

Making Waves

July 2009

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 on (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

SCCG/CSIRO Project Finalist in Eureka Prize

The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are presented annually by the Australian Museum and recognise excellence in the fields of scientific research, science leadership and innovation, science journalism and communication. The SCCG project *Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises* is a finalist in the Innovative Solutions to Climate Change Category. 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes which aim to draw attention to the amazing scientific research, innovation, leadership and ability in Australia. Winners will be announced at a black-tie gala dinner on 18 August at the Australian Museum. More information about the awards can be found at <http://eureka.australianmuseum.net.au/>

Education empowerment of Landslide risk Management to regulators and practitioners

The SCCG and AGS have begun planning for the delivery of 10 workshops to be delivered nationally as part of the *Education empowerment of landslide risk management to regulators and practitioners* project funded under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP). The workshops will aim to improve:

- Awareness of landslide risk management issues amongst local and state government instrumentalities as well as practitioners; and
- The ability to implement landslide risk management into land use planning.

The project steering committee recently met to plan the content, delivery, promotion and ongoing resources provided by the project. This project aims to build the highly successful landslide risk management guidelines and commentaries including AGS 2007 completed with funding support from the NDMP in late 2007

Northside Storage Tunnel

At the request of its Councillor representatives the SCCG has written to Sydney Water on a number of matters related to the ongoing management of the Northside Storage Tunnel. The SCCG, its Member Councils and their communities have a long history in advocating strategies and actions that will result in sustainable sewage and stormwater management in Sydney. The SCCG has specifically requested Sydney Water:

- Clarify why the recycling pipeline for the Northside Storage Tunnel is not being utilised;
- Articulate the type of integrity guarantees provided by the Northside Storage Tunnel and Recycling Pipeline construction consortium to ensure the long term use of the tunnel and pipeline;
- Provide details of the assessment of possible methods used to repair the Northside Storage Tunnel and Recycling Pipeline as well as their estimated cost; and
- Articulate what alternative strategies Sydney Water has in place to ensure that water recycling opportunities equivalent or better to those offered by the proposed recycling pipeline within the Northside Storage Tunnel are implemented.



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.



Willoughby City Council waives DA fees for Photovoltaic and solar hot water systems

Council has recently resolved to waive all Development Application and Complying Development Application fees for developments that are only for Photovoltaic and solar hot water systems (including those that are gas boosted). Fees for all other developments will be calculated by excluding the cost of these systems from the total value of the development. More information can be found at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Content.aspx?PageID=1151&ItemID=4

Manly Council brings decade long ocean side vision to fruition

Manly Council has commenced more than \$3,000,000 worth of new work on the final, fourth stage of a ten-year program of landscape improvements alongside Manly Beach. These works will complete the first comprehensive upgrade of the iconic beachfront since the 1930s, as well as providing vital, long term coastal protection for local property owners by stabilising Manly's century-old sea wall. More information about the works can be found at www.manly.nsw.gov.au/content.aspx?PageID=40&ItemID=241

Waverley Council wins litter war with water

Last summer Waverley Council reduced the amount of discarded plastic water bottles by providing visitors to Bondi Beach with reusable bottles and a refilling station. The water station was trialed on during Bondi Beach's busiest period over the summer holidays. An audit by Council's Environmental Services Team into discarded water bottles and water usage during the trial revealed the following:

- Prior to the handing out of reusable bottles and the installation of the water station, plastic water bottles contributed to 30% of the litter recovered from Bondi Beach.
- The audit showed that during the six week trial period the water station was in use the percentage of plastic water bottles found in the total litter reduced dramatically to only 5%.
- The water station itself proved very popular, being used to fill a 500ml bottle no less than 550 times each day during the six weeks

More information can be found at www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/info/media/report.asp?articleID=611

Randwick Council leads the way in installing solar panels

Randwick City Council are presently installing 36 kilowatts of solar panels on its works depot at Maroubra. These panels are capable of generating up to 58 megawatts of electricity annually. That is enough to power almost 8 homes for 12 months, preventing 58 tonnes of carbon from entering the atmosphere each year. The solar panel system will generate enough electricity to power the depot for three months. Comprehensive monitoring equipment will be installed as part of this project enabling Council staff to analyse and review the energy savings achieved from the new system. More information can be found at www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Your_Council/Whats_happening/News/Randwick_City_Council_Biggest_In_Solar_Systems/indexdl_5995.aspx

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 new SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming events or grants of interest.

Recent Activities

SCCG Community and Councillor Climate Change Forums

The SCCG is presenting two informative and empowering community and Councillor focused climate change forums. The forums will feature presentations on the latest climate change science, case studies of successful local actions and will encourage the discussion of future actions and solutions.

The details of the forums are:

Community Forum August 23 2009 - Customs House: focussing on residents of the SCCG Member Councils.

Councillor Forum August 30 2009 - Customs House: specifically for the elected representatives of the SCCG Member Councils.

For more information please visit: www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Resource

Useful resources and tools to assist your Council activities:

The National Coastal Landform and Stability Mapping Tool

The National Coastal Landform and Stability Mapping Tool maps coastal landform type for the entire Australian coastline and provides the ability to identify vulnerable areas to erosion under a changing climate. The Landform and Stability Mapping Tool was funded by the Department of Climate Change and developed by Geoscience Australia in collaboration with the University of Tasmania. It is available at www.ozcoasts.org.au

Grants

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

Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants

Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants assist community groups to: Protect and improve water quality through riparian and environmental restoration Educate catchment communities about protecting catchments. Applications close 01 October 2009. For more information

www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/catchment-protection-and-improvement-grants

Riparian Management Assistance Program

This program assists property owners to protect, conserve and improve the condition and management of waterways. The aim is to reduce the risk of pollution (pathogens, sediment and nutrients) moving into creeks, streams and ultimately water. Applications close 01 October 2009. For more information

www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/riparian-management-assistance-program

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

4th Annual Local Government Sustainable Development Conference 18 - 19 August Albert Park, Melbourne www.halledit.com.au/lgsd09

The 12th International Riversymposium, 21 – 24 September, Brisbane www.riversymposium.com

18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges' 3– 6 November, Ballina www.coastalconference.com/

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT