

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 20 JUNE, 2015
HOSTED BY CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL AT THEIR CHAMBERS
TOWN HALL, SYDNEY
12.00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cr. Tom Sherlock	Mosman Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Cr. Geoff Stevenson (Chairperson)	Randwick Council
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council
Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Cr. Vanessa Moskal	Warringah Council
Cr. Sue Heins	Warringah Council
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Cr. Leon Goltsman	Waverley Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council

Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member

Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms. Emma Norrie	SCCG (CPO)
Ms. Fiona Shadbolt	SCCG (PM-BR)
Ms. Antonina Pilat	SCCG (SO)
Ms. Belinda Atkins	

Mr Jon Dee	Do Something! (Guest Speaker)
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CHAPTER 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1.1 Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

The meeting opened at 12.30pm.

Cr. Stevenson (Chairperson) gave an Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed delegates and thanked the City of Sydney for hosting the meeting.

1.2 Attendance and apologies

The following apologies were received:

Cr. Mark Castle	Botany Bay Council
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Mr. George Copeland	Honorary Member

Councils not represented at the meeting
Hornsby, Leichhardt, Rockdale

1.3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

No Pecuniary Interests were declared.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The EO noted that the Executive Committee Minutes of 23 April and Teleconference Notes of 12 May were uploaded to the Agenda page of the SCCG website for delegates' review after the distribution of the Agenda.

1.5 Business Arising

As resolved by the Executive Committee on 23 April 2015, the NSW Premier was invited to present at the AGM in September. The EO advised that the Premier is unavailable to attend and will seek a representative to attend on his behalf.

In relation to Item 5.0, the EO noted that the Planning Minister, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, recently issued Administrative Orders assuming responsibility for the *Coastal Protection Act 1979* and the coastal reforms (these had formerly been the responsibility of the Environment Minister). The EO recommended that the Planning Minister be invited to present to the AGM.

In relation to Item 6.2 – Shark Meshing Program, the EO noted an update had been sought from a Senior Fisheries Officer, who advised that:

- i) A new Joint Management Agreement (JMA) will be out for consultation within a month.
- ii) Tenders for shark net maintenance closed on Friday.
The tender duration is 3 years plus 2x1 year options (up to 5 years total). The tender will be finalised prior to outcomes from the review of the JMA.
- iii) \$100,000 has been committed to trailing alternative methods to shark meshing, to be kicked off in October. It was noted that this is a small investment compared to other initiatives nationally. SCCG has been nominated as a Tier A stakeholder for consultation. It was noted that prior to the State Election, the NSW Government committed \$100M to threatened species none of which was allocated to marine species.

In relation to Item 9.2 Joint Expert Maritime Group, the EO advised that the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) has been moved to the Department of Finance (from the Department of Planning). An Interagency Working Group is looking at revised functions of SHFA including governance. A new vision for Sydney Harbour is also being developed in parallel. .

1.6 Correspondence

The CPO noted that additional Correspondence attached to the Agenda was circulated in hard copy.

Cr Griffin noted the letter from the EPA regarding a litter campaign and moved that we invite RMS Environmental Services staff to present to the FG in relation to waterway litter and their harbour cleaning program.

Cr Griffin moved that we respond to the EPA letter articulating the SCCG's interest in coastal and estuarine environmental issues and recommending that the EPA include a focus on waterway litter in their campaign.

1.7 Secretariat Staff

The EO introduced new Manager Projects and Programs, Belinda Atkins previously from Mosman Council and the new Support Officer, Antonina Pilat. Delegates congratulated Belinda and Antonina on their appointment.

1.8 Hosting Contract

The final draft Service Provider Agreement was unavailable for the meeting. The EO explained that the new Agreement is much the same as the previous, though there will be a slight increase in fees and we will be required to pay community rates for CoS venues such as Customs House. The EO is seeking to sign the new contract next week following Executive Committee review. Cr Norton noted

CoS' generosity in hosting the Group and recommended that we write to the CoS thanking them for the continuation of hosting services.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 That there was no declaration of pecuniary interests.
- 1.2 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG hosted by Waverley Council on 14 March 2015 be confirmed. (Cr Towell, Cr Betts)
- 1.3 That the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting hosted by North Sydney Council on 7 May 2015 be noted. (Cr Norton, Cr Goltsman)
- 1.4 That the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 23 April 2015 and the Teleconference Notes of 12 May 2015 be noted. (Cr Towell, Cr Goltsman)
- 1.5 That the Planning Minister, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP be invited to present to the Full Group AGM on 19 September 2015. (Cr Betts, Cr Saville)
- 1.6 That the circulated "sent" and "received" correspondence be received and noted. (Cr Goltsman, Cr Sherlock)
- 1.7 That the Secretariat invite RMS Environmental Services staff to present to the FG in relation to waterway litter and their harbour cleaning program. (Cr Griffin, Cr Sherlock)
- 1.8 That the Secretariat respond to the EPA letter articulating the SCCG's interest in coastal and estuarine environmental issues and recommending that the EPA include a focus on waterway litter in their campaign. (Cr Griffin, Cr Sherlock)
- 1.9 That the final "Service Provider Agreement" be sent to the Executive Committee for consideration and review and approved under delegation. (Cr Betts, Cr Levenston)
- 1.10 That the Group write to the City of Sydney thanking them for the continuation of hosting services. (Cr Norton, Cr Goltsman)

CHAPTER 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION

MR JON DEE, FOUNDER AND MD OF 'DOSOMETHING'

Mr Jon Dee, Founder and MD of '[Do Something](#)' presented to the Group on the '[One Tree Per Child](#)' (OTPC) campaign. OTPC was launched in the UK and is being rolled out internationally in partnership with Councils. The Campaign seeks to foster an interest in and connection to the environment in young children. .

Partnering with Councils is a key focus of the Campaign. The organisers recognise the connections / networks that Councils have within the community and want to leverage off those rather than reinvent them. Bristol (UK) was the first city to roll out OTPC through 130 schools. Having a supportive Mayor or Councillor is very important. On 19 June 2015, 20 Mayors from 20 cities through the European Commission got together and re voted to commit to take up OTPC. . Lord Stern (author of The Stern Review on the Economic of Climate Change) is the patron of the program. .

In Australia, News Corp are heavily supporting the Campaign. News Corp are guaranteeing at least 250 articles in Sydney alone. Organisers have also signed up major newspapers in Queensland, Melbourne and South Australia. There was significant media coverage of the Australian launch of OTPC on World Environment Day (5 June 2015) where children from Bourke, Blue Mountains and Bondi participated in a group planting in Bondi to mark the event.

Federal MPs Greg Hunt and Malcolm Turnbull attended the launch and have confirmed support to fund the first 100,000 trees, with \$300,000 committed to share with Councils. Pending success of this pilot, there is potentially \$6 million available under the Federal Government's 20 Million Trees Program to support the Campaign.

Councils confirmed thus far in Australia include Waverley, Bourke Shire, Liverpool, City of Sydney, Manly, Jerilderie, Ballarat. The organisers are already talking to 20 other Councils.

Q&A

Cr Stevenson: Can you give us a brief background on 'Do Something' and do you have any advice on successful campaigning techniques / strategies?

JD: Commenced campaigning in 1991 with Planet Ark and realised at that point the need to work locally and localise campaigns as much as possible. Partnering with Councils also a focus. dosomethingnearyou.com.au allows people to get involved in local volunteer initiatives. Prompted by a perceived drop-off in volunteering and community engagement around Australia.

Also critical to get media coverage. Spent a long time pursuing News Corp for the OTPC campaign.

Having an example / pilot case is a good starting point. Demonstrate success through a small local community initiative – prove it first and then grow it.

Cr Norton: Any suggestion of political flavour will deter Council. Does OTPC have bipartisan support?

JD: Yes, we are successful because we work with everybody. Not linked with any political party.

J Lambert: How do you source locally appropriate seedlings and how are Councils working with you to ensure connectivity in plantings?

JD: The success of National Tree Day prompted growth in community nurseries in order to source native seedlings. Nurseries involved in OTPC focus on locally appropriate seedlings. The Campaign also seeks to educate children about what they are planting – why natives are important, the benefits for soil and local habitat.

Cr Heins: Do you work with local community organisations?

JD: Absolutely. Aim to work in partnership with Councils and existing tree planting organisations. Do not want to reinvent the wheel. Want to empower and resource existing initiatives. The benefit of OTPC is that it formalises a commitment within the community to tree planting.

Cr Saville: How are you educating children about the benefits? To what extent do you take into consideration habitat for fauna and fruit trees where appropriate? How do you factor in ongoing maintenance?

JD: In some instances, Council's Parks Officer briefs schools about the locally specific qualities of the plantings. Lesson plans are also provided for teachers to assist them to educate children about the benefits.

In Bristol, they are giving away 12,000 apple and pear trees for backyards. Dwarf varieties so as not to interfere with power lines. Also educational benefits for children in their homes.

Maintenance is one of the conditions of government funding – a maintenance program is established in partnership with Councils or local community groups such as Lions or Rotary Clubs. There is an 80-90% survival rate at sites.

P Massey: Is OTPC intended to complement National Tree Day? How do you work with Councils?

JD: Many schools were not participating in NTD because of difficulties with timing. OTPC is stimulating renewed engagement with schools.

The first point of call is Council – if that is not successful, we will go to other community organisations, but the emphasis is on securing Council support.

Cr Betts: Waverley has been involved with Do Something for a long time. Waverley started off with the OTPC campaign by inviting 5 schools to participate. The plantings are localised for the area. In one school, there is no space for plantings, so Council is working with them to build plant beds and locate appropriate sites nearby. Another school is adjacent to a bush reserve, so the school will focus their efforts there. Every school is different and it takes planning, but it is all coming together. The Campaign has also been successful in engaging once disengaged schools. The planting with children from Bourke was a highlight. Great relationship-building opportunities.

Cr. Stevenson thanked Jon for his time and commended his collaborative approach.

JD advised that he is willing to assist Councils with their campaigns, if they come on board with OTPC.

RESOLUTIONS

- 2.1 Mr Dee be thanked for his attendance and presentation.
- 2.2 Delegates consider support for the 'One Tree Per Child' campaign within their own Council.

CHAPTER 3 - MEMBER COUNCILS ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided an update on Council activities in relation to:

1. Coastal issues and needs
2. 'Fit for the Future' status and amalgamation proposals

RESOLUTION

- 3.1 Delegates' updates be received and considered.

CHAPTER 4 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT (MARCH – MAY 2015)

The EO introduced this new item and format of reporting in the Full group business papers. This new report based on the new 4 goals of the SCCG aims to streamline and consolidate quarterly outcomes reporting of the Secretariat.

4.1 Collaboration

The EO updated delegates on Collaboration activities since March, noting the following:

- **Towards a Resilient Sydney - Knowledge Bank**, the EO referred delegates to the report which links various reports and outcomes regarding urban climate change adaptation. These program outcomes are now accessible to multiple users to build capacity across government to deliver best practice adaptation.
- Building Resilience for Climate Change grants Round 2 focus on integrated water projects. We will be preparing an application by due date (4 August).
- Survey of Local Government on Adaptation Needs – still open, including to Councillors.

4.2 Advocacy

The CPO provided an overview of submissions and advocacy activities since March. An update on the NSW Coastal Reforms was circulated (attached to Minutes).

4.3 Capacity Building

The Project Manager for [Sydney's Salty Communities](#) provided an overview of the successful grant applications in Round 1, the CSIRO project being undertaken and the process for Round 2 grants. The EO thanked and congratulated the PM for getting the project back on track.

The EO noted that the Sydney Harbour CZMP Scoping Study project was near complete and being launched on 30 June 2015. The EO reviewed the 7 themes identified through the Scoping Study.

The EO noted that an extension to 1 July 2015 had been secured for the 'Implementing and Embedding Emergency Management Planning in Local Government' project.

RESOLUTIONS

- 4.1 That the Executive Officer's verbal update on key activities be received and noted.
- 4.2 That the Presentation by the Project Manager Biodiversity Resilience be received and considered.
- 4.3 Delegates inquire on any activities of interest.

CHAPTER 5 – DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 - STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2019

The EO thanked individuals and Member Councils for their contributions to the review process, including Directional Committee members, Dr Judy Lambert, FG and TC representatives as well as UTS – Centre for Local Government who independently reviewed the document and advised on the Plan's monitoring components.

The EO noted that formal responses had been received from Manly, Mosman, Randwick, Warringah, Waverley and Willoughby. Staff from all other Councils had confirmed their support and advised that a formal response was underway.

The CPO provided an overview of minor editorial changes made to the Plan in response to Council final round of consultation.

RESOLUTIONS

- 5.1 That the verbal report from the EO regarding Member Councils' considerations of the final draft Strategic Plan be received and considered.
- 5.2 Delegates endorse the SCCG Strategic Plan 2015-2019. (Cr Griffin, Cr Norton)

As amended at SCCG AGM 19/9/15)

- 3.8.1 That members adopt the revised SCCG Constitution. (Cr Troy, Cr Griffin)

5.2 - SYDNEY WATER PARTNERSHIP

The CPO provided an overview of activities contributing to the proposed partnership with Sydney Water (SW):

- Relationship with SW started 25 years ago with the Deep Ocean Outfalls, as reviewed at our 25 Year Anniversary Conference and Gala Evening (August 2014)
- Impetus for more focus on water-related issues, particularly sewage and stormwater, expressed by FG and TC in the 2014 Annual Survey
- Resolved to focus the 2015-2016 FG Advocacy Campaign on sewage overflows and associated stormwater contamination (to be discussed after this item)

- EPA and SW presented to the TC at their May meeting on the licensing regime and the wastewater network, with a subsequent workshop on 'future directions for urban water'
- Outcomes from the workshop fed into our Submission to the EPA on SW's licensing regime and we are continuing a dialogue with SW on the issues raised at the TC, including progressing a data exchange between SW and Member Councils on stormwater and wastewater networks
- We have also been participating in SW Council workshops, which are ongoing and reflect a renewed drive from SW to engage proactively with Local Government
- We are engaged in SW's proposal to develop a new regulation for wastewater in wet weather
- On 21 May we met with SW staff from the stormwater and wastewater areas to explore partnership opportunities and joint initiatives. As an outcome of this meeting is drafting an MOU to identify shared objectives and formalise an ongoing partnership.

The CPO further explained that the partnership approach aimed to facilitate a collaborative approach to Integrated Water Management (IWM) and enhance Sydney's urban water network to optimise environmental, social and economic outcomes.

A draft MoU will be circulated to FG and TC representatives for comment in July-August and finalised in August-September. If endorsed it is envisaged that partnership activities will commence from October.

RESOLUTIONS

- 5.2.1 The Executive Committee be delegated to further consider formalising a partnership with Sydney Water via a potential MoU (or similar). (Cr Levenston, Cr Betts)
- 5.2.2 The Secretariat update delegates on the progress of the partnership at the next meeting. (Cr Levenston, Cr Betts)

5.3 - 2015-2016 CAMPAIGN PROGRAM

Sewerage overflows and associated contamination of stormwater

The CPO noted that we need to better understand the scope of the problem of sewerage overflows. There are a number of contributing factors including system capacity, illegal connections, pipe leaks, intrusions and maintenance and trade waste. Addressing the problem of overflows is not just about the end-of-pipe issue, but all of the upstream factors that feed into it.

The CPO noted that as a starting point in developing a campaign on the problem, there is a need to properly scope and quantify these issues. Drawing together the concerns that the FG and TC have raised, along with our own understanding and history of projects in this area, the Secretariat have come up with a broad list of areas that could form a 'contents' of sorts for a scoping study or literature review, which will help inform and define the campaign. The broad areas are:

1. The context or bigger picture, being Sydney's Integrated Water System
2. The sewage system, including the private sewer, Sydney Water's network and system performance and capacity
3. Overflows and their management – what is an overflow / sites, impacts and risks / current management practices / future management options / and international best practice & research
4. Community and stakeholders
5. SCCG advocacy and projects to date.

Delegates were asked to review this list and contribute other areas that they think should be covered in a scoping study / literature review to inform the campaign.

Cr Goltsman has developed an online platform using OneNote where delegates can add to the list and contribute other ideas relating to the campaign. Access to the platform and instructions for accessing it will be provided to all delegates separate to the Minutes.

The EO reiterated that the intent of the proposed scoping study / literature review was to scope and focus the campaign. The EO noted the Secretariat does not have the resources to undertake this work and would need to contract a suitable partner.

RESOLUTION

- 5.3.1 The verbal report and draft discussion paper be received and considered.
- 5.3.2 Delegates add to the overflow campaign “OneNote” online information platform (instructions in Minutes email)

CHAPTER 6 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1 JULY 2014 – 31 MARCH 2105

RESOLUTION

- 6.1 That the Finance Statements for the period of 1 July 2014 – 31 March 2015 be received and adopted. (Cr Towell, Cr Goltsman)

CHAPTER 7 – EXTERNAL REPORTS (For information only)

- 7.1 Beachwatch Report – February-April 2015
- 7.2 Greater Sydney LLS Update (tabled at the meeting)
- 7.3 DPI Aquatic Pest and Health Update (tabled at the meeting)

RESOLUTION

- 7.1 That the External report be received and noted.

CHAPTER 8: GENERAL BUSINESS

8.2 Next Meeting – AGM 19 September

Mosman Council agreed to host the AGM on 19 September.

Cr Betts noted Mayoral elections are at a similar time. The Secretariat will enquire with Councils about timing and dates.

Cr Stevenson closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:
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