



Making Waves

September 2011

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 on (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

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. Dr. Conny Harris (Warringah Council), Cr. Jacqueline Townsend (Pittwater Council) and Cr. Geoff Stevenson (Randwick Council).

SCCG Meeting with the Hon. Donald Page , MP, Minister for Local Government and the Hon, Craig Baumann, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Planning

On Thursday 8 September, the SCCG Chairperson, Cr. Wendy McMurdo, Executive Officer and Senior Coastal Projects Officer met with Hon. Donald Page , MP, Minister for Local Government and the Hon, Craig Baumann, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Planning and their staff to discuss opportunities to achieve integrated coastal management in NSW. Discussion at the meeting focussed on issues associated with consultation with coastal councils, implementation of the NSW Coastal Policy and the proposed review of the NSW *Coastal Protection Act 1979*. In preparation for this meeting the SCCG prepared a briefing note for both Ministers which identified activities that would increase the capacity of councils to manage the coastal and estuarine environments of NSW sustainably for the following issues:

- Maintaining a partnership approach to coastal management in NSW
- A coordinated approach to climate change adaptation in the NSW coastal zone
- The consistent disclosure of hazards in the coastal zone to coastal communities
- Funding for asset management and the coordination of asset maintenance
- Maintenance of public ownership and public access to and along the coastal zone

iPhone and iPad applications for Walking Coastal and Harbour Sydney Brochures

The vision of the Walking Coastal and Harbour Sydney project was to promote public access to, and enhance the appreciation and recreational enjoyment of Sydney's coastline and estuaries for the people of Sydney and visitors to the city. Through the project a series of brochures that combine to provide a mapped and walkable route from Pittwater in the north to Sutherland in the south and Parramatta. The brochures link with existing coastal walks including the Great North Walk and joining the walking paths in the Royal National Park were produced. These brochures have now been converted into applications suitable for iphone and ipad. These freely available applications can be found at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sydneyway-walker/id459673997?ls=1&mt=8>

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



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.



Taren Point Shorebird Reserve Upgrade

Taren Point Shorebird Reserve has recently been upgraded by the Parks & Waterways Branch of Sutherland Shire Council. It is a narrow reserve adjacent to the western edge of Woollooware Bay, accessible from Woodlands Road or Smith Street in Taren Point. The sandy shoals adjacent to the reserve are habitat for an assemblage of migratory shorebirds known as the Taren Point Shorebird Community, an endangered ecological community. The objective of the upgrade was to improve the opportunity for walking, cycling and passive recreation in the reserve while minimising impacts to, and creating awareness of, the shorebirds utilising the adjacent sandy shoals.

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Building_Development/Council_Works_Projects/Completed_Projects/Taren_Point_Shorebird_Reserve_Upgrade

The Biodiversity Calendar

As part of a 3 council partnership project between Pittwater Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Gosford City Council the first NSW online biodiversity calendar has been created. This is an image-based atlas for the coastal communities of Pittwater, Hornsby and Gosford that includes seasonal information on native plants, animals and birds found in these communities. The calendar also includes Indigenous content, information on weed species, weather patterns and community events. To explore the Biodiversity Calendar and learn more about the project visit www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/biocalendar

Woollahra Council switches to solar

Woollahra Council is continuing to reduce its carbon footprint with the installation of 50 solar panels at its Redleaf site in Double Bay. The 10kw solar system has been installed on the roof of Redleaf Kiosk and is the first project of an ongoing strategy to reduce Council's emissions by 30% by 2025. The solar panels will be linked to the Woollahra Council website at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au to allow residents to track the system's performance and find out how much energy it is producing. Woollahra Council adopted a Carbon Reduction Strategy in June 2010 and is now implementing projects to save energy and reduce its carbon footprint. Council recently installed light sensors at the Cross Street carpark, reducing electricity consumption by 50%. More information can be found at

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/news/news/woollahras_2012_citizenship_awards_-_celebrating_community_heroes

Clean Beaches Awards Program 2011

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Clean Beaches – Connecting Our Coast Awards is a new revitalised Award program that has evolved from the previous Clean Beach Challenge. The program empowers coastal communities to actively work for a cleaner, more sustainable environment through the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources. Submissions for Clean Beaches Awards Program are open in seven new award categories. For more information go to www.kabnsw.org.au

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



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
C/- City of Sydney Council
Level 14, 456 Kent Street
GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY NSW 2001

SCCG Capacity Building Program

This page of the Making Waves Monthly Update is designed to highlight activities and initiatives that build the capacity of councils and other stakeholders to manage their coastal and estuarine environments

Resources

Skeptical Science – Debunking Climate Change Myths

Recent winner of a 2011 Eureka Prize, the Skeptical Science website was developed to challenge the science behind climate change denial and 'gets skeptical about global warming skepticism' using scientific reasoning, rhetoric and fact. The website determines whether denial arguments have any scientific basis and communicates what the peer reviewed scientific literature says. The website address is www.skepticalscience.com/

Exploring tidal waters on Australia's temperate coast

Dedicated SCCG Honorary Member, Mr Phil Colman, has recently launched his book 'Exploring tidal waters on Australia's temperate coast'. It is an armchair guide to shore platforms without getting your feet wet and contains over 190 colour illustrations. This book will be invaluable in helping you and the kids understand just how wonderful, how diverse, and how valuable our coast really is. For more information on how to obtain a copy please go to www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Guilt-free seafood now just a tap on an app away

Australians love seafood and can now shop for 'ocean friendly' fish and seafood with a new iPhone app allowing quick and easy decisions about which seafood to buy to ensure their next meal is sustainable, not an endangered feast. The *Sustainable Seafood Guide* is the first Australian phone app to give consumers on-the-spot information about the sustainability of seafood. The app is a fully mobile version of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's (AMCS) printed and online consumer guide, covering over 100 kinds of seafood. The app can be downloaded from <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sustainable-seafood-guide/id461656264?ls=1&mt=8>. Those who don't have an iPhone can consult the online *Sustainable Seafood Guide* at www.sustainableseafood.org.au

New guide to protect endangered vegetation communities in Sydney

The *Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest (Sydney region): A guide to identifying and protecting the nationally threatened ecological community* has been released. The guide is designed to assist all stakeholders to assess and manage the Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest of the Sydney region. This is a threatened ecological community listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Guide can be found at www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/cumberland-plain-shale-woodlands.html

Grants & Awards

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

Stormwater harvesting and reuse projects - Third Competitive Grants Round (Closes 7 December 2011)

The Australian Government is calling for applications for funding to support eligible stormwater harvesting and reuse projects under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan: stormwater harvesting and reuse grants round. Projects are sought that capture, treat and use stormwater to ease the pressure on drinking water supplies and deliver improved water quality to our urban waterways. For more information go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/urban/stormwater-harvesting.html>

Events

National Water Recycling Guidelines Workshop: 27 October 2011, Sydney NSW. www.awa.asn.au/NWCworkshops/

2nd Annual National Water Leadership Summit: 2-3 November 2011, Canberra.

www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294971634

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

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT