

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC.  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**MEMO TO:**

Ms Cathy McMahon	Botany Bay Council
Ms Judith Betts	Botany Bay Council
Dr Ross McPherson	Hornsby Council
Mr Peter Coad	Hornsby Council
Mr David Paton	Leichhardt Council
Mr Ryann Midei	Leichhardt Council
Mr Rafiqul Islam	Manly Council
Mr Michael Galloway	Manly Council
Ms Belinda Atkins	Mosman Council
Mr Chandra Chandrawansa	Mosman Council
Mr Gareth Debney	North Sydney Council
Ms Michelle Johnston	North Sydney Council
Ms Kim Caswell	Pittwater Council
Mr Mark Beharrell	Pittwater Council
Mr Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Ms Bronwyn Englaro	Randwick Council
Ms Alexandra Vandine	Rockdale Council
Ms Erika Roka	Rockdale Council
Mr Justin Sauvage	Sutherland Council
Mr Daniel Robson	Sutherland Council
Mr Nik Midlam	City of Sydney Council
Dr Bhakti Devi	City of Sydney Council
Mr Tom Belsham	City of Sydney Council
Mr Daniel Lovett	Warringah Council
Mr Daylan Cameron	Warringah Council
Mr David Bell	Warringah Council
Mr Corey Fox	Waverley Council
Ms Emily Scott	Waverley Council
Ms Nicola Faith	Willoughby Council
Mr Chris Munro	Woollahra Council
Mr Justin Shupe	Woollahra Council
Ms Kate Black	WSUD Project
Ms Karen Kennedy	SMCMA (Port Hacking & Coastal Catchments)
Mr Rebecca Mooy	HNCMA (Estuary Program Coordinator)

**FROM:** Craig Morrison  
**SUBJECT:** Minutes for the Technical Committee meeting **14 October 2010**  
**DATE OF MEMO:** 2 November 2010

**Please find attached** the Minutes and Actions from the Technical Committee meeting held on Thursday 14 October 2010 at the City of Sydney Council. **The next meeting and the activity for the Technical Committee Christmas Party will be at North Head on 9 December 2010.**

Key Actions Arising
1. Delegates to access the SCCG web link for member council key initiatives report. Go to <a href="http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sccg/membercouncil/activities">www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sccg/membercouncil/activities</a>



Craig Morrison  
**Senior Coastal Projects Officer**  
**Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.**

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC**  
**Requested Actions arising from Technical Committee Meeting**  
**City of Sydney Council**  
**14 October 2010**

The table below is intended to provide delegates with a summary of the meeting. Actions for delegates to complete prior to the next meeting have been highlighted in **bold**

Item	Action	By whom	Due by
4	<b>Business Arising</b> 1. <b>All business arising from the previous meeting had been progressed and was listed to be discussed on the meeting agenda.</b>	All	12 August
5.1	<b>Presentation:</b> 1. <b>Mr Murray Powell be thanked for his presentation</b> 2. The SCCG to work with the SIA in indentifying 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.	All Secretariat	14 October 20 November
6.1	<b>Brief Report on the Activities of the SCCG</b> 1. The report be received and noted <b>Discussion Forum: Associate Membership of the Savewater Alliance</b> 1. SCCG would thank the Savewater Alliance and Robert Bell for offering the SCCG Associate Membership of the Savewater Alliance but respectfully decline. 2. The SCCG utilise one of its MOUs with Macquarie University or the UNSW to undertake research that examines the success of brochures and websites in demand management activities for water and energy and opportunities for the use of social media in promoting demand management.	All Secretariat Secretariat	14 October 20 October 3 December
6.2	<b>NSW Coastal Reforms</b> 1. The SCCG write to DECCW noting that the consultation process for the NSW Coastal Reform process was inappropriate and not allowing for meaningful contribution for Councils.	Secretariat	20 October
6.3	<b>City of Sydney energy saving projects</b> 1. Delegates wishing to access more information about the City of Sydney energy saving projects visit the website or contact the City of Sydney Delegates. <a href="http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/makingithappen/AllanJones.asp">www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/makingithappen/AllanJones.asp</a>	All	14 October
6.4	1. Technical Committee delegates to support SAP Champions with the internal promotion of the program.	All	Ongoing
6.5	<b>National Coastal Management Conference – Coast to Coast 2010 Actions for Change</b> 1. <b>Technical Committee delegates wanting copies of presentations from Coast to Coast 2010 contact the Secretariat</b>	All	9 December
6.6	<b>Member Councils' Initiatives and Projects</b> 1. The SCCG write to DECCW regarding the development of adaptation plans with a recommendation that the monitoring and reporting of both energy and water saving actions plans be linked with the adaptation plans 2. The SCCG write to the Prime Minister and Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to seek further information about the Low Carbon Communities Program.	Secretariat Secretariat	26 November 19 November
7.1	<b>Next Meeting</b> 1. <b>The next meeting be held on Thursday 9 December</b> 2. <b>The location of the next meeting and the activity for the Technical Committee Christmas Party be North Head.</b>	All	9 December
7.2	<b>Agenda Items for next Technical Committee meeting</b> 1. <b>Representatives suggest additional agenda items for the next Technical Committee meeting by 2 December</b>	All	2 December

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.  
MINUTES FOR THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER  
HOSTED BY CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Judith Betts	Botany Bay Council
Dr Ross McPherson	Hornsby Council
Ms Leisha Deguara	Leichhardt Council
Mr Michael Galloway	Manly Council
Ms Belinda Atkins	Mosman Council
Ms Michelle Johnston	North Sydney Council
Ms Melanie Schwecke	Pittwater Council
Mr Jason Rider	Randwick Council
Mr Alexandra Vandine	Rockdale Council
Mr Justin Sauvage	Sutherland Shire Council
Mr Nik Midlam	City of Sydney
Mr David Bell	Warringah Council
Mr Corey Fox	Waverley Council
Ms Nicola Faith	Willoughby City Council
Mr Justin Shupe	Woollahra Council
Ms Karen Kennedy	SMCMA
Ms Kate Black	WSUD in Sydney
Mr Timo Leiter	UNSW
Mr Geoff Withycombe	SCCG - Executive Officer
Mr Craig Morrison	SCCG - Senior Coastal Projects Officer
Ms Jodie Savage	SCCG – Coastal Projects Officer

**OPENING**

The meeting opened at 9.15am with the Senior Coastal Projects Officer (SCPO) in chair. The Regional Coastal Environment Officer (RCEO) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Ryan Midei	Leichhardt Council
Ms Bronwyn Englaro	Randwick Council
Mr Daylan Cameron	Warringah Council
Mr David Anning	PhD Candidate UNSW

<b>Resolved that</b> the apologies be received and noted.
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<b>All Member Councils were represented at the meeting</b>
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### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the SCCG Technical Committee meeting held on 12 August 2010 hosted by Sutherland Council (distributed prior to the meeting).

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the SCCG Technical Committee meeting held on 12 August 2010 hosted by Sutherland Council be confirmed.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

#### 4.1 Actions from the last meeting (Attached to memo)

The SCPO informed delegates that after the last meeting committee members had requested additional information from the Sydney Water Presentation on a number of issues. The questions and answers provided are below:

**1. Tree valuation method:** *Are Sydney Water able to provide any information on the method Sydney Water uses to evaluate the value of trees?* The method Sydney Water uses to evaluate the value of existing trees is the Peter Thyers method for tree valuation.

**2. Tree planting near sewer lines:** *Information about tree management to prevent chokes caused by tree roots and a list of species not to plant near sewer lines can be found at: [www.sydneywater.com.au/MajorProjects/pdf/TreePlantingSewer.pdf](http://www.sydneywater.com.au/MajorProjects/pdf/TreePlantingSewer.pdf). Is it possible for councils to get a list of species that are suitable for planting near sewer lines?* Sydney Water only provide a list of plants that are commonly known to cause problems when planted near sewer and do not advocate species for planting. Selecting an appropriate species depends on many factors best determined by a horticultural expert.

**3. Vulnerable sewer lines:** *Is Sydney Water able to provide councils with information on Sydney Water sewer lines within their LGA that are currently impacted by tree roots or highly vulnerable to damage from existing street trees.* Sydney Water have identified public sewers that are more likely to fail due to tree root intrusion that have high consequence (ie to the health of waterways).

**Recommended that** progress on requested actions be received and noted.

### 5 Presentation

- 5.1 **Designing and maintaining Stormwater Storage and Quality Improvement Devices in response to climate change** (Mr Murray Powell NSW Stormwater Industry Association)

#### Proceedings in Brief

At a SCCG Technical Committee Meeting in 2010 it was resolved that the SCCG write 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 for the following issues:

- Minimum design standards
- Maintenance regimes
- Exposure to liability

Mr Murray Powell, president of the NSW Stormwater Industry Association provided the meeting with a response to this correspondence.

The Stormwater Industry Association (SIA) promotes innovative and sustainable practice technologies, standards and policies that minimise adverse environmental, social and economic impacts. The SIA also facilitates an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of agencies and partners working to improve the management of our natural and built stormwater systems, provides an advisory and reference service for the industry and promotes the concept that stormwater is a

resource. More information about the national and NSW SIAs can be found at: [www.stormwater.asn.au/](http://www.stormwater.asn.au/) and [www.stormwater.asn.au/nsw/](http://www.stormwater.asn.au/nsw/)

In his presentation Murray addressed the following questions:

**1. Are there minimum design criteria for the installation of SQIDS? For example, under present conditions, for what Average Return Interval (ARI) should SQIDS be designed to?**

In short there are not minimum design criteria for SQIDS. Design specifications for SQIDS will vary due to considerations including catchment area, budget and site specific constraints including space available and maintenance regime. Most SQIDS maintained by councils are designed for a three month Average Return Interval. In designing and maintaining SQUIDS councils should consider:

- The likely flow rates and volumes of pollution combined with the desired level of pollution removal; and
- Cleaning regimes.

Councils should also incorporate overflow bypass considerations into designing devices to minimise flooding in the areas surrounding the SQID during heavy rainfall or when the device fails.

**2. Is the SIA or WSUD in Sydney Program able to provide councils with any guidance as to how they should design and install SQIDS in response to likely impacts of climate change?**

Councils are advised to ensure that the appropriate cleaning regimes and overflow bypass considerations are factored into the design and ongoing management of SQIDS. Climate change is likely to result in reduced rainfall but increased intensity of storms. In designing new devices councils should take the likelihood of higher intensity storms and the impact of this on catchment hydrology into account. In maintaining existing devices councils are advised to consider the impacts of higher intensity storms on the type and volume of pollutants and associated cleaning regimes.

**3. How should councils adjust their cleaning and maintenance regimes of SQIDS in response to climate change?**

Councils should structure their cleaning regimes around expected pollution loads and combine this with regular monitoring of volume and types of litter. Additionally, Councils need to ensure that an adequate budget is available for ongoing cleaning and maintenance. Ideally SQIDS should be cleaned after every heavy rainfall event. However budgeting for this is not practical and most councils have their SQIDS cleaned at regular time intervals. In response to climate change, Councils should combine regular cleaning and maintenance of SQIDS with cleaning after high intensity rainfall events and ongoing monitoring.

**4. Are the SIA or WSUD in Sydney Project able to provide any advice as to whether councils are liable for damage of private property in the event of SQID failing?**

It is difficult to provide definitive advice on issues related to liability following the failure of a SQID. Issues associated with negligence and nuisance will be very site and case specific. Councils are unlikely to be exposed to liability for SQUIDS that fail to remove pollution. They are likely to be exposed to liability when the failure of a SQID results in the area surrounding the SQUID becoming flooded causing damage to both public and private property. For Councils to be able to demonstrate that they have acted responsibly and appropriately in the design and maintenance of their SQIDS they should be able to demonstrate that they have considered all the relevant information, including the potential impacts of increased intensity storms, within the SQID design and maintenance specifications.

**5. What actions are councils able to take to limit any exposure to liability from the failure of SQIDS?**

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.

It was noted that in the absence of an industry agreed standards or frameworks the SCCG was looking to work with other organisations such as the SIA to develop technical and legal guidance for councils on actions they could undertake to limit any exposure to liability from the failure of SQIDS.

Delegates were also informed that The Cities for Water Supply Catchments project, which is a 5 year Research Program based at the Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, is undertaking a project to investigate methodologies for assessing rainfall patterns in localised urban environments under a changing climate to inform the development, adoption, and operation of stormwater harvesting and management solutions and most importantly to assess and accommodate uncertainties in their designs.

It was resolved that the SCCG would 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.

**Resolved that:**

1. Mr Murray Powell be thanked for his presentation.
2. The SCCG would 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.

## 6. REPORTS

### 6.1 Brief Report on the Activities of the SCCG (Key Activities Report, Aug 10/ Oct 10)

#### Proceedings in Brief

The RCEO reported on the recent activities of the SCCG. Time was provided to give representatives a chance to inquire about individual projects and the focus of the Group.

**Welcome to Jodie Savage:** The RCEO welcomed and congratulated Jodie Savage to the SCCG. After a successful application and interview Jodie was offered and accepted the position of Coastal Projects Officer on the 13 September 2010.

**Sydney Coastal Councils Group Strategic Plan:** The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 has been endorsed at the Group's AGM. The plan which sets out the Group's strategic direction for the next four years is available on the SCCG website. Member Council delegates were thanked for coordinating responses from their Councils.

**SCCG Annual General Meeting:** The 2010 SCCG Annual General Meeting (AGM) was hosted by Manly Council on 11 September 2010. Electronic and hard copies of the Chairs and Executive Officers annual reports have been sent to all Councils.

**SCCG 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 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 Margaret Woodsmith (Randwick) Cr. David James (Pittwater) and Cr Conny Harris (Warringah Council).

**CSIRO / SCCG mapping and responding to coastal inundation project:** Following the second technical workshop the CSIRO are developing a revised mapping methodology. Both the planning and communications aspects of the grants are also progressing.

**SCCG Grants:** The Secretariat has been informed that the *Sydney 2100: Managing perceptions of changing coastal environments* (NSW Environment Trust Research Grants) application was unsuccessful and is still waiting to hear if the Climate Change Adaptation of Water Infrastructure (NCCARF Settlements and Infrastructure Grant) to be delivered in partnership with Sydney Water, DECCW and Risk Frontiers has been successful or otherwise.

**Underwater Australia:** Project partners have been busy securing additional funding and in-kind resources to reduce costs for Councils. New partners include advertising agency (BMF), Sydney Aquarium and Google. Additionally, the SCCG sought formal support for the project and financial contributions to the value of \$2,000 from Member Councils. At the time of the meeting 12 of 15 Member Councils had agreed to support the project.

**Finalisation of the “Beach Sand Nourishment Scoping Study – Maintaining Sydney’s Beach Amenity Against Climate Change Sea Level Rise:** The project has examined information and data on the environmental, physical, social and economic aspects of utilising offshore marine sands to meet immediate and medium term requirements of the adopted nourishment strategies at selected beach environments for the purposes of protection and augmentation of beach systems under immediate threat from coastal storm activity and Sea level Rise. The final report has now been prepared by AECOM and will be released publically shortly. Release of the document will be accompanied by the production of frequently asked questions as well as Facts and Figures facts sheets. An article, written by Wendy Harmer, about the report will feature in the Sunday Telegraph on 17 October 2010.

**NSW Coastal Conference "Coastal Management - all aboard, making it work!:** 10-12 November 2010, Batemans Bay. The annual conference attracts between 220 - 300 delegates who are interested in or working within the field of coastal management research, education and service provision and policy; as well as representatives from government, user groups and community volunteer organisations. More information can be found at [www.coastalconference.com](http://www.coastalconference.com)

**SCCG/ SSSI - GIS in the Coastal Environment (9 November 2010)**

The SCCG has partnered with the Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI) to deliver a forum as part of the NSW Coastal Conference. The event entitled, “GIS in the Coastal Environment” will be held the day preceding the Conference, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 10am to 5pm at Batemans Bay. This forum will demonstrate the use of GIS in assisting coastal zone management. The day will provide an efficient and effective means of demonstrating best practice and innovation regarding the tools available and their application to coastal management.

**SCCG provided Lidar to Member Councils via Geosciences Australia (Australian Government):** The SCCG have entered into a licensing agreement with the Australian Government for the provision of Lidar as well as a “hydro-enforced DEM” for all SCCG Member Councils. The data has been disseminated to all Member Councils. The SCCG acquiring this information has saved Member Councils in the order of \$200,000 each.

**SCCG Website:** The development of the new SCCG website has been delayed. It is expected that the site will be launched by 4 December.

<b>Resolved that</b> RCEO’s report be received and noted.
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• **PROJECT CASE STUDY PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION FORUM (EMERGING ISSUES)**

**Savewater Alliance** (Mr Robert Bell)

Proceedings in Brief

The Savewater Alliance works with member water businesses, government agencies and product companies to deliver water conservation programs throughout Australia. Savewater offers a combination of web resources and practical programs to help all Australians change the way they use water. Savewater Alliance Inc. was officially incorporated in Victoria on 9th June 2004 as a not-for-profit association. Its aim is to accelerate water conservation behaviour change and water saving product purchasing in line with government and water industry needs. Savewater also aims to support product and service suppliers by increasing community awareness of their product solutions.

Robert Bell provided the meeting with an overview of the activities of the Savewater Alliance and outlined a proposal for the SCCG to become an Associate Member on behalf of its Member Councils.

Associate membership of the Savewater Alliance would involve the delivery of the following activities:

- Development of an Education program for an issue selected by SCCG Member Councils
- The delivery of two region wide product rollouts (for two Savewater Alliance products selected by the SCCG). Savewater products can include greywater diversion systems, waterless urinals, water saving washing machines. More information can be found at <http://www.savewater.com.au/products/?action=browsecat>
- Development and delivery of a research and development project on a topic selected by the SCCG.

The cost to the SCCG for the delivery of the activities outlined above would be \$35,000 (+gst) annually. This would include the employment of a person on a 0.5 EFT basis to work with SCCG exclusively to deliver the overall program. Following his presentation Robert left the meeting to enable delegates to discuss the proposal.

Overall delegates felt there was some merit in the activities of the Savewater Alliance. However a number of the proposed activities, such as education and research were being undertaken in the SCCG region by Sydney Water through the every drop counts campaign and DECCW through the Water for Life Program. Additionally, a number of delegates noted that Councils had little or no budget for undertaking demand management and education activities around water savings. Delegates also believed that some Councils existing procurement policies may prevent them from participating in the delivery of the product wide rollouts offered by Savewater. It was resolved that the SCCG would thank the Savewater Alliance and Robert Bell for offering the SCCG Associate Membership of the Savewater Alliance but respectfully decline due to the overlap with services offered by Savewater and organisations such as Sydney Water and DECCW and existing procurement policies of councils preventing their participation in product roll outs.

It was also resolved that the SCCG utilise one of its MOUs with Macquarie University or the UNSW to undertake research that examines the success of brochures and websites in demand management activities for water and energy and opportunities for the use of social media in promoting demand management.

**Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. SCCG would thank the Savewater Alliance and Robert Bell for offering the SCCG Associate Membership of the Savewater Alliance but respectfully decline due to the overlap with services offered by Savewater and organisations such as Sydney Water and DECCW and existing procurement policies of councils preventing their participation in product roll outs.
3. The SCCG utilise one of its MOUs with Macquarie University or the UNSW to undertake research that examines the success of brochures and websites in demand management activities for water and energy and opportunities for the use of social media in promoting demand management.

## 6.2 NSW Coastal Reforms

### Proceedings in Brief

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* and a series of supporting documents. The RCEO provided the meeting with an update on the status and availability of the documents being produced by the NSW Government and the SCCG response. Delegates were informed that the *Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* was tabled for debate on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October (Lower House) and 20<sup>th</sup> of October (Upper House). The SCCG submission on the *Draft Minister's Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979* and the legal advice on the *Coastal Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* had been distributed to SCCG Member Councils prior to the meeting.

Delegates noted the difficulty for Councils in preparing weekly submissions on the large number of guidelines being released for comment. As a result it was resolved that the SCCG would write to DECCW noting that the consultation process for the NSW Coastal Reform process was inappropriate and not allowing for meaningful contribution for Councils. More information about the reforms can be found at: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalerosionmgmt.htm)

**Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. The SCCG write to DECCW noting that the consultation process for the NSW Coastal Reform process was inappropriate and not allowing for meaningful contribution for Councils.

### 6.3 City of Sydney energy saving projects

#### Proceedings in Brief

The City of Sydney delegate Nik Midlam provided the meeting an overview of some of the City of Sydney energy saving projects being delivered as part of Sydney 2030. These include:

- Delivery of renewable energy projects; and
- A trigeneration master plan.

Nik outlined that the City has an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent by 2030. To help achieve this target the City has appointed UK energy expert Allan Jones. His previous work reduced greenhouse gas emissions at the city of Woking by 80 per cent and produced similar results for the city of London.

At present, 80 per cent of the City of Sydney's emissions come from the production of electricity by coal-fired power stations in the Hunter Valley. Two thirds of the energy being used by these stations is wasted as heat from the cooling towers and on long-distance transmission over power lines to Sydney. The City's goal is to produce 70 per cent of its energy needs locally from trigeneration plants. These local generators are nearly three times more energy efficient than coal-fired power plants because they use the waste heat from electricity production to both heat and cool buildings. The rest of the City's reductions will come from energy efficiency measures and from installing renewable energy such as solar panels.

The rollout of energy efficiency programs on the City's 200 properties and setting up a \$2 million dollar a year renewable energy installation fund is being overseen by Allan Jones. Over the next three years electricity prices in NSW will rise by up to 42 per cent with the majority going to pay for an \$18 billion dollar upgrade of the electricity network of cables, poles and substations. Local trigeneration plants, energy efficiency measures and renewable energy would remove the need for much of this upgrade and also for any new coal-fired power stations that would cost, in total, between \$3 billion and \$4 billion. More information about some of the City of Sydney's energy saving projects can be found at: [www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/makingithappen/AllanJones.asp](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/makingithappen/AllanJones.asp)

**Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. Delegates wishing to access more information about the City of Sydney energy saving projects visit the website or contact the City of Sydney Delegates.  
[www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/makingithappen/AllanJones.asp](http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/2030/makingithappen/AllanJones.asp)

## 6.4 Summer Activities Program (SCCG Capacity Building Program Update Report)

### Proceedings in Brief

The CPO provided an update on progress in planning for the 2011 program. The SCCG in partnership with its Member Councils promotes the range of activities that encourage the community to enjoy Sydney's coastal and estuarine environments throughout January. The update covered the:

- Promotion and sponsorship of events.
- Finalizing events and dates.
- Distribution of promotional materials

Delegates were informed that an email had been sent to the SAP Champions on 7 October, asking for information on activities being run by Councils, to be returned by 29 October 2010. Champions were asked to make a special effort to promote the SAP internally and through existing networks.

The CPO talked about an improved marketing strategy this year that included conducting a social media campaign. The SCCG website will be the hub for information about activities and all the media will direct people here. This year the CPO will be trying to get plug's for the program in as many newsletters, enews, local publications, on event calendars and what's happening lists as possible.

The CPO informed the group the brochures and information packages will be distributed at the end of November as well as promotional materials. SCCG have approached Coastcare for funding and are waiting on an update, but will also look into other opportunities. The CPO asked the Technical Committee delegates to support the SAP Champions as much as possible, especially with the internal promotion of the program.

#### **Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. Technical Committee delegates to support SAP Champions the internal promotion of the program.

## 6.5 National Coastal Management Conference – Coast to Coast 2010 *Actions for Change*

### Proceedings in Brief

Coast to Coast is the renowned, and only, National Coastal Management Conference, when all with interest on coastal, estuarine and marine matters get together, every two years, to celebrate Australia's coasts, and share knowledge and experiences on management, science, policy, governance, activism and many other topics. The SCCG Secretariat attended the National Coast to Coast Conference held 20-24 September 2010 in Adelaide. The following two papers were delivered by the SCCG at the conference:

- C. Morrison and R. Walmsley - *Is the Law a Useful Communication Tool in a Changing Climate?*
- D. Anning - *Understanding the Economic Impact of Coastal Management Decisions*

More information can be found at [www.coast2coast.org.au/](http://www.coast2coast.org.au/)

#### **Resolved that:**

1. The report be received and noted.
2. Technical Committee delegates wanting copies of presentations from Coast to Coast 2010 contact the Secretariat

## 6.6 Member Councils' Initiatives and Projects

### Proceedings in Brief

#### **Round Table Issues and Needs**

The Chair thanked delegates for providing their initiatives reports before the meeting. The initiatives report will soon be available on the SCCG website in PDF format and tabled at the next Full Group Meeting for Councillor Delegate information. For further information go to:

[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/activities/membercouncils](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/activities/membercouncils)

**Flood Education** The Manly Council delegate sought examples of councils or state agencies undertaking community education campaigns around flood awareness. It was recommended that they speak to Pittwater and Brisbane City Councils as well as look at the resources provided by through the *Floodsafe* Program facilitated by the NSW State Emergency Services Department. <http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/topics/2227.html>

**Flood and Estuary Studies (Leichhardt Council)** The draft Leichhardt Flood Study, Draft Estuarine Planning Levels Study and draft amendment to the DCP were on public exhibition from Thursday, 2 September 2010 to Thursday, 30 September 2010. Leichhardt Council is proposing to amend Section A3a.0 (Sustainable Water & Risk Management) of Council's Development Control Plan (DCP 2000). The amendments involve changes to the maps that identify those properties which are designated as flood control lots. These amendments have resulted from the completion of the Draft Leichhardt Flood Study and Draft Estuarine Planning Levels Study which identified the impact of flooding as a consequence of major storm events throughout the Local Government Area. More information can be found at: <http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/SPContent.aspx?PageID=444&ItemID=69&count=1>

**Flood Studies (Randwick Council)** Randwick City Council has committed to carrying out Flood Studies and preparing Floodplain Management Plans. They are carried out in accordance with the Floodplain Development Manual (NSW Government) and will allow Council to manage flooding in storm events. Flood studies will be done for the Green Square and West Kensington, Kensington - Centennial Park, Maroubra Bay and Coogee Bay catchments. At present individual developments produce their own flood study and determine appropriate flood planning levels until such time as the Floodplain Management Process is completed for each catchment in Randwick. The studies being undertaken by Council will provide far greater accuracy and consistency than those currently being provided by individual developers.

**Estuary Studies (Woollahra Council)** DECCW has awarded Woollahra Council funding to undertake Stage 1 of an Estuary Management Plan. Council is currently writing a brief/scope of works.

**Sydney Harbour Water Quality Improvement Plan** Delegates were informed that the SMCMA was holding a workshop with councils in the Sydney Harbour Catchment to discuss the development of a Sydney Harbour Water Quality Improvement Plan. The Plan would be very similar to the Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Plan which seek to achieve long-term protection of the surface waters of Botany Bay, its estuaries and its catchment. The Sydney Harbour Water Quality Improvement Plan would primarily be focused on the pollutants washing off the hard surfaces in the catchment (suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorus) and engage with councils and key stakeholders in the Sydney Harbour Catchment so they can participate in finding and implementing innovative solutions to improve water quality in the catchment.

**Water Recycling Workshop** The SMCMA and Sydney Water partnered to facilitate a Water Recycling Workshop for local councils in conjunction with the NSW Government's Office of Water and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This workshop, was based on a previous event developed by SCCG. The aim of the workshop was to discuss actions and initiatives to facilitate water recycling projects and to build pro-active relationships between councils, Sydney Water and other NSW Government Agencies responsible for recycling. Ultimately this will aid the identification, development, approval and delivery of suitable recycling projects.

**Funding for Water for Recycling (Stormwater and Sewage) Projects:** WSUD Project coordinator, Kate Black noted that funding was available (until 30 June 2012) from the NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water's Office for Water for Recycling (Stormwater and Sewage) Projects' on-ground works. Projects must meet the following criteria.

1. Stormwater and Sewage Recycling Projects only will be considered;
2. Construction of on-ground works must be completed by 30 June 2012;
3. Projects must be situated within Sydney Water Corporation's area of operations;
4. The proposed projects' concept designs must be completed and submitted with the funding request;
5. Projects which deliver high volumes of recycled water will be given preference;
6. Innovative projects that demonstrate value for money (based on recycling volumes and production cost/kilolitre) will be given a priority. For example. Projects may include passive pre-treatment (eg. filtration systems (eg. raingardens) or constructed wetlands) followed by active or mechanical treatment for polishing and disinfection;
7. Councils must provide evidence of approved budget allocation (eg. confirmation with either Director or General Manger signed approval) to part fund project;
8. Project viability should be calculated using a recycled water production cost of \$AUSDollars/kilolitre based on capital and ongoing annual operation and maintenance costs;
9. Councils should consider opportunities to stage project deliverables in terms of future project expansion and may also like to consider developing projects with adjoining or catchment based councils;
10. All projects should demonstrate that the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling, Phase 1 and 2 have been considered.

It was recommended Member Councils delegate contact the Office of Water as soon as possible and before submitting an application to discuss your project scope and whether it meets the above criteria via AJ Jack, Manager Recycled Water, NSW Office of Water on (02) 8281 7743 or [aj.jack@water.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aj.jack@water.nsw.gov.au)

**Toxic Algal Blooms** The Hornsby Council delegate informed the committee that Hornsby Council had experience a toxic algal bloom in Calabash Bay, Berowra Creek. This resulted in Calabash Bay needing to be closed for commercial and recreational use until the bloom subsided. The Hornsby Council delegated noted that coordination and communication between the relevant State Government agencies could have been better during the bloom. Hornsby Council received very little communication from the relevant State Government agencies as to what actions they were undertaking to mitigate the impacts of bloom on commercial operations and recreational users.

To assist in monitoring water quality with the water ways of Hornsby Shire Council, council has deployed five probes in order to monitor estuarine health between Wisemans Ferry and Broken Bay. All the probes are set-up on monitoring buoys from which near real time data is transmitted by telemetry to secure websites. See the map below for specific location of the probes. The data collected will be used to assess and improve current management practices within the estuary by state and local government. The data will also fill data gaps in the current development of an estuarine hydrodynamic model for the river. The model output will link to Council's GIS data which will have many different applications. For example, it will assist in predicting risks to the different habitat types under different climate change scenarios. This model will enable Council to appropriately manage the estuary ensuring that sites with potential risks are suitably protected. More information can be found at <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/index.cfm?NavigationID=2518>

**Electric Cars** The City of Sydney now owns one of Australia's first electric cars as part of its vehicle fleet. The car uses a lithium-ion battery and runs on a high output electronic motor, which means that no petrol is fuelled and zero greenhouse gas emissions are released. The car can reach tops of 130kms per hour and can completely recharge in under 8 hours using a standard 15 amp power point. The City of Sydney Council is now has one of Australia's first public roadside electric vehicle charging station. The station will recharge a converted plug-in hybrid Toyota Prius in three hours using 100 per cent GreenPower from Origin.

**Energy Savings Plans and Reporting** DECCW will shortly be releasing revised guidelines for the preparation of Energy Savings Actions Plans. The Sutherland Council delegate noted that such guidelines should include standards for data collection and reporting. The Mosman Delegate also noted that Mosman Council was in the process of developing an energy savings action plan and would appreciate greater guidance on monitoring and reporting.

**Climate Change Adaptation Plan** Delegates were informed that councils would soon be required to develop climate change adaptation plans. Funding for the preparation of these plans would be provided through the Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment Program (WaSIP). It was resolved that the SCCG would write to DECCW regarding the development of adaptation plans and a recommendation that the monitoring and reporting of both energy and water saving actions plans be linked with the adaptation plans.

**Caring for Our Coast** (*Engaging NSW Communities in Coastline Conservation*) The 3 medium scale and 9 small scale projects which make up SMCMA's contribution to this NSW cross-regional project are progressing well. To date 137 volunteers have been involved in the projects, 4.45ha of coastal native vegetation has been enhanced/ rehabilitated and 3.76ha of weed control has been undertaken. The projects will continue until the end of April 2011. A summary of all projects is now available on the SMCMA's website.

**SMCMA Catchment Action Plan** is now available to download from CMA's website, <http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au>

**Currawong Proposal** The Pittwater Delegate noted that Pittwater Council had received another development proposal at the Currawong Site. It was noted that council was concerned about the potential groundwater and associated geotechnical impacts of the proposal and was seeking examples of development controls for proposals impacting groundwater. It was recommended that they look at chapter five of the SCCG Groundwater Management Handbook ([www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/GroundwaterManagementHandbook.pdf](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/GroundwaterManagementHandbook.pdf)) and contact Woollahra Councils who have some experience in dealing with groundwater and associated geotechnical impacts and development.

**Waverley Oval Sports Complex Development** the Waverley Council delegate noted that construction of the Waverley Oval Sports Complex had been delayed due to suspected leak from a Sydney Water storage pond (holding desalinated water) entering the site. Approximately 50 kilolitres of water per day are flowing through the site. Waverley council are considering a number of options including re-designing the development or diverting and re-using the water. Both of these options would add additional cost to the development. To date Sydney Water had not confirmed that the water was coming from the storage pond and had been provided limited assistance in addressing the issue.

**Setting Council Emissions Targets** The Mosman Council delegate noted that Mosman Council is in the process for setting an emission target for council activities but had decided against setting a broader target for the community of Mosman. This is consistent with a number of other Member Councils.

**Energy Saving Activities** Mosman Council has completed and is in the process of submitting its WASIP Action Plan for 2010/11 to DECCW. Additionally Mosman Council has completed a lighting retrofit of the Council Chambers and Civic Centre.

**Removal of seaweed from beaches** The Rockdale Council delegate noted that DECCW had informed Council that it needed to do an assessment of the impacts removal of sea weed from beaches had on Endangered Ecological Communities. The Rockdale delegates was advised that as the sea weed was being removed from land below mean high tide, and therefore not land managed by Councils, it should seek further guidance from DECCW in relation to responsibilities for the removal of the sea weed. It was also recommended that Rockdale Council seek advice from Sydney Water about the approvals it has sought to undertake similar activities within Botany Bay.

**Beach cleaning** The Rockdale council delegate sought information from other committee members what do councils do with rubbish collected from beach cleaning activities. It was recommended that they contact the staff responsible for managing beach cleaning activities from both Waverley and Manly Councils and seek information on cleaning regularity and times, budgets, removal and processing of rubbish as well as public education activities.

**Cooper Park Community Day** Woollahra Council held the Cooper Creek Community Day on 10 October 2010. Over 200 attended, 300 reusable bags and 100 herbs were given away, Costa from Costa's Garden Adventures held a workshop of a 'no dig organic garden'. The day was held to launch restoration works being carried out in the park and create interest within the community for the park.

**Low carbon Communities** Delegates were informed that during the Federal Election Campaign the Labour Government committed \$80 million to support local councils and communities to take action on climate change and transition to a greener, cheaper future through the Low carbon Communities project. The Low Carbon Communities initiative will help local councils and communities to cut pollution and reduce their energy costs through energy efficient upgrades to street lighting, community facilities and council buildings. The initiative will also assist communities to reduce pollution through investment in cogeneration facilities or energy efficient upgrades to community sites such as stadiums, education facilities, town halls or nursing homes. More information can be found at [www.alp.org.au/agenda/more---policies/low-carbon-communities/](http://www.alp.org.au/agenda/more---policies/low-carbon-communities/)

It was noted information about that this election commitment could not be found on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website. It was resolved that the SCCG would write to the Prime Minister and Department to seek further information about the program.

**Designing and maintaining co-generation and tri-generation** The North Sydney Delegate noted that council had some limited budget to build a cogeneration plant and was seeking guidance on issue to consider in the design and maintenance of cogeneration systems. It was recommended that they speak the City of Sydney in relation to their experience with developing and delivering both cogeneration and trigeneration systems.

**Resolved that:**

1. The reports be received and noted.
2. The SCCG write to DECCW regarding the development of adaptation plans and a recommendation that the monitoring and reporting of both energy and water saving actions plans be linked with the adaptation plans
3. The SCCG write to the Prime Minister and Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to seek further information about the Low Carbon Communities Program.

**AGENDA ITEMS BELOW FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**6.7 SCCG Program/ Grant Updates**

**2010 Natural Resource Management Funding Guide**

Funding is available under a variety of grant programs for councils, individuals, businesses and communities to help develop and fund solutions to local and national challenges, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance. The SCCG has produced the 2010 Natural Resource Management Funding Guide copies of the guide can be downloaded from:

[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/2010SCCGFundingGuide.pdf](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/documents/2010SCCGFundingGuide.pdf)

## Briefing Notes

### **Recently unsuccessful applications:**

#### **Environmental Trust Research Program.**

1. “Sydney 2100: Managing perceptions of changing coastal environments” (with Randall Pearce) **(invited to submit full application)**

#### **National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) – (Settlements and Infrastructure)**

1. **Vulnerability assessment of critical infrastructure:** (Key project partners: Sydney Water and DECCW) Assess the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to climate change extreme events, based on historical evidence and future projections. **(successful in being invited to submit a full application)**

### **Grant projects underway:**

#### **SMCMA Coastal Community Engagement Grants:**

Summer Activities Program and Coastal Connections Strategy

#### **Community Action Grant Application:**

“Quantifying the Value of Sydney Beaches in order to assess cost / benefit of necessary coastal protection / abatement measures as a result of enhanced climate change impacts”.

#### **Urban Sustainability Program**

“Urban Sustainability Support Alliance”, (LGSA; Blacktown, Albury, DECCW, LGMA; SCCG).

#### **Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (Offshore Sands for Beach Nourishment)**

“Scoping Study for the extraction of sand reserves from the ‘Sydney Shelf Sand Body’ for development protection and augmentation of beach systems under immediate threat from coastal storm activity

<b>Resolved that</b> the report be received and noted.
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## **6.8 SCCG Submissions / Advocacy**

1. *Draft Minister’s Requirements under the Coastal Protection Act 1979*

<b>Resolved that</b> the report be received and noted.
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## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Monitoring & Reporting CC Adaptation in Local Governments in Sydney**

The SCCG is working with the *Institute of Environmental Studies* at the University of NSW via Research Student Timo Leiter, to investigate reporting and monitoring of adaptation to climate change within its Member Councils. This research builds upon the ‘*Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation in Metropolises*’ project, undertaken by the SCCG in 2007 and 2008.

Five SCCG Member Councils will be selected shortly to participate as case studies in this research. Data will be collected during one-hour interviews conducted by Timo Leiter. Staff with emerging responsibility for managing climate change adaptation will be invited to participate. It is expected that this will include two to three staff. The major benefits of this Masters research include:

- Better understanding of how councils approach monitoring & reporting of adaptation measures
- Opportunities for learning among SCCG councils and from councils of other jurisdictions
- Identification of best practises in mainstreaming adaptation
- Providing a provision of research so to enable development of a climate change adaptation monitoring framework for local government and others

<b>Resolved that</b> the report be received and noted.
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## 7.2 Next meeting

**Resolved that:**

1. The next meeting and be held on Thursday 9 December 2010
2. The location of the next meeting and the activity for the Technical Committee Christmas Party will be at North Head.

## 7.3 Agenda Items for next Technical Committee meeting

**Resolved that** representatives suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next Technical Committee meeting to be held 9 December 2010.

### Field Trip: The Barangaroo Development

The meeting was followed by a field trip to the Barangaroo Development. The Barangaroo Development proposal encompasses a 22 hectare parcel of land on Sydney Harbour being developed to provide residential and commercial opportunities as well as the creation of a new public park on Sydney Harbour. Sustainability aspects of the proposal include the establishment of district infrastructure such as decentralised water recycling, district chilled water service and new renewable energy generation, providing locally generated services precinct wide and beyond to support the existing built fabric of the CBD. This will result in the creation of:

- A water positive community by recycling and exporting more water than Barangaroo uses.
- A zero waste community by potentially reusing, reducing recycling more waste (from surrounding area) than Barangaroo generates.
- A carbon neutral community by generating more renewable energy than total net green house gas emissions from Barangaroo.

Development of the Barangaroo site is being managed by Barangaroo Delivery Authority, established under the *Barangaroo Delivery Authority Act 2009*, and Barangaroo Sustainability Manager Tony Watson, will provide delegates with a tour of site and discuss the infrastructure concepts and sustainability initiatives to be delivered as part of the development. More information about the Barangaroo Development and its sustainability components can be found at:

[www.barangaroo.com](http://www.barangaroo.com)

<http://www.barangaroo.com/downloads/Barangaroo%20Sustain%20Diagram%20web.pdf>