



Making Waves

February 2008

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 on (02) 9246 7702.

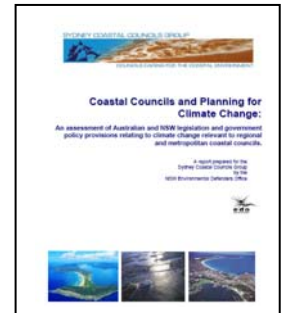
SCCG Key Activities

Groundwater Education Capacity Building Workshops

The SCCG has also been successful in attaining funding through the Environment Trust to undertake the Groundwater Education Capacity Building Workshops Project. The project aims to develop and deliver information and training on sustainable groundwater management targeting councils and industry. The project integrates information on the regulatory aspects of groundwater management with education on the dynamic nature of groundwater. More information on the progress of the project and the capacity building workshops will be available shortly.

Coastal Councils Planning for Climate Change

The Environmental Defender's Office was commissioned by the SCCG to conduct an audit of legislation and policy instruments at all levels of government in Australia to determine the responsibilities and potential liabilities of coastal councils for climate change. The result was the report titled *Coastal Councils Planning for Climate Change*. An assessment of Australian and NSW legislation and government policy provisions in relation to climate change relevant to regional and metropolitan NSW coastal councils. To request a copy of the report go to www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au.

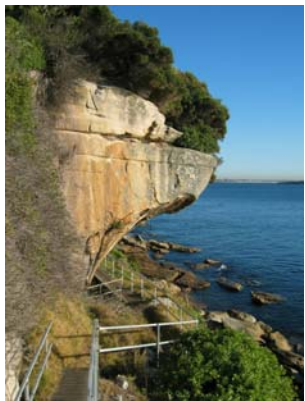


Developing a G.I.S. tool to assess vulnerability to catastrophic marine floods in Sydney

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 in two of Sydney's coastal embayments. This project may be used by Councils to assist with decisions about long-term strategic planning and development and emergency management response. The map outputs from this project will be specific to the study areas but very importantly, the 'method' used and a resultant manual will also be an output that may be utilised by all member councils of the SCCG and other coastal councils.

Valuation of Sydney's Beaches

This project is being undertaken in partnership with the University of New South Wales over three years (Funding via NSW Greenhouse Office "Community Action Grants Program). The project is an economic valuation of selected Sydney beaches and will provide an estimate of the existing value of these resources, to inform assessments of how these values are likely to change with climate change impacts and the management responses to these impacts. Key activities in the period December-March 2008 include the design of a combined Travel Cost-Contingent Valuation survey instrument, to be deployed on handheld computers at beach locations. Surveys will initially be administered via short personal interviews (<10mins) at each of the case-study locations. Internet survey methods are also being reviewed, which will allow for greater response rates, and provide for estimates of intrinsic and cultural values through the sampling of non-users.



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.



SCCG Annual Member Council Survey

The SCCG Annual Member Council Survey is undertaken in December every year to enable the SCCG Secretariat to identify what activities have assisted Member Councils and importantly identify avenues and activities to further enhance the services provided by the SCCG Secretariat.

The key issues raised from survey responses can be divided into internal issues relating to administration and communication and external areas of focus for the activities of the SCCG. Key external areas of focus identified through the survey were Climate Change, Water Management (saving and recycling), Planning, Biodiversity Management and Monitoring as well as Environmental Education. A report on the survey has been prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to Members of the SCCG Full Group and Technical Committee.

Manly plans for the future

Manly Council is in the process of finalising site specific plans for foreshore and harbour locations within Manly including the Manly Ocean Beach Coastline Management Plan & Emergency Action Plan and the Clontarf/Bantry Bay Estuary Management Plan. The finalization of these Plans forms part of Manly Council's overall coastal management strategy which will ensure all foreshore and harbour areas within the Manly LGA will be covered by the appropriate plans of management. The plans are intended to be strategic plans with a long-term time frame of 10-20 years (with appropriate revisions). Information on the coastal management actions of Manly Council can be found at <http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Marine---Coastal.html>

Sustainability Education Kit for Primary Schools years 3-6 launched.

The resource kit features a series of specially designed activity workbooks to support in the teaching and learning for sustainability. The kit links school curriculum with the key sustainability education themes of energy, water, waste, bushland and community. The kit was developed by Council in partnership with staff and students from North Sydney Demonstration School and Wenona Junior School and has now been distributed to all local primary schools. Information about the Education Kit can be found at <http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/4102-environment-news.asp>

Bondi Survey

Waverley Council is committed to making Bondi an exceptional place to live, work and play. To assist with Waverley Councils is undertaking a survey to find out more about who visits Bondi, why they visit and their perceptions and experiences of the place. The Survey can be done on-line and is found at http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/info/Projects/bondi_survey/survey.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

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

