



Making Waves

February 2009

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update

www.sydneycostalouncils.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

Case Studies of Adaptive Capacity: Systems Approach to regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

The SCCG is pleased to announce the release of the "Case Studies of Adaptive Capacity" report, produced by a team of researchers from the CSIRO, University of the Sunshine Coast, and WWF Australia. The report summarises an in-depth analysis of barriers to climate adaptation facing local governments in coastal Sydney, based upon interviews with over thirty council staff and Councillors. The case studies represent the final phase of a two year National flagship project "A Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises" funded under the Department of Climate Change (DCC) Adaptation Program. The project has sought to assess and build understanding about the potential implications of climate change at the local level while providing Local Governments with clear paths forward in the design of appropriate responses. The report is available from:

www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au/system-approach-to-regional-climate-change-adaptation-strategies-in-metropolises/index.php

Natural Disaster Mitigation Program Funding Successes

In February the SCCG was informed that it had been successful in receiving two grants through the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program to undertake the following projects:

- Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation; and
- Education and Empowerment of Landslide Risk Management Regulators and Practitioners.

More information on these projects will be provided in future updates. The implementation of both these projects will assist SCCG Member Councils and Local Government more broadly respond to the impacts of climate change and coastal hazards.

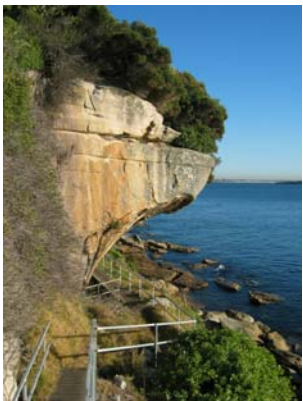
Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific Distance Learning Seminar Series

Recently the SCCG participated in a Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific Distance Learning Seminar focused on assessing tools to assist Local Governments adapt to climate change. The seminar, facilitated by the World Bank, focused on discussion of a document called the Climate Resilient Cities Primer. The Primer is a tool, developed for city governments in the East Asia Region that aims to help them better understand how to plan for climate change impacts and impending natural disasters through sound urban planning to reduce vulnerabilities.

The SCCG's role in this forum was to outline the experience of Local Governments in adapting to the impacts of climate change in Sydney's coastal zone. Information about the forum and the primer can be found at

www.worldbank.org/eap/climatecities.

SCCG Capacity Building Program: As part of the new SCCG Capacity Building Program a third page has been added to these updates. For the latest information on the program as well as upcoming grants and events see page 3.



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. All respondents noted that the SCCG was assisting Member Councils to manage coastal and estuarine environments. As well as providing the service of facilitating coordination of councils within the region it was identified that the Secretariat were responsible for providing services in the following key areas:

- Leadership
- Enhancing limited resources
- Strategic projects and partnerships
- Facilitation of information exchange and raising stakeholder awareness

Warringah Climate Challenge

Warringah Council is partnering with the NSW Nature Conservation Council in the Warringah Climate Challenge. The challenge aims to reduce Warringah's greenhouse emissions as well as help create a more sustainable community and will be launched on 21 March at Dee Why Beach. The Climate Challenge provides tangible ways for the Warringah community to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop creative initiatives to highlight the solutions to climate change. For more information: www.climatechallenge.org.au

North Sydney Council Encouraging Business to be Green

North Sydney Council is helping local business beat energy bill increases through its Green Business – Energy Saving Program. The program helps businesses achieve their goals of reducing energy bills and minimising greenhouse gas emissions. All participating business receive a free initial energy and greenhouse gas assessment based on a simple questionnaire, access to below-market rates for products in lighting, insulation, air conditioning, heating, refrigeration and other high energy use equipment as well as promotion for participating in the program. North Sydney Council is looking for 200 businesses to get involved in this program. For more information go to www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/4102-environment-news.asp

North Harbour Coastline Management Study

Manly Council has prepared the North Harbour Coastline Management Study. This is a baseline document describing land use, significance of the area, institutional and policy environment, coastal processes, coastal hazards, climate change, ecological environment, socio-economic environment, community consultations and indicative management options. The Study will be used to prepare the North Harbour Coastline Management Plan. Manly Council is interested in hearing from residents and users of the area, on their further thoughts and suggestions for the development of the North Harbour. If you are interested in the future management of the North Harbour study area, more information can be found at www.manly.nsw.gov.au/North-Harbour.html

If you would like a copy of the Making Waves the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update please contact SCCG Senior Coastal Project Officer, Craig Morrison at: craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

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SCCG Capacity Building Program Update

Page three of Monthly Update will now be dedicated to providing a regular update of the initiatives SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming events or grants of interest.

Recent Activities

Recent activities undertaken as part of the SCCG Capacity Building Program that are aimed at increasing the capacity of SCCG Member Councils and those involved in Natural Resource Management include:

The Natural Resource Management Grants List

The SCCG is in the process of compiling an extensive grants list of all available grants and funding opportunities available for Natural Resource Management activities. Once finalised the list will be available on the SCCG website.

SCCG Capacity Building Direction Document and Survey

To ensure the SCCG Capacity Building Program meets the needs of its Member Councils the Secretariat are currently seeking feedback on the programs direction, actions and deliverables of the program from Member Councils.

Upcoming events:

The SCCG Secretariat is currently planning a number of information and capacity building forums. Dates and venues are yet to be finalised but keep an eye out for future information in future updates:

- *A Coastal Cities Alternative Energy forum.*
- *Three Forums on the impacts of climate change and opportunities for adaptation.*
- *A Sea-level rise Workshop: Estimating Sea-Level Extremes in an Uncertain Future conducted by the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.*

Grants

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

Caring for Our Country - Australian Government Caring for our Country business plan 2009-10 (Applications close 03 April 2009)

In its initial five years, Caring for our Country provides \$2.25 billion in funding for natural resource management. The Australian Government is now calling for investment proposals for projects that will meet the targets outlined in the Caring for our Country business plan 2009-10.

www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/index.html

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes (Applications close 01 May 2009)

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the fields of scientific research & innovation, science leadership, school science and science journalism & communication. <http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/>

Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program (Applications close 01 May 2009)

Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program is a NSW Government initiative to improve public access to and enhance the recreational enjoyment of Sydney Harbour and its tributaries for the people of Sydney and visitors to the city. www.planning.nsw.gov.au/harbour/sydney_access.asp

Events

Australia's Climate Movement in 2009: The Turning Point: March 11-12, 2009, Melbourne Town Hall
www.cana.net.au/index.php?site_var=80

Reporting on the Environment: A Study of Science or Power? March 15, 2009, Seymour Theatre Centre
www.usyd.edu.au/sydney_ideas/

Climate Challenge Launch for Warringah March 21 2009, Dee Why Beach, Sydney
http://nccnsw.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2589&Itemid=956

New Sources Old Water? Desalination and Recycling March 22 2009 Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/whatson/sunday_talks.asp

