



Making Waves

May 2011

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update
www.sydneycostalcouncils.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

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 Ppathoma 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.

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

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc (SCCG) has 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. Furthermore the SCCG has requested an assessment of some strategic analysis of identified regional and international jurisdictions. The objectives of the consultancy are to:

- Identify which jurisdictions have legislation and/or policy on SLR and coastal erosion (and which level of government has regulatory obligations).
- Identify any regulatory current gaps that exist in the current NSW system.
- Identify best practice examples/case studies from domestic and international jurisdictions

The report will be finalised in mid June and readers who would like to request a copy of the report should email craig@sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project

This project aims to develop information, guidance and capacity building activities to ensure water infrastructure managers are equipped with the appropriate asset management systems to respond in a changing climate. The project is being delivered in partnership between Sydney Water, Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and will consist of the following stages: 1. Project design; 2. Identifying the interconnectedness of water infrastructure and shared adaptation opportunities; 3. Guidelines and management systems; and 4. Community consultation strategies and expectations

The project partners have now engaged the Water Research Laboratory (WRL – UNSW) to undertake Stage 1 of the Project: "Literature Review and Project Design". This stage being funded by SWC and OEH with SCCG in-kind support and facilitation aims to assist in developing a project plan for stages 2, 3 and 4 of the project undertake a *State of the research: literature review* to identify existing relevant research as well as gaps in the existing research effort or availability of information.

SCCG Websites:

In addition to the SCCG website www.sydneycostalcouncils.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.



Draft Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Plan for Warringah's Beaches

Warringah Council has developed a draft *Coastal Erosion Emergency Action Plan for Beaches in Warringah* that is on public exhibition for comment until Monday 27 June, 2011. The Plan identifies risks associated with coastal erosion and the actions Council intends to take to prepare for, respond to and recover from a coastal erosion emergency. The Plan also identifies requirements relating to landowner emergency coastal protection works. Warringah Council held a public Forum on 5 June 2011 where almost 100 residents were provided an opportunity to learn more about the draft Plan, understand how it relates to the recent reforms to the management of coastal erosion in NSW and speak with the Plan's authors. See

www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/comment/comment.aspx#erosion

Currawong's return to public ownership

Pittwater Council has announced that the sale of Currawong to the NSW Government has now been finalised. Six months of bipartisan negotiations between the government and Pittwater Council has resulted in Currawong and other key reserves forming Pittwater State Park. As part of the agreement, the state government will take control of three Council-owned sites and a third site at 69A Beaconsfield Street Newport, currently jointly owned by the NSW Government and the Council, will become Crown land. Mayor Rose paid tribute to NSW Crown Lands for its efforts in concluding the sale. He also acknowledged the contribution of the Friends of Currawong and local member Rob Stokes MP. "They have consistently kept Currawong in the public eye and led the fight tirelessly against over-development of the site," he said. For more information see

www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/council/media/news/2011/april/currawong_sale_finalised

Council fast-tracks protection of Malabar Headland

A section of Malabar Headland currently zoned for residential development is proposed to be rezoned as National Parks under a Randwick City Council proposal currently on public exhibition. Randwick Mayor Murray Matson said the rezoning will safeguard the land from development and protect it as National Park for future generations.

"Randwick Council has now started an urgent one-off spot rezoning for this 18 hectare site to ensure the community has future access and the parkland is protected from development". Council's Open Space and Environment Discussion Paper will go public exhibition in the coming weeks and also highlights the Council's intention to change the status of the rifle range site on Malabar Headland from 'private open space' to 'public open space'. The Malabar Headland planning proposal and supporting information is on public exhibition from 10 May to 27 May 2011. www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/Your_Council/Whats_happening/News/Council_fast-tracks_protection_of_Malabar_Headland/indexd1_9278.aspx

Bondi Stormwater Project

Waverley Council has recently secured a grant of \$465,000 from the NSW Office of Water to construct an innovative harvesting and re-use scheme at Bondi Beach. Building on the success of the Bronte Gully stormwater harvesting scheme, the Bondi Stormwater Project is a multifaceted water recycling scheme which is designed to harvest and re-use stormwater currently discharged at the Southern end of Bondi Beach. The design process for the project is already underway, with construction expected to commence late 2011. Annually, the scheme will harvest over 50 million litres of stormwater for irrigation, toilets and public place cleaning. Not only will the scheme save large amounts of valuable drinking water, it will also work to improve the water quality at Bondi Beach by using biofiltration technology to remove pollutants from excess stormwater discharged at Bondi Beach. The scheme will be powered by a dedicated renewable energy powerplant, making the project carbon neutral.

www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/bondi_stormwater_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

SCCG Coastal Connections Project

The SCCG Community Engagement Strategy (Social Media) is now available on the SCCG website at www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Project/Coastal_Connections

Building for Sustainability Forum 14 July 2011

The SCCG along with project partners Faculty of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales 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 of presenters will be confirmed and the registration process detailed on the SCCG website by 10 June 2011. www.sydneycoastalcouncils.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.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/eLibrary

Grants & Awards

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

Norman Wettenhall Foundation Environmental Grants (Closes 30 June 2011)

The objectives of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation are to support and encourage research, education and recording of all aspects of Australia's natural environment; and to build capacity in local communities to effect long-term beneficial change in the natural environment. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available. For more information see www.nwf.org.au/grants/applications.htm

Australian Geographic Society Sponsorships (Closes 30 June 2011)

Each calendar year the Society donates approximately \$150,000 to maintain its programme of sponsorship of Australian adventurers, scientific and environmental research, and community projects. Over the years it has spent more than \$8,000,000 supporting Australian endeavour in all these fields. Australian scientists, community organisations and individuals developing projects in Australia and abroad are welcome to apply for Society sponsorship. www.australiangeographic.com.au/society/AG-Society-sponsorship-applications.htm

On-site Wastewater Management Grants (Closes 1 July 2011)

The Sydney Catchment Authority provides on-site wastewater management grants to help local governments identify, inspect and assess all on-site systems in the drinking water catchments. For more information see www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/on-site-sewage-management-grants

Events

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

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT