

Making Waves



November - December 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 (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

NSW Government Coastal Reform Package

During the NSW Coastal Conference held between 4-6th November 2009 the NSW Government announced the finalisation of the NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement as well as the release of the following documents for consultation:

- Draft NSW Coastal Planning Guideline – Adapting to Sea Level Rise
- Draft Coastal Risk Management Guide: Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in coastal risk assessments
- Draft Flood Risk Management Guide: Incorporating sea level rise benchmarks in flood risk assessments

All of these documents apply to all coastal areas of NSW, including the NSW Coastal Zone, as well as Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. The release of the guides and guidelines demonstrates the NSW Government's activities in working with councils to guide planning for uses of land along the NSW coast in response to the impacts of climate change including sea level rise. Submissions close on the draft document on 11 December 2009. To assist all Member Councils the SCCG facilitated a 1 day workshop on 1 December 2009 to:

1. Hear from the NSW Department of Planning and NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water on the content of the documents.
2. To have a regional forum that enables Member Council staff to discuss their councils information and technical needs in applying the guidelines.
3. Assist the SCCG in preparing a regionally representative submission on the guidelines and guides on behalf of SCCG Member Councils.

Managing our coastal zones in a changing climate: The time to act is now

On Monday 26 October 2009, the House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts presented its report on the inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities. The report titled *Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: The time to act is now* consolidates the written and verbal evidence presented during the inquiry. Based on this evidence the report makes 47 recommendations aimed at defining the necessary actions for national leadership can be provided in a collaborative framework with state and local government on the issues of climate change adaptation. The SCCG participated in the inquiry through the preparation of a written submission and appearance at inquiry hearings occasions. The final report makes reference to the SCCG 22 times.

SCCG Project wins Coastal Conference Award

On 5 November the SCCG and the CSIRO won the NSW Coastal Awards under the category "Innovations" for the project "A Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises". The award was proudly accepted at the NSW Coastal Conference Dinner on behalf of the entire research team by SCCG Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe. The Innovations award is awarded to an individual, group, organisation or agency for initiation or development of innovative methods and techniques to address a coastal management issue.



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.



Celebrate Coastcare Week in Randwick held from December 1 to 6 2009

Coastcare Week is held each year to encourage beachgoers and residents to learn about and take action to help protect our marine and coastal environment. This year Randwick Council is providing a range of activities with support from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Yarra Bay Sailing Club and the Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi. People are encouraged to discover for themselves the hidden bays, naturally formed rock pools and abundance of native flora and fauna in Randwick during Coastcare Week. More information can be found at www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

2009 Ocean Care Day Festival

On Sunday 6 December 2009 from 11am to 5pm, The Manly Environment Centre will host the 16th Ocean Care Day Festival, a free community event by the sea with more than 50 exhibitors on display from the Manly Beachfront Promenade, opposite The Corso, all the way to Manly Life Saving Club on South Steyne. The festival is a fun, interactive and all-inclusive community event to raise awareness of the range of environmental issues we face today. Most importantly it aims to provide information to people, which will empower them to take action and make lifestyle choices which will create positive outcomes for themselves, the wider community (locally and globally) and the environment. More information can be found at www.mec.org.au

Willoughby Council assist Residents Greenstyle their Home and Garden this Summer

Willoughby City Council is assisting residents to make their home and garden more eco-friendly with a personalised visit from a Greenstyle advisor over the summer period. Greenstyle is a free in-home sustainable living program for residents in the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai and Willoughby City Council areas. The program offers a free home and garden assessment and provides advice on the many ways residents can reduce weeds, help wildlife, save water, start a vegetable garden, reduce their carbon footprint, access various government rebates and more. Participants can also access free environmental workshops and discounts on environmental products from local suppliers. More information is available from www.greenstyle.org.au

SCCG Water Quality Monitoring Web Site

Dr Ian Armstrong has now finalised the SCCG Environmental Monitoring Web site. Over the last 8 months Ian has been developing the web site and also seeking firstly internal comment via the SCCG Technical Committee and then via broader promotion to SCCG State, national and international networks. The website will be launched in mid December. In the first month the website is operating visitors to the site will go into the draw for a lucky door prize. To visit the site when its launched and find out more about the lucky door prize go to www.monitor2manage.com.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 SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming items of interest.

Recent Activities

SCCG Capacity Building Program - Out and About

Creating and strengthening links externally allows for the program to be contemporary with its endeavours and to have dialogue in different settings that directly benefits the SCCG Member Councils.

1. DECCW & NCC- Beyond the Usual Suspects(Community Engagement Workshop)

Upcoming Events

SCCG & Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute – GIS Forum:

Sydney's Integrated Spatial Future "Bringing Managers & Spatial Professionals Together"

Wednesday 9 December 9:00am to 5:00pm,

The Barnet Long Room, Customs House, Sydney

The forum will provide presentations for a wide ranging Council audience. Key themes identified for this forum include: Risk & hazard assessment, asset management, information management as well as decision support systems and communication. **Places are filling fast. Secure your place today!**

For More Information visit: <http://www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au/Events.htm>



SCCG Summer Activities Program January 2010

January: there's no better time to discover Sydney's coastline with family and friends.

From rock pools to snorkelling, wetland tours to coastal walks, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Summer Activities Program offers something for everyone.

More than 80 Activities available all around the Sydney Metropolitan Region.

See www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au for more details.



Resource

Useful resources and tools to assist your Council activities:

Involving your Community in decision making through deliberative democracy training package

Complex challenges such as sustainability and climate change demand new forms of community involvement in a collaborative approach to planning and policy development. The training workshop will provide the information and decision making tools to support the development of local climate change adaptation and mitigation plans. For More info contact Rachel Mimmo: (02) 9279 2633 or

rmimmo@nccnsw.org.au

Grants

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

Coastal Community Engagement Small Project Grants, Closes 4pm, 20 January 2010

The grants form part of the larger 'Caring for our Country' project "Engaging NSW Communities in coastline conservation" which involves all 5 coastal CMAs in NSW. More info:

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/news/expressions-of-interest-coastal-community-engagement.html>

Grants for surf life saving clubs to save water, Closes 31 January 2010

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to surf life saving clubs to install water saving and efficiency devices on club premises. More info: <http://www.slsa.com.au/default.aspx?s=waterforfuture>

Storm water harvesting and reuse projects - second round, Closes 10 February 2010

The objective is to support stormwater harvesting and reuse projects in both large and small cities and towns that contribute to:

More info: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/urban/stormwater-harvesting.html>

Events

Fifth International Conference on Intelligent Sensors, Sensor Networks and Information Processing, December 7 – 10, Langham Hotel, Melbourne, More info: www.issnip.org/2009

Bioenergy Australia 2009, December 8 – 10, Radisson Resort Gold Coast

More info: <http://www.bioenergy2009.finbioenergy.fi/>

Green Cities 2010, 21 Feb – 24 Feb 2010, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

More info: <http://www.greencities.org.au/>

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT