

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.**  
**MINUTES FOR THE FULL GROUP MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2017**  
**HOSTED BY CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cr. Colin Hesse	Inner West Council
Cr. Ian White	Northern Beaches Council
Cr. David Walton	Northern Beaches Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Northern Beaches Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr. Kathy Neilson	Randwick City Council
Cr. Murray Matson	Randwick City Council
Cr. Jack Boyd	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr. Paula Masselos	Waverley Council
Cr. George Copeland	Waverley Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Denis Fernandez	Willoughby Council
Prof. Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms. Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)

**ITEM 1 - OPENING**

**1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Chair, Cr. Lynne Saville opened the meeting at 12.47pm and provided an Acknowledgement of Country. City of Sydney Council was thanked for providing the meeting venue, noting this was most likely the last time the SCCG would meet at the City of Sydney Council Chambers. The Chair thanked the new Councillor delegates for attending and hoped they would find their delegation on the SCCG full group rewarding. The Chair noted the significant work and achievements of the Group in coastal and estuary management.

**1.2 APOLOGIES**

Mr. David Dekel	Bayside Council
Cr. Rochelle Porteous	Inner West Council
Cr. Philipa Veitch	Randwick City Council
Cr. Tony Kay	Waverley Council
Cr. Megan McEwin	Woollahra Council
Cr. Mary-Lou Jarvis	Woollahra Council

Bayside, City of Sydney, Mosman and Woollahra Councils were not represented at the meeting.

**1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Nil declarations were made.

**RESOLUTIONS**

- R1.2 Apologies were received and noted.  
R1.3 Nil notifications of pecuniary interests were received.

(Boyd / Massey)  
Carried

## ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION

**Guest presenter, Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM** was welcomed and introduced by the Chair. Notes from the presentation are provided below:

- History - coastal reforms stage 1 initiated by Premier O'Farrell. Minister for Environment Robyn Parker appointed an expert panel of advisors.
- Stage 2 Coastal Reforms – the expert panel worked with Minister Stokes on the new reforms
- Four components of the coastal reforms; i) Coastal Management Act; ii) Coastal Management SEPP; iii) Coastal Management Manual; iv) appointment of a NSW Coastal Council.
- In May 2016, the Coastal Management Bill went to Parliament and a new Act assented but not yet proclaimed.
- The Act provides a range of objects and opportunities to protect coastal values and the sentiments of the objects are carried through in other provisions of the Act.
- 'Object G' – recognises that '*effects of coastal processes, and the ambulatory and dynamic nature of the shoreline, may result in the loss of coastal land to the sea*'.
- The Act recognises seven coastal hazards; beach erosion; shoreline recession; coastal lake or watercourse entrance instability; coastal inundation; coastal cliff or slope instability; tidal inundation; and erosion and inundation of foreshores caused by tidal waters and the action of waves, including the interaction of those waters with catchment floodwaters.
- Part 2 of the Act – divides the coastal zone into four areas; coastal wetlands and littoral rainforest; coastal environment area; coastal vulnerability area; coastal use area.
- The wetlands and littoral rainforests under SEPP 14/26 has been expanded under the Act to map the Sydney area for the first time and includes a proximity area.
- Coastal environmental area includes marine waters, coastal lakes, estuaries, rock platforms, and headlands.
- Each of the four areas have management objectives. For example, Part 2 S6 2(c) Coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests area states '*to improve resilience of coastal wetlands and littoral rainforests to the impacts of climate change, including opportunities for migration*'.
- Part 3 – Coastal Management Programs (CMPs) and Manual provides for where the Part applies and to who, the purpose of CMPs, and the requirements for the program.
- Indemnification of council's provision (link to S 733 (4) (b) of the Local Government Act) provides that '*a council is, unless the contrary is proven, taken to have acted in good faith if advice was furnished or action was taken or not taken in accordance with the principles and mandatory requirements set out in the coastal management manual*'.
- A key initiative of the Act is the need for councils to communicate and collaborate with each other, e.g. where coastal sediment compartments cross LGA boundaries.
- Division 3. S21 3(g) states that the manual is to include guidance regarding the integration of the Coastal Management Program with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
- Division 3. S23 - Other public authorities are '*to have regard to coastal management programs*'.
- There have been seven members appointed to the NSW Coastal Council, under Part 4, which provides the Minister(s) with Advice. A potential role of the Coastal Council will be to develop education for stakeholders on its role/responsibilities. The Coastal Council will play a role in performance auditing – auditing of councils to determine if they are complying with their CMP.
- Some members of the Coastal Council will be appointed by the State to JRPP's on matters related to coastal protection works.
- Part 5 S27 (1) states that development consent must not be granted to development for the purpose of coastal protection works, unless the consent authority is satisfied that the works will not unreasonably limit public access to or the use of a beach or headland, or pose a threat to public safety; and that satisfactory arrangements have been made (by conditions imposed on the consent) for the restoration of a beach, or land adjacent to the beach, if any increased erosion of the beach or adjacent land is caused by the presence of the works; and maintenance of works.
- The Coastal Management SEPP and Manual are still to be finalised, hopefully this will be signed off in the New Year. A S117 direction will be issued to councils.

Questions/Response:

**Q.** How are submarine telecommunication issues dealt with under the Act.

**R.** These would be picked up in the mapping.

**Q.** Does the legislation address devolution of costs to councils?

**R.** Funding has been secured for local councils and allocated under the CMP grant rounds.

**Q.** Does the Coastal Council have the power to report to parliament?

**R.** Coastal Council can report to Parliament in its audit capacity. The Coastal Council cannot undertake action unless directed by the Minister; the Council serves as an adviser to the Minister and may advise councils if directed to do so by the Minister.

**Q.** How does the sediment history impact on Councils?

**R.** There are gaps in knowledge re sediment compartments and sand movements. OEH will continue to investigate; the Coastal Council may be able to offer advice on gaps.

**Q.** Role of the Coastal Council in assisting councils in the scoping study stage?

**R.** Failure of councils to ask Coastal Council to provide advice on the scoping study may lead to problems for councils down the track. The new Manual will set out the process by which a CMP will be developed and where the Coastal Council plays a role.

**Q.** Beneficiary pays concept – will utilities contribute?

**R.** Need to sit down with utilities in stage 1 of a CMP to discuss.

The EO noted that SCCG will be facilitating a workshop for council staff on requirements under the CMP once the SEPP and manual are gazetted. It was noted that there may be opportunities to facilitate information exchange/education forum for Councillors as well.

The Chair thanked Bruce for his interesting and valuable presentation, and on behalf of the Group, congratulated Bruce on his appointment as the Chair of the NSW Coastal Council.

**RESOLUTION**

R2.1 That Professor Bruce Thom AM be thanked for his presentation on the coastal reforms.

Masselos / White  
Carried

**ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Draft Minutes of the Full Group AGM held on 28 October 2017 were confirmed.

The Minutes from the SCCG Technical Committee held on 12 October 2017 were received.

**3.2 BUSINESS ARISING**

The EO noted that actions arising from the AGM held on 28 October 2017 had been completed.

**3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting as per Appendix A3.3 (pg. 50-52) was noted.

**3.4 FINANCE STATEMENTS**

There were no queries regarding the Finance statements for 1 July – 30 September 2017. The Finance Statements were adopted.

## RESOLUTIONS

R3.1	Minutes of the AGM on 28 October 2017 were confirmed.	(Boyd / Massey) Carried
R3.2	Business Arising from the 28 October AGM was considered and noted.	(Boyd / Masselos) Carried
R3.3	The circulated correspondence was received and noted.	(Fernandez / Masselos) Carried
R3.4	Finance Statements for 1 July-30 September 2017 were received and adopted.	(Boyd /Fernandez) Carried

## ITEM 4 – ANNUAL ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

### 4.1 ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Chair, Cr Lynne Saville asked Professor Bruce Thom AM to take on the role of Returning Officer for the election of the Chairperson. Professor Thom accepted, and Cr Saville stepped down at 2.02pm.

The EO reminded delegates that nominations of Executive Committee Members must be from official delegates of financial Member Councils. All members were noted as financial and that each member council had one vote.

#### 4.1.1 Election of Chairperson

Professor Thom called for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Cr Boyd nominated Cr Lynne Saville, this nomination was seconded by Cr Masselos. No further nominations were put forward. Professor Thom announced Cr Lynne Saville as the SCCG Chairperson.

Cr Saville thanked the delegates on her re-election as Chairperson of the SCCG. Cr Saville thanked Professor Thom and stepped back up as Chairperson to continue the proceedings.

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| • Cr Lynne Saville (Willoughby Council) | Chairperson |
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#### 4.1.2 Election of Vice Chairperson (Estuarine and Ocean)

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chairperson positions.

Cr Jack Boyd and Cr Ian White where nominated and elected for the Vice Chairperson positions.

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|---|------------------------------|
| • Cr Jack Boyd (Sutherland Council)       | Vice Chairperson (Ocean)     |
| • Cr Ian White (Northern Beaches Council) | Vice Chairperson (Estuarine) |

#### 4.1.3 Election of Secretary (Honorary)

The Chair called for nominations for Secretary.

Cr Paula Masselos was nominated and elected Secretary.

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| • Cr Paula Masselos (Waverley Council) | Secretary |
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#### **4.1.4 Election of Treasurer (Honorary)**

The Chair called for nominations for Treasurer. No nominations were received.

Cr Fernandez stated that he would be happy to fill the position of Treasurer as no nominations were received. Cr Murray nominated Cr Fernandez as Treasurer. However, this nomination could not be accepted due to the clause in the Constitution that states that only one delegate per Member Council can sit on the Executive Committee.

An Honorary Treasurer was not elected with this position to be referred the first meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration.

#### **4.1.5 Election of Executive Members**

The Chair called for nominations for Members.

Cr Kathy Neilson, Cr Rochelle Porteous, Mr Peter Massey were nominated and elected Members

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|---------------------------------------|--------|
| • Cr Kathy Neilson (Randwick Council) | Member |
| • Cr Rochelle Porteous (Inner West)   | Member |
| • Mr Peter Massey (North Sydney)      | Member |

#### **SCCG Executive Committee for 2017/2018**

Chairperson:	Cr Lynne Saville	(Willoughby)
Vice Chairperson (Ocean council):	Cr Jack Boyd	(Sutherland)
Vice Chairperson (Estuarine council):	Cr Ian White	(Northern Beaches)
Secretary (Honorary)	Cr Paula Masselos	(Waverley)
Members:		
	Cr Kathy Neilson	(Randwick)
	Cr Rochelle Porteous	(Inner West)
	Mr Peter Massey	(North Sydney)

#### **4.2 ANNUAL HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATIONS**

The existing Honorary Members, Prof Bruce Thom, Mr George Cotis, Mr Phil Colman and Ms Wendy McMurdo were invited to remain as Honorary members of the Group. Prof Bruce Thom, Mr George Cotis and Ms Wendy McMurdo accepted the renomination as Honorary members.

Mr Phil Colman stated that he would not be nominating for re-election as an honorary member. The Chair thanked Mr Coleman for his contributions and wealth of knowledge that he has provided to the Group over many years.

No further nominations were made.

#### **4.3 NOMINATIONS FOR EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

Nominations to sit on the Greater Sydney Local Land Service Local Government Advisory Committee were called.

The EO noted that this committee was currently under review by the GSLLS, and the Group was seeking a representative to sit on the Committee once the revised committee commenced. It was noted that The EO and Chair were the existing incumbents. No nominations were received. It was determined that the EO and Chair would continue as the Incumbents on this Committee.

## RESOLUTIONS

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|------|---|-----------------------------|
| R4.1 | Executive Committee Members were determined at the Meeting.   | (Hesse/Copeland)<br>Carried |
| R4.2 | The Honorary Treasurer position be referred the first meeting of the Executive Committee for consideration. |                             |
| R4.3 | Honorary Member Nominations were taken and determined.  | (Boyd/Hesse)<br>Carried     |
| R4.4 | Determined that current Incumbents would remain as the Committee representatives.                           | (Masselos/White)<br>Carried |

## ITEM 5 DISCUSSION ITEM

### SCCG Consultations – SCCG Moving Forward: Draft Business Plan 2017-2019

The EO provided background information and an update on consultations with member Councils and the outcomes of the second Executives Forum on 29 November 2017.

The EO reviewed the draft business plan, noting a change to the mission/vision to incorporate 'estuarine' specifically and summarised the key proposed activities as determined by professional officers at their workshop proceeding the Executive workshop on 31 October. The EO stated that SCCG would write formally to councils seeking feedback and endorsement on the draft business plan by end of Jan/early Feb. Elton Consulting will be in contact with GM's to discuss financing arrangements in light of City of Sydney and Mosman leaving the Group.

Delegate discussion on the draft business plan was opened.

It was noted that research was not specified in the plan – although it was woven throughout the other goals. The argument was put forward that research should be put back into the plan as its own goal and not just implied throughout.

The point was raised regarding the council budgeting cycle – that budgets for 2018/19 are being prepared now so a discussion on membership fees for 2018/19 will need to occur with councils as soon as possible.

The question was asked how LGNSW and other organisations have dealt with fee schedules and amalgamations. It was stated that if GM's see an organisation as relevant they will pay the fee. There is a need for all delegates to sell and promote the importance of SCCG.

Delegates stated that a 1 page factsheet highlighting SCCG achievements (major projects, reports, bodies of work etc) would be useful so that Full Group delegates can promote SCCG to their respective Councils and a wider audience. The EO noted that there was a regional collaboration document which highlighted achievements that would be sent to delegates.

The new joint organisation legislation was discussed. The EO noted that this legislation does not apply in Sydney as yet. The EO mentioned that he would be meeting with the Catchment Groups in the coming weeks. A suggestion was raised that the other larger ROCs could potentially fund SCCG to undertake projects/works on their behalf.

Honorary members noted that the SCCG advocacy was first class and a huge strength of the SCCG, and that SCCG had achieved a great deal over the years regionally that could not have been achieved by an individual council working alone.

It was requested that the draft business plan be sent to delegates, as some did not receive the latest version of the draft business plan.

## **RESOLUTION**

R5 The draft business plan was received and discussed, with delegates to provide further input and feedback.

(Boyd/White)  
Carried

## **ITEM 6 ROUNDTABLE**

Delegates provided a brief update on initiatives for 2017.

### Randwick:

- Security issues for Christmas/New Year period – focus on beaches where events and crowds will be. Improving safety, potential restriction of access.
- Surf clubs more inclusive with programs – open to those with disabilities – water safety education for children. Coogee partnership with a club in India to share methods.
- Bruce Thom will be running his usual walk and talk on geomorphology of the coast in Randwick during January as part of SCCG Summerama program.

### Sutherland:

- Issue of appropriate methods and financial burdens of dredging the river (Sylvania waters).
- Investigating effectiveness of the storm water system.
- Chamber of Commerce is implementing a reusable bags program.

### Northern Beaches:

- Integrating the IT systems across the amalgamated council. Offering a common customer service system to the community.
- Asset management policy review to make consistent across the amalgamated council – currently on public exhibition.
- Coastal Environment Centre program over Summer, including participation in SCCG Summerama. Will include circus skills classes and Bear Grylls style outdoor skills for age 6-12.
- 5th December International Volunteers Day Event for Northern Beaches Volunteers.
- Christmas markets – plant giveaways and advice on backyard habitat.
- Water quality monitoring program of creeks, macroinvertebrate sampling (land release at Ingleside).

### North Sydney:

- Engagement of an energy consultant to increase uptake of renewables in the community – looking at housing type particularly multi-unit dwellings, and methods to reduce barriers/challenges to uptake.
- Recycling Centre going well – 70-80 cars per day, 100 tonnes of problem waste has been dropped off since May 2017.

### Inner West:

- Environmental Business Awards (energy, water, waste)
- Community Environmental Leadership Program – community workshops.
- Carrington Road – push from the state Government to turn this into a residential development even though the site is often inundated and is part wetland area.
- Local flooding in Tempe from the King Tide.

Waverley:

- Repair works on the coastal walk near the Cemetery (\$6 million worth of damage), Bronte and Diamond Bay.
- Works to shore up the cliff face – completed by June 2018.
- Vaucluse cliff instability issues – to be built into future LEP/DCP's.
- Second Nature Program – focussing on litter prevention, reducing littering at bus stops, and working with businesses at Bondi e.g. Keep cups.

Willoughby:

- Stormwater harvesting system at Artarmon Reserve.
- Northbridge baths swimming season – nets replaced in the last few months – sightings of bull sharks.
- Clive Park buoys installed.
- Review of GPT's.
- Wildlife Storybook Schools Program – children illustrate and write stories which are published as a book and are sent to schools and libraries.

In reference to the discussion on cliff face instability the EO noted that SCCG worked with the Australian Geomechanics Society (AGS) in 2007 to complete a Practice Note and Guideline for landslide risk management. Information and documents for this project can be accessed [here](#). Professor Thom noted that these guidelines would be included in the Coastal Management Manual Toolkit.

**RESOLUTION**

R6.1 Delegates updates were received and noted.

(Hesse / Masselos)  
Carried

**ITEM 7 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**

**7.1 COLLABORATION**

The MPP gave a brief update on the Get the Site Right Campaign, run during November as a joint initiative with the SCCG partnering with Parramatta River Catchment Group, Cooks River Alliance, Georges River Combined Councils Committee, EPA and Department of Planning and Environment to improve water quality through building site erosion and sediment control compliance. Our Councils participated in erosion and sediment control training to update their skills and knowledge of erosion and sediment control. Council compliance officers were out inspecting building sites during November, including Blitz day held on 21<sup>st</sup> November to ensure building sites had appropriate controls in place.

Other items taken as read as per Item 7.1 in the agenda papers.

**7.2 CAPACITY BUILDING**

The EO provided a brief update on the grant based recreational infrastructure project, noting that a council questionnaire was well received with a 75% response rate from NSW coastal councils, with a process tool currently being developed.

The EO noted that SCCG was successful in winning the 2017 NSW Coastal Management Award for "Innovation" for the Sydney Salty Communities Program.

Other Items taken as read as per Item 7.2 in the agenda papers.

### **7.3 ADVOCACY**

The EO noted that SCCG had provided a submission on the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy. The SCCG submission can be accessed [here](#).

Professor Thom noted the importance of the Coastal Management Act and SEPP in the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy.

Noted that SCCG will be putting in a submission on the draft Greater Sydney Region Plan and relevant District Plans, with the draft to be sent to delegates prior to submission on 15 December.

The EO mentioned that the Department of Industry – Crown Lands and Water presented at the Technical Committee Meeting on 7 December regarding the crown Lands Management Act and implications for councils.

Other Items taken as read as per Item 7.3 in the Agenda Papers.

### **7.4 RESEARCH**

The EO provided a brief update on UNSW partnership project on community understanding of coastal erosion. A survey has been developed for people directly involved in working with the coast; such as coastal managers, consultants and environmental managers. To complete the survey please click on the following link. [Decisionmakers\\_mycoastsurvey2017](#)

### **RESOLUTION**

R7.1 The Secretariat's update on key activities were received and noted.

(Massey/Dekel)  
Carried

## **ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **8.1 SCCG Hosting arrangements from July 2018**

The EO updated the delegates on the expression of interest process for hosting SCCG for the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2021.

The EO provided the following details:

- Inner West Council was following up on ability to provide space.
- Randwick Council were following up.
- Willoughby Council – waiting to hear back
- Waverley council – have responded that this is not likely.
- All other councils have provided a no response.

Cr Masselos asked the EO to provide the basic details on what the SCCG required from the hosting arrangement. The EO responded and asked Councillor delegates to follow up with their councils.

### **8.2 PROPOSED MEETING DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Full Group will be held on:

- Saturday 17 March 2017 at 12 noon (Inner West Council – to be confirmed)

### **8.3 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Nil agenda items were provided for the next meeting. Agenda items can be provided to the Chairperson via the Executive Officer at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION**

R8.1 Full Group delegates to follow up on the expression of interest to host SCCG from July 2018 – June 2021.

R8.2 Proposed Meeting dates were noted.

R8.3 Nil agenda items were suggested.

Presenters were nominated as: Minister Paul Toole (Minister for Lands); Minister Anthony Roberts (Minister for Planning); Dr Mark Browne (University of New South Wales – re: plastics).

(Massey / White)  
Carried

### **ITEM 9 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)**

**9.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT**

**9.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE**

Items taken as read.

#### **RESOLUTION**

R9 The Beachwatch and Greater Sydney Land Services update reports be received and noted.

(Masselos / Neilson)  
Carried

Cr Saville thanked all delegates for their attendance and contributions and wishing all a safe and merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm

Confirmation of Minutes: .....

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