



Coastal Currents

Edition 59 The Newsletter of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group December 2010

From the Chair Welcome to the Christmas 2010 edition of 'Coastal Currents'. In what has been an interesting year for coastal councils in NSW much of the Groups time has been spent responding to the NSW Governments reforms to coastal management. The SCCG has long advocated that coastal management in NSW is a partnership between councils and State Government and has produced a number of submissions and correspondence on the reforms as well as the associated guidelines. The aim of each of these activities has been to represent the views and interests of our Member Councils as well as keep them informed on the progress of the reforms. With a stormy summer predicted it is likely that coastal

erosion and flooding issues will be a focus of the NSW State Election in March 2011. In preparation for the 2011 NSW election the Group is preparing policy positions on 9 key coastal management issues for Member Councils. Once finalised in late December, the policy positions on these issues will be sent all parties represented in the NSW Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council for their information and response. On behalf of the Executive, Secretariat and all our Member Councils, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break.

Cr. Wendy McMurdo
Chairperson



MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2010

Happy Christmas

The SCCG Secretariat would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season. If you're looking for something to do in January we recommend discovering Sydney's coastline by participating in the "Summerama - Summer Activities Program" events being offered all around Sydney during the month of January. See the inside pages for more details.



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Beach Sand Nourishment Scoping Study: Maintaining Sydney's beach amenity against climate change sea level rise

The SCCG is pleased to announce the release of the Beach Sand Nourishment Scoping Study: Maintaining Sydney's beach amenity against climate change sea level rise report. For more information about the report including an Executive Summary, Frequently Asked Questions as well as Facts and Figures can be found at www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

SCCG Website

The SCCG has been redeveloped. The new site, launching in December 2010 will allow for easier communication and networking between the Secretariat, Member Council delegates as well as the public and incorporates number of social media platforms.

Reforms to coastal management in NSW

The NSW Government has developed the coastal erosion package to provide the State Government and councils with guidelines and tools to deal with the challenges of coastal erosion. The key elements of this reform include the *Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010*, passed by the NSW Parliament on 20 October 2010, and a series of supporting documents. To date the SCCG has prepared the following submissions as part of the reforms: Draft Minister's Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979; Draft Guidelines for preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans; Draft Guide for Authorised Officers under the Coastal Protection Act 1979; and Draft Guide to the statutory requirements for emergency coastal protection works. Copies of these submissions are available from the SCCG Secretariat (02) 9246 7791.



SCCG Information Session - Reforms to coastal management in NSW

On 29 November 2010 the SCCG facilitated an information session to provide information to Member Councils on the reforms to coastal management in NSW. Topics discussed included the Coastal Protection and other Legislation Amendment Bill and supporting documents, the NSW Coastal Panel as well as some of the technical, legal and implementation considerations associated with the reforms to coastal erosion management in NSW. To request the information presented at the forum please contact info@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

NSW Coastal Conference

The SCCG Secretariat attended and participated in the 19th NSW Coastal Conference at Batemans Bay in November and presented the following papers:

C. Morrison and R. Walmsley - *Is the Law a Useful Communication Tool in a Changing Climate?*

G. Withycombe - *Coastal Planning and Management in a Changing Climate*

SCCG/ SSSI - GIS in the Coastal Environment

The SCCG partnered with the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) to deliver the "GIS in the Coastal Environment" forum as part of the NSW Coastal Conference. The highly successful forum demonstrated the use of GIS in assisting coastal zone management and provided an efficient and effective means of demonstrating best practice and innovation regarding the tools available and their application to coastal management. The presentations from the day can be found at www.spatialsciences.org

2011 NSW State Government Election Issues

At the 2010 SCCG Annual General Meeting it was resolved to undertake a workshop and write to all political parties represented in the NSW House of Representatives and NSW Legislative Council requesting details of their policy positions on key coastal management issues. To assist in identifying issues relevant to all Member Councils and developing the associated policy positions the SCCG Secretariat consulted with both Councillor and staff delegates in December.

Addressing the impacts of climate change on SQIDs

At present there are not prescribed best practice standards or actions Councils can follow to the impacts of climate change on Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDs). The production of endorsed technical guidelines on the design and maintenance of SQIDs would provide Councils with additional advice and assist them in demonstrating that they have followed best practice. As a result the SCCG has resolved to work in 2011 to identify suitable project partners on the development of technical and legal guidance for councils on actions they could undertake to limit any exposure to liability from the failure of SQIDs in response to climate change. More information will be provided in future updates.

Matters of interest

New Standard for Water & Beach Safety Signs

Standards Australia has published the new Standard for water safety and beach safety signs. All councils are encouraged to review their current signs to ensure that they are compliant. The Standard is in three parts: Part 1 Specifications for water safety signs used in work places and public areas. Part 2 Specifications for beach safety flags - colour, shape, meaning and performance. Part 3 2010 Guidance for use. These new Australian Standards are available from the Standards Australia website www.standards.org.au/

Water Management Report 2010

The National Water Commission has released the Australian environmental water management report 2010. The report presents a comprehensive picture of Australia's current environmental water management arrangements. The report can be found at: www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/2962-environmental-water-management-report-asp?intSiteID=1

Draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015

The draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015 is now on public exhibition. The draft Strategy, prepared by the NSW Government, aims to coordinate and guide investment and effort in biodiversity conservation in NSW for the next five years. The draft Strategy is on public exhibition until Friday 21 January 2011 and can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/nswbiostrategy.htm

Challenges at energy-water-carbon intersections report

The Prime Minister's science, engineering and innovation council has released a report on 'challenges at energy-water-carbon intersections'. The report can be found at www.chiefscientist.gov.au/

Online Service for Complying Development Applications

Processing of applications under the NSW Housing Code is set to become more efficient and user-friendly after the signing of an agreement between the NSW Department of Planning and the Department of Services, Technology and Administration will see an online system for complying development applications trialled in 12 local councils across the State. More information can be found at <http://ehc.nsw.gov.au>

City of Sydney's Trigeration Master Plan

Available on the City's website for public exhibition the Combined Cooling, Heat and Power (Trigeration) Master Plan for the Local Government Area details specific information about the locations, size and scale of a network of trigeration machines intended for locations in the CBD and Green Square. For more information on low carbon energy, visit www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030

NRM Training for Councillors and Senior Managers

The NSW LGSA is continuing its free 'NRM Training for Councillors and Senior Managers' in 2010/11. The training aims to help key council decision makers improve their skills, knowledge and engagement in NRM issues within their local area. For more information go to www.lgsa.org.au/NRM



RECENT SCCG CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

SUMMERAMA - the coast comes alive this summer!

As much about having fun as re-connecting with and protecting our glorious coastline, the SCCG Summerama program offers more than 100 activities throughout the month of January in various locations across Sydney. From Pittwater to Sutherland, activities include the ever-popular Science of the Surf, coastal bike rides, DIY home enviro workshops, rock pooling, wetland tours, sea shell discovery tours, underwater cinema, creepy crawly garden discoveries, marine sculpture workshops and much, much more. The SCCG invite you check out the range of activities on offer via the website: www.summerama.com.au



Foreshore Stabilisation Techniques: Wednesday 2 February 2010, 10am - 1pm

Pittwater Council and the Environmental Trust are holding a free half-day information session on foreshore stabilisation techniques. The focus will be on work carried out at Rowland Reserve, Bayview on Sydney's northern beaches. The day includes presentations from Pittwater Council, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority and the Environmental Trust: offering best practice tips from project experts and allowing for discussion of emerging industry trends. It will include light refreshments on arrival, lunch and a short boat ride (weather dependent). Meet at the Coastal Patrol Depot adjacent to the Rowland Reserve car park, Bayview at 10am. Please RSVP by 12 January 2011 - email janell_keegan@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

SCCG Coastal Connections: Engaging Communities Social Media Workshop



The SCCG in partnership with the Republic of Everyone hosted a social media workshop as part of the SMCMA grant funded project 'SCCG Coastal Connections'. The aim of the event was to think about how to engage our communities and to learn more about social media and how Councils can take advantage of it. It was a very enjoyable morning, with a practical exercise on how to attract people to coastal conservation events and a real time example using social media to promote events, the Summerama Facebook page. To download a copy of the presentation slides visit the SCCG website or join our community and keep up to date with Summerama news by 'liking us' on facebook: www.facebook.com/summerama

Waverley Council Ocean Pacifika Festival

The SCCG took part in the Ocean Pacifika Festival on 28 November 2010, hosted by Waverley Council, to celebrate Ocean Care Day and the coming Summer. There was lots of entertainment that included Pacific Island dancers, art's and craft stalls, and wondering performers.



A colouring-in entrant for the competition

The SCCG stall was part of the information and environment stalls to help people learn about the beautiful oceans and how to make sure they stay that way. The SCCG Secretariat handed out brochures about the Group and talked with residents about the programs the SCCG conduct. To help promote the Summerama Program children could take part in a colouring in competition to win a family pass to Oceanworld Manly to see the Underwater Sydney exhibit.



The SCCG stall with an interesting visitor

SCCG Websites:

In addition to the SCCG website www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au the SCCG has two other websites that may interest readers of the monthly update:

The SCCG Environment Monitoring Page www.monitor2manage.com.au/

The Walking Coastal Sydney Website www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au



National and International Coastal News

Groundwater Replenishment Trial

Australia's first groundwater replenishment trial has been launched by the water corporation in Western Australia. A purpose-built advanced water recycling plant will produce up to five megalitres of recycled water each day which is then recharged to a confined aquifer 120-200 metres underground. The trial will determine if recycled water could potentially help boost Perth's drinking water supplies. www.watercorporation.com.au/G/gwr.cfm

Census of Marine Life

The release of the new global Census of Marine Life identifies about 250,000 marine species in the world's oceans. It also shows that there may be at least another 750,000 yet to be discovered and named. Earlier work from the census revealed Australia's oceans are the most biodiverse on the planet, with almost 33,000 known species. But there's still plenty of unknown life in the sea: of all the marine species in Australian waters, scientists estimate 80% are not yet described. More information can be found at www.coml.org

Bluefin tuna catches to be reduced in the Pacific

At an annual meeting of the 25-member Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Honolulu, fishing nations agreed to hold their catches of young bluefin tuna in the central and western Pacific next year and in 2012 below the annual averages of six to eight years ago. Under the deal Japan must cut its annual catches of bluefin tuna aged less than three years by about a quarter from the present level of 6,100 tonnes. South Korea has refused to sign the deal but has said it will also restrict its catch of young bluefin tuna.

<http://australianetworknews.com/stories/201012/3091265.htm?desktop>

Young great whites don't have the bite

Researchers believe they have discovered one of the reasons why most shark attacks in Australian waters are aborted after a single bite. A new study by a team of scientists from Australia and the USA shows that although the jaw muscles of adolescent great white sharks can exercise incredible bite forces, the jaws themselves may be too weak to capture and kill large animals, including humans. Co-author Dr Vic Peddemors, of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre, says the study may explain why many of the shark attacks off the NSW coast are aborted after a single exploratory bite. "The great whites involved are usually juveniles that might sustain jaw injury if they persevered with the attack," he says. <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2010/12/02/3083105.htm?topic=enviro>

Conferences

Foreshore Stabilisation Techniques: Wednesday 2 February 2010, 10am - 1pm, Pittwater Council. Please RSVP by 12 January 2011 - email janell_keegan@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Enabling meaningful change through community engagement: Building capacity to drive citizen-centric policy outcomes: 16th - 17th February 2011, Novotel on Collins, Melbourne www.communityengagementpolicy.com/

The 6th Annual Water Symposium: 25 February 2011 Darling Harbour, Sydney www.legalwiseseminars.com.au/userfiles/file/LWS_WEB.pdf

Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in NRM Policy and Planning (Delivered wholly online): The courses examine the problems, institutions, policies and planning processes for NRM in Australia and enable students to explore issues from an Australia wide perspective and in their own local context. <http://www.fnas.uwa.edu.au/for/postgraduates/coursework>

Contaminated Site Assessment Remediation and Management (CSARM) - Professional Development Short Courses for Environmental Practitioners Registrations for 2011 Courses are Now Open <https://shortcourses-bookings.uts.edu.au/ClientView/DefaultSearch.aspx?SearchType=GroupSearch&CourseGroupID=16>

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

