

Making Waves

June 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

Assessing the vulnerability of buildings to Catastrophic Marine Flooding

In 2008, the SCCG partnered with the University of New South Wales and its Natural Hazards Research Lab and the Department of Environmental Science as well as the University of Bologna, Italy to undertake a research project that tests a newly developed and highly novel GIS tool to assess the vulnerability of coastal infrastructure and buildings to catastrophic marine floods (Tsunami). The outputs of the assessment will aid Councils in making decisions about long-term strategic planning and development. The project used two selected case study sites with the Randwick and Manly Local Government Areas and a flood associated with a locally generated submarine-landslide tsunami just off-shore of the Sydney coast. The outcomes are equally applicable for the assessment of building vulnerability to storm surge floods. All materials and outcomes are being provided to Member Councils and will be available for other interested parties via the SCCG Secretariat shortly. For more information please see:

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCFactSheet-CoastalFloodModellingProject.pdf

Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation in the SCCG region

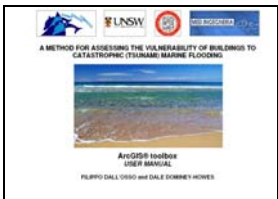
This project, recently awarded grant funding under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, will map all areas of risk in the SCCG region utilising sophisticated modelling together with Councils own information sources (including Digital Elevation Models) to determine risk and develop consistent model planning and management responses in consultation with relevant state government agencies and the broader community. This project to be undertaken in partnership with the CSIRO will achieve the following:

- Stage 1 Effect of Climate Change on Sea level Rise and Extreme Sea Levels
- Stage 2: Development of Model Planning provisions to integrate sea level rise and extreme sea level events into relevant planning strategies of the SCCG
- Stage 3: Develop and distribute community risk disclosure information and corresponding community and stakeholder education program

SCCG meets with the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, NSW Minister for Planning

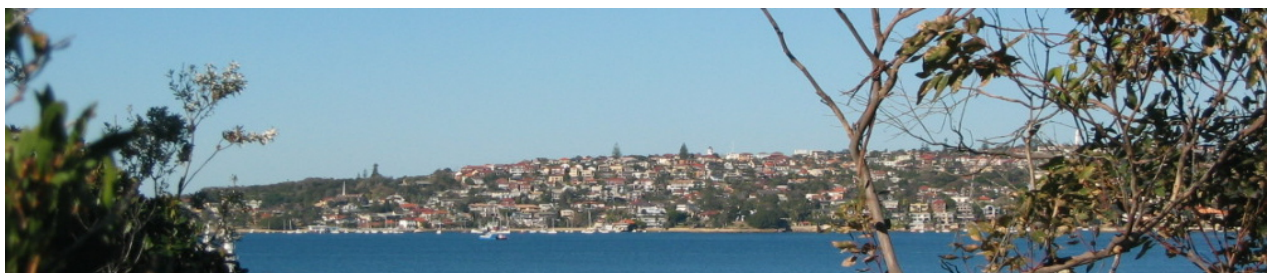
Representatives of the SCCG including SCCG Chairperson Clr. Wendy McMurdo and Vice Chairperson Clr. David James recently met with the Hon. Kristina Keneally MP, NSW Minister for Planning to discuss opportunities for the effective integration of risk management strategies and climate change adaptation in the coastal zone of NSW with the NSW Planning System. At this meeting the SCCG representatives outlined the views of the Group on the need for the following issues to be addressed to assist councils risk management and climate change adaptation:

1. Data collection and provision;
2. Consistent integration and application of risk management and climate change adaptation considerations into the relevant Regional Strategies, appropriate Environmental Planning Instruments and other legislative frameworks; and
3. The consistent disclosure of hazards in the coastal zone to coastal communities.



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.



Hornsby Council Introduce Green Offset Policy

Hornsby Council adopted an Offsets Policy to address the loss of valuable native vegetation across Hornsby Shire through the impacts of development. Its purpose is to ensure that significant vegetation in the shire is protected, balance the negative impacts of some development and provide for environmental enhancement and restoration. Offsets can only be applied where damage to native vegetation due to a development is unavoidable and all options to minimise impacts have been exhausted. The area of vegetation to be removed is offset usually by protecting and enhancing another area of native vegetation to 'replace' the native vegetation removed from the development site. For more information

www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/index.cfm?NavigationID=376

Recycled water to help make playing fields in Sutherland more sustainable

Sutherland Council is progressing a recycled water project that will help make some of the Shire's golf courses, playing fields and gardens more sustainable. The Cronulla/Woolooware Waste Water Re-Use Project will take treated water from Sydney Water's Cronulla Sewerage Treatment Plant, provide further treatment and purification in a specially built facility and then irrigate council, school and commercial playing fields as well as golf courses and industrial gardens in the Cronulla and Woolooware area. For more information

www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au/ssc/home.nsf/AllDocs/RWPFB59ED00BEA6F9A0CA2575E60027EC62?OpenDocument

Pittwater Council Provide Funds to Protect Threatened Species on Private Land

Pittwater Council and Coastcare will provide grant funding of \$72,000 to improve endangered Pittwater Spotted Gums growing on private properties around the Crown of Newport Reserve. The Crown of Newport Reserve spans 4.12 ha and is located in a sheltered gully between Newport Beach and Bilgola Plateau, bounded by Daly, Grandview, Hillslope, Kanimbla and Sybil Streets. The funding would help local residents on the reserve's boundary protect Pittwater spotted gums on their land.

www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/home/news_highlights/funding_aids_newports_endangered_spotted_gums

Release of the USSA Report: Barriers and Drivers to Sustainability in Local Government

The Urban Sustainability Support Alliance (USSA), of which the SCCG is a partner organisation, aims to help councils progress towards sustainability. The latest outcome of this project is the Barriers and Drivers to Sustainability in Local Government report produced by the Institute of Sustainable Futures. The report documents the research undertaken by the ISF and covers: The main drivers and barriers in relation to achieving sustainability in Local Government experienced by council staff; The tools and approaches being used by NSW councils to measure progress towards sustainability; and A summary of evaluation frameworks and tools used more broadly in Australia and overseas. Thirty two councils participated in the research undertaken from late November 2008 through to early February 2009. The report and more information about the USSA can be found at www.lgsa-plus.net.au/

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 Alternative Energy for Coastal Cities Forum

Addressing the current and future energy demands was an important issue for coastal councils. The SCCG Alternative Energy for Coastal Cities Forum held on 27 May showcased current innovations in renewable energy production, development and planning issues for councils, world energy demands and energy efficiency technologies. All presentations from the day and the final workshop report are available from www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/AECC.htm

Resource

Useful resources and tools to assist your Council activities:

NRM Grants List

The SCCG has produced a Natural Resource Management Grants list that is now available from its website. The Grants list details funding that is available under a variety of grant programs for councils, individuals, businesses and communities to help develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives. The grants list can be found at:

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCGGrantsListMarch2009_000.pdf

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

Financial Review Carbon Reduction Conference 2009 23 July, Melbourne www.afr.com/events

The 10th International Congress of Ecology (INTECOL) 16 - 21 August, Brisbane

www.intecol10.org/default.asp

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