



Coastal Currents

Edition 58 The Newsletter of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group September 2010

From the Chair

Welcome to the September 2010 edition of 'Coastal Currents'. As my first action this newsletter I have the pleasure of congratulating and welcoming the new SCCG Executive Committee elected at the 2010 Annual General Meeting on September 11. The AGM has also provided the opportunity to reflect on what has been a very busy year. We began the year on a high note by winning, together with the CSIRO, Australian Museum Eureka Award under the "Innovative Solutions to Climate Change" category. The year has largely been dominated by the release, at the 2009 NSW Coastal Conference, of the state government's

Draft Coastal Risk Management Guide and Draft NSW Coastal Planning Guideline and release of Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 and the associated supporting documents. Assessing and providing regionally representative comment on these documents has taken up much of the Secretariat's time. I have very much enjoyed this past year as Chairperson of the SCCG and look forward to working with you all again over the next 12 months.

Clr Wendy WcMurdo
Chairperson



MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2010

SCCG Secretariat welcomes new Executive Committee for 2010-2011

The SCCG Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome the new SCCG Executive Committee as elected at the 11 September Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Executive is Chairperson: Cr. Wendy McMurdo (Hornsby). Vice Chairpersons: Estuarine - Cr. Veronique Marchandean (North Sydney), and Ocean - Cr Cathy Griffin (Manly), Treasurer (Honorary): Cr. Wendy Norton (Willoughby), Secretary (Honorary): Cr Lynne Saville (North Sydney) Executive Members: Cr Margaret Woodsmith (Randwick) Cr. David James (Pittwater) and Cr Conny Harris (Warringah Council).

2010 Federal Election Information Package

In the lead up to the 2010 Federal Election, the SCCG requested that political parties represented in the Senate of the Australian Parliament outline their policy positions on 6 key coastal management issues. Details of the SCCG position on these issues were outlined within the correspondence. The SCCG position on these issues and responses from the Parties are available on the SCCG website and were forwarded to SCCG delegates and other coastal stakeholders prior to the election.

www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

Sydney Coastal Councils Group Strategic Plan

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Strategic Plan 2010 - 2014 has been endorsed at the Group's AGM. The plan which sets out the Group's strategic direction for the next four years is available on the SCCG website.

Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010

The NSW Government is developing a 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 and a series of supporting documents. Since the last newsletter the SCCG has undertaken the following activities: Doug Lord (Coastal Environment Pty Ltd) has been engaged to assist with the preparation of the SCCG submission on the Bill and Guidelines; Kirston Gerathy (HWL Ebsworth) has been engaged to undertake a legal assessment of the Bill in relation to its implementation by councils and potential exposure to litigation; and the SCCG formally wrote to Minister Sartor seeking his assurance the all the guidelines associated with the Bill will be released before the Bill is finalised. All of these actions have been combined with continuous liaison with Member Councils and other interested stakeholders.



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SCCG News and Upcoming Events

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) - Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan

The SCCG partnered with Sydney Water, Risk Frontiers and DECCW to submit the Vulnerability Assessment of Critical Infrastructure project proposal to the NCCARF Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan. The project partners have now been invited to submit a full application for consideration. The project aims to assess the vulnerability of critical water infrastructure to climate change extreme events, based on historical evidence and future projections. It is expected that successful applications will be announced before the end of the year.

SCCG provides Lidar to Member Councils via Geosciences Australia (Australian Government)

The SCCG have entered into a licensing agreement with the Australian Government for the provision of Lidar as well as a "hydro-enforced DEM" for all SCCG Member Councils. The data is being disseminated to Member Councils. The SCCG acquiring this information has saved Member Councils in the order of \$200,000 each.

SCCG/ SSSI - GIS in the Coastal Environment

The SCCG has partnered with the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) to deliver a forum as part of the NSW Coastal Conference. The event entitled, "GIS in the Coastal Environment" will be held the day preceding the Conference, Tuesday 9th November, 10am to 5pm at Batemans. This forum will demonstrate the use of GIS in assisting coastal zone management. The day will provide an efficient and effective means of demonstrating best practice and innovation regarding the tools available and their application to coastal management. For more information <http://www.spatialsciences.org>

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting climate change adaptation in Local Government

The SCCG has engaged UNSW Masters Student - Timo Leiter to undertake a project titled "*Monitoring, evaluating and reporting climate change adaptation in Local Government*". Project actions will include: An international literature and practice review will be undertaken to identify best practices in adaptation monitoring and evaluation; Workshops with case study councils (Councillors and council staff) to analyse existing monitoring efforts and discuss relevant indicators; and In-depth case studies with selected Timo won the poster prize for Masters Students and the recent NCCARF conference a poster on the project

Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation Project

A second technical workshop for the mapping component of the project was held Friday 30 July. Organisations represented at the meeting included the CSIRO, SCCG, Geosciences Australia, NSW Planning, DECCW, the NSW Water Research Laboratory, Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and the Wentworth Group. The meeting discussed and defined aspects related to the modelling including additional data needs and modelling techniques.

Matters of interest

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 localised 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 www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au

Proposed Changes to the Building Code of Australia

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has requested feedback on a number of proposed changes to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) that will apply to private bushfire shelters, buildings in cyclone affected areas and on sites affected by saline soil. More information can be found at www.abcb.gov.au

A Guide to Private Conservation in NSW

The NSW Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) has recently released a Guide to Private Conservation in NSW which provides an overview and critical analysis of all the private conservation mechanisms available to NSW landholders. The guide is designed to help landholders to understand the different private conservation options and choose the one that is right for them. More information can be found at www.edo.org.au/edonsw

Water Wise Home - Capacity Building Tool for Residents

Sydney Water has launched their online resource - Water Wise Home, which helps Sydney families find out how to save water and shave hundreds of dollars a year from their water bills. The tool can be found at www.sydneywater.com.au/seeyoursavings

Proposed SEPP to cover World Heritage Sites

The Department of Planning has released a Discussion Paper proposing that the six World Heritage Sites in NSW be managed by a State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP).

More information can be found at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

Fish Friendly Councils - Website Launched

Councils' activities in water and sewer management, vegetation rehabilitation, stormwater management and roads construction and associated maintenance have a significant impact on the health of waterways and native fish. In recognition, the NSW Government, with support from the LGSA, has just launched a new program called "Fish Friendly Councils". More information can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/fish-friendly

Major upgrade for NSW weather forecasts

The Bureau of Meteorology will introduce improved forecast services for New South Wales from 1 September. The Bureau is increasing the number of forecasts, particularly in rural and regional areas. The forecasts that are currently available will also contain extra detail and extend out for more days. More information can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/NexGenFWS/



RECENT SCCG AWARDS/ SUBMISSIONS / CONSULTATIONS

SCCG Capacity Building Activities

SCCG Coastal Connections and Summer Activities Program

The Coastal Connections Project is now well underway with the Republic of Everyone conducting stakeholder interviews and forming the Community Engagement Strategy. The SCCG is finalising project partners to deliver the three flagship coastal regeneration events to take place in January, 2011. Organisation is also starting already for the Summer Activities Program with the intention that it will be bigger and better this year - hoping for a jam packed January 2011 of events to encourage the community to discover Sydney's magnificent coastline.

Recent SCCG Grant Applications

The SCCG and project partners have been invited to submit more detail applications for the second round of project assessments for the following grant. The Group is still awaiting notification of the success of both applications.

Sydney 2100: Managing perceptions of changing coastal environments: (NSW Environmental Trust Research Program) The aim of this project is to utilise social research, risk communication and social marketing techniques to segment residents and visitors of Sydney's coastal communities according to their knowledge, attitudes, values and beliefs in response to sea level rise.

Vulnerability assessment of critical infrastructure: (Key project partners: Sydney Water and DECCW): National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) - Settlements and Infrastructure National Adaptation Research Plan Assess the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to climate change extreme events, based on historical evidence and future projections.

2010 Climate Adaptation Futures Conference 29 June - 1 July 2010 Gold Coast

The SCCG Executive Officer and Senior Coastal Projects Officer attended the 2010 Climate Adaptation Futures Conference which was co-hosted by Australia's National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship. The conference was one of the first international forums to focus solely on climate impacts and adaptation. It brought together scientists and decision makers from developed and developing countries to share research approaches, methods and results. More information can be found at

www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010/

National Coastal Management Conference - Coast to Coast 2010 Actions for Change

The SCCG Secretariat will be attending the National Coast to Coast Conference to be held 20-24 September 2010 in Adelaide. The following two papers will be delivered by the SCCG at the conference"

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

D. Anning - *Understanding the Economic Impact of Coastal Management Decisions*

Coast to Coast is the renowned, and only, National Coastal Management Conference, when all with interest on coastal, estuarine and marine matters get together, every two years, to celebrate Australia's coasts, and share knowledge and experiences on management, science, policy, governance, activism and many other topics. More information can be found at www.coast2coast.org.au/

Sea Level Rise Visualisation Tool and Maps Information Session

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) has prepared a number of tools and products relevant to coastal communities to communicate the risks of climate change in the coastal zone, particularly sea level rise. As it is likely that some of the inundation products will be released in the near future, and this could generate enquiries for local and state governments, the SCCG and the DCCEE hosted a workshop on 19 July 2010 to demonstrate and provide a briefing on the tools and products in interested stakeholders in Sydney. More information about DCCEE climate change adaptation activities can be found at: www.climatechange.gov.au

Unregulated River Sources and Groundwater Sources Draft Water Sharing Plans for the Greater Metropolitan Submission

The SCCG completed a submission on the Unregulated river sources and groundwater sources Draft Water Sharing Plans (WSP) for the Greater Metropolitan Region. In making this submission the SCCG aimed to provide comments and recommendations that assist with the integration of the both WSPs into the land use planning and environmental management of coastal and estuarine councils in Sydney. The submission addressed the following aspects of both plans:

1. Overarching issues relevant to both WSPs
2. Issues specific to the unregulated river sources WSP
3. Issues specific to the groundwater sources WSP

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

Australian scientists map out wave energy hotspots

Australian scientists have mapped out the best places across the nation's southern coast for generating wave energy, all the way from Geraldton in Western Australia to King Island in Tasmania. A new CSIRO energy atlas shows that if just 10 per cent of the energy generated from waves was harnessed it would meet half of the nation's current electricity consumption. Australia's southern coastline has been identified by the World Energy Council as one of the world's best sites for generating wave energy. For more information

<http://australianetworknews.com/stories/201008/2986413.htm?desktop>

Scientists Warn of Louisiana Coastal Erosion

A team of researchers, including three from Boston University, have released findings suggesting that current plans to introduce fresh water to inland marshes around the Louisiana Gulf Coast may weaken protective coastal barriers, leaving inland regions more vulnerable to hurricanes. The relative weakness of freshwater marshes compared to salty wetlands, they said, may help explain coastal erosion patterns after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. For more information

www.physorg.com/news200293838.html

Polar bears face melting chemical cocktail

Polar bears, the icon of the Arctic, are under threat from the twin challenges of climate change and chemicals that are not breaking down in the region's cold waters. Research published in the journal *Science of The Total Environment* shows the retreat of sea-ice in the Arctic could increase the exposure of species such as polar bears to persistent organic pollutants, which include flame-retardants and substances used to harden plastics.

Scientists believe the pollutants, locked in the polar ice for decades, could be released into the ocean as the ice melts due to climate change. More information can be found at www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2010/08/06/2975479.htm

Climate change pushing fish south

A new CSIRO study has found that climate change is driving a widespread number of fish south as the oceans warm. The study found around 30 per cent of Australia's inshore coastal fish families have been found outside their usual area. CSIRO has identified south-eastern Australia as a climate change hotspot, with well documented changes already occurring over the last 70 years. More information can be found at www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/08/13/2981639.htm

Conferences

Coast to Coast 2010 - Actions for Change: 20- 24 September 2010, Adelaide. www.coast2coast.org.au

Climate change adaptation information sharing forum: 30 September 2010, Canberra.

www.securityresearch.org.au/?qetp=187

NSW Coastal Conference "Coastal Management - all aboard, making it work!": 10-12 November 2010, Batemans Bay.

www.coastalconference.com. This conference will be preceded by the SCCG/ SSSI - GIS in the Coastal Environment forum on the 9 November.

9th Soil & Groundwater Pollution Course, 15- 18 November 2010, Perth.

www.flinders.edu.au/ncgrt/fms/documents/Groundwater%20industry%20training/Pollution-Flyer-2010.pdf

AWA 1st National Water Leaders Summit, 17 November 2010, Canberra. www.awa.asn.au/events/nls

The Future of Australia's Mid-Sized Cities Policy Workshop, 28-29 September 2010. www.latrobe.edu.au/planning/policyworkshop

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**

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