species of fish. In addition, large numbers of luderick, a herbivorous species that often feeds near rock, have been spotted off nearby viewing decks. More information can be found at: www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/news/2010/04/06/new-seawalls-make-positive-impact-at-spit-west

More information about environmentally friendly seawalls can be found at:

www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=116&func=select&id=51

Coast to Coast 2010 – Actions for Change

The 2010 National Coastal Conference will be held from Monday 20th September - Friday 24th September 2010 at the *Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide*. The only National Coastal Management Conference, Coast to Coast provides an excellent forum for Australian coastal workers from universities, consulting companies, community organisations and all levels of state and federal government. More information can be found at www.coast2coast.org.au/

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



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

C/- City of

Sydney Council

Level 14,

456 Kent Street

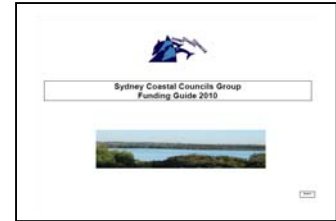
GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY NSW 2001

SCCG Capacity Building Activities

Page three of the Making Waves Monthly update is dedicated to providing a regular update of the capacity building initiatives of the SCCG as well as highlighting upcoming items of interest.

2010 Natural Resource Management Funding Guide

Funding is available under a variety of grant programs for councils, individuals, businesses and communities to help develop and fund solutions to local and national challenges, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance. The SCCG has produced the 2010 Natural Resource Management Funding Guide copies of the guide can be downloaded from:



www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/2010SCCGFundingGuide.pdf

Resources

SCCG Environment Monitoring Site

This site promotes sustainable environment management through an improved understanding of monitoring and good decision-making. Effective monitoring is integral to good environmental management. Therefore the site aims to assist users in identifying monitoring needs, designing monitoring programs, dealing with data management and analysis as well as reporting. This will improve the likelihood of good decisions leading to improved environmental outcomes.

www.monitor2manage.com.au.

Grants & Awards

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

Eco Schools Grants

This program provides grants to schools to give them the opportunity to involve their students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects. The overall objective of the Eco Schools Program is to support schools to develop best practice in environmental education and innovative solutions to environmental issues. Applications close 21 May 2010. More information can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm

Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

The aim of the Restoration and Rehabilitation (R&R) program is to facilitate projects to prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation of any kind, run by community organisations and State and Local government organisations. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment. Applications close 28 May 2010 More information can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/restoration.htm

Invitation to submit proposals funded from the Recreational Fishing Trusts

All money raised by the recreational fishing fee is placed into two Trust Funds dedicated to recreational fishing. Any organisation can apply for funding and projects must have direct benefits to recreational fishing. These include funds for fish cleaning tables, fishing platforms, fish measuring stations, upgrading fishing access points, fence stiles and other on-grounds work. Applications are accepted year round. For more information www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/your-fee

Events

3rd Climate Change @ Work Conference, May 26, The Hilton Sydney. <http://wrc.org.au/event-details.php?eventid=79>,

Eco Innovation Forum, May 25 2010, Sydney. For more information http://www.ecoinvestor.com.au/html/Eco_Innovation_Forum_2010.htm

Sustainable Development Conference, May 25-26, Zinc, Federation Square, Melbourne. For more information www.halledit.com.au/vsd2010

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC.



COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT