



# Making Waves

June 2011

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update  
[www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au](http://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

### Partnerships for Adapting to Coastal Climate Change Risks

On 21 June 2011 the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, The Hon. Greg Combet MP, 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. More information on this initiative can be found on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://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.

The SCCG will be engaging a project officer to assist the facilitation of these projects. People interested in gaining more information about this position should contact SCCG Executive Officer, Geoff Withycombe at [geoff@sydneycostalouncils.com.au](mailto:geoff@sydneycostalouncils.com.au)

### 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.sydneycostalouncils.com.au/Project/Coastal\\_Connections](http://www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au/Project/Coastal_Connections).

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

As noted in the last update, the SCCG engaged the Environmental Defender's Office NSW 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 report has now been finalised readers who would like to request a copy of the report should email [craig@sydneycostalouncils.com.au](mailto:craig@sydneycostalouncils.com.au)

### SCCG Water Recycling Handbook

The SCCG is facilitating a working group consisting of staff from Sydney Water and SCCG Member Councils to develop a Water Recycling Handbook. The handbook aims to provide information to Councils on all aspects associated with the design, business case, approval and maintenance of water recycling and stormwater reuse projects undertaken by Council. The handbook will be available for consultation in September.

### SCCG Websites:

In addition to the SCCG website [www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au](http://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/](http://www.monitor2manage.com.au/)

**The Walking Coastal Sydney Website** [www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://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.



### Hilltop to Headland environmental series

Warringah Councils hosted the final event in the 2011 "Hilltop to Headland" environmental series on 9 June with a lecture by Australia's Climate Change Commissioner Professor Tim Flannery and head of the Coasts and Climate Change Council Professor Bruce Thom AM. Professor Flannery and Professor Thom addressed a maximum capacity crowd of over 500 people to discuss the challenge of climate change and how it relates to Warringah's coastal zone. The podcast and images from the forum can be found at [www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/environment/HilltoptoHeadland.aspx](http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/environment/HilltoptoHeadland.aspx)

### City of Sydney creating an alternative water supply

The City of Sydney is developing an alternative, sustainable water supply for the City. All of Sydney currently relies on the supply provided by Sydney Water Corporation. Part of the City of Sydney's Sustainable Sydney 2030 plan is to introduce a 'decentralised' (local) water supply. This water supply will allow recycled water and stormwater to be re-used (for non-drinking purposes), taking the pressure of the main water supply. It may be possible for the system to work alongside the trigeneration network and if so, the City can potentially install the infrastructure (underground pipes, etc) for both projects at the same time. The City has called for tenders to identify the best locations for collecting and treating water. More information can be found at: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/thedirections/water.asp](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/thedirections/water.asp)

### The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability

The historic Coal Loader site at Waverton has been transformed by North Sydney Council into a Centre for Sustainability. The Grand Opening Sustainability Festival will be on Sunday 10 July, 10am-3pm to celebrate this great new local and regional community resource. Try organic wine, soak up spectacular harbour views, browse eco stalls or stop in at a workshop - the festival will be full of great ideas, giveaways, fun for the kids and a free community BBQ from 12pm. More info: <http://www.northsydney.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](http://www.environment.gov.au/wet)

### Manly Cove Coastal Zone Management Plan

Manly Council has endorsed the Manly Cove Coastal Zone Management Plan for public exhibition. The exhibition starts on 20 June for 12 weeks. The draft plan can be found at: [www.manly.nsw.gov.au/DownloadDocument.ashx?DocumentID=5677](http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/DownloadDocument.ashx?DocumentID=5677)

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](mailto:craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)



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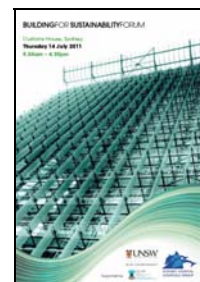
## SCCG Capacity Building Program Update

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

#### 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.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/Event/Building\\_for\\_Sustainability](http://www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/Event/Building_for_Sustainability)



### Resources

#### SCCG eLibrary

The SCCG eLibrary has been developed, and is currently having resources added, as part of the SCCG Capacity Building Program. The SCCG eLibrary is a dedicated database that consolidates useful coastal and estuarine resources, toolkits, case studies, reports, management plans and other relevant information. [www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/eLibrary](http://www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/eLibrary)

#### 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:

#### Community Action Grants (Closes 30 June 2011)

Community Action Grants are a small grants component of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative that aims to help local community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. The grants are targeted towards established local community-based organisations that are successfully delivering projects to support sustainable farming and/or protect and enhance the natural environment. <http://nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html>

#### 2011 LGSA Excellence in Environment Awards (Closes 31 August 2011)

Nominations for the LGSA's Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards are now open. The Awards recognise councils' outstanding achievements in managing and protecting the environment. The LGSA has hosted the annual Excellence in Environment Awards since 1998 and **all NSW councils are encouraged to enter**. For more information see [www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp](http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp)

### Events

**SCCG Building for Sustainability Forum:** 14 July 2011, 9.30am - 4.30pm, Barnet Long Room, Level 1, Customs House, Sydney. [www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/Event/Building\\_for\\_Sustainability](http://www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/Event/Building_for_Sustainability)

**Water Australia Summit,** 20 - 21 July 2011, Dockside, Darling Harbour, Sydney. [www.halledit.com.au/water2011](http://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](http://www.lgsa.org.au/USSA)

**NSW Coastal Conference "20/20 Vision for the Coast – lessons learnt and looking toward future improvement":** 8-11 November 2011, Tweed Heads NSW. [www.coastalconference.com](http://www.coastalconference.com)

