

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2016
HOSTED BY RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL AT
RANDWICK TOWN HALL - 12.00 PM**

FG4-16 Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr David Dekel	Bayside Council
Cr. Jess Miller	City of Sydney Council
Mr Frank Breen	Inner West Council (proxy)
Cr. Tom Sherlock	Mosman Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Ms Cathy Griffin	Northern Beaches Council (proxy)
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick City Council
Cr. Greg Moore	Randwick City Council
Ms Bronwyn Englaro	Randwick City Council
Cr. Jack Boyd	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr. Leon Goltsman	Waverley Council
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council
Prof. Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms. Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)
Mr. Brett Whitworth	Department of Planning and Environment (presentation)

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair, Cr. Lynne Saville opened the meeting and thanked Randwick City Council for hosting the meeting. The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 APOLOGIES

Ms. Kylie Ferguson	Northern Beaches Council
Mr. Dick Persson	Northern Beaches Council
Mr. Richard Pearson	Inner west Council
Ms Fiona Shadbolt	SCCG

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil declarations were made.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1.2 Apologies were received and noted.
- 1.3 Nil notifications of pecuniary interests were received.

(Shurey / Dekel)
Carried

ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION

Guest presenter Mr. Brett Whitworth, Executive Director, Local Planning Liaison, Department of Planning and Environment, was welcomed and introduced:

Mr Whitworth discussed the SEPP (Coastal Management) 2016, and the district planning process. Notes from the presentation are provided below:

- Coastal Littoral rainforest and wetlands will apply to Sydney for the first time.
- The Coastal Management Act will not commence until consultation phase has been completed for the SEPP and mapping.
- The S. 117 Direction was released with the SEPP on 11 November. Councils must update the 149 certificates. There cannot be an upscale of zoning for development for areas mapped as coastal hazard/wetland/littoral rainforest/vulnerability areas.
- Funding \$9.5 million for preparation of Coastal management programs and \$63.2 million for implementation of coastal management program. Funding has closed for 2016/17.
- There is no state imposed hazard map in the draft SEPP for coastal vulnerability areas. Local Council hazard based mapping will be considered. The SEPP will utilise maps included in Council's LEP's/DCP's. There is a transitional clause in the SEPP regarding the inclusion of available information. There is a 12 month transition for existing mapping and a five year transition where there are changes/new mapping.
- The coastal joint regional planning panel will advise on DA's as required for coastal protection works where no gazetted CMP is in place.
- Update on the district planning process and the 2017 policy agenda.

Questions and Response:

1. Why does the SEPP Wetlands / Rainforest proximity areas not apply to residential areas?
A buffer area of 100m has been created between the wetland/littoral rainforest and residential zone.
2. Is there going to be a standard template for the Coastal Management Program?
The Coastal Management Manual will be provided for advice/guidance. The manual will set out the process and how to meet objects of the Act and provide specific steps to developing a program.
3. There are crucial areas of vulnerability that have not yet been mapped – how can councils be supported (funding) to complete these maps?
A CZMP/CMP if completed asap can be used to drive mapping needs and opportunities for funding. Councils can put in a proposal to have maps amended. Opportunity for Councils to map all seven hazards via 50:50 funding from the program.
4. Will Councils be expected to amend their LEP's every time maps are amended?
Only the SEPP is required to be amended and referred to by Councils.
5. Why have all hazards not been included in the SEPP, particularly where they have already been mapped on a regional level.
Regional mapping approach does not necessarily seem to work and is not sufficiently specific for planning purposes – data is needed on the local level. Only Councils have the opportunity to provide the Department with their local mapping data.
6. What are the timeframes for proposals – are there resources to approve quickly?
Approval process is in place. The planning proposals timeframe is over the next 12-18 months. SEPP will be amended with council changes.
7. Question on designated development
The SEPP is setting a higher bar asking for more assessment and third party appeals. New process to not allow rezoning/upzoning to protect coastal assets (wetlands/littoral rainforests) from development.
8. The Greater Sydney Commission has linked sustainability into the District Plans. This does not seem to be the case with current Department of Planning documentation/processes (e.g. Infrastructure SEPP, and also existing major new development and priority prescient areas). This is missing the boat with development starting now before the district plans come into play. Will Planning review the documentation to assured that sustainability has been covered. Can discuss with specific councils in a separate forum.

9. Question on use of the hierarchy?

Hierarchy is about development planning only. Consideration must be given as per the hierarchy in overlapping areas. Coastal design guidelines can be used to advise (in S117 direction). Penalty provisions link to the EP&A Act.

RESOLUTION

2.1 That Mr Whitworth be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

(Saville / Goltsman)
Carried

ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 (a) *Minutes from the AGM of the Full Group on 22 October 2016*

3.1 (b) *Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of 19 October 2016*

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING

Actions arising from the AGM of the SCCG held on 22 October 2016 were reviewed. It was agreed that the Business arising would be sent to the Full Group delegates via e-mail with the minutes.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting was circulated in hard copy at the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

R3.1.a The Minutes of the AGM of 22 October 2016 were confirmed.

(Shurey / Dekel)
Carried

R3.1.b The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 19 October 2016 were received and noted.

(Levenston / Dekel)
Carried

R3.2 Business Arising was noted and it was recommended that the business arising be e-mailed to delegates with the meeting minutes.

(Dekel / Miller)
Carried

R3.4 The circulated "sent" and "received" correspondence was received and noted.

Levenston / Shurey
Carried

ITEM 4 – MEMBER COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided updates on key council highlights for 2016 and key opportunities and challenges for 2017.

Bayside Council:

Highlight - Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards – Highly Commended Category: Communication, Education and Empowerment

Submission: Engaging the Community – Landing Lights Wetland Restoration

Bayside Council used one of its most environmentally significant natural areas, Landing Lights wetland, as a focal point to further engage communities in environmental initiatives. Council hosted 17 events including wetland tours, planting days and a bat spotting night. Council also created its first citizen science environmental project - a community bird watching and monitoring group. Bird identification signage was installed at the wetland and 4 YouTube videos were created. Council partnered with Advance Diversity Services and gave translated presentations to a multi-cultural mothers' group and translated wetland tours for Chinese and Nepalese grandparents.

Challenge – Vulnerability mapping and LEP revision for amalgamated councils.

Waverley Council:

Highlight - Second Nature Program. Working with the community and businesses on reducing/banning plastic bags. Won an award for communications and marketing. Repaired the coastal walk and Bronte Baths.

Challenges – how to ban plastic bag use in the future. EPA order for Sydney Water to undertake risk assessment/water quality monitoring of the ocean outfalls (*Cr Sally Betts to provide further information to SCCG*).

Inner West:

Highlight – Developed WSUD support tools for engineers when designing/implementing projects e.g. conversion to wetlands. Fauna survey completed to ensure better decision-making for urban bushland.

Challenge – WSUD retrofit projects.

Willoughby:

Highlight – Investigating the feasibility of a stormwater harvesting system at Bicentennial Reserve. A brief has been drafted.

Sutherland:

Highlight - Beaches damaged in the last storms have been rebuilt.

Challenge – Hungry Point site – want to offload the site to council. The site will cost \$1 million pa in asset management before utilisation and management of public space. Locked into resolution with State Government.

City of Sydney:

Highlight – the trunk drain at Green Square has been completed to reduce flooding issues. \$1.3 billion investment in Green Square public spaces.

Challenge – Keeping projects to time and money specifically where other levels of government are involved. Addressing disincentive issues from IPART in regards to water recycling and reuse, lifting standard for BASIX and addressing pathways for integrated water management.

Mosman:

Highlight – Council won in the Land and Environment court re: a DA for the Marina increasing from 3 to 17 berths. LEP has been updated providing more bushland with E2 status.

Randwick:

Highlight – Kensington and Kingsford Draft Planning Strategy – opportunity for best practice.

Challenge – Pressures of the light rail, DA for 25 storey buildings – density issues.

Northern Beaches:

Business as usual

Woollahra:

Highlight – Council Sustainability mapping app – residents can find information on sustainability initiatives happening in the LGA. Repair of Watsons Bay Baths following June storms.

Challenge – Flooding at Paddington, funding application unsuccessful. NPWS – cleaning/maintenance issues.

North Sydney:

Highlight - Coal Loader community garden – 83 individual plots. Should be finished by May 2017. The project was wholly funded by council.

Challenge: Hard to do long-term planning whilst waiting for resolution on amalgamations.

RESOLUTION

R4.1 The member updates were received and noted.

R4.2 SCCG seek further information from Sydney Water on the ocean outfalls at Vaucluse and take appropriate action, as required, on receipt of the information.

(Dekel / Shurey)
Carried

ITEM 5 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

5.1 COLLABORATION

As per Item 5.1 in the Agenda Papers. Items taken as read.

5.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

An update on all Secretariat Capacity Building activities was included at Item 5.2 in the Agenda Papers.

The MPP provided an update on the **Salty Communities Program**. The MPP was thanked for the concise summary and Cathy Griffin acknowledged and thanked Fiona Shadbolt for her work on the salty communities program. It was proposed that SCCG look into future research and funding opportunities to continue the work from the Salty Program. (*Secretariat have meet Australia Government department Directors in this regard*).

The MPP provided an update on the **'Implementing and Embedding an Emergency Management Health Check for Local Government'** project. A video, of the health check tool, developed for the stakeholder engagement workshop held on 29 November 2016 was shown at the meeting. SCCG and consultants Janellis have met with 100 stakeholders from state and local government throughout the project. Following query it was confirmed that this consultation has included the City of Sydney Chief Resilience Officer.

The MPP provided an update on the **Connected Corridors for Biodiversity Program** funded via the SCCG Salty Communities program. It was noted that the habitat corridor maps could be used by councils to inform a biodiversity strategy or policy and provide good evidence for biodiversity protection or restoration/revegetation works to improve biodiversity corridors.

The EO acknowledged and thanked Bronwyn Englaro (Randwick City Council) for her hard work and contribution in getting this project off the ground. Sally Betts, as the President of SSROC, noted that SSROC will be taking responsibility for this project moving forward and would like to continue to work closely with SCCG on this project in the future.

Other items taken as read.

5.3 ADVOCACY

An update on all recent and upcoming Secretariat advocacy activity was included at Item 5.3 in the Agenda Papers.

Coastal Reforms

The EO provided an update on the NSW Coastal Management SEPP and maps. Discussion ensued on the necessity for Councils to provide the SCCG inundation mapping to the Department of Planning rather than being provided directly by SCCG. It was suggested that the maps could be resent to Councils.

District Plans

The EO provided an update on the District planning process and recommended that SCCG develop a working group of staff and councillors to review the plans and provide input into the preparation of the submission.

Nominations to sit on the working group were received from:

- Cr Lynne Saville
- Cr Leon Goltsman
- Cr Greg Levenston
- Cr Jess Miller
- Ms Cathy Griffin
- Mr David Dekel

It was noted that SSROC will be forming a working group in February to develop their own submission, and it may be beneficial for SCCG and SSROC to discuss the potential for a joint submission.

Hungry Point Reserve Draft Masterplan

Honorary member, Mr George Cotis provided a presentation on the Hungry Point Reserve Draft Masterplan, with recommendations that:

- a) The site remains in public ownership.
- b) Public access and passive recreation be the priority of the existing and created open space of the site. The vistas from every opportunity remain for the enjoyment of the public at large.
- c) That education and science be facilitated at the site by the use of Buildings 1, 3, 6 and 10, and the pool.
- d) The heritage values of the site be protected and their social importance enhanced by interpretive material, which includes museum facilities in retained heritage buildings.
- e) That educational institutions and government agencies with needs that may meet the use of the site be invited to assess their interests against the proposals or opportunities suggested in this submission.
- f) Over time, a regional centre for the study of estuaries, marine and coastal environments could feature or be centred at the site.
- g) Should a marine park be established in the region, this site forms the basis of its headquarters and associated scientific activities.

The following was noted:

- The masterplan acknowledges heritage and open space
- Marine rescue/volunteers are hosted at the site at present
- Buildings without heritage value will be removed. Buildings with significance/heritage listed (Laboratories) will be retained.
- Council does not have the resources to manage and maintain the site
- The state government should provide ongoing funding for maintenance of the heritage site
- May need to consider small commercial concessions on the site to bring in additional funding for maintenance
- Use of the site for educational purposes would be a soft approach for the residents (similar to previous usage – therefore minimising impacts on residents).

- Consider involving Department of Education and Training in discussions
- University of Wollongong has signed the joint submission for the use of the facility for education purposes. Should other Universities be involved?
- Need to consider continued public accessibility to the site and public safety.

