

Making Waves

January 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

SCCG Environment Monitoring Site

The SCCG is pleased to announce the launch of the SCCG Environment Monitoring Site, www.monitor2manage.com.au. 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.

To celebrate the launch of the Environment Monitoring Site, visitors to the site between February 2nd 2010 (World Wetlands Day) and March 22nd 2010 (World Water Day) will be offered the opportunity to go into the draw for a handheld Magellan Explorist 300 GPS tool. To be eligible, entrants must answer the question *What aspects of the site are most useful?* at www.monitor2manage.com.au/home.html

SCCG Annual Member Council Survey

The SCCG Annual Member Council Survey is undertaken in December every year to enable the Secretariat to identify activities that assist Member Councils and identify avenues and activities to further enhance the services provided to Member Councils. All respondents noted that the SCCG was significantly assisting to manage coastal and estuarine environments. Key issues identified for the Group to address in 2010 were assisting councils with implementing and evaluating climate change adaptation plans, supporting implementation of regional water saving and re-use projects as well as achieving good coastal management outcomes through the NSW Planning System and Coastal Reform Package.

SCCG Submission on the NSW Government Sea Level Rise Risk Management Guides and Draft NSW Coastal Planning Guideline

To assist with the preparation of a regionally representative submission on the Risk Management Guides and Coastal Planning Guideline documents the SCCG facilitated a workshop on 1 December 2009 attended by representatives of all 15 Member Councils. The content of the submission reflects the discussion at the workshop as well as additional targeted consultations undertaken by the SCCG with its Member Councils', academics and coastal engineers and legal experts. It summarises the key issues and needs of SCCG Member Councils in applying the Risk Management Guides and Coastal Planning Guideline. In addition the SCCG engaged HWL Ebsworth Lawyers to prepare a report on the *Legal issues and considerations for the implementation of the Draft NSW Coastal Planning Guideline*.

Invitation for SCCG consultation with councils

In the interest of hearing from Member Councils and keeping them informed and actively engaged in SCCG activities, the SCCG Secretariat has written an invitation to provide interested Member Councils an opportunity to meet with the Executive Officer and the Executive to discuss work and current projects of the Group. Member Council delegates interested in arranging a meeting or presentation should contact the Groups, Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe, on (02) 9246 7791 or geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au



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.



Manly Council seeking unsung Environmental Heroes

Nominations are now being sought for Manly's annual environmental award, the **2010 Manly Environment Centre Eco Award**. Manly Council are seeking someone who deserves acknowledgment for their inspiring efforts to protect Manly's breathtaking natural environment. Nominations are sought on behalf of exceptional members of the community who have volunteered their time and efforts to benefit Manly's diverse and valuable natural habitat. To receive a nomination form, visit the Manly Environment Centre at 41 Belgrave Street, phone 9976 2842 or email: mec@manly.nsw.gov.au. The deadline for applications is Monday, 22 February, 5.00pm. For more information go to www.mec.org.au

North Sydney Councils helps renters go green

North Sydney Councils is running a green renters workshop for sustainable living in rental property. Participants will be taken on a room by room tour through the average rental property looking at simple and cost effective ideas that can be implemented in a short amount of time that will help make your property more energy efficient, sustainable and save you money. The workshop is practical and friendly in nature with plenty of visual examples, discussion and samples. This workshop is free. Bookings are essential. For more information go to www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents

City of Sydney offers free Cycling Courses

To encourage people to take up cycling as a safe, sustainable and convenient transport option the City offers a series of free courses. The aim of the courses is to encourage people to take up cycling as a safe, sustainable and convenient transport option. For more information go to www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/ParkingAndTransport/Cycling/CyclingCourses.asp

Hilltop to Headland Environmental Lecture Series

Warringah Council has launched its annual Hilltop to Headland Environmental Lecture Series and this year the line up includes some of Australia's environmental leaders. Speakers for this year's series include Tim Flannery, Jamie Durie, Tanya Ha, Ian Kiernan and Adam Spencer. Bookings are essential. For more information go to www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

Leichhardt Council develops Sustainable Shopping Guide

Leichhardt Council has developed a sustainable Shopping guide to be launched in February. The aim of the guide is to promote businesses and community groups that provide alternative sustainable food options provides an opportunity to residents footprint which ultimately benefits the natural environment and our local and wider community. For more go to <http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/IgnitionSuite/uploads/docs/shoppingguide.pdf>

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

Strategic Planning for the Capacity Building Program

To assist in providing services that assist SCCG Member Council manage their coastal and estuarine environments the Capacity Building Program has been busy developing and consulting on a variety of capacity building opportunities for 2010. Topics for resources and events include understanding the impacts of climate change on built and natural systems, communicating complex scientific issues as well as understanding coastal processes and coastal management. More information will be provided in future updates.



2010 SCCG Summer Activities Program

The SCCG Summer Activities Program has been completed for another year. The program which aims to promote coastal educational activities during January was a huge success. Final numbers are yet to be calculated, but it is expected that over 3000 people enjoyed 80 events offered. The SCCG would like to congratulate all Councils who participated in the program and thank Coastcare for their ongoing support and Sony for supporting the 2010 Program

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Grants

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

Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme (NDRGS)

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

Environmental Trust Research Program

The aim of the Research program is to support research projects that help address environmental problems in NSW. Opportunities for grants exist in the following categories:

Major category: (Climate Change): Grants up to \$200,000 will generally be offered, but applications for larger grants will be considered if strong justification is provided.

Minor categories: (Biodiversity and Conservation; Integrated Landscape Management; Environmental Pollution; and Resource Efficiency and Sustainability): Grants up to \$100,000.

Seeding Grants: The Trust will fund projects considered by referees and the Technical Committee to be genuine seeding grant applications of sufficiently high quality. Grants up to \$20,000
Guidelines, application forms and more information is available on the Trust website:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/research.htm

Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants

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 rather than to a single parcel of privately owned land except where the applicant can demonstrate benefits to the catchment that go beyond that single parcel of land. For more information

www.sca.nsw.gov.au/about-sca/grants-and-sponsorships

Events

Wetland Education and Training (WET) Workshops, 25 – 26 March, Sydney Olympic Park.

For more information:

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

National Environment Conference: Transitioning to a climate resilient future, 15-16 April, Sofitel, Melbourne. For more information: <https://www.mav.asn.au>

Local Climate Local Change Conference - Local Communities addressing the climate challenge, April 2010, Blue Mountains. For more information:

www.localclimatechangeconference.com/

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT