



Making Waves

March 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 and Capacity Building Program update. 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

Inquiry into Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities

SCCG Chairperson, Wendy McMurdo, and Senior Coastal Projects Officer, Craig Morrison, appeared at the Australian Government Inquiry into Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities. Clr McMurdo and Craig highlighted the desire of the SCCG for the Australian Government to take the lead in assisting councils address the impacts of climate change on coastal communities through the following actions:

- The provision of information on the impacts of climate change on coastal communities;
- The integration of climate change adaptation actions into strategic and land use planning; and
- Tools and processes for the disclosure of climate change risks to coastal communities.

NSW Government Draft Sea Level Rise Policy Submission

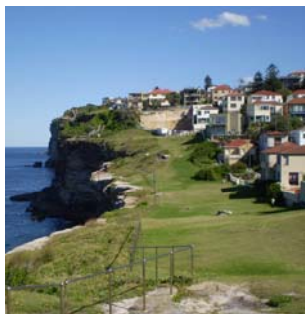
In response to the release of the NSW Government Draft Sea Level Rise Policy. The SCCG has prepared a comprehensive regionally representative submission that reflects the views of its Member Councils. In its submission the SCCG noted that, the Draft Policy Statement was an important first step in providing all spheres of government with the necessary guidance to assist the consistent consideration of sea level rise impacts in the coastal, estuarine and floodplain environments of NSW. To ensure consistent and appropriate application of the Policy and benchmarks the SCCG believes the NSW Government must now work with Local Government in developing a technical and policy implementation framework and capacity building programs to build the resilience of coastal communities to sea level rise.

Scoping Study for the extraction of sand reserves from the 'Sydney Shelf Sand Body'

The SCCG is pleased to announce that after a rigorous Expressions of Interest and consultant selection process, Maunsell Australia Pty Ltd has been engaged to deliver the Scoping Study for the extraction of sand reserves from the 'Sydney Shelf Sand Body' for development protection and augmentation of beach systems under immediate threat from coastal storm activity. The project funded by the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program scope issues in relation to the environmental, physical, social and economic aspects of utilising available offshore sands to meet the immediate and medium term management requirements of Sydney's (NSW) beaches. The project will be overseen by the SCCG Beach Management Working Group and completed by October 2009.

Building the Resilience of Sydney's Salty Communities—Caring for our Country investment proposal

The SCCG has recently submitted an investment proposal through the Caring for our Country program to undertake a project titled "Building Resilience of Sydney's Salty Communities". The project will assess and improve the resilience of the Sydney regions nationally significant intertidal habitats (wetlands, saltmarsh communities, mangroves, rock platforms, dunes and sandy shores) to existing and future threats. A key component of the project is to provide a devolved grants program to assist member councils with the delivery of works programs and capacity building activities in Sydney's intertidal zone.



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.



Working Towards a Sustainable Future in Pittwater

Pittwater Council has placed its draft "Learning for Sustainability Plan" on public exhibition. The draft plan outlines a number of actions to improve sustainability in the local area and will aim to assist Pittwater Council and its residents in making informed decisions about leading a more sustainable lifestyle. Some of the outcomes that the draft plan recommends include:

- Improved access to high-quality learning for sustainability for all Pittwater residents.
- Better training for those delivering learning for sustainability.
- Increased research and evaluation of effective learning for sustainability.
- Increasing the number of people actively participating in a creating a sustainable future.

The plan will be on exhibition from 28 March to 30 April 2009. More information can be found at www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/media/news/2009/march/working_towards_a_sustainable_future_in_pittwater

Green Business - Energy \$aving Program. Beat the energy bill hikes - with help from North Sydney Council

Registration is now open for North Sydney Council's new 'Green Business - Energy \$aving Program'. The program helps businesses achieve their goals of reducing energy bills and minimising greenhouse gas emissions. The 'Green Business - Energy \$aving Program' aims to address the rising cost of energy and help businesses and industry reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Each participating business will receive a low-cost and simple energy audit of their business, a presentation on the results of the audit and a tailored energy action plan. More information can be found at www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/6142-green-business---energy-aving-program.asp?intSiteID=1

Leichhardt Council Draft Sustainable Water & Risk Management Development Control Plan (DCP)

Leichhardt Council has released its draft Sustainable Water and Risk Management DCP for public comment. The aim of the draft Sustainable Water and Risk Management DCP is to set out Council's controls for sustainable water and (flood or inundation) risk management in Leichhardt. This DCP will, on adoption, form part of the Leichhardt Town Plan - the combined LEP 2000 and DCP. These controls seek to ensure that development:

- Integrates water management appropriate to the site and its surroundings provides for sustainable management and use of water
- Allows for the management and conservation of natural and built waterways and the natural assets in the catchments
- Considers and manages flooding and inundation risks

The DCP will be on public exhibition from Tuesday 17 March 2009 until Tuesday 28 April 2009. More information can be found at www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Content.aspx?PageID=444&ItemID=43

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

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
C/- City of Sydney Council
Level 14, 456 Kent Street
GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY NSW 2001

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

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.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCGGrantsListMarch2009_000.pdf

Capacity Building Program Consultation:

To ensure the SCCG new Capacity Building Program meets the needs of its Member Councils the Secretariat has sought feedback on the programs direction, actions and deliverables of the program. Preliminary insights include:

- An extensive list of future workshops, lectures and forums with topics ranging from Natural Resource Management, Climate Change, Water Management, Energy, Carbon reduction and Coastal Risk Management
- Key considerations for the effective delivery of capacity building activities and publications.

Alternative Energy for Coastal Councils Forum 27 May 2009. 9am – 5pm the Marconi Terrace, Town Hall House City of Sydney.

3 Climate Change Forums on the impacts of climate change and opportunities for adaptation.

- Adaptation Planning Forum for Councils (June)
- Community Climate Change Information Forum (July)
- Councillor Climate Change Information Forum (August)

A Sea Level Rise Workshop: Estimating Sea-Level Extremes in an Uncertain Future workshop 9 June 2009 (SCCG Member Councils Only)

Grants

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

2009/10 Estuary and Coastal Management Grant Programs

The main objectives of the programs are to improve coastal and estuarine health through the development and implementation of management plans. important priorities to address, include: More details and application forms

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grantsandfunding/cepmgrants.htm

The Water for Life Water Education Projects Funding Package.

This funding will support organisations across greater Sydney to deliver leading practice water education projects. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for eligible organisations to conduct water education projects that encourage water efficiency

www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/education/support/funding_package

Events

NSW Sustainable Development Conference: 12-13 May, Sydney www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc

National Emissions Trading Summit: 7 - 8 May 2009, Sydney Harbour
www.informa.com.au/conferences/Environment/national-emissions-trading-summit

2009 Queensland Coastal Conference - Waves of Change: 13-15 May, Gold Coast.
www.iceaustralia.com/qldcoast09/

