

Making Waves

September 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

SCCG Secretariat Welcomes New Executive Committee for 2009-2010

The SCCG Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome the new SCCG Executive Committee elected at the December AGM. **Chairperson:** Cr. Wendy McMurdo (Hornsby). **Vice Chairpersons:** **Estuarine** - Cr. Veronique Marchandea (North Sydney), and **Ocean** - Cr. David James (Pittwater) **Treasurer** (Honorary): Cr. Wendy Norton (Willoughby), **Secretary** (Honorary): Cr. Lynne Saville (Willoughby) **Members:** Cr. Cathy Griffin (Manly), Cr. Margaret Woodsmith (Randwick) and Cr. Christina Kirsch (Warringah Council).

Scoping study – Maintaining Sydney's Beach Amenity Against Climate Change Sea Level Rise by Sand Nourishment

The project entitled "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" is progressing. The Project aims to undertake a 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 engaged consultant AECOM is working with the SCCG and the project Steering Committee to complete the project by the end of October 2009. The report outcomes will be launched at the NSW Coastal Conference on 4 November.

Valuation of Sydney's Beaches Project

In coordination with project partners the University of New South Wales, the project aims to quantify the value of Sydney beaches in order to assess cost / benefit of necessary coastal protection / abatement measures as a result of enhanced climate change impacts. This information will assist Local and State Governments to make more informed decisions on how to protect coastal property, infrastructure, beach environments and amenity at threat of coastal erosion. The PhD Candidate undertaking the project is currently performing data analysis on the responses to the joint-estimation beach valuation survey. Overall, there are 530 completed responses, with over 30 data points for each respondent. Interestingly, 54.3% of respondents indicated a positive willingness to contribute to a coastal management fund for erosion prevention measures as described in the survey.

Rock Pool Antifouling Technologies Project

SCCG Member Councils are faced with a continual challenge of algae growth on foreshore areas resulting in a 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. This project is progressing into its second stage after 5-6 application trials being undertaken in summer 2008/2009. The second stage of the project will be undertaken in summer 2009/2010 to further test the best performing applications in the first stage of the project. Funding support for this project has been provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Randwick and Sutherland Councils as well as the SCCG.



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.



Every Drop Counts at Warringah Council

Warringah Council has achieved four stars under Sydney Water's five star 'Every Drop Counts' program as a result of a concerted effort across Council operations to reduce water consumption. Since 2004 council's water consumption has dropped by 40 per cent – or the equivalent to 75 Olympic swimming pools which is a big win for the community and the environment. For more information www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/home/index.aspx

North Sydney Council Seeks Communities 2020 vision for 2020 Strategic Plan

North Sydney Council is seeking comments from its residents on the Draft 2020 Vision Community Strategic Plan to ensure the Plan meaningfully represents the aspirations of the community. The 2020 Vision was developed in 2004 following extensive community consultation. Community members, Councillors, government and non-government stakeholders and staff - all worked together to identify the direction for North Sydney's future in this plan. The review will look at the challenges and opportunities facing North Sydney and gather together our community's priorities for the coming years 2009-12. For more information www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/2047-our-vision-and-values.asp

Willoughby Council Offers ClimateClever School Award

The ClimateClever School Award recognises school's in Willoughby's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. Using a real-time energy logger school's can monitor their energy use and analyses power consumption against how much power is being produced from renewable sources such as solar panels. The system also reports CO2 emissions, costs and consumption in half-hour intervals. This allows students to see results from school wide efforts, such as turning off lights during lunch time. Five awards are available, each worth \$10,000. More information can be found at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/ClimateClever-School-Award.html

Waverley Council Festival of the Winds

Waverley Council organised the highly successful Festival of the Winds on Sunday 13 September at Bondi Beach. The skies were alive with kites of all shapes and sizes from local and international kite-makers and flyers. The day is the only time of year people are able to fly a kite at Australia's most famous beach. Other activities on the day included dance workshops, children's rides and entertainment plus a multicultural music and dance. More information can be found at www.waverley.nsw.gov.au

18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges'

This Conference, held between 3– 6 November 2009 in Ballina attracts delegates from a wide range of areas, including: the public sector in State and Federal Government; representatives from local government areas throughout NSW; private sector; coastal and marine consultants, planners and engineers. 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 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 events or grants of interest.

Recent Activities

SCCG Resource Database

The SCCG Annual Survey and Capacity Building Program consultation revealed that many SCCG Member Council staff and would like to see the development of a Coastal and Estuary Management Local Government resource database. Such a database will be a 'one-stop-shop' for tool kits, case studies, reports, technical data, events and other resources to assist Member Councils in their coastal and estuary projects. The Capacity Building Program is currently meeting with IT consultants to assist with the development of this important tool for Member Councils. Stay tuned for more developments...

Presentations from Climate Change Forums Available

The presentations and final reports from the SCCG Community and Councillor Forums are now available from www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

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, Circular Quay, 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.

Resource

Useful resources and tools to assist your Council activities:

NRM Links Australia

A newly established non-profit NRM discussion board and information/social exchange database. NRM Links Australia has been established for users to: ask questions; discuss management options or issues; advise members of new research, developments or discoveries; identify useful content that should be added to the publicly available web pages; and promote events such as workshops, training opportunities, field days, seminars, and conferences. For more information <http://www.nrmlinks.org.au>

Grants

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

Healthy Communities Grant

Grants of up to \$80,000 are now available to councils for initiatives that promote healthy living under the newly announced Healthy Communities grant scheme. For more information <http://healthycommunities.lgsa.org.au>

Caring for our Country – Community Action Grants

Eligible community groups can apply for grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to take action to help protect and conserve Australia's environment. Councils can support their local community groups by sponsoring their applications. Applications will be open from 1 October 2009 – 22 October 2009. For more information <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/cag.html>

Events

18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges', 3– 6 November, Ballina www.coastalconference.com/

Commercialising Solar Power Conference, 17-18 November 2009, Sydney Harbour Marriott <http://www.informa.com.au/conferences/energy-utilities/power-electricity/commercialising-solar-power-conference>

Environmental Compliance and Management Summit, 18-20 November, The Grace Hotel, Sydney <http://news.envirocentre.com.au/assets/docs/CMP2-Halledit-Enviro.pdf>

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT