



# Making Waves

## September 2008

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update  
[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](http://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 on (02) 9246 7702.

### SCCG Key Activities

#### SCCG Secretariat welcomes new councillors

The SCCG Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new and returning councillors elected at the Local Government elections in September. Councillor representation on SCCG committees offers the opportunity to represent the interest of member councils in relation to coastal and estuarine management issues for Sydney. The Secretariat looks forward to working with all elected delegates in the near future.

#### SCCG/CSIRO Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Project

This exciting research project is now close to completion. The project team recently released the second project phase report, the *Regional Workshop Synthesis Report* which provides a regional snapshot of the findings from all 15 SCCG Member Council climate change workshops. This report is available from the project web page on SCCG web site. Additionally the completion and reporting of the adaptive capacity case studies is due to be finalised shortly. The project team is also holding an end of project forum in Sydney on the 31 October 2008, if you are interested in attending this event please contact the project coordinator Beth Beveridge at [beth@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](mailto:beth@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au) or on 92467810. For more information and products from this exciting project please visit the project web page at <http://sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/system-approach-to-regional-climate-change-adaptation-strategies-in-metropolises/index.php>

#### COAG Climate Change and Water Working Group: Adaptation Sub-Group Coastal, Settlements, Planning and Indigenous Workshop

SCCG Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe was invited to participate in the COAG Adaptation Sub-Group Coastal, Settlements, Planning and Indigenous Workshop. The aim of the workshop was to assist in setting COAG's climate change adaptation priorities for coastal, settlements and planning. At the meeting he emphasised the need for a national focus on:

- Adaptive capacity of local government in coastal areas
- Adaptation options for councils
- Need for improved government structures for decision making processes
- Need for improved information through risk assessments
- Risk assessments that drive decision making process and consistent policy measures.

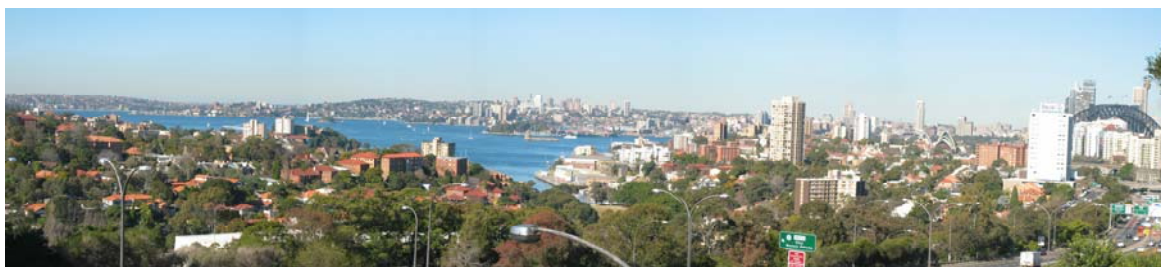
#### Regional Water Quality Monitoring Program

The SCCG is updating the Monitoring Program and Toolkit, launched as a CD-based version in 2000. The SCCG has engaged Dr Ian Armstrong to improve the usability and accessibility of the Toolkit, including the development of a revised CD and/or web-based format to provide regular updates and information to users. The outcome will be a CD-Rom that will assist councils undertaking water quality monitoring projects and utilising the data gathered to identify and implement projects.



## 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.



### Climate Consensus Projects

Rockdale has begun to engage its community on their ideas for climate adaptation through a partnership project with the Nature Conservation Council. The Climate Consensus project aims to build the capacity of local communities to understand the impacts of climate change and identify possible adaptation actions. More information about the project can be found at [www.nccnsw.org.au](http://www.nccnsw.org.au)

### Geotechnical Risk Property Enquiry

Pittwater Council has established a web based tool that enables residents to establish if specific properties are located on land that have been identified on Council's Geotechnical Risk Management Map or on Council's Coastal Hazard Map (Bluff Management Area). The information available from Council is based on mapping referred to in the Interim Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater 2007. Based on the information provided property owners can determine if they need to have a geotechnical assessment carried out by an engineering geologist or a geotechnical engineer specialising in landslide risk management. More information can be found at [www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/building\\_and\\_development/property\\_information/landslide\\_geotechnical\\_risk](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/building_and_development/property_information/landslide_geotechnical_risk)

### NSW Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme

The third meeting for the NSW Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme Steering Group was held in September with Councils agreeing to commence trading in March 2009. The scheme has 3 regional and 9 metropolitan Councils participating in a 5 year trial to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent. More information can be found at: [www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Looking\\_after\\_our\\_environment/Sustaining\\_our\\_city/Greenhouse/Local\\_government\\_emissions\\_trading\\_scheme/index.aspx](http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Looking_after_our_environment/Sustaining_our_city/Greenhouse/Local_government_emissions_trading_scheme/index.aspx)

### 2008 NSW Coastal Conference

The SCCG encourages all coastal managers and community representatives to participate in the 2008 NSW Coastal Conference, hosted this year by Wollongong City Council. The theme for the 2008 Conference is: Innovations in the Coastal Zone. Conference topics include: Coastal Habitats/Ecosystems; Coastal Hazards; Planning for Change; Community Involvement; New Approaches or Innovations and Lessons Learnt (good and bad!). The Conference attracts between 250 - 300 delegates from a wide range of areas. This year the conference will also present awards for outstanding achievement in coastal zone management activities. Areas to be covered include: Lifetime Achievement, Innovation, Community Involvement, Local Government, and Student Research. For more information [www.coastalconference.com/default.asp](http://www.coastalconference.com/default.asp)

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](mailto:craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)

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