

Making Waves

February 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, 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 (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

National Climate Change Forum - Adaptation Priorities for Australia's Coast

The SCCG Chair, Cllr. Wendy McMurdo, and Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe attended the National Climate Change Forum: Adaptation Priorities for Australia's Coast in Adelaide on 18-19 February 2010. At the Forum, local, state and federal decision makers discussed the latest science on climate risks for coastal communities and resulting issues for, among other things, planning frameworks, disaster management and construction standards. The Forum was also tasked with contributing to the development of a national strategy for coastal adaptation. The workshops included: risk guidance and standards; science for capacity building; and urban and regional planning. More information about the forum can be found at www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/national-coastal-risk-assessment/national-climate-change-forum.aspx

Grant success: Summer Activities Program and Coastal Connection Strategy

The SCCG was recently successful in attaining \$20,000 in funding for the Summer Activities Program and Coastal Connection Strategy through the SMCMA Coastal Community Engagement Grants. This project aims to increase community awareness, engagement and participation of coastal management and conservation. More information will be provided in future updates.

NSW Environmental Trust Research Program

The SCCG recently submitted three expressions of interest to the NSW Environmental Trust Research program in partnership with the CSIRO, Universities and private consultants to undertake the following projects:

- Sydney 2100: Managing perceptions of changing coastal environments.
- Managing sea level rise impacts on coastal aquifers in Sydney.
- Sydney's salty communities and the changing tide.

Each of these projects aims to build the capacity of SCCG Member Councils to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

SCCG /Sydney Water Recycling Opportunities Workshop 23RD March 2010

At the SCCG 2009 Annual General Meeting it was resolved that the Group liaise with Sydney Water to deliver a forum that improves communication between SCCG its Member Councils and Sydney Water and identify water recycling opportunities in the Sydney coastal region. As a result the SCCG and Sydney Water have partnered to facilitate a workshop for SCCG Member Councils to discuss actions and projects that facilitate water recycling and re-use projects. The aim of the workshop is to discuss actions and projects that facilitate water recycling and re-use projects in Sydney. The content and structure of the forum have been prepared to facilitate a one day forum including presentations, case studies and facilitated workshops on water recycling opportunities with specific workshop sessions on:

- Scenario testing: Facilitating participants through a workshop on the delivery and viability of specific recycling projects.
- Confirming how Councils and Sydney Water can better collaborate in water recycling program.

SCCG Member Council staff and councillors interested in attending the forum should register at events@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au by March 16 2010.



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.



Wetland Plan of Management Workshop on 25-26 March 2010.

The Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) is offering to subsidise Council Officers in the SMCMA region to attend a Wetland Plan of Management Workshop. The workshop is being run by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority with assistance from the SMCMA. Subsidies of \$300 off the \$550 fee are available for the first 20 council officers to apply. More information can be found www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/education_and_learning/Wetland-Education-Training-Workshops

Adapting to Climate Change in Australia: An Australian Government position paper

The Australian Government's position paper, Adapting to Climate Change in Australia, sets out the Government's vision for adapting to the impacts of climate change and proposes practical steps to realise that vision. It outlines the Australian Government's role in adaptation, which includes building community resilience and establishing the right conditions for people to adapt; taking climate change into account in the management of Commonwealth assets and programs; providing sound scientific information; and leading national reform. The position paper identifies six national priority areas for action: water, coasts, infrastructure, natural ecosystems, natural disaster management, and agriculture. It is available at: www.climatechange.gov.au/publications/adaptation/position-paper.aspx

Coastal Inundation at Narrabeen Lagoon Optimising Adaptation Investment

This case study analyses the impact of climate change on flooding from Narrabeen Lagoon in the northern Sydney local government area of Pittwater. AECOM was engaged by the Australian Department of Climate Change to undertake an economic analysis of climate change impacts on infrastructure through the development of a series of case studies. These studies, which analyse the benefits and costs of adaptation in response to risks of climate change, will be used to inform the Australian Government's discussion on policy responses to the risk that climate change will increase infrastructure investment and maintenance costs. Find out more at: www.climatechange.gov.au/~/-/media/coastal-flooding-narrabeen-lagoon.ashx

North Harbour Coastline Management Plan

At a Council meeting in late February the North Harbour Coastline Management Plan was endorsed by Manly Council. The plan covers the area both seaward and landward from the shoreline between Federation Point and Welling Reserve. Included in the study area are rocky intertidal platforms, sandy beaches, grassed reserves, a swimming pool, sandstone cliffs, bushland, recreational, commercial, and residential areas. The plan can be found at www.manly.nsw.gov.au/North-Harbour.html

North Sydney seek public comment on Environmental Levy 2010-2015

North Sydney Council's Environmental Levy is due to finish at the end of the 2010 financial year. Council has resolved to apply to the Minister for Local Government to extend the Levy to 2015. The levy will fund actions from these strategies including: Bushland and Fauna Rehabilitation Plans, Street Tree Strategy, Water Management Plan and Greenhouse Action Plan. North Sydney residents are invited to have their say on the Environmental Levy program for 2010-2015 will be received until 26 March 2010. More information can be found at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/2145-environmental-levy.asp?intSiteID=1

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 SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming items of interest.

Recent Activities

SCCG Capacity Building Program - Out and About

Creating and strengthening links externally allows for the program to be contemporary with its endeavours and to have dialogue in different settings that directly benefits SCCG Member Councils.

1. NSEEN Meeting (North Sydney Environmental Educators Network), topics included:
 - a. Overview of City of Sydney Energy Consumption Trial
 - b. Field of Mars: Details of 'Year of Learning for Sustainability' events and resources

Update of SCCG website and database development progress

The SCCG has been meeting with IT consultants to get the best suited web solutions provider for the development of the SCCG Website upgrade and the 'one-stop-shop' for tool kits, case studies, reports, technical data, events and other resources to assist Member Councils in their emerging projects and programs. The SCCG wanted to ensure that the web development partner would contribute fully to establishing the principles which will underpin the approach of creating a useful web portal for the SCCG and provide access to a Coastal and Estuary Management for Local Government Resource Database. The SCCG are happy to announce that *Social Change Online* a leading web services company for government, unions and community organisations has been selected to assist this project. Stay tuned for further updates about this exciting development of service provision for SCCG Member Councils and their coastal communities.

Grants & Awards

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

Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants (Closing April 1)

The aim of these grants is to protect and improve water quality through riparian and environmental restoration as well as educate catchment communities about protecting catchments and water quality. Projects will need to provide benefits to public land or a number of privately owned lands.

More Info: <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/about-sca/grants-and-sponsorships>

Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS) (Closing April 16)

The NDRGS replaces the Natural Disaster Mitigation Programme and makes grants available to local governments and agencies to undertake a wide range of natural disaster risk assessments and risk reduction works; which contribute to safer, sustainable communities which are more resilient to the effects of natural disasters. Applications for funding under the NDRGS are sought on an annual basis. Invitations to apply are sent to local councils and other eligible organisations and information is made available from the website: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/content.php/831.html

International Riverfoundation's 2010 Riverprize awards (Closing May 14)

Organisations working on restoration of rivers across Australia are encouraged to apply. The International Thiess Riverprize is valued at \$350,000, and the National Riverprize at \$200,000 (the latter funded by an Australian Government grant under its Water for the Future plan). More info: <http://www.riverfoundation.org.au>

Events

Wetland Education & Training (WET) Program, The Preparation of Wetland Management Plans, 25 – 26 March, Sydney Olympic Park, More info:

http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/education_and_learning/Wetland-Education-Training-Workshops

Carbon footprinting for your product, your firm, your future, April 8-9, University of NSW Water Research Centre, Kensington campus, More info: http://water.unsw.edu.au/site/wp-content/uploads/carbon_footprint_brochure_2010.pdf

Local Government Risk Management Summit, April 28 - 29, Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney, More info: <http://www.halledit.com.au/rm2010>

Sustainable Development Conference, May 25-26, Zinc, Federation Square, Melbourne, More info: <http://www.halledit.com.au/vsd2010>

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT