



Making Waves

April 2011

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update
www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au

Welcome to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) Monthly Update. The aim of the update is to provide Member Councils and interested stakeholders with a quick and easy to read summary of the Group's recent activities. If you would like more information on any of the projects or issues discussed please contact the SCCG Secretariat on (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

Beach and Surf Tourism and Recreation Assets: Vulnerability and Adaptation

Dave Anning who is finalising the project reports and resources from the Sydney Beaches Valuation Project 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.

NSW State Election Update and Departmental Structure

Following the election of the NSW Coalition as the Government of NSW on March 26 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.sydneycostalouncils.com.au

Draft Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management

The SCCG took the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management. In making this submission the SCCG sought to provide comments and recommendations to ensure Sydney Harbour National Park continues to be a National Park of national and international significance. The SCCG believes the success of the final plan will depend on a clear and ongoing commitment to its implementation. For the Parks values to be maintained and threats mitigated the NSW Government, through the provision of the appropriate level of resourcing and support, must assist the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in working with the necessary stakeholders to ensure that the final Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management is implemented and evaluated effectively. All SCCG submissions can be found at: www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au/Submissions

SCCG Websites:

In addition to the SCCG website www.sydneycostalouncils.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



Member Council Actions and Issues

Every month the Sydney Coastal Councils Group uses this section of the update to provide a summary of some of the actions being undertaken and emerging issues for Member Councils.



Waverley Council's New Biodiversity Pages

Waverley Council's website now has new biodiversity pages that provide people with the complete flora, fauna and habitat survey reports and information about the unique local land and marine environment; native plants and animals (including fact sheets, information on gardening with native plants, and how to make bird friendly spaces); and weeds and pest species. For more information visit the website at

www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/environment/biodiversity

Updated Flood Maps of Pittwater Released

Pittwater Council has released updated maps for public comment showing potential inundation of Pittwater's foreshore land during very high tides from storm events. The draft maps, which will be on exhibition from 6 May until 10 June, take account of predicted sea level rise impacts due to climate change. According to a report presented to the Council at its meeting this week, 1882 properties in Pittwater will be classified as affected by 'foreshore inundation risk' (300 of which had not previously been classified), either as a result of tidal movements due to oceanic storms or because of their proximity to the foreshore. For more information or to see the maps go to:

www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/home/news_highlights/updated_flood_maps_of_pittwater_released

Cronulla Surf Gallery

Sutherland Shire Council have funded the Cronulla Surf Gallery at Cronulla Plaza that is made up of two 30 metre long montages gathering together photos and historic detail about events and personalities who have contributed to the rich surfing and beach lifestyle at Cronulla. The wall captures significant events in surfing history including the political muscle exercised by surfers during the great "Poo March" during the early 1990s to improve water quality through upgrades to sewage treatment at Cronulla. For more information see www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Recreation/Beaches/Cronulla_Surf_Gallery

First Trigereneration Precinct

Australia's first trigereneration precinct was switched on at Coca Cola Place in Mount Street, North Sydney on 28 April. Gas powered engines are used to generate low-carbon electricity on site. Any electricity not used by Coca Cola Place is exported to the grid and its benefits shared by Deutsche Bank Place in Philip Street, Sydney. The trigen system captures waste heat to provide heating or for conversion for cooling through an absorption chiller. Conventional coal-power stations convert only 30 to 40% of their fuel energy into electricity. More than 1000 tonnes of CO₂ is expected to be saved between the two buildings. Clr. Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney and Clr. Genia McCaffery, Mayor of North Sydney were there to launch the event. For more information see www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/3759-latest-news.asp?n=1757

Cooper Creek Sustainable Water Project

Woollahra Council has received \$250,000 from the NSW Environmental Trust for 'The Cooper Creek Sustainable Water Project'. The projects will ensure the long term health of Cooper Creek for future generations. The project will be managed over three years and will involve water sensitive urban design technologies to improve water sustainability, such as a bio-retention system to improve stormwater quality. An education outreach strategy will ensure the long term health of Cooper Creek. For more information see www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental_projects/cooper_creek_sustainable_water_project

If you would like a copy of Making Waves, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update please contact SCCG Senior Coastal Projects Officer, Craig Morrison on craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au



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SCCG Capacity Building Program Update

This page of the Making Waves Monthly Update is dedicated to providing a regular update of the initiatives of the SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming items of interest.

Recent Activities

Coastal Connections: Community Engagement Strategy

This long awaited resource will be released in the next few weeks. The SCCG Strategy will include a quick guide to social media, experience from a real life case study, and other useful information for those intending to do a social media campaign. Keep an eye on the SCCG website 'What's Current' section for its release.

Building Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change (BACCC)

The BACCC Program has been designed to provide communities with the necessary guidance, education, and engagement to identify and implement the associated adaptation responses to climate change impacts and facilitate behaviour change to become more sustainable. Councils will also have an increased capacity to empower their residents to participate meaningfully in identifying and implementing climate change adaptation responses in their local community. The SCCG is currently applying for funding to be able to develop this educational kit.

Resources

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>

Grants & Awards

Upcoming grants & awards available to Councils, environment groups and individuals include:

Caring for our Country 2011-12 Grants (Closes 30 May 2011)

Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative that seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed and resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate. www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/11-12/index.html

Priority Infrastructure Fund (Closes 31 May 2011)

The \$50 million Priority Infrastructure Fund has been established as a transitional measure for 2010/11 and 2011/12 to assist NSW councils to fund public amenities and public services.

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/StrategicPlanning/FundingPrograms/PriorityInfrastructureFund/tabid/496/language/en-US/Default.aspx

Australian Bird Environment Fund (Closes 31 May 2011)

The Australian Bird Environment Foundation (ABEF) is a Trust Fund established by BOCA in 1983 to support practical, on ground, conservation activities as part of the Club's endeavours to counter the constant threat to Australian bird life from vegetation clearance, habitat degradation and competition from invading species.

www.boca.org.au/conservation/abef

2011 Green Globe Awards (Nominations close 16 May 2011)

The Green Globe Awards are the leading environmental awards in NSW, recognising the achievements of business, government, community and individuals. Green Globe Award winners are leaders in the sustainable use of natural resources, the integration of environmental practices into day-to-day operations and leadership in tackling climate change in NSW.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/ccfapp/Login/OnlineApp/Login.aspx?Round=F/u9nA0wPxs=

Events

Practical WET workshop on 'Sensible Adaptation Measures for Wetlands': 18-19 May 2011, Sydney Olympic Park. www.sydnevolympicpark.com.au/education_and_learning/Wetland-Education-Training-Workshops

Communities in Control Conference: 30 & 31 May 2011, Moonee Valley Racing Club, Melbourne VIC
www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2011

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

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT