

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.**  
**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 9 APRIL, 2011**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cr. Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Cr. Warren Yates	Mosman Council
Cr. Veronique Marchandean	North Sydney Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Cr. Margaret Woodsmith	Randwick Council
Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Cr. Dr. Conny Harris	Warringah Council
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Nicola Grieve	Woollahra Council
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG
Mr. Craig Morrison	SCCG
Ms Jodie Savage	SCCG
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Copeland	Honorary Member
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Ms Cris Hickey	Beachwatch (OEH) (presentation only)

**1. OPENING**

The meeting opened at 12.35 pm. Cr. Griffin (Vice - Chairperson) provided a welcome to country and opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to Waverley Council. Cr. Griffin informed delegates that Cr. McMurdo was unavailable for today's meeting. Cr. Griffin thanked the Mayor of Waverley, Cr. Sally Betts and Waverley Council for hosting the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cr. Wendy McMurdo	Hornsby Council
Cr. Andrew Robjohns	North Sydney Council
Cr. David James	Pittwater Council
Cr. Bob Grace	Pittwater Council
Cr. Dr. Christina Kirsch	Warringah Council
Ms. Nicola Faith	Willoughby Council
E.Prof. Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr George Cotis	Honorary Member
Cr. Keith Rhodes	President LGSA

<b>Resolved that</b> the apologies be received and noted.
-----------------------------------------------------------

<b>Councils not represented at the meeting</b> City of Sydney, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Rockdale,
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### 3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

**Resolved that** there was no declaration of pecuniary interests.

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### 4.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 4 December 2010 at the City of Sydney Council.

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 4 December 2010 at the City of Sydney Council be confirmed.

#### 4.2 Minutes of the SCCG Executive Committee held on 4 December 2010 at the City of Sydney Council.

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 4 December 2010 at the City of Sydney Council be confirmed.

#### 4.3 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 9 December 2010 at the Gatehouse Visitor Centre at North Head.

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 9 December 2010 at the Gatehouse Visitor Centre at North Head be received and noted.

#### 4.4 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 17 February at Rockdale Council.

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 17 February 2010 at Rockdale Council be received and noted.

### 5. BUSINESS ARISING

Business arising from minutes other than those items listed below in Reports.

- **8.1 Amendments the SCCG Constitution**

The RCEO informed delegates that the revised adopted SCCG Constitution had been 'accepted for registration as part of the Association' by the Dept of Fair Trading with no alterations.

- **9.6 Coastal User Conflicts**

The RCEO informed delegates that the Group had written to Waverley Council following resolution at the last meeting. The RCEO and Waverley's Divisional Manager, Environmental Services, Emily Scott had since met to discuss ways forward. As a result of these liaisons, the SCCG in partnership with Waverley Council will:

a) Survey member councils to determine:

- What extent spearfishing is a coastal conflict issue
- Identify any additional coastal user conflicts that occur or potentially occur within member councils (below the high watermark)
- Identify issues and responses in relation to effective management of activities below the high water mark including gaps, jurisdictional conflicts and other opportunities for improvement eg signage, education, defining responsibilities, enforcement, compliance and reporting.

b) Work with Underwater Skindiver's and Fishermans Association (USFA) to:

- Facilitate actions to advance the regulation of spearfishing including but not limited to:
  - Licences to purchase spearfishing equipment
  - Inclusion of specific notations within the NSW Recreational Fishing Licenses
  - Working with licence agents, retail outlets and equipment manufactures to promote and distribute related education including Code of Conduct(s) and Spearfishing Guides
  - Identification of additional education activities to ensure safe and appropriate use of spearfishing equipment.

c) **Conduct a SCCG forum:** "Management and Regulation Below the High Water Mark"

At the last meeting the SCCG further resolved that "The SCCG in partnership with Waverley Council and Department of Industry and Investment facilitate a SCCG member council forum to better clarify actions and regulations below the 'high water mark'".

The RCEO informed delegates that the SCCG Technical Committee will be considering this resolution at their meeting on 14 April to define content and structure of the forum. It was noted that in addition to all the access and recreational issues to be addressed the issues of land ownership and tenure should also be added for consideration at the forum.

Outcomes of the above to be presented to the next meeting with the aim of undertaking the forum shortly after the meeting.

**Resolved that:**

- 1) the report be received and noted.
- 2) The SCCG survey member councils to determine to what extent spearfishing is a coastal conflict issue and identify other coastal conflicts issues.
- 3) Work with Underwater Skindiver's and Fishermans Association (USFA) to determine actions to advance the regulation and best practice and safety education for spearfishing.
- 4) Undertake a "SCCG Forum - Management and Regulation Below the High Water Mark" (July),
- 5) Outcomes of the above to be presented to the next meeting with the aim of undertaking the forum just after the next SCCG (Full Group) meeting.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

### 6.1 Sent and Received Correspondence

**Resolved that** the circulated "sent" and "received" correspondence be received and noted.

### 6.2 SCCG correspondence from the last meeting (including responses where available)

All correspondence addressed. The RCEO noted that not all responses from member councils have been receive in regards to Representation at Full Group meetings correspondence.

**Resolved that:**

- 1) the SCCG correspondence from last meeting be received and considered.
- 2) The Secretariat follow up all responses regarding the 'representations at Full Group meeting letter

## 7. PRESENTATION – 'Beachwatch Program - Ms Cristien Hickey (OEH)

**Slides Attached**

### Proceedings in Brief

Ms Cristien Hickey – Manager of the Beachwatch Program provided delegates with an overview of the Beachwatch program including its history and details of the current program.

The presentation included:

- About Beachwatch Programs
- Beachwatch - Ocean
- Beachwatch Partnership program
- Monitoring
- Daily bulletins
- Reporting Monthly Report
- Microbial Assessment
- Beach Suitability Grade Index
- Sites in the Beachwatch program
- Beachwatch - Harbor
- New Guidelines
- Indicator
- Reporting: Star ratings
- Reporting: State of the Beaches
- Sanitary Inspection
- Beach Suitability Grade Index

Cris was thanked for her informative presentation. The RCEO highlighted that the SCCG was a key driver in the establishment of the Beachwatch program 21 years ago and has been involved in the program ever since. The Beachwatch program provides a critical service for the population of Sydney and importantly has driven millions of dollars of investment into the remediation of Sydney's sewerage as a result of the program identifying hot spot pollution locations.

Questions and comments including topics such as: community communication issues and web site hits, continuing need to work with councils to address water pollution risk issues and to address the sanitary inspection criteria to develop remediation action plans, and monitoring of ocean rock pools. Ms Hickey left the meeting.

**Resolved that:**

1. the presentation be heard and considered at the meeting.
2. Ms Cristien Hickey be thanked for her presentation.
3. The SCCG meet with Beachwatch to scope actions to address additional issues raised including: community communication issues, continuing need to work with councils to address water pollution risk issues and to address the sanitary inspection criteria to develop remediation action plans, and the monitoring of ocean rock pools.

The Chairperson referred delegates to Item 9.11 for consideration at this time.

## 9.11 Beachwatch & Harbourwatch Programs

### Proceedings in Brief

The Chairperson noted that the Divisional Director Sustainability Programs of DECCW, Bernard Carlon had written the Group on 25 March regarding the Beachwatch Advisory Committee noting:

- BAC has been in hiatus since 2006
- Release of new (ANZECC) water quality guidelines are detailed, prescriptive, covering all aspects of monitoring and report leaving little room for interpretation
- Within this framework (above) the role of BAC is limited
- Commitment to ensuing these relationships (with BAC organisations) remain vital and strong
- Thank the organisation (SCCG) and in particular Clr Patricia Harvey for the many years of dedicated service provided.

The RCEO informed delegates of the BAC Terms of Reference (as of 1997)

- 1) *Management of the Beachwatch and Harbourwatch programs including advice on:*
  - *reporting information on a daily, monthly and seasonal basis*
  - *sample collection and analysis as a sound basis for information on beach and water conditions*
  - *improved indicators and monitoring techniques*
  - *protocols and assuring quality and effectiveness of the program*
- 2) *Communication of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch information to the community in the most effective manner*
- 3) *Flagging with the EPA issues of concern associated with pollution of coastal, near coastal and estuarine waters the committee considers relevant.*

Delegates acknowledged that although ToR No.1 may have less relevance now due to the nationally endorsed guidelines ToR No.s 2 and 3 remain relevant and important.

Delegates also reviewed the report attached to the business papers highlighting the very poor water quality outcomes over the period especially in November when there was excessive rainfall.

**Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. The SCCG to formally write back to the Director of Sustainability Programs with cc to the NSW Minister for the Environment noting the desire to retain the BAC to meet at least twice a year to address issues including but not limited to:
  - Ongoing review and improvements to communication of the Beachwatch program activities and outcomes to Sydney residents and visitors through existing and additional communication processes and technologies.
  - Addressing ongoing technical issues with improvements to monitoring techniques, equipment and processes.
  - Ongoing advice, training, coordination and communications with Local Governments.
  - Specifically addressing 'sanitary risk' profiles and processes and developing associated remediation action plans with all relevant land and infrastructure managers.
  - Provision ongoing review and support of the Beachwatch program generally.

## 8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 8.1 Renewal of the SCCG City of Sydney Hosting Contract

Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO informed delegates that a revised draft hosting contract was not yet available via the City of Sydney. However the Group has been informed that the City of Sydney CEO had agreed to continue the current hosting arrangement for an additional 12 months. A revised draft contract will be referred to the City's legal Services Section so that it can be reviewed prior to signing of a new contract for the next term hopefully in June 2011.

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) The draft hosting contract when received be considered by the SCCG Executive Committee for approval on behalf of the Group.

## 9. REPORTS

**Reports 9.1 – 9.7  
FOR CONSIDERATION**

### 9.1 NSW Reforms to Coastal Management in NSW

Proceedings in Brief

Delegates were referred to the report attached in the business papers. The RCEO provided a review of latest activities including:

- **SCCG Consultation package**  
Since the last meeting the SCCG had collated all its correspondence, submissions and reports on the reforms into a single document that has been sent to all Member Councils and is available on the SCCG website.
- **Coastal Amendment and other legislation Bill 2010**  
The Bill was passed by the NSW Parliament on 20 October 2010 and proclaimed on 1 January

- **Establishment of the NSW Coastal Panel**

The NSW Coastal Panel has been announced. Delegates are:

- **Chair:** the Hon. Bob Debus
- **Representing Local Government:** Professor Andy Short, Ms Jane Lofthouse (Tweed Council) and Professor Bruce Thom AM
- **Representing NSW Government Agencies:** Mr Derek Rutherford (DECCW), Ms Yolande Stone (Dept Planning) and Mr Craig Abbs (LPMA).

*The SCCG's nomination Mr Doug Lord was unsuccessful.*

- **Coastal Protection Regulation 2011-** This regulation has now also been proclaimed.
- **Emergency Coastal Action Sub Plans** (for hot spot locations)  
Councils with nominated "Hotspots" are to prepare Emergency Coastal Action Sub- Plans by 30 June via Ministerial direction. For the SCCG area this includes: Bilgola and Mona Vale (Pittwater Council) and Narrabeen/Collaroy (Warringah Council).
- **Authorised Officer Training**  
DECCW has developed training for staff of coastal authorities wishing to be appointed as Authorised Officers. For more information contact Erica Lau on [erica.lau@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:erica.lau@environment.nsw.gov.au) or 9995 6050.
- **Department of Planning circulars**  
NSW Department of Planning has developed prepared two Planning circulars relating to the application of section 149 certificates to notify residents of the reforms and the identification of properties within the immediate, 2050 or 2100 hazard zones and the application of the Infrastructure SEPP for development applications for sea walls. These circulars can be found at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PlanningSystem/Circularsandguidelines/PlanningSystemCirculars/tabid/81/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PlanningSystem/Circularsandguidelines/PlanningSystemCirculars/tabid/81/language/en-US/Default.aspx)

## ITEMS DISCUSSED

### Emergency Action Subplans

The Pittwater delegate advised that Councils with "hot spot" beaches had now been issued with Ministerial Directions under the Coastal Protection Act requiring them to prepare coastal erosion emergency action subplans by 30 June 2011. This caused Pittwater Council some concern as the subplan templates had not yet been provided by DECCW (now OEH) making it difficult to comply with the timeframe for the Direction. Furthermore Pittwater Council believed that the cost of preparing the subplans would greatly exceed the \$5000 provided by DECCW for each hot spot location and management issues arising as a result of coastal land tenure were yet to be satisfactorily resolved by the Department.

### Referrals to the NSW Coastal Panel

The Pittwater delegate noted that DECCW had advised that only DAs for coastal protection works in isolation would be assessed by the NSW Coastal Panel. As the majority of DAs received by coastal councils involved development or redevelopment of entire residential or commercial properties, that also included coastal protection works, it would be unlikely that the Coastal Panel received many referrals. Department of Planning staff had advised that they would seek further advice from their legal section to clarify the referral requirements and to determine whether it would be possible to separate components of a DA for referral to the Coastal Panel.

### Recent SCCG correspondence

The RCEO noted that the SCCG Chairperson last week wrote the Chair of the Coastal Panel, the Hon. Bob Debus requesting:

- a) Provision of Coastal Panel Minutes (as per Part 2, Section 17 of the Act).
- b) Clarification in relation to process by which local councils can seek advice from the NSW Coastal Panel as per Part 2A, Section 13(1)(a) of the Act.

**Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. The SCCG meet with Warringah and Pittwater Councils to develop a joint letter to the Minister to address issues including: preparation of Emergency sub plans, and referrals to the Coastal Panel and other immediate implementation issues as identified.
3. SCCG facilitate an implementation progress forum 12 months after proclamation (Oct-Nov, 2011)

## 9.2 Outcomes report of the 'Coastal Information and Policies for the 2011 NSW State Election'.

### Proceedings in Brief

In the lead up to the 2011 NSW State Government election the SCCG has formally requested political parties represented in NSW House of Representatives and the NSW Legislative Council outline their policy positions in regards to various issues identified by the Group.

The issues identified by the SCCG for consultation are:

- An independent review into coastal management in NSW
- An independent coastal advisory body for NSW
- A consistent and coordinated approach to climate change adaptation in the NSW coastal zone
- Funding for Local Government and community coastal programs and initiatives
- Decision making based on local plans and regulation as well as public participation
- Maintenance of public ownership and public access to and along the coastal zone
- The delivery of total water cycle management for urban coastal environments
- Maintenance and enhancement of coastal biodiversity through the NSW planning framework
- A NSW Marine Management Strategy

As a result the Secretariat has prepared 2 additional reports: a) SCCG, April 2011, "*Outcomes Report: SCCG Policy Positions on the Key Coastal Management Issues for the 2011 NSW State Election*" and b) SCCG, April 2011, "*NSW Ministerial Portfolios and Public Sector Structure*".

The final outcomes report has been sent to member councils and other interested stakeholders and placed on the SCCG web page. The SCPO was congratulated on preparing the abovementioned information.

Delegates further resolved to invite the new NSW Environment Minister to address the SCCG AGM on 10 September to outline the new Government environmental directions and consideration for coastal zone management.

**Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and considered.
2. Write to the new NSW Premier, all relevant state Ministers and each of the 18 local members contained within the SCCG region, congratulating them on their recent success and highlighting the Group's desire to work productively with them over the next electoral term to achieve SCCG aims and objectives. Also providing them with a copy of:
  - The *Outcomes Report: SCCG Policy Positions on the Key Coastal Management Issues for the 2011 NSW State Election*.
  - The SCCG Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 and other relevant SCCG information
3. To invite the new NSW Environment Minister to address the SCCG AGM on 10 September to outline the new Government environmental directions and considerations for coastal zone management.

### 9.3 SCCG Annual Survey (2010) Outcomes and Actions Report (and delegate workshop)

#### Proceedings in Brief

The CPO provided the meeting with a summary of results from the 2010 SCCG Annual Survey. Overall, delegates continue to be very happy with the level of service provided to them by the SCCG. Delegates believe the Group continues to provide a strong platform for information, advocacy and delivery of regional projects and research. Overall these activities are playing an important role in building the capacity of Member Councils to manage their coastal and estuarine environments.

Issues associated with delegate capacity to attend meetings and the ongoing representation of all Member Councils through Technical and Full Group meetings were raised. Areas of focus and possible projects were considered within the following areas:

- Sharing of information and views between the Technical Committee and Full Group delegates.
- Ensuring all Member Councils are represented at SCCG Meetings.
- Building the understanding of Full Group delegates on the broad range of technical issues associated with coastal management.
- Projects (a completed list of proposed projects are actions are identified in survey question 4.)

Consultation with the Technical Committee had taken place at the previous meetings and the additional have been identified including:

Area	Recommended Actions
<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request contacts details from Mayor Secretaries and General Manager Executive Assistants to send monthly eNews to individual Mayors and General Managers.</li> <li>• Send Technical Committee summaries to General Managers.</li> <li>• Send monthly eNews to industry, local media and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Keep correspondence to Mayors and General Managers specific.</li> <li>• Consult more consistently on funding applications and grants with Member Councils.</li> </ul>
<b>SCCG Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify additional possible member councils and write to them formally notifying them of the group and the opportunity to become a member.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development whole of estuary management plans for Sydney.</li> <li>• Undertake community communications and education for sea level rise.</li> <li>• Ground truthing of DECCW / SMCMA vegetation mapping.</li> <li>• Built infrastructure assessment of heat island impacts on mortality.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak to DECCW re: vegetation mapping undertaken for Sydney with the SMCMA and variations with Member Councils own mapping.</li> <li>• Seek legal advice on emerging issues for Councils.</li> <li>• Help Councils go for awards, nominate individual Councils.</li> <li>• Contact Marine Algal Management at DECCW in relation to issues of information dissemination and compliance during marine algal blooms.</li> </ul>

The issue of SCCG expansion was again noted. The RCEO informed delegates that this had been referred to the Executive Committee for advancement. The RCEO again stressed that this was a complex issue that required careful consideration of how invitation may occur, the implications to the already stretched resources of the Secretariat to facilitate additional members, implications to existing members and also the fact that consideration of other ROC needs to be properly considered.

The Executive committee will now be meeting in between Full group meeting and this issue will be considered and brought back to the next meeting.

**Brief Delegate Workshop**

Coming from the 2010 survey, Councillor delegates noted a desire for greater information about the activities and views of the Technical Committee delegates combined with the provision of information to gain a better understanding of the broad range of technical issues associated with coastal management. At the meeting delegates will undertake a brief workshop to address these specific requests:

- a) Consider additional opportunities to build the capacity and responsiveness of Full Group delegates.
- b) Greater involvement of the Full Group in project and policy development and implementation.

The actions identified from the Full Group workshop were:

**a) Consider additional opportunities to build the capacity and responsiveness of Full Group delegates.**

Delegates were asked to identify specific issues for capacity building and possible methods for delivering capacity building activities to Full Group delegates. Results have been summarised below.

Topic	Method of Capacity Building
Managing Marine Structures (inc. Habitat Friendly Swimming enclosures)	Research project and the provision of information (types, methods, construction, approvals, monitoring)
Assessing the impacts of Sea Level Rise on property and infrastructure	Provision of information, policy and guidance
Cross tenure boundary regulation	Stakeholder Workshops
Understanding and addressing user conflicts	Stakeholder Workshops (upcoming SCCG forum)
Marine Biodiversity Monitoring the biodiversity impacts of over time	Research project and of information the provision (benchmarking and base lines)
Climate Change Adaptation Identifying alternative solutions, focus on infrastructure and services and associated economics)	Making it relevant and taking out the politics Fact sheets, Frequently Asked Questions Upcoming SCCG forum
Council Levies (Infrastructure, Stormwater and Environment)	Sharing Information between Member Councils and the development of Case Studies focusing on community engagement and marketing.
Sea Walls	Provision of design guidelines and criteria for assessing and maintaining sea walls and assessing need and alternatives solutions.
Coal and Coal Gas Seam Extraction	Prepare submissions on behalf of the Group

**b) Greater involvement of the Full Group in project and policy development and implementation**

Delegates are asked to identify the issues or areas of activity they would like greater involvement in project and policy development and implementation and opportunities for their involvement. The results have been summarised below.

Area of focus	Action
Interaction between Full Group Delegates and Secretariat between meetings	Greater ongoing interaction with Secretariat Staff
	Develop issue specific portfolios for Full Group Delegates
	Develop an action sheet and seek Full Group delegates assistance with completing actions
Full Group Delegate Attendance at Meetings and Field Trips	Full Group delegates observing technical committee meetings (pending) and field trips
	All Councillors of the Council Hosting Full Group Meetings be invited to attend.
Provision of Business Papers	Electronic Provision of Business Papers
	Prepare Executive Summary of Business Papers
	Send agenda and Key Activities Report electronically when sending out Business papers

Liaison Between Member Council Delegates (Full Group and Technical Committee)	Suggest Member Council Staff brief Full Group delegates on key issues before meetings
Promotion of the SCCG	Publicise the SCCG better to Member Council residents
	Develop a SCCG Communications Strategy
	Develop Calender of events on SCCG web page
	The SCCG facilitate a "Big Bang Event" to workshop the impacts and management solutions of Mega Disaster scenarios
NSW Coastal Conference	SCCG write a letter to all Member Councils informing them of the NSW Coastal Conference and encouraging Councils to send delegates.

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The survey report be received and noted;
- 2) Any additional key recommendations and potential actions be discussed for potential implementation (including outcomes from the brief workshop);
- 3) The final SCCG 2011 Action (s) Plans be adapted to incorporate the Annual Survey recommendations and additional actions from both the Technical Committee and Full Group Meetings.
- 4) The SCCG Secretariat be congratulated on work done last year and the very positive responses to the annual members survey.
- 5) The issues SCCG expansion be considered by the Executive Committee and brought back to the next Full Group meeting for consideration.

## 9.4 SCCG Capacity Building Program and Engagements Report

### Proceedings in Brief

The CPO provided the meeting with an update of the SCCG Capacity Building Program activities and other engagements.

- **Launch of the new SCCG website and resource database**  
The CPO informed the Group that the new SCCG website was formally launched February 2011 with a letter sent to Mayors and General Managers of Member Councils. The feedback has been very positive to date. The next stages of development will be the intranet and the eLibrary resource database, to be completed and launched by July 2011.
- **Summerama – Summer Activities Program (January)**  
The Summerama program was a huge success with 92 activities being run by 12 of the 15 Member Councils and approximately 2,500 community members attending the different activities. The program attracted significant press coverage (see Item 9.14). The CPO she will be running a thank you / feedback workshop provisionally scheduled for June 2011.
- **Coastal Connections**  
The CPO updated the Group on the progress of the Coastal Connections Project. The capacity building social media workshop and the three environmental education bush regeneration days have been delivered successfully. The social media campaign achieved good statistics with a predicted 30,000 people seeing posts related to Summerama. More information and results will be included in the Community Engagement Strategy that will be finalised in April.
- **Underwater Sydney**  
The SCCG has now signed an MOU with Underwater Earth to deliver the Underwater Sydney Program. Richard Vevers is currently conducting the research interviews with Member Councils and the official launch of the Underwater Sydney website will now be 8 June 2011 to coincide with World Oceans Day. A policy workshop will be run by the SCCG in May 2011 with Member Council representatives.
- **Capacity Building Activities 2011**  
The CPO informed the group the Economics, Management and the Coastal Zone Forum was held on 24 February 2011 and attracted a diverse group of Council representatives and other stakeholders. The report from the day will be available on the SCCG website in April. The next

event will be the Building for Sustainability Forum provisionally booked for Monday 16 May 2011.

- **Capacity Building / Education Steering Committee (CBESC)**

The CPO updated the Group that the CBESC had their first meeting on 1 March 2011 and two main activities that came from the meeting were 1) to scope developing a marketing framework tool and 2) create a research brief to look into monitoring and evaluation of education and training programs.

**Resolved that**

- 1) The report be received and considered;
- 2) Delegates to make recommendations on any additional capacity building activities / forum topics for 2011.
- 3) A schedule of SCCG capacity building events be placed on the SCCG web site as soon as possible.

## 9.5 Provision of the SCCG Annual Funding Guide 2011 (Guide tabled at the meeting)

### Proceedings in Brief

The SCCG Secretariat has again produced the SCCG annual Funding Guide and tabled the final document for 2011 at the meeting. The Guide presents details over 100 funding opportunities available under a variety of grant programs for Councils, communities, businesses and individuals to help develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance for various projects and programs. The final guide is also now on the new SCCG web site.

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and noted;
- 2) The final guide be formally sent to member councils for their utilisation and placed on the SCCG web site for more general access;
- 3) Delegates assist to highlight the availability and continuous improvement of the SCCG Funding Guide; and
- 4) The SCCG produce the 2012 Funding Guide by January 2012.

## 9.6 SCCG 'Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation' project - update report

### Proceedings in Brief

Delegates were referred to the update report including in the business papers. The RCEO noted that this project was approximately 12 months overdue and was to now finish 30 June 2011. A brief update summary for each of the three stages was provided:

#### **Stage 1: Effect of Climate Change on Sea level Rise and Extreme Sea Levels**

- The Technical Expert Panel has now met twice and sufficient data has now been sourced including SCCG provision of LiDar information via Geosciences Australia and relevant offshore bathymetry information (NSW Ports, NAVY etc)
- The SCCG wide inundation modeling is being completed via Dr Kathy McInnes and her team (CSIRO) should be available for member councils consideration shortly.

#### **Stage 2: Development of Model Planning provisions to integrate sea level rise and extreme sea level events into relevant planning strategies of the SCCG**

- The SCCG and the CSIRO convened an "Inundation Planning Workshop" on 4 March to review and consider issues for project Stage 2. A workshop report is currently being prepared for steering committee consideration,
- The SCCG is continuing to work with the NSW EDO to complete an audit of sea level rise, coastal erosion and inundation legislation and policy (background information for Stage 2) including a peer review meetings to review initial findings.

### **Stage 3: Develop and distribute community risk disclosure information and corresponding community and stakeholder education program**

- The SCCG has now formally engaged CSIRO to undertake stage 3 of the project via a separate \$30,000 contract.

The aim of the communication sub-project is to:

- Identify principles and effective tools and processes to support local government communicate about risk and coastal inundation
- Develop a resource kit to support communication by SCCG about risk and coastal inundation
- Combine with Stage 2 where possible to ensure integration between planning and communication research to achieve a better output.

#### **Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) CSIRO be invited to address the next meeting on project progress.
- 3) The latest EDO legislation and policy audit report be presented at the next meeting.

## **9.7 Developing a Sydney Adaptation Strategy – DECCW, DoP, SCCG, WSROC**

### Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO informed delegates that development of an adaptation strategy for Sydney has been identified as an action in the Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036, released in December 2010. DECCW and Department of Planning have now convened 2 meetings to scope the development of an adaptation strategy for Sydney with potential project partners, the SCCG and also WSROC.

Delegates were referred to the report noting that it provides an overview of the proposed project together with details of key project stages and project funding, management and governance issues.

Project partners are developing a draft MOU to assist with facilitating the necessary partnership approach for this project.

Delegates supported the recommendation however noted that potential substantial resource commitments that will be required by the SCCG Secretariat to ensure effective participation and consultation of member councils and other local governments. Delegates resolved the below:

#### **Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) The SCCG provide in-principle support to be involved as a key project partner and member of the project steering committee.
- 3) Consideration of the draft project MOU between DECCW, the Department of Planning, WSROC and the SCCG be delegated to the SCCG Executive Committee for review and potential ratification on behalf of the SCCG.
- 4) The SCCG directly inform its Member Councils on the process and outcomes of the consideration of the project MOU and preliminary details of the project.
- 5) A detailed project report be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.
- 6) The SCCG request adequate support with appropriately resources including provision of project staff to ensure effective participation and consultation of member councils and other local governments. This to be a direct a Local Government liaison officer to potentially be hosted by the SCCG.

## 9.8 Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project

### Proceedings in Brief

The SCPO noted that in 2010 Sydney Water, DECCW and the SCCG partnered to submit an unsuccessful application to the NCCARF Grants Program for Settlements and Infrastructure to undertake a project titled *Climate Change Adaptation of Water Infrastructure*. Despite this being unsuccessful the project partners are progressing the delivery of the project.

The SCPO directed delegates to the report in the business papers providing a summary of the project including the 4 key stages.

- Stage 1** Project design and literature review
- Stage 2** Identifying interconnectedness of water infrastructure & shared adaptation opportunities
- Stage 3** Guidelines and management systems
- Stage 4** Community consultation strategies and expectations

The project aims to undertake the necessary research to develop information, guidance and capacity building activities to ensure that organisations responsible for managing water infrastructure are able to implement appropriate asset management systems in a changing climate.

The SCPO noted that a project MOU was being finalized to facilitate the partnership and define project components and associated responsibilities.

#### **Resolved that:**

1. the report be received and considered
2. the SCPO to provide an update at the next meeting.

## 9.9 SCCG Submission / Advocacy

- *Draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015*

Delegates were informed that the Secretariat is also preparing submissions in relation to:

- NSW Coal and Gas Strategy– Scoping Paper (due 15 April)
- Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management (due 30 April)

**Resolved that** the SCCG submission on Draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy 2010 – 2015 be received and adopted.

### **Reports 11.6 – 11.12 FOR INFORMATION ONLY (pending inquiry)**

## 9.10 Technical Committee Report (December and February meetings)

**Resolved that** the report be received and considered.

## 9.12 (a) Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority's Update (b) Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority's Update

**Resolved that** the reports be received and noted.

## 9.13 NSW Department of Industry and Investment's Aquatic Biosecurity Report

**Resolved that** the report be received and noted.

## 9.14 SCCG in the Press

**Resolved that** the report be received and noted.

## 9.15 Recent SCCG Grant Program Update

### Proceedings in Brief

Delegates were referred to the report containing details of current SCCG grant programs underway; unsuccessful grant applications and submitted applications. The SCPO informed delegates that since the last meeting to Group has developed and submitted 9 applications to undertaken projects with project partners to the value of in-excess of \$2.2 million.

**Resolved that** the report be received and noted.

## 9.16 Key Activities Report for December 2010 – March 2011

### Proceedings in Brief

The Chairperson directed delegates to the attached report noting the value of consideration of this report. It provides substantial details of SCCG activities including all meetings, consultations, actions plan coming from the SCCG Strategic Plan and a summary of key SCCG projects.

**Resolved that** the SCCG Key Activities Report for December 2010 – March 2011 be received and noted.

## 10. TREASURER'S REPORT

### 10.1 Financial Statements for period 30 June – 31 December 2010

**Resolved that** the financial statements for the period 30/6/10 – 31/12/11 be received and adopted.

## 11. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 11.1 2011 Meeting dates / Next Meeting

- Saturday 18 June 2011 at 12 noon (City of Sydney)
- Saturday 10 September 2011 at 12 noon (AGM) (Randwick or Manly (pending))
- Saturday 10 December 2011 at 12 noon (City of Sydney)

### 11.2 Items for Press Release

**Resolved that** items for press release be considered.

### 11.3 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

**Resolved that** delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for Saturday 18 June:

- CSIRO presentation (Dr Matthew Ingram): SCCG project "Mapping and responding to Inundation"
- Update on 'Coastal User Conflicts' ; Developing a Sydney Adaptation Strategy; Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project.

### 11.4 Next Meeting

**Resolved that** the next meeting of the Group by held on Saturday 18 June 2011 at the City of Sydney (pending confirmation).

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

Confirmation of Minutes: .....

/ /