



Coastal Currents

Edition 61 The Newsletter of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group June 2011

From the Chair

Welcome to the June Coastal Currents, I am very happy to start this newsletter by letting readers know that the SCCG was successful in attaining funding from the both Coastal Adaptation pathways and the Natural Disaster Resilience Programs - NSW State Projects Program to undertake projects. Details about this exciting project can be found in the newsletter. So far this year the Secretariat has worked tirelessly to submit a number of funding applications to undertake projects valued at over 3

million dollars. I'd like to conclude by congratulating the NSW Coalition on its success at the NSW State Election on 26 March 2011. Since the election the SCCG has written to Premier, Ministers and all Elected Representatives in the SCCG region outlining the Groups' position on key coastal management issues and articulating the Groups' desire to work constructively with the new NSW Government.

Clr. Wendy WcMurdo
Chairperson



MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2011

Partnerships for Adapting to Coastal Climate Change Risks

On 21 June 2011 the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Greg Combet, announced funding of up to \$4.5 million to support practical approaches in managing climate change impacts on infrastructure and critical assets. The funding will support local decision-makers to move beyond initial climate change risk assessments to identifying what is required in practical terms to protect a community and assets from climate change risks over time. A full list of the approved projects is attached. More information on this initiative can be found on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website www.climatechange.gov.au. The SCCG is pleased to announce that it was successful in attaining funding through this program to work with a number of research, government and industry partners to deliver the following projects.

- Multi-Criteria Approaches to Adaptive Coastal Development (prioritising coastal adaptation options)
- Assessment and Decision Frameworks for Existing Seawalls
- Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project

Audit of Sea Level Rise Coastal Erosion and Inundation Legislation and Policy

The SCCG recently engaged the Environmental Defender's Office NSW (EDO) to conduct a comparative assessment of Australian State and Territory planning and coastal legislation and policies that address sea level rise, coastal erosion, coastal inundation and storm surge. The objectives of this work included to identify: Which jurisdictions have legislation and/or policy on SLR and coastal erosion (and which level of government has regulatory obligations); and Any regulatory current gaps that exist in the current NSW system. The report has been finalised and readers who would like to request a copy of the report should email craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

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Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources Tool

The SCCG in partnership with the Australian Tsunami Research Centre and Natural Hazards Research Laboratory (UNSW) have been successful in attaining funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program - NSW State Projects Program to develop this tool. The aim of this work is to develop and test a semi-quantitative, multi-hazard tool for the assessment of the vulnerability of buildings and selected infrastructure to extreme inundations, caused by coastal storms (and associated river floods) and tsunamis. The tool will be built using the Papathoma Tsunami Vulnerability Assessment (PTVA) Model as its foundation. The PTVA is based on the use of a widely-used multi-criteria technique (the Analytic Hierarchy Process) and as such, it has great potential for application with multiple-hazards.



SCCG News and Upcoming Events

Valuation of Sydney's Beaches Project

The PhD student Dave Anning has now submitted his final PhD for examination. Following the finalisation of this Dave Anning will continue work in relation to the PhD providing the SCCG with additional tools and outputs including: online fact sheets, a Project launch forum and workshop, other additional supporting research activities that the SCCG and project partners are currently developing (to be undertaken post completion of the current project via other in-house and external funding sources).

Beach and Surf Tourism and Recreation Assets: Vulnerability and Adaptation

Dave Anning has recently partnered with the SCCG, Bond University and Griffith University in a successful funding application for a project entitled *Beach and Surf Tourism and Recreation Assets: Vulnerability and Adaptation*. The project funded through the Marine Biodiversity and Resources component of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan program, will provide a classification of beach and surf assets in Sydney and key 'seachange' locations, also estimating the existing economic importance of critically vulnerable assets. The project will run for two years and progress reports will be provided in future updates.

SCCG eLibrary

The SCCG eLibrary has been created, and is currently having resources added, as part of the SCCG Capacity Building Program. The SCCG eLibrary is a dedicated database will consolidate useful coastal and estuarine resources, toolkits, case studies, reports, management plans and other relevant information.

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/eLibrary

SCCG Water Recycling Guidelines

In March 2010 the SCCG and Sydney Water partnered to facilitate a workshop for SCCG Member Councils to discuss actions and projects that facilitate water recycling and re-use projects. Specific recommendations for future action identified at the forum included the development of "guidelines" which provides all SCCG Member Councils with information on identifying, evaluating and developing water recycling projects. A working group facilitated by the SCCG is currently developing key aspects of the guidelines including structure content and possible case studies. The proposed date for the publication of the guidelines is September 2011. Progress on the development of the guidelines will be provided in future newsletters.

Underwater Sydney

The SCCG recently facilitated an implementation / launch workshop to bring all Member Councils together to discuss the project, results of the research interviews conducted by Richard Vevers (Underwater Sydney Program Director), and the end product - a visually fantastic website with a lot of educational potential. The launch date is currently being arranged for August 2011 and will be confirmed shortly.

Matters of interest

New LGSA Planning Network for Council staff

This new website is specially designed for Council staff with an interest in planning issues. It allows communication between members about the latest planning news and events and provides links to interesting items and sites.
<http://planningnetwork.lgsa.org.au>

Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

Recognising outstanding achievements by Local Government in managing and protecting the environment. The Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards were initiated by the Associations in 1998 and are held annually. The Awards are open to all councils in NSW and aim to recognise outstanding achievements by NSW Local Government in managing and protecting the environment. Entries are now open for the 2010 - 2011 Awards. The Awards culminate in the presentation of the prestigious Local Sustainability Award and the Individual Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability. The 2010-2011 Awards will be presented at a showcase/awards function on the morning of Tuesday 29 November at a venue to be confirmed. More information can be found at:
<http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp>

First Biobanking Agreement Approved

The NSW Government has announced the first BioBanking agreement with a private landowner to protect 80 hectares of high conservation land south of Camden in Western Sydney. The agreement protects 36 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland, and habitat for 17 threatened animal species. The Office of Environment and Heritage is currently assessing applications to set up five more biobank sites (totaling approx. 200ha). For more information
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking

Sydney Water Stormwater Harvesting - Tools and Resources

Across greater Sydney, about 20 recycled water schemes recycle around 27 billion litres of treated wastewater each year. In built-up areas of Sydney, new localized water recycling schemes are being pursued that will employ treated wastewater, sewer mining and stormwater harvesting. To assist, Sydney Water has developed a series of online recycling and reuse tools, including a Stormwater Harvesting Guideline and Stormwater Harvesting Agreement for accessing Sydney Water's stormwater system. To download go to the <http://waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/>

New Water Education Toolkit

The Australian Government has launched a new Water Education Toolkit. The Toolkit will assist teachers and schools across Australia to access a multitude of curriculum and resource materials. Created out of a need to consolidate the vast amount of water education material available on the web, the Water Education Toolkit brings together more than 650 national, state, territory, regional and urban water education resources into one easily accessible, convenient and comprehensive web portal. Go to:
www.environment.gov.au/wet



SCCG Capacity Building Activities

Coastal Connections: Community Engagement Strategy (Social Media)

This long awaited resource has now been released and is available on the SCCG website. The SCCG Community Engagement Strategy (Social Media) is a capacity building tool that Member Councils and other stakeholders can use either as a step by step guide or as an inspirational tool to help think about ideas and consider trying when using social media to engage the community. For more information about the completed SCCG Coastal Connections Project or to download a copy of the Strategy visit www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Project/Coastal_Connections.

Capacity Building Events & Forums Final Reports

The most recent capacity building events the SCCG hosted, the 'GIS in the Coastal Environment Forum & Workshop' and the 'Economics, Management and the Coastal Zone Forum', final reports are now available on the SCCG website. The reports provide an introduction, program of the day, presenter biographies, synopsis and PowerPoint slides of presentations, summaries of panel discussions or workshops conducted and evaluation results containing recommendations for future forums and projects. To obtain a copy of the reports please visit the events pages at www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Events

Building for Sustainability Forum 14 July 2011

The SCCG along with project partners Faculty of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales and supported by ACCARNSI (NCCARF Settlements & infrastructure) will be hosting the 'Building for Sustainability Forum' on Thursday 14 July 2011 at Customs House, Sydney. The aim of the day is to give a critical perspective on how the built environment can become more sustainable, adapt to climate change and identify possible research links with SCCG Member Councils. The program includes presentations about what is happening at an international scale; building metrics and reporting; scale issues from metropolitan planning, master plans, to single building application and retrofitting; and Local Government case studies. There will be facilitated workshops and panel discussions that will define and assess challenges and research needs for practitioners, regulators and managers. For more information and registration see www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Event/Building_for_Sustainability

SCCG Submissions, Advocacy and Grants

NSW Coal and Gas Strategy - Scoping paper

The SCCG provided a submission to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding the NSW Coal and Gas Strategy - Scoping paper. In making the submission the SCCG made comment and recommendations on the following issues relevant to SCCG Member Councils: Movement to a low carbon economy in NSW; Community concerns related to social, environmental, economic and health impacts; Addressing land-use conflicts; Determining the full range of impacts from Coal Seam Gas Extraction; The impacts on offshore extraction activities, in particular the security of offshore sand reserves for potential beach nourishment; and Need for the Strategy to address coordination between State and Federal authorities, particularly in off-shore waters.

Sydney Harbour National Park - Draft Plan of Management, 2011

The SCCG provided a submission to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the *Sydney Harbour National Park - Draft Plan of Management, 2011* (SHNP PoM). The submission provided comments and recommendation on: Working with Local Government; Linking the SHNP PoM with other relevant Strategies and Plans; Finding a balance between recreation and conservation in an urban context; Responding to the impacts of Climate Change; and Monitoring and evaluating implementation of the SHNP PoM.

REF - Cronulla Wastewater Treatment Plant - Odour Management Project.

The SCCG provided a submission to Sydney Water regarding the REF - Cronulla Wastewater Treatment Plant - Odour Management Project. The SCCG strongly supported attempts to reduce impacts from Sydney Water assets including the reduction in odour from Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP). In preparing this submission the SCCG focused on five issues: Future Growth and Capacity; Fauna Assessment; Traffic; Licence Conditions and ongoing Monitoring (Noise and Odour); and Visual Impacts.

NSW State Election Update and Departmental Structure

Following the election of the NSW Coalition as the Government of NSW on 26 March 2011 the SCCG prepared the following documents for the information of Member Councils. **2011 NSW State Government Election Policy Positions of the SCCG and NSW Coalition:** This document contains a summary of the SCCG's key policy issues for the election and the Coalition's response. **NSW Ministerial Portfolios and Public Sector Structure April:** Following the NSW State Election in March 2011 some significant changes were made to Ministerial Portfolios and the structure of the NSW Public Sector. This document was developed to provide information on the Ministerial responsibility for pieces of Legislation relevant to the SCCG and a summary of changes to the NSW Public sector in the areas of Planning, Environment, Crown Land management, Emergency Services and Primary Industries. Both of these documents can be found at: www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au



National and International Coastal News

Coastal assets worth \$226 billion exposed to climate change impacts by 2100

The new report *Climate Change Risks to Coastal Buildings and Infrastructure* presents additional data on the exposure of commercial buildings (e.g. retail precincts), light industrial buildings, and transport infrastructure (road, rail, tramways). The report has found that greater than \$226 billion in coastal assets are potentially exposed to inundation and erosion hazards at a sea level rise of 1.1 metres. To download the report go to www.climatechange.gov.au/en/publications/coastline/climate-change-risks-to-coastal.aspx

Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide

The Australian Marine Conservation Society is offering The Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide Online - the first online sustainability seafood guide in Australia. Developed in response to growing public concerns about the state of our seas, it is designed to help you make informed seafood choices and play a part in swelling the tide for sustainable seafood.

www.sustainableseafood.org.au/Sustainable-Seafood-GuideAustralia.asp?active_page_id=695

South-west Marine Region Bioregional Plan

A draft marine bioregional plan and a Commonwealth marine reserve network proposal for the South-west Marine Region have been released for public consultation. Information about the plan and how to make a submission can be found at www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/south-west/index.html

Protecting the green turtle - WWF, Traditional Owners and scientists working together

A groundbreaking investigation into a little-known turtle virus is bringing conservationists, scientists and traditional owners together in an effort to protect the species. The virus, known as fibropapilloma, is causing lesions and tumours on young turtles. The virus is confined to a small part of Edgecombe Bay, Bowen QLD, and is raising concerns that pollutants from pesticides or other industrial sources may be the cause. The investigation is a unique collaboration between WWF, James Cook University, local community groups and the area's Traditional Owners, represented by the Gudjuda and Giringun people and aims to identify what is going on in this area to make these turtles so sick, which will help to make the Great Barrier Reef one of the safest havens for marine life on the planet. More information can be found at: wwf.org.au/articles/

Conferences

Bushfire in the Landscape: Different values, a shared vision: 23 - 24 June 2011, NSW Teacher's Federation Centre Sydney. www.nccnsw.org.au/content/bushfire-landscape-different-values-shared-vision

Ross Garnaut on Climate Change: 21 June 2011, 6.00 -7.30pm, Lower Town Hall, Sydney Town Hall.

www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/id/1102/CITY-Conversations-Responding-to-climate-change-in-our-national-interest/

Learning to Adapt 3: Climate Change Adaptation for the Built Environment EIANZ NSW and ACCARNSI professional development breakfast L' Aqua, Darling Harbour Sydney: 23 June 2011, 8am to 10.30am. <https://s.eventarc.com/event/view/3369>

Water Australia Summit, 20 - 21 July 2011, Dockside, Darling Harbour, Sydney. www.halledit.com.au/water2011

USSA Forum "Creating a Culture of Sustainability": 25 August 2011, Trade and Investment Centre, MLC Building, Martin Place, Sydney. www.lgsa.org.au/USSA

NSW Coastal Conference "20/20 Vision for the Coast": 8-11 November 2011, Tweed Heads.

www.coastalconference.com

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

