



Making Waves

June 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. If you would like more information on any of the projects or issues discussed please contact the SCCG Secretariat (02) 9246 7702.

NSW Coastal Reforms

The *Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* (the Bill) was introduced into the NSW Parliament on Friday 11 June. The SCCG has been active in consulting with Member Councils and addressing all levels of government on issues, needs and concerns of Member Councils and coastal councils generally. On June 22 the SCCG and the NSW Local Government and Shires Associations released a joint media release calling on the NSW Government to defer their debate and decision on the Bill pending a full consideration of the implications and workability of the proposed changes.

As a result of consultation with a number of stakeholders, debate on the Bill has been deferred in NSW Parliament until the Spring Session. NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment the Hon. Frank Sartor MP has stated (in his media release of 22 June), "In good faith the Government has agreed to defer the Bill until the Spring Session so that further consultation can take place in order to try to achieve a suitable, workable middle course."

The Bill can be found at:

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/nswbills.nsf/0/F6EA37399E3B2664CA25773D002191BC

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) – Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan

The SCCG partnered with Sydney Water, Risk Frontier and DECCW to submit the Vulnerability Assessment of Critical Infrastructure project proposal to the NCCARF Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan. Following the Expression of Interest phase the project partners were invited to submit a full application for consideration. The project aims to assess the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to climate change extreme events, based on historical evidence and future projections. It is expected that successful applications will be announced in early July.

Extreme Weather Cooperative Research Centre

The SCCG has partnered as an end user with a proposal for the establishment of an Extreme Weather Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). The aim of the CRC is to increase the wealth, safety and well-being of Australian and international businesses and communities by turning climate and weather science into applied risk management technologies, practices and tools. The research undertaken by the CRC will be designed to create practical tools that will assist the insurance, energy, planning and legal sectors to manage risk in ways that would not otherwise be conceived. This will enable short-term management decisions and long-term strategic planning, through rigorous analysis and the application of world leading science.

SCCG Websites:

In addition to the SCCG website www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au the SCCG has two other websites that may interest readers of the monthly update:

The SCCG Environment Monitoring Page www.monitor2manage.com.au/
The Walking Coastal Sydney Website www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au

These sites have been developed to complement specific projects undertaken by the SCCG and provide users with a range of useful technical and recreational information.



Member Council Actions and Issues

Every month the SCCG uses this section of the update to provide a summary of some of the actions being undertaken and emerging issues for Member Councils.



SCCG providing Lidar to Member Councils via Geosciences Australia (Commonwealth Government)

The SCCG is entering into a licensing agreement with the Commonwealth for the provision of Lidar as well as a "hydro-enforced DEM" for all SCCG Member Councils. Member Councils will be provided with the data and a copy of the data licence agreement shortly.

National Parks Association Sydney Marine Park Proposal

In 2009 the NSW National Park Association wrote to all Sydney coastal councils asking them to formally resolve to support the establishment of a 103,000 ha Sydney Marine Park. A number of SCCG Technical Committee and Full Group delegates have sought the advice of the Secretariat on this issue. The Secretariat has advised councils to support the principle of coordinated management of marine environments combined with the allocation of appropriate resourcing. As the potential financial impacts of this proposal are unclear, before supporting the National Parks Association proposal councils should consider potential impacts on council budgets if they were expected to contribute resourcing to the management of the park. Additionally, within a policy context, the proposed marine park could have implications for a Council's management of coastal lakes and lagoons as all of these locations could potentially fall within the boundary of the park. More information about the proposal can be found at: www.marine.org.au/marineparks.htm

Hawkesbury Temperature and Salinity Monitoring

Hornsby Shire Council has deployed five probes in order to monitor estuarine health between Wisemans Ferry and Broken Bay. All the probes are set-up on monitoring buoys from which near real time data is transmitted by telemetry to secure websites. See the map below for specific location of the probes. The data collected is being used to assess and improve current management practices within the estuary by state and local government. The data will also fill data gaps in the current development of an estuarine hydrodynamic model for the river. The model output will link to Hornsby Council's GIS data which will have many different applications. For example, it will assist in predicting risks to the different habitat types under different climate change scenarios. This model will enable Council to appropriately manage the estuary ensuring that sites with potential risks are suitably protected. More information can be found at <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/index.cfm?NavigationID=2518>

19th NSW Coastal Conference - Coastal management - all aboard, making it work.

The NSW Coastal Conference will be held 10-12 November 2010 at Batemans Bay. The annual conference attracts between 220 - 300 delegates who are interested in or working within the field of coastal management research, education and service provision and policy; as well as representatives from government, user groups and community volunteer organisations. More information can be found at www.coastalconference.com

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 Activities

Page three of the Making Waves Monthly update is dedicated to providing a regular update of the capacity building initiatives of the SCCG as well as highlighting upcoming items of interest.

Currently the SCCG Capacity Building Program is undertaking the following activities:

Redevelopment of the SCCG website: redevelopment of the SCCG Website is underway, through Social Change Online, and will be launched towards the end of August. The websites look and feel are being updated to improve useability as well as adding additional functionality for the secretariat and Member Councils

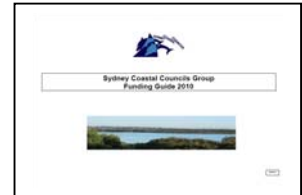
Capacity Building Activities schedule for 2010: The capacity building activities schedule has been updated to assist SCCG delegates to identify the dates, intended audience and resources by the SCCG in 2010.

Coastal Connections Project (SMCMA Grant funded): The contract for the Coastal Connections Project has been finalized and Republic of Everyone has been engaged to develop the community engagement strategy focusing on social media. Information on the progress of this project will be provided in future updates.

Resources

2010 Natural Resource Management Funding Guide

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/2010SCCGFundingGuide.pdf



Grants & Awards

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

Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards 2009 - 2010

Recognising outstanding achievements by Local Government in managing and protecting the environment. The Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards were initiated by the Associations in 1998 and are held annually. The Awards are open to all councils in NSW and aim to recognise outstanding achievements by NSW Local Government in managing and protecting the environment. The 2009-2010 Awards will be presented at Taronga Park Zoo, on the morning of 30 November 2010. This year sees 11 sponsored categories, and a new category, the Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability. The closing date for entries is Monday 30 August 2010. More information can be found at:

www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp

NSW Heritage Grants

The NSW Department of Planning, Heritage Branch, runs a diverse and targeted funding program to assist owners and managers of state significant heritage items, Aboriginal heritage and local government heritage management in New South Wales. The NSW government has committed \$5.324 million funding for the 2009-2011 NSW Heritage Grants funding program. There are various closing dates, for more information go to: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/02_index.htm

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

8th Annual Green Building and Design Conference: 3-4 September 2010, State Library of Victoria.

www.rmit.edu.au/cfd/gbd2010

Coast to Coast 2010 – Actions for Change: 20- 24 September 2010, Adelaide.

www.coast2coast.org.au

NSW Coastal Conference "Coastal Management - all aboard, making it work!": 10-12 November 2010, Batemans Bay. www.coastalconference.com

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT