

From the Chair

Welcome to the September 2009 edition of 'Coastal Currents'. As my first action of this newsletter I have the pleasure of congratulating and welcoming the new SCCG Executive Committee elected at the 2009 Annual General Meeting on September 12. The AGM provided the opportunity to reflect on what has been a very busy year filled with exciting forums, radio and newspaper interviews on sea level rise, visiting Chinese delegations, and capped by the fantastic achievement of winning the Eureka science prize for our partnership project with the CSIRO. That excellent project thoroughly deserved the prize, and has not only given our Member Councils detailed information

and invaluable tools with which to address climate change but has also served as a model for all coastal councils around the country. The SCCG continues to lead the way in addressing the issue of sustainable coastal management, and in particular coastal management in the face of the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. Our role has been so effective that government at both the state and federal levels appears to be paying attention to what we have to say and is beginning to take action to address issues raised.

Cr. Wendy WcMurdo
Chairperson



MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2009

SCCG/CSIRO project wins Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change

On 18 August the SCCG and the CSIRO won the Australian Museum Eureka Award under the "Innovative Solutions to Climate Change Category". The Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change is sponsored by New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change. Presented to the SCCG and the CSIRO by the NSW Premier the award recognises work that demonstrates a commitment to pursuing innovative solutions to the challenges posed by climate change. The Australian Museum stated the "pioneering study, brought together social and physical scientists, local governments and community groups, to develop an innovative, transferable method for assessing regional climate change vulnerability in cities.

Education empowerment of Landslide risk Management to regulators and practitioners

The SCCG and AGS have begun planning for the delivery of 10 workshops to be delivered nationally as part of the *Education empowerment of landslide risk management to regulators and practitioners* project funded under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP). The workshops will aim to improve:

- Awareness of landslide risk management issues amongst local and state government instrumentalities as well as practitioners; and
- The ability to implement landslide risk management into land use planning.

The project steering committee recently met to plan the content, delivery, promotion and ongoing resources provided by the project. This project aims to build the highly successful and award winning landslide risk management guidelines and commentaries including AGS 2007 completed with funding support from the NDMP in late 2007.

SCCG Secretariat welcomes new Executive Committee for 2008-2009

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 Marchandeanu (North Sydney), and Ocean - Cr. David James (Pittwater) Treasurer (Honorary): Cr. Wendy Norton (Willoughby), Secretary (Honorary): Cr Lynne Saville (North Sydney) Executive Members: Cr Cathy Griffin (Manly), Cr Margaret Woodsmith (Randwick) and Cr Christina Kirsch (Warringah Council).

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The project team at the Eureka Awards Dinner



SCCG News and Upcoming Events

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.

Beach Management And 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. The project will be completed in early 2010.

SCCG Strategic Plan Review

The SCCG is reviewing its current 2009-2013 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan focuses and directs SCCG activities for the period 2005 - 2008. The current plan represents the fifth SCCG 'Business Plan' since 1989 and has combined the existing SCCG BMP with the Sydney Regional Coastal Management Strategy. Both staff and Councillors from SCCG Member Councils as well as external coastal management experts are currently being consulted. The SCCG hopes to have the 2009 - 2013 Strategic Plan finalised by December 2009.

Matters of interest

National Coastal Landform and Stability Mapping Tool

The National Coastal Landform and Stability Mapping Tool maps coastal landform type for the entire Australian coastline and provides the ability to identify vulnerable areas to erosion under a changing climate. The Landform and Stability Mapping Tool was funded by the Department of Climate Change and developed by Geoscience Australia in collaboration with the University of Tasmania. It is available at www.ozcoasts.org.au

Updating Safety equipment standards for commercial vessels

The National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) released for public comment the draft revised standard for the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) Part C, Subsection 7A - Safety Equipment. The standard also now proposes safety equipment requirements for personal water craft. For more information and the draft standard NSCV C7A (Edition 3) www.nmsc.gov.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 shortly.

Review of the Native Vegetation Act 2003

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment is seeking written submissions on the NSW Native Vegetation Act 2003 to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the Act is meeting those objectives. Submissions must be received by no later than 23 September 2009. For more information, www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nativeveg/09589NVActReview.pdf

Sydney Harbour National Park - getting the balance right?

Over the next few months the National Parks and Wildlife Service will be working with the community to develop a plan of management for SHNP to determine how the park will be protected and enjoyed towards 2020. For more information, <http://sydneyharbourpom.net.au/>

Climate change impacts on biodiversity

Climate change is predicted to be the greatest long-term threat to biodiversity in many regions and is listed as a key threatening process under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth). To learn about some of the species and ecosystems at risk from climate change in NSW. For more information www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/biodiversity/09303ccfliier.pdf

SCCG NRM Grants List 2009

The Grants list details funding that is available under a variety of grant programs for councils, individuals, businesses and communities and can be found at: <http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/SCCGGrantsList09ver3.pdf>



RECENT SCCG AWARDS/ SUBMISSIONS / CONSULTATIONS

SCCG Capacity Building Program

SCCG Community Climate Change Forum

The Forum held on the 23 August 2009, showcased climate science, case studies and alternative ways of seeing, thinking and acting to address climate change issues and needs. The event also included an opportunity to workshop locally inspired climate change concerns through:

- Discussing and sourcing practical tools for action.
- Finding possible opportunities for partnerships.

For the forum presentations and final report, www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/

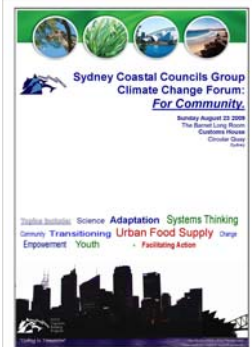
SCCG Councillor Climate Change Forum

On Sunday 30 August, Councillors from the Sydney coastal region as well as the Central and South coasts were in audience for an array of quality speakers. The two key note speakers were, Dr Benjamin Preston from the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship and Mr. Ian Dunlop, Director, Safe Climate Australia, www.safeclimateaustralia.org. Ian's presentation on 'Climate Change, Peak Oil and the Transition to Global Sustainability - the business case for emergency action' was very well received and really brought to the forefront the expression 'Climate Risk'. For the forum presentations and final report, www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/

SCCG & Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute - GIS Forum: Utilising GIS now and into the future "Bringing managers & spatial professionals together"

The SCCG Capacity Building program is proud to announce that development is underway for a GIS forum to be held 9 December this year. The forum will provide quality presentations for a wide ranging Council audience on all matters spatial/GIS, from Tools to Analysis and utilising GIS for planning and development. Key themes identified to date for this forum include:

1) Risk & Hazard Assessment 2) Asset management 3) Information Management 4) Decision Support Systems Under consideration is also a new partnership Memorandum of Understanding with the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI). The Institute are involved in communities of practice such as land administration, natural resource management, emergency management, forestry, agriculture, defence, marine environment, local government, and many



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

All four papers submitted by the SCCG and partners for the NSW Coastal Conference have been accepted. The titles of the accepted papers are:

- What's the Magic Number - How Council Consider and Plan for Rising Sea Level
- Scoping Study for Extraction of Offshore Sands for Beach Nourishment - Outcomes, Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward
- Assessing the vulnerability of buildings to tsunami - a Sydney case study
- Economic value of Sydney beaches

Information about the 18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat - Rising to the Challenges' 3- 6 November, Ballina can be found at: www.coastalconference.com/

SCCG Presentations

SCCG Executive Officer Geoff Withycombe has recently made the following presentation about the SCCG and its projects at a number of conferences and seminars (presentations available on request):

- Climate Change Adaptation Local Government - Australian Local Government Sustainable Development Conference
- NSW Council Perspectives - Practical Adaptation to Climate Change on NSW Coasts - Maritime Panel.

SCCG Submissions

The SCCG has recently written submissions on the following topics:

- Department of Local Government - Integrated planning and reporting framework submission (Bill & Regulation and Guidelines & Manual).
- Briefing Note for SCCG meeting with NSW Minister for Planning: Opportunities for the effective integration of risk management strategies and climate change adaptation in the coastal zone of NSW with the NSW Planning System.
- Northside Storage Tunnel - Recycling Pipeline.
- Application Number: MP 08_0100 - Proposed Redevelopment of the Stamford Plaza Hotel, 33 Cross Street Double Bay.
- Energy Australia Botany Bay Cable Project Modification Application: Application Number: 06_0284 MOD 2.

All of these submissions are available on request from the SCCG Secretariat.



National and International Coastal News

White House Task Force Crafting 'Marching Orders' for Managing Oceans

The Obama administration is working to craft a new overarching national ocean policy that could change how US Federal agencies address new projects at sea -- from offshore energy development to aquaculture to marine conservation. Once completed, the group's work could significantly alter marine planning and set the stage for a new system of ocean "zoning" that would allocate marine resources among interests such as fishing, boating, oil and gas development, shipping, renewable energy and wildlife. For more information, www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/08/24/24greenwire-white-house-task-force-crafting-marching-orders-504.html

Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Services Severely Undervalued

Properly valuing coastal and marine ecosystem services is critical to sustainable development, according to the World Bank publication "Environment Matters 2008" launched Mid August 2009. Titled: "Valuing Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Services", the review argues that while we recognize that the ocean provides vast quantities of food, offers enormous recreational values, and stores carbon - what is a critical service in an era of climate change - these services so vital for humankind have been treated as "free goods," and the ecosystems that provide them are rapidly deteriorating through overuse, pollution, and physical destruction. For more information, <http://web.worldbank.org>

Guide Offers Smart Growth Help for Coastal and Waterfront Planners & Developers

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, along with the Environmental Protection Agency (US), the International City/County Management Association and Rhode Island Sea Grant, has released a guide to bring smart growth to coastal and waterfront communities. "Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities" offers communities 10 coastal and waterfront-specific guidelines to help them balance development with the environment and the economy while maintaining the quality of life that makes these communities attractive. Among its recommendations, the report suggests that communities: Plan for natural hazards; Use natural buffers to protect people and property from potential hazards; Preserve and restore critical environmental areas; and Plan for public access to waterfront and coastal waters. For more information, <http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/>

Conferences

Spatial Diversity Conference 28 September - 2 October, Adelaide

The biennial conference attracts a large and diverse audience. The event will provide cutting edge developments in the application of spatial science to a diverse set of disciplines, communities and people: indeed this diversity is the inspiration for the conference theme of Spatial Diversity.

More information can be found at www.ssc2009.com/

Innovation in Planning and Development Assessment Summit, 21-22 October, Sydney

The conference will feature presentations and case studies about the latest technologies and innovations being used by local governments to improve their planning and development assessment processes.

More information can be found at www.halledit.com.au/dap09

NRM Changing Environments Conference, 28-30 October, Geraldton, WA

The conference is an opportunity to hear from presenters from diverse agencies and businesses, who will present papers on current best practice in Natural Resource Management.

More information can be found at www.changingenvironments.com.au

18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat - Rising to the Challenges', 3- 6 November, Ballina

This Conference 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/

The SCCG consists of 15 member councils with sea and harbour frontages in Sydney, including, Botany, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra. Collectively we represent over 1.3 million Sydneysiders. The Group is concerned with the promotion, cooperation and coordination of member councils to achieve the sustainable management of the urban coastal environment. **Sydney Coastal Councils Group Contact Details:**

Website: www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au **Email:** info@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