5.4 RESEARCH

An update on all recent research activity was included at Item 5.4 in the Agenda Papers.

The EO gave a brief introduction to NCCARF and the CoastAdapt Project, and provided an explanation as to why SCCG should advocate to the Federal Government on behalf of NCCARF for continued funding post 2017.

RESOLUTIONS

R5.1 The Secretariat's update on key activities were received and noted.

R5.2 SCCG investigate possible funding sources, and advocate for future funding of biodiversity/salty communities' projects.

(Sherlock/Norton)
Carried

R5.3

a) Support the Connected Corridors for Biodiversity project and the habitat corridor map, and
b) Refer to the Technical Committee to endorse the map as a tool to improve habitat connectivity within the SCCG and wider project area.

(Levenston/Griffin)
Carried

R5.4 That the Sydney regional coastal inundation information, prepared by the CSIRO on behalf of the SCCG:

a) be provided to the Department of Planning and Environment for inclusion in the Coastal Management SEPP subject to the provision of more detailed inundation information provided to the Department by member councils, and
b) that SCCG write to Member councils asking Councils to also forward the SCCG inundation maps to the Department of Planning and Environment in addition to other hazard information that they have.

(Goltsman/Dekel)
Carried

R5.5 A SCCG working group to be established, in January 2017, to review the District Plans and assist in the preparation of a submission.

(Levenston/Sherlock)
Carried

R5.6 SCCG to:

a) write to Sutherland Shire Council endorsing the recommendations in the submission prepared by A/Prof. Alberto D. Albani, Prof. Colin V. Murray, Prof. Steve Kennelly, Mr. Greg McNeill, Mr. David Edwards and Mr George Cotis
b) Provide a copy of the above letter to the Hon Mark Speakman MP, Minister for the Environment, Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Lands and Water, and the relevant local, state and federal members.

(Dekel/Boyd)
Carried

R5.7

That the SCCG write to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment seeking continued support for NCCARF and CoastAdapt post 2017, and send copies to Australian Government MPs and Senators within the SCCG area.

(Levenston/Dekel)
Carried

ITEM 6 – DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 SEWER OVERFLOWS ACTION PLAN

The MPP gave a brief update on the status of the draft action plan and noted that after further consultation with Sydney Water, the final plan will be tabled at the March Full Group meeting.

RESOLUTION

R6.1 That SCCG undertake further consultation with Sydney Water prior to finalisation of the Action Plan.

(Norton/Breen)
Carried

6.2 Resourcing the SCCG

The EO reported on the outcomes of the SCCG Resourcing Directional committee meeting held on 1 December. Preferred models proposed included utilising the population, base rate and a levy for amalgamated Councils as a transitional process to ensure equity for those councils not amalgamating. It was noted that the model nominated had to be equitable for all councils and there should be a transition period.

The Resourcing Model document will be developed by mid-January for review by the Resourcing Committee and should be finalised by mid-February to be sent to Councils prior to finalisation of their budget processes in March 2017.

RESOLUTIONS

6.2 The EO's report on the outcomes of the SCCG Resourcing Directional Committee Meeting be received and noted.

(Goltsman/Breen)
Carried

ITEM 7 FINANCES

The Financial statements for the period were tabled and discussed.

RESOLUTIONS

R7.1 The Financial Statements for period 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016 were received and adopted.

(Dekel / Goltsman)
Carried

R7.2 The final (signed) audited SCCG 2015-2016 Annual Financial Statements were received and noted.

(Shurey / Breen)
Carried

ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

No further general business items were discussed.

2017 MEETING DATES / NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Group will be held on 18 March 2017 at Willoughby Council (to include a potential site visit of the water reuse facility as part of the Willoughby Concourse)

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 are proposed as:

- Saturday 24 June 2017 at 12 noon (City of Sydney)
- Saturday 7 October (**AGM**) 2017 at 12 noon (Member Council)
- Saturday 9 December 2017 at 12 noon (City of Sydney)

RESOLUTION

R8.1 Willoughby Council nominated to host the next SCCG Full Group Meeting to be held on 18 March 2017.

R8.2 Delegates to suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting.

(Norton/Goltsman)
Carried

ITEM 9 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

9.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT

9.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE

Cr Saville thanked all delegates for their contributions throughout the year and wish all a Merry Christmas and happy and safe new year.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:

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