



Making Waves

October 2010

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update
www.sydneycoastalcouncils.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 (02) 9246 7702.

Reforms to coastal management in NSW

The NSW Government has developed the 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*, passed by the NSW Parliament on 20 October 2010, and a series of supporting documents. To date the SCCG has prepared the following submissions as part of the reforms:

- Draft Minister's Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979
- Draft Guidelines for preparing Coastal Zone Management Plans;
- Draft Guide for Authorised officers under the Coastal Protection Act 1979; and
- Draft Guide to the statutory requirements for emergency coastal protection works.

Copies of these submissions are available from the SCCG Secretariat (02) 9246 7791. More information about the Reforms to coastal erosion management in NSW can be found at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm

SCCG Information Session - Reforms to coastal management in NSW

The SCCG is facilitating an information session to provide information to Member Councils on the reforms to coastal management in NSW on 29 November 2010 at the Southern Function Room, 456 Kent Street Sydney. Topics to be discussed at this information session include the Coastal Protection and other Legislation Amendment Bill and supporting documents, the NSW Coastal Panel as well as some of the technical, legal and implementation considerations associated with the reforms to coastal erosion management in NSW. For more information contact (02) 9246 7702

Addressing exposure to liability from the failure of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices

In early 2010 the SCCG wrote to the Stormwater Industry Association (SIA) and the Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in Sydney Program to clarify appropriate standards and best practice for councils to follow in the design and maintenance of their Stormwater Storage and Quality Improvement Devices (SQIDS) in light of the likely changes to rainfall frequency and intensity as a result of climate change. Recent correspondence between the SIA and the SCCG has highlighted that at present there are not prescribed best practice standards or actions Councils can follow to limit exposure to liability from the failure of SQIDS. The production of endorsed technical guidelines on the design and maintenance of SQIDS would provide Councils with additional advice and assist them in demonstrating that they have acted in good faith by following best practice. As a result the SCCG has resolved to work with the SIA in identifying suitable project partners for the delivery of a project that develops technical and legal guidance for councils on actions they could undertake to limit any exposure to liability from the failure of SQIDS in response to climate change. More information will be provided in future updates.

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/

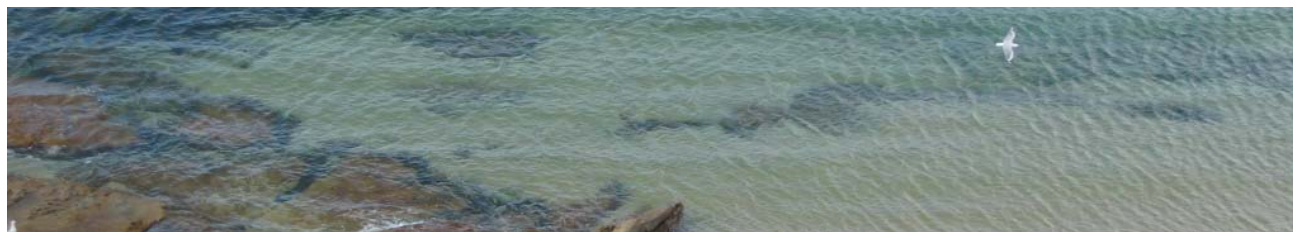
The Walking Coastal Sydney Website www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au

These sites have been developed to complement specific projects undertaken by the SCCG and provide users with a range of useful technical and recreational information.



Member Council Actions and Issues

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



NRM Training for Councillors and Senior Managers

The LGSA is continuing its **FREE** 'NRM Training for Councillors and Senior Managers' again in 2010/11. This program has been run successfully since 2008, reaching over 110 councillors from 36 councils around NSW. The 'in-house' training aims to help key council decision makers improve their skills, knowledge and engagement in NRM issues within their local area. Councillors will have the opportunity to find out about: council's roles and responsibilities in relation to managing natural resources; why NRM makes sense; their role in NRM; and support, tools & resources for councils. Training offered in 1hr or half day sessions to suit your council. The LGSA are currently seeking Expressions of Interest from councils across NSW to host a session for their councillors. For more information go to www.lgsa.org.au/NRM

Excellence in Infrastructure 2010

The City of Sydney Council recently won the Stormwater Industry Association (SIA) NSW Award for Excellence in Infrastructure for integrating WSUD (water sensitive urban design) into City Infrastructure Upgrades – turning problems of highly urbanized catchments into opportunity for WSUD. More information about the City of Sydney's water efficiency and reuse programs can be found at: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Water/WhatTheCityIsDoing/WaterEfficiencyAndReuse.asp

Better Business Partnership

Willoughby and North Sydney Council are part of the Better Business Partnership program that works with businesses (with a focus on retail villages, clubs, pubs, restaurants, offices and the light industrial area) to reduce water and energy consumption, retro-fitting of premises and uptake of recycling initiatives. The BBP business recognition and consumer awareness program begun alongside sponsorship/judging of the Mosman Daily and North Shore Times Business Achiever Energy Achiever Awards. See www.betterbusinesspartnership.com.au

Hornsby Algal Bloom Early Warning System

The occurrence of algal blooms within the Berowra Creek estuary threatens both recreational and commercial pursuits, as such an early warning algal bloom program has been established. The project will determine whether the issue of algal blooms can be addressed by predicting blooms 4-7 days in advance using an Artificial Neural Network (ANN). The ANN will utilise data from an onsite real time chlorophyll a probe and data from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). This project is the result of collaboration between Hornsby Shire Council, Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and the University of New South Wales. www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/index.cfm?NavigationID=1809

Waverley's Ocean Pacifika Festival, 28 November 2010

To celebrate this year's Ocean Care Day Waverley Council will be presenting the annual Ocean Pacifika Festival at Bondi Beach. The festival includes Pacific Island dance and music, children's craft workshops, arts and crafts stalls, sand sculpture and a host of information and environment stalls to learn about our beautiful oceans and how to make sure they stay that way! The SCCG Secretariat will be there representing the Group and talking about the current projects being run. For more information see www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/things_to_do/whats_on/calendar_of_events

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



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SCCG Capacity Building Activities

Page three of the Making Waves Monthly update is dedicated to providing a regular update of the capacity building initiatives of the SCCG as well as highlighting upcoming items of interest.

This is a busy time of year for the Capacity Building Program, with activities such as the 'GIS in the Coastal Environment Forum' being held on 9 November 2010 at the Catlina Country Club, Batemans Bay; and a Social Media Workshop showcasing the Community Engagement Strategy developed by Republic of Everyone on 26 November 2010 at the City of Sydney.



There is also big change afoot with the SCCG Summer Activities Program, with a new name 'Summerama' and logo for January 2011. Research carried out by Republic of Everyone showed that the program needed a slight 'face lift' to appeal more to young families and the community. This new logo will be the keystone of the new and improved promotion strategy that includes a social media campaign.

Go to www.summerama.com.au at the beginning of December to find out more and come and join in the fun.

Resources

2010 Natural Resource Management Funding Guide

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/2010SCCGFundingGuide.pdf



Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030

The Strategy is a significant national policy document that will guide how governments, the community, industry and scientists manage and protect Australia's plants, animals and ecosystems over the next twenty years. www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/strategy-2010-30

Online environmental documentaries now available

To capture the diversity of environmental projects and inspired volunteering that takes place across the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment, the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA has produced a series of online documentaries now available at www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au. The short films cover activities such as Willow Warriors in action; oyster farmers protecting the estuary; Indigenous women telling their stories of connection to the waterways; and the work to connect major regional bushland corridors.

Grants, Awards & Tenders

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

Coastal and Estuary Management Grants (Applications close 2 December 2010)

DECCW is now calling for applications under the 2011/12 Coastal and Estuary Management Grants Program. Funding of up to 50% of a project's costs is available to councils under these programs to:

- Prepare coastline, estuary and coastal zone management plans and supporting studies.
- Carry out projects to reduce risks associated with coastal hazards, improve coastal environments and improve estuary health.

For more information go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/InfoCoastEstFloodGrants.htm

Events

Monitoring & Evaluating to Improve NRM Outcomes: 9-10 November 2010, Marriot Hotel Sydney

www.nrmoutcomes.com/index.php

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

2nd National Local Government Environment Conference: 10-12 November, Gold Coast, Qld
www.lgaq.asn.au/web/guest/2nd-national-local-government-environment-conference-2010

Urban Biodiversity Forum: Friday 19 November 2010, Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Bookings: 9231 8134

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT