

Making Waves

May 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

Antifouling Technologies for Coastal Pools and Platforms Project

SCCG Member Councils are faced with a continual challenge of algae growth on foreshore areas resulting in the need for continual cleaning via a variety of applications to reduce slip risk. Approaches historically used include mechanical cleaning and use of various biocides, particularly chlorine based bleaches. To minimise the environmental impacts of cleaning strategies the SCCG is working with University of New South Wales on a project to trial environmentally cleaning applications. The project is now well underway with Stage 1 involving trials at on Sydney's eastern beaches and Sydney Harbour undertaken in Summer 2008-2009 completed. The project will be run over the 2 years within various application sites in the summers of 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. Funding support for this project has been provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Randwick Council, Sutherland Council and the SCCG.

Collaborative Partnership Program with SCCG & Institute of Environmental Studies (Uni Of NSW)

The partnership program is designed for the SCCG with its Member Councils and the IES to jointly focus on addressing contemporary and strategic environmental management issues. This is facilitated through collaborative research projects, seminars and workshops associated with the design and implementation of partnership projects. The projects being undertaken for the first session of 2009 are:

- Emission trading benefits for local government: How can emissions trading help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions in conjunction with existing abatement programs? (Randwick Council); and
- Water quality snap shot of Sutherland Shire's freshwater streams (Sutherland Shire Council)



Estimating Sea-Level Extremes in an Uncertain Future

To assist SCCG Member Councils in addressing the uncertain impacts of sea level rise the SCCG arranged for the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre to provide training specifically for SCCG Member Councils in the use of an interactive, web-based tool which determines appropriate design specifications based on location, asset life, greenhouse emission scenario and acceptable level of risk.

Participants learnt how to:

- Assess the risk to existing infrastructure,
- Set guidelines for maintenance of existing and new infrastructure and
- Set appropriate design codes for new infrastructure.

Over 40 staff from SCCG Member Councils participated in this workshop delivered on the June 9 2009. More information about the web-based tool can be found at www.sealevelrise.info



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.



Become ClimateClever with Willoughby City Council

In response to community concern about climate change, Willoughby City Council has launched "ClimateClever". This comprehensive education campaign aims to assist Willoughby residents, businesses and schools reduce their carbon footprint through a range of engaging programs, workshops and activities designed to increase community skills and knowledge of climate change actions. More information can be found at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/ClimateClever.html

The RiverScience Ecological Monitoring Program

The RiverScience Ecological Monitoring Program was developed by Rockdale, Canterbury and Marrickville Councils. The program provides Councils with a report on the current health of the Cooks River estuary and a common set of criteria and programs from which to undertake ongoing management of the Cooks River and catchment. A copy of the final report is available for download.

www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/environment/Pages/pdf/Environment/Cooks_River_Final_Sept07.pdf

North Steyne named Australia's cleanest beach

North Steyne Beach was declared Australia's Cleanest Beach for 2009 at the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Clean Beaches Awards. As well as winning the overall Australian title, North Steyne picked up the Community Partnership, Environmental Innovation, Energy Conservation and Young Legends categories as well, congratulations to Manly Council. More information can be found at www.manly.nsw.gov.au/content.aspx?PageID=40&ItemID=229

Celebrate the beginning of whale watching season with Woollahra Council

Woollahra Council will be celebrating National Whale Day and marking the beginning of the official whale watching season with free whale watching and a beautiful coastal cliff walk on Sunday 14 June 2009. Residents are invited to help welcome the return of Humpback and Southern Right whales to the Sydney coastline as they migrate from the Antarctic waters northwards to breed. Whale watching will take place from 9.00am – 12.00pm, at Lighthouse Reserve, Old South Head Road, between Georges Road and Cambridge Avenue, Vaucluse. More information can be found at: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/events/event_highlights/whale_watching

Coastal Councils join forces to combat anti-social behaviour

Sydney's beachside councils are taking a stand against alcohol-related violence, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti at seaside hotspots. Six councils - Manly, Pittwater, Randwick, Sutherland, Warringah and Waverley - have put forward a proposal for change to the State Government after banding together to develop ways to fight this growing problem. After ongoing discussions, the six councils have jointly developed a paper containing proposals which will be submitted to relevant State Government Ministers for action. More information can be found at:

www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Your_Council/Whats_happening/Media_releases/Whats_Hot/Beachside_councils_join_forces_to_combat_anti-social_behaviour/indexdl_5691.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 Alternative Energy for Coastal Councils Forum (AE4C²)

The forum showcased existing innovations in renewable energy production, global and national energy demands, energy efficiency technologies and respective development and planning issues for Councils. The principal sponsor for the forum was **EnergyAustralia**. The Energy Superstore www.energysuperstore.com.au provided two luck door prizes, a personal energy saving prize pack won by a very grateful forum attendee and a solar powered street light won by Waverly Council. For copies of the Presentations from the day please go to: www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/AAECC.htm

Resource

Useful resources and tools to assist your activities at Council:

Urban Sustainability Support Alliance (USSA) - Resource Database

The USSA resource database assists in the identification and promotion of sustainability resources relevant to NSW councils. The USSA Resource Database can be accessed at:

<http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/2373-resource-database.asp>

For more info regarding the USSA please visit: www.lgsa.org.au/USSA

Grants

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

Catchment protection and improvement grants - Closing Date July 1, 2009

The Sydney Catchment Authority offers grants of up to \$8,000 (plus \$2,000 for equipment hire) to community groups for activities to protect and improve catchments. For more information

<http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/catchment-protection-and-improvement-grants>

Arts NSW 2010 Arts Funding Program – Closing Date July 6, 2009

Funding available for arts and cultural activities. ARTS NSW will accept either a single application for a Council's entire or combined arts and cultural program, or separate applications from separate Council business units and entities. For more information www.arts.nsw.gov.au

Events

Facilitated by the SCCG

SCCG Climate Change Forums on the impacts of climate change and opportunities for adaptation. (For: Councillors, Councils and Community) Details coming soon.

Other Important Events

Biodiversity Under Fire 22-23 June, Surry Hills, Sydney

A Bushfire conference focussing on biodiversity and the ecologically sustainable management of bushfire. For any enquiries, please call (02) 9279 2120 or email bushfireconf09@nccnsw.org.au or visit www.nccnsw.org.au/biodiversityunderfire

Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup Course, ~~(-16, 17 June (Full) & 11 – 12 August, Cronulla~~

This course shows how to manage the responses and determine what needs to be done and how to get it done to minimize the environmental impact of an Oil Spill. RSVP's essential email:

Rob.lea@maritime.nsw.gov.au For any enquiries, please call (02) 9364-2435

LGSA Water Management Conference, 9-11 September, Deniliquin

The conference in Deniliquin will focus on sustainably managing urban water and water for irrigation and the impacts of water policy. www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au/

18th NSW Coastal Conference 3-6 November,
Ballina NSW www.coastalconference.com/

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT