



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC.

councils **caring** for the coastal environment

Policy Recommendations on the Key Coastal Management Issues Federal Election 2016

Political Party Response Report

June 2016

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC.
456 Kent Street
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Sydney NSW 2001
www.sydneycostalouncils.com.au



INTRODUCTION

The July 2016 Australian Federal Election presents an opportune time for political parties to make strong commitments to sustainable management of our coastline.

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) has formulated five key policy positions and associated recommendations that we believe will contribute significantly to the sustainable management of the Australian coast. These are:

- 1. A National Coastal Management Initiative**
- 2. Coastal Hazards: A Consistent and Coordinated Approach to Natural Hazards Management**
- 3. Water Management for Cities**
- 4. National Action on Plastics Pollution**
- 5. Funding for Community Coastal Programs**

A copy of our full policy recommendations document is provided as Appendix 1, and is available from the SCCG website [here](#).

In May 2016 we wrote to the following political parties contesting the 2016 election asking whether or not they supported our recommendations, and the actions they will undertake to address the issues identified:

Animal Justice Party
 Australian Democrats Party
 Australian Labor Party
 Christian Democratic Party
 Family First Party

The Greens (Australian Greens) Party
 Liberal Democratic Party
 Liberal Party of Australia
 National Party of Australia
 Nick Xenophon Team Inc.

Responses

Responses have been received from the following parties:

Australian Democrats Party
 Australian Labour Party
 Christian Democratic Party
 Liberal-National Coalition
 The Greens Party

Responses received are included in this report in alphabetical order.

A copy of each response is attached.

Next steps

This report is provided to our Member Councils as well as other State and National coastal stakeholders. Responses provide a benchmark for future coastal advocacy activities. This will include direct engagement with the government. The government's performance against sustainable coastal management will be monitored and evaluated.

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group

The SCCG are a Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) representing twelve councils in the Sydney coastal region, equating to approximately 1.3 million people. We are the peak NSW ROC for sustainable coastal management, with over 25 years of experience leading sustainable coastal management. We achieve this by harnessing the individual and collective knowledge of our Member Councils, a suite of technical and academic experts and other coastal stakeholders. Accordingly, we are able to provide unique insights drawing upon the technical, experiential and local knowledge of a range of practitioners in coastal management.

Australia's 35,877 kilometre¹ coastline is one of our most valuable national assets. More than 85% of Australians live within 50 kilometres of the coast² and the coastal population continues to grow, placing increasing pressures on natural values. The sustainable management of marine and coastal assets for the benefit of all Australians, now and in the future, requires coordinated action from all levels of government.

Contact information

If you have any queries, please contact us:

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No response was received from the Animal Justice Party to our policy recommendations.

The Animal Justice Party has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Environment](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[Wildlife and Sustainability](#)

[Great Barrier Reef](#)

[Marine Animals](#)



NATIONAL

GPO BOX 573, GOODWOOD SA 5034
Phone: (08) 7070 6070 Fax: (08) 7070 6050
Email: inquiries@australian-democrats.org.au

Antonina Pilat
Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc
Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street
GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Tuesday, 21 June 2016

Dear Antonina,

Thank you for your letter requesting the Australian Democrats policy position on Coastal Management issues.

It is always great to hear from community organisations such as yours and we look forward to working with you in the future to help protect our precious coastlines and estuaries.

Nothing has demonstrated the challenges facing our coastal zone like the recent storm damage to Sydney's beaches, council property and infrastructure as well as private buildings and dwellings.

The Australian Democrats support your organisation's recommendations in full however would consult widely to ensure the views of communities are heard on the following recommendations to ensure fairness and a mutually acceptable approach:

- Coastal Hazards – Recommendation 3 with regards to legal liability restrictions RE: natural hazards and council actions or omissions.

Attached is a copy of our official balloted policy.

Yours sincerely



Maxwell Baumann
NATIONAL POLICY COORDINATOR
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

Australian Democrats National Office

www.australian-democrats.org.au | inquiries@australian-democrats.org.au | Ph: (08) 7070 6070 | Fax: (08) 7070 6050

COASTS & OCEANS POLICY

Official Policy as balloted 25 May 2012

THE ISSUE

1. Australia's coasts and oceans are of vital importance to our community and economy.
2. Australia's marine environment covers twice the area of Australia's terrestrial environment, but receives scant attention.
3. The concentration of settlement and economic activity in eastern, south-eastern, and south-western coastal zones has had an enormous impact on the coastal and marine environment.
4. Future sea level rises are projected to cause significant impacts on the built and natural environments.
5. Almost 60% of Australia's fisheries are overfished and a significant number of marine and estuarine species are threatened with extinction.
6. An understanding of our ocean's past and present condition and knowledge of basic mapping is deficient, yet critical in understanding future resource management issues including climate change.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- a) To ensure the maintenance of biodiversity, to protect threatened species and to maximise habitat protection.
- b) Ensure Australia has a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) coastal and marine protected area system.
- c) To co-operate with Indigenous peoples in the sustainable conservation management of their traditional lands and waters.

POLICY ELEMENTS

The Australian Democrats will work towards:

- i. Initiating an inquiry into the need for, and design of, a *National Oceans Act*, which will establish a National Oceans Authority. The Act will:
 - a. Ensure there is a legislatively backed regional marine planning process;
 - b. Ensure all regional marine plans include target areas for marine protected areas and timelines for their proclamation;
 - c. Ensure that all decisions concerning fisheries management, shipping and mining are consistent with approved regional marine plans.
- ii. Rapidly expand the National Reserve System program to ensure Australia has a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) coast and marine protected area system.
- iii. Ensuring that the expansion of the National Reserve System is accompanied by an associated increase in the resources needed for orderly conservation planning and management, including the ongoing provision of well-trained staff to implement Coastal and Marine Management Plans.
- iv. Increasing the resources available for the protection and conservation of coastal and marine areas, including programs to improve water quality in rivers that discharge into coastal and marine areas.
- v. Supporting programs that identify, control or eliminate coastal and marine invasive species, including programs that stop the introduction of new pest species.

- vi. Supporting and expanding no-take (or green zones) in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- vii. Increasing resources available for research into the conservation status of coastal and marine species.
- viii. Committing to recurrent funding for the oceanographic research vessel program.
- ix. Increasing funding for the systematic collection of hydrographic and oceanographic data from Australia's coastal and oceanic waters.
- x. Ensuring Australian fisheries are harvested at sustainable levels based on sound scientific evidence, and ensure that effort and catch data is publically available for all Australian fisheries.
- xi. Increasing surveillance of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone to stop illegal fishing activities and poaching of threatened marine species.
- xii. Funding programs that reduce fisheries by-catch such as albatross, petrels, sea turtle and sharks, from both commercial and recreational fishing.
- xiii. Establishing national guidelines for aquaculture developments in coastal and marine areas.
- xiv. Increasing the involvement of Indigenous communities in the management of coastal and marine areas.
- xv. Reducing or, if possible, eliminating sewage, stormwater and industrial discharge to marine and estuarine areas (including discharges from ships) and ensuring there are strict environmental regulations and enforcement concerning discharges to marine and estuarine areas including through aquaculture.
- xvi. Establishing a nationally co-ordinated Coastal Inundation Mitigation Plan due to sea level rise as a result of climate change.
- xvii. Supporting a strict compliance and risk management review of offshore oil and gas exploration, production processes and facilities.





21 June 2016

Cr Lynne Saville
Chairperson
Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc
C/- City of Sydney Council
GPO Box 1591
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: Geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Dear Councillor

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, regarding key coastal management issues for the 2016 Federal Election.

1. A National Coastal Management Initiative

Labor supports the National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Zone Management Framework and Implementation Plan developed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council.

The Plan is an important means of bringing together federal, state and local government jurisdictions given the national and international responsibilities of the Federal government, the coastal zone responsibilities of state and territory governments and the land planning and management responsibilities shared by state and local governments.

We note the concerns contained in the 2009 report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts inquiry *Managing our coastal zone in a changing climate: the time to act is now* that the Plan lacks a sufficient implementation and funding structure.

BILL SHORTEN AND LABOR. WE'LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

However, the Committee also fully endorsed the concept of the integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) as central to best practice coastal zone management.

In government, Labor will carefully consider the outcomes of the Plan to date and consider what further steps are needed to improved ICZM, given the urgent challenges facing Australia's coastal communities. It has been suggested that convening a national meeting to raise the profile of the issue and to review current activities would be beneficial.

2. Coastal Hazards: A Consistent and Coordinated Approach to Natural Hazards Management

Labor will continue to implement the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience which identifies priority areas to build disaster resilience in communities across Australia.

Disaster resilience is a shared responsibility for individuals, households, businesses and communities, as well as for governments. Labor will work with all levels of government to ensure local communities understand potential risks and are capable of mitigating them. Labor will support sustained behavioural change and enduring partnerships.

Labor will work with Australia's regional neighbours and partners to encourage the exchange of information, capabilities and expertise as well as operational assistance and cooperation during emergency situations.

Mitigation is vital in preventing loss of life and damage to property caused by natural disasters. Labor will work with the States and Territories to ensure national, state and local disaster plans, strategies and program funding reflect this.

3. Water Management for Cities

When in government, Labor invested more than \$1.5 billion in the 2008 Budget in programs for desalination, water recycling, stormwater harvesting and research in new technologies. Through this funding, the former Labor Government supported many of the innovative and practical projects put forward by state and local governments, assisting the development of an integrated approach to urban water management.

The stormwater harvesting and reuse projects funded by Labor provided billions of litres of treated stormwater a year and improved water security by diversifying water supplies available in urban areas. Several of the projects provided treated stormwater for irrigation of community sportsgrounds, parks, gardens and golf courses, and some used treated stormwater for industrial purposes. These projects were part of the Federal Government's National Urban Water and Desalination Plan, which supported urban areas to secure water supplies and reduced reliance on traditional water sources.

As part of the Water for the Future initiative, the former Labor Government delivered the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative, which helped people use water wisely in their everyday lives. The Federal Government provided:

- Rebates of up to \$500 for households to install a new rainwater tank(s) or greywater system.
- Grants to surf lifesaving clubs of up to \$10,000 to install a rainwater tank or undertake a larger water saving project.

In 2012, the former Labor Government established the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities to work with more than 70 research, industry and government partners to find new and better ways to use and reuse Australia's scarce water resources. The CRC for Water Sensitive Cities collaboration is still in operation and a new round of funding opened in February 2016.

Also in 2012, Labor's minister for industry and innovation, Greg Combet, launched the Australian Water Supplier Compact. The Compact encourages Australian water suppliers and urban utilities to deliver benefits for the industry, the economy and the environment. Mr Combet also announced a \$700,000 grant to increase opportunities for local water companies to win contracts in the United States.

Labor extended the National Water Commission and its ongoing provision of robust and transparent oversight of Council of Australian Governments (COAG) water reform through the National Water Initiative – an intergovernmental agreement between the Federal Government and the States and Territories which was designed to improve the management of the nation's water resources. The National Water Commission was scrapped by the Abbott-Turnbull Government in 2014.

In August 2012, the former Labor Government announced it would provide more than \$42 million to deliver nine innovative and sustainable stormwater harvesting and re-use projects to help secure water supplies in urban areas across Australia. Senator Don Farrell, parliamentary secretary for sustainability and urban water, stated these projects would provide more than 5.5 billion litres of treated storm water a year and improve water security by diversifying water supplies available in urban areas.

4. National Action on Plastics Pollution

A Shorten Labor Government would actively support the States and Territories in developing their own container deposit schemes, but if this hasn't happened by 2020, Labor would revisit the issue with an eye to federal legislation.

Labor continues to support a coordinated, efficient approach to the management of packaging waste that has the support of all levels of government, the community and industry.

Labor supports a ban on microbeads in personal care products.

5. Funding for Community Coastal Programs

Labor introduced federally-funded Financial Assistance Grants in 1974 and we have been unwavering in our support for the direct allocation of funding to local government since that time.

This funding arrangement is vital to ensure local government can deliver the services and infrastructure our communities deserve.

Like you, Labor was extremely disappointed by the Abbott-Turnbull Government's indexation freeze on Financial Assistance Grants, which ripped \$925 million out of the budgets of every council and shire.

Of most concern was that this decision was taken without any analysis or consultation with local government.

A Shorten Labor Government is committed to working with local government as a genuine partner, rather than imposing decisions upon you as the Abbott-Turnbull Government has done.

Labor recognises local government needs certainty and sufficient funding to carry out its role and responsibilities, including protecting local environment.

A Shorten Labor Government will continue to provide certainty of direct Federal Government support to local government and work with you to ensure the delivery of funding is efficient and achieves good outcomes for our communities.

If elected, Labor will consider whether specific community coastal programs require funding and support and if a specific grant funding round is required.

To read more about what Labor stands for, visit www.alp.org.au

Yours sincerely

ALP Information Services Unit

Australian Labor Campaign Headquarters

www.alp.org.au



The Australian Labor Party also has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Plan For Our Cities](#)

[Building Jobs and Industry While Tackling Climate Change](#)

[Net Zero Pollution by 2050](#)

[50% Renewables by 2030](#)

[Cut Pollution – Emissions Trading Scheme](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Plan](#)

[Marine Parks: Protecting our Oceans and Fisheries](#)



A response was received from the Christian Democratic Party on 7 June 2016.
Please find this response below:

Dear Geoff

Thank you for your Paper Key Coastal Management Issues. I am pleased to say that we support the Recommendations as outlined in your paper.

I will advise all Candidates in the Sydney region.

Regards and Blessings



Greg Bondar
State Director and Candidate for Federal Seat of Banks
Christian Democratic Party (CDP)



THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



14 June 2016

Cr Lynne Saville
Chairperson
Sydney Coastal Councils
Via email: admin@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Dear Cr Saville,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your policy document.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', followed by a stylized flourish or checkmark.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS

Coastal Management Initiative, Natural Hazards Management and Coastal Programmes

The Coalition's Smart Cities Plan, launched by the Prime Minister on 29 April 2016, provides a foundation for ongoing reform and cooperative action in cities, both regional and metropolitan.

The plan represents a new framework for cities policy at the Federal level that will guide action across various portfolios, including actions through the environment portfolio that improve air and water quality.

Through the Smart Cities Plan, the Coalition will work more closely with State and Local Governments to deliver outcomes at the local level through 'City Deals' – agreements between all levels of government and the private sector, which establish a shared vision for a city or region, and commitments to the investment and reforms needed to deliver growth, jobs, housing and environmental outcomes. Underpinned by City Deals, Government funding will be more strategic and linked to reform. A key focus of each City Deal will be the delivery of certainty and consistency in planning.

The Coalition's Smart Cities Plan also recognises the important role of Local Government in shaping our cities, both regional and metropolitan. The Coalition is helping local councils deliver vital services and local infrastructure, investing \$3.2 billion for local road improvements, between 2014–15 and 2018–19, in addition to the Government's annual Financial Assistance Grants for local governments, worth \$2.3 billion in 2015-16. The Coalition will also resume indexation of Financial Assistance Grants in 2017-18 and approximately \$9.7 billion will be distributed to Councils from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Our Smart Cities Plan will continue to build on this significant investment in our cities.

The Coalition Government provided \$9 million in funding for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) in the 2014-15 Budget. NCCARF supports councils to prepare for and manage the risks of climate change and sea-level rise with practical, hands-on tools and information.

The Turnbull Coalition has created an Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub under the \$145 million National Environmental Science Programme. The Hub will improve understanding of coastal and climate processes. It will provide coastal planners, developers and decision-makers with the information they need to manage risks now and in the future, and respond to the unavoidable impacts.

While States have primary responsibility for emergency management, the Federal Government also has a role in supporting those affected by natural disasters. The Turnbull Coalition will always stand ready to assist Australian communities in need.

The Coalition is committed to consulting on developing an upfront assessment model for disaster recovery to provide more autonomy and flexibility for States and Local Governments undertaking recovery activities. We have no plans to alter the current disaster funding arrangements.

We are also committed to investing in mitigation projects to minimise the impacts of disasters when they occur. The Turnbull Government provides \$26 million each year to States and Local Governments for the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience; \$15 million over three years for the National Bushfire Mitigation Programme; and \$15 million each year to National Aerial Firefighting Arrangements.

Marine Parks

The Coalition recognises the value of Australia's network of marine protected areas. We are committed to ensuring the ongoing health of our marine biodiversity while supporting sustainable use and access to marine resources.

The Turnbull Government's commitment is reflected in the \$56 million of new funding for Commonwealth marine reserves announced in the 2016-17 Budget. This funding will establish a world-class management programme for the reserves, support commercial fishers affected by the reserves; provide more opportunities for engagement with recreational fishers and community groups; promote local growth in tourism; and protect marine areas. The Coalition will continue to consult with relevant stakeholders to ensure the successful operation of our marine reserves.

A re-elected Coalition Government will prepare new management plans for the South-West, North-West, North and Temperate East Networks and the Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve, within the next 12 months. This will involve two opportunities for public comments. The new plans will be based on the recommendations of a major independent review tasked with listening to the community and considering the balance between environmental, social and economic interests.

Until new management plans come into effect, there are no 'on the water' changes for marine reserves and the protections that were in place before November 2012 will still apply.

The South-East Network of marine reserves was not subject to the independent review, nor was the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, which also received an additional \$171 million in the Budget.

Fossil Fuel Subsidies

The Coalition Government does not provide subsidies for the production of fossil fuels or subsidies that encourage the inefficient or wasteful consumption of fossil fuels.

The Fuel Tax Credit – often mistaken for a subsidy – is based on an economy-wide tax offsets principle that applies to all business inputs. This principle has been used in Australia for many decades, for example tax credits are also given to businesses for any GST they pay on inputs.

The Treasury, the Productivity Commission and Bill Shorten all agree that fuel tax credits are not subsidies.

Renewable Energy

Only the Turnbull Coalition team has an ambitious, responsible plan for renewable energy. The Coalition Government's renewable energy policies will ensure 23.5 per cent of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020. This will see a doubling of large scale renewable projects.

The Government is continuing to help households install rooftop solar panels and solar hot water systems through rebates under the Renewable Energy Target. So far, more than 2.5 million households and businesses have solar systems. Australia has the world's highest penetration rate of solar PV on household roofs—15 per cent. This is more than double the next highest.

The Turnbull Government has established a \$1 billion Clean Energy Innovation Fund, which will help emerging clean energy technologies make the leap from demonstration to commercial deployment.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) are driving innovation in clean energy technologies and creating the jobs of the future, including a \$350 million solar programme.

At the local level, we are also helping community organisations go solar through our Solar Communities commitment. This will help hundreds of local community organisations make the switch to solar, such as local sporting clubs, scout halls and community centres.

The Coalition reinvigorated the Renewable Energy Target by fixing the mess left by Labor. When the Coalition was elected in 2013, the Renewable Energy Target was headed for failure. The constant and ad-hoc policy changes introduced by the previous Labor Government had created a huge bank of phantom Renewable Energy Certificates. This was undermining investment in renewable energy.

Labor also gave the brown coal power stations \$5.5 billion, no strings attached.

Labor does not have a plan to achieve its new renewable energy target, nor has Labor estimated the costs. External cost estimates for Labor's target by 2030 vary between \$48 billion and \$85 billion depending on assumptions about network and transmissions upgrades. It is clear this is a very significant cost that would be borne by Australian families, pensioners and businesses.

Water Management for Cities

As stated in the Government's response to the Competition Policy Review, the Coalition believes that full implementation of the National Water Initiative (NWI) would deliver effective water

planning, secure water entitlements, and ensure the risks associated with changes in future water availability are shared between governments and water users. It would result in economically efficient water use and improved environmental water outcomes.

The Coalition Government has played a significant role in establishing and encouraging effective water planning, open water markets and effective water accounting, particularly in the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin plan.

Primary responsibility for water management lies with State and Territory Governments. The Coalition continues to encourage States and Territories to implement NWI principles in full, including through conditional water infrastructure funding.

The Coalition is happy to consider a refresh or update of the NWI if it is agreed to by the States and Territories.

Urban water management and development policy is the responsibility of State and Local Governments.

Plastics Pollution

Waste issues are primarily the responsibility of State and Local Governments. The Commonwealth Government largely plays a coordinating role and implements measures in areas of national priority.

The Coalition has taken a number of steps to tackle the detrimental impact of plastics on our environment.

The Coalition has worked with States and Territories to announce plans to achieve a voluntary phase-out of microbeads by no later than July 2018. We will continue to work with companies towards a voluntary phase-out of microbeads. If by 1 July 2017 it is clear that the voluntary phase-out will not achieve what is effectively a widespread ban on microbeads, we will take action to implement a ban in law.

The Coalition has committed \$60,000 of priority funding under the National Environment Science Programme (NESP) to kick-start research into the major sources of marine plastic waste and determine the most cost-effective options to reduce its volume.

The Turnbull Coalition has provided funding to support the important work of Clean Up Australia and Keep Australia Beautiful, which undertake community based activities to reduce waste. In addition, we have committed to provide funding to Tangaroa Blue to tackle marine debris.

The Liberal Party of Australia also has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Protecting our Environment](#)

The National Party also has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Caring for our Environment](#)



No response was received from the Family First Party to our policy recommendations.

The Family First Party has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Climate Change](#)





Parliament of Australia
The Senate

Senator Larissa Waters

Australian Greens Senator for Queensland



Councillor Lynne Saville
Chairperson
Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.
C/- City of Sydney Council
Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street
GPO Box 1591, SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email info@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

CC: Geoff Withycombe geoff@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

28 June 2016

Australian Greens position on coastal management

Dear Councillor Saville,

I write in response to your letter of 31 May 2016 in relation to coastal management issues to offer a response on behalf of the Australian Greens.

The Australian Greens are committed to action on global warming, public investment in infrastructure for the public good, and a coordinated approach to management and protection of our coastal zone and our environment.

Please find below our responses to each of your priority coastal management issues and subsidiary recommendations outlined in the *Policy Recommendations for 2016 Federal Election* document. I have provided some brief additional commentary where appropriate.

A National Coastal Management Initiative

The Australian Greens support your recommendations. The establishment of a National Coastal Policy and a National Coastal Council or Commission would have the Australian Greens' full support. This is especially important in light of the unprecedented risks to our coastal settlement posed by global warming.

In relation to the National Marine Estate Management Strategy, the Greens have publicly committed to reinstating management plans for Australia's world-leading marine reserves at a cost of \$66 million, and provide \$69.5 million in compensation for displaced fisheries.¹

¹ <http://greens.org.au/marine>



Parliament of Australia
The Senate

Senator Larissa Waters

Australian Greens Senator for Queensland



Coastal Hazards: A Consistent and Coordinated Approach to Natural Hazards Management

The Australian Greens support your recommendations. In particular, the Australian Greens have announced a substantial commitment to climate adaptation with our *Living With Global Warming* initiative.² Our initiative includes \$370 million in federal funding over four years including:

- Double the number of paid firefighters, including both urban and rural brigades where relevant, by 2030 with an initial \$120 million over the first four years of a 10 year plan.
- Fund natural disaster preparedness such as disaster proofing infrastructure, building resilience and supporting the SES and volunteer rural fire services, with \$200 million over four years by replacing the lapsed National Disaster Resilience Program under the new National Partnership Agreement for Climate Adaptation. This amount would ramp up to \$200 million per year under a 10 year plan.
- Fund adaptation research by keeping the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility and triple current funding which is due to expire in 2017, with funding of \$10 million per year.
- Plan for rising seas, with \$5 million in funding per year to support State and Local governments to plan for the already inevitable sea level rise.

These proposals would be funded via a thermal coal export levy of \$3 per tonne, raising \$650 million per year, to account for damage caused by the burning of coal.

Extra spending on disaster-proofing our infrastructure and building resilience in our communities will pay off in the long term. Our plan would implement the Productivity Commission's recommendation that federal spending on disaster mitigation is inadequate and should be increased gradually to \$200 million per year.

The Greens have also committed to scrap fossil fuel subsidies for big polluters including fuel tax credits, accelerated depreciation and exploration incentives which would save the budget \$24 billion over four years.³

Our *Renew Australia* plan for at least 90% clean energy by 2030 includes a clear plan for the rollout of clean energy generation and a staged and orderly shutdown of coal fired generation, starting with Australia's dirtiest power station – Hazelwood.

² <http://greens.org.au/living-global-warming>

³ Australian Greens election platform, 2016 <http://greens.org.au/platform> page 47.



Parliament of Australia
The Senate

Senator Larissa Waters

Australian Greens Senator for Queensland



Water Management for Cities

The Australian Greens support your recommendations. The Australian Greens' *Building Water Resilience* initiative⁴ would invest in innovative research projects like harvesting stormwater, and will shift Australia away from inefficient practices.

From 2017 the Greens will establish a Sustainable Water Institute. This research hub, based in Adelaide, will administer \$25 million per year to improve urban water use and build water resilience. The Institute would advance research on:

- Water-sensitive urban design;
- Sustainable agriculture;
- Water recycling;
- Water efficiency; and
- Stormwater harvesting.

National Action on Plastics Pollution

The Australian Greens support your recommendations. The Australian Greens established the Senate inquiry on marine plastics, and have been working proactively to achieve long-overdue reform on waste policy.

Our *Waste Reduction* initiative⁵ would:

- Establish a Marine Plastics Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) to lead Australia's research efforts with federal funding of \$5 million per year. The Greens would also develop a comprehensive threat abatement plan on the back of the work of the CRC. The threat abatement plan would detail measures to be undertaken by the federal government to prevent and mitigate the impact of marine plastics and other debris on marine life;
- Ban microbeads if a voluntary phase-out is not effective;
- Support a nation-wide ban on single-use plastic bags by all states;
- Establish a national container deposit scheme if the states fail to act; and
- Introduce mandatory product stewardship schemes for a range of problematic waste streams, including: e-waste (including televisions, computers, mobile phones, fluorescent lights and batteries), tyres and mattresses.

The Greens would also recommit the federal government to developing a National Waste Policy in consultation with the states, including binding national targets to achieve:

⁴ <http://greens.org.au/water>

⁵ <http://greens.org.au/waste-reduction>



Parliament of Australia
The Senate

Senator Larissa Waters

Australian Greens Senator for Queensland



- 90% recovery of municipal waste by 2030;
- 75% recycling of packaging waste by 2030;
- a maximum of 10% landfilling of waste by 2030;
- mandated gas capture at large landfill sites; and
- a prohibition on incineration of waste.

This would be based on the adoption of the Circular Economy approach developed by the European Union. A National Waste Policy would provide for the harmonisation of data collection and calculation methods for waste and recycling across the states. It would also outline how all tiers of government should give concessions to recycled content during the evaluation process for procurement.

Funding for Community Coastal Programs

The Australian Greens support your recommendations. The Australian Greens' *Investing In Innovative Agriculture* initiative⁶ would support the re-establishment of coastal conservation programs such as Coastcare by committing to provide an extra \$722 million in Landcare funding over four years. This would provide real support for farmers, to boost sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. Landcare projects make a real difference to farms, waterways, coastal areas, and bushland.

Please feel free to contact my office on 07 3367 0566 if I can be of assistance.

Kind regards,

Senator Larissa Waters
Australian Greens Deputy Leader and spokesperson on climate change, environment and biodiversity

⁶ <http://greens.org.au/innovative-ag>

The Greens Party also has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Living with Global Warming](#)

[Protecting our Precious Places](#)

[Protecting the Great Barrier Reef](#)

[Repowering our Homes and Businesses](#)

[Marine Reserves](#)

[Protecting our Precious Wildlife](#)

[Renew Australia](#)

[Water](#)



No response was received from the Liberal Democrats Party to our policy recommendations.

The Liberal Democrats Party has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Energy](#)

[Environment](#)



No response was received from the Nick Xenophon Team Party to our policy recommendations.

The Nick Xenophon Team Party has policy positions on the following relevant topics. Please note this is not a full list of this party's policies. Links are provided to this party's policies as presented on their website in June 2016.

[Climate Change and Energy](#)

[Environment](#)

[Water Security](#)

**APPENDIX 1: Sydney Coastal Councils Group
Policy Recommendations on the Key Coastal
Management Issues Federal Election 2016**



Policy Recommendations on the Key Coastal Management Issues Federal Election 2016

This document has been prepared for the information and response of political parties contesting the 2016 Federal Election



INTRODUCTION

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) is a Regional Organisation of Councils representing 11 councils in the Sydney coastal region. The SCCG's mission is to lead sustainable management of the coast through collaboration, capacity building, advocacy and research.



The SCCG has delivered a range of research projects and capacity building tools relating to sustainable coastal management and natural hazard preparation (Appendix A). For more information go to www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

Australia's 35,877 kilometre¹ coastline is one of our most valuable national assets. More than 85% of Australians live within 50 kilometres of the coast² and the coastal population continues to grow, placing increasing pressures on natural values. The sustainable management of marine and coastal assets for the benefit of all Australians, now and in the future, requires coordinated action from all levels of government.

A collaborative, cross-jurisdictional approach to planning, preparing for and mitigating natural hazards, including extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and storm surges, is becoming more pressing as these events increase in frequency.

With ongoing increases in population, development, commercial, and recreational pressures facing the Australian coastal zone there is an urgent need to increase the Australian Government's role in providing leadership, guidance and support for sustainable coastal management.

This document details recommendations for policies and strategies to improve coastal management at the national scale. It has been prepared with the input of the SCCG's Technical Committee and key policy areas have been endorsed by the SCCG Executive.

The SCCG asks all major parties contesting the 2016 federal election to provide a response to our policy recommendations and information requests for our five priority coastal management issues:

- 1. A National Coastal Management Initiative**
- 2. Coastal Hazards: A Consistent and Coordinated Approach to Natural Hazards Management**
- 3. Water Management for Cities**
- 4. National Action on Plastics Pollution**
- 5. Funding for Community Coastal Programs**

The SCCG will be disseminating the information provided by each party to our Member Councils and to other regional and national stakeholders prior to the election.

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Cover images L to R: Plastic debris on beach © CSIRO; Elouera Beach © Sutherland Shire Council; April 2015 storm waves overtopping seawall © Rockdale City Council

A National Coastal Management Initiative

Desired Outcome: A National Coastal Management Initiative, incorporating a National Coastal Policy, a National Coastal Council or Commission, and a National Marine Estate Management Strategy.

CONTEXT

The SCCG believes there is an urgent need to establish national policy and governance arrangements to ensure the long term sustainable management of Australia's coastal zone. Australia's coastal zone is arguably the nation's most significant environmental asset, and it is critically important to the nation's social and economic prosperity. As the world's largest island under ever increasing stresses, being managed by multiple jurisdictions within a very complex regulatory, policy and practice environment, there is clear need to develop a National Coastal Management Initiative including the following three core elements.

1) A National Coastal Policy

Australia's coastal zone is facing unprecedented environmental, climate change, population growth, infrastructure renewal and competition pressures. Despite numerous national and state coastal zone inquiries, Australia has not had a national policy since the 1995 document *Living on the Coast – The Commonwealth Coastal Policy*³.

There is now an urgent need to re-develop a cooperative coastal policy that provides specific national decision making principles and national objectives for sustainable resource use, nature conservation, public participation in decision making, knowledge and capacity building. The policy should also better define jurisdictional responsibilities and develop agreed management actions to address the shared interests of national, state and local governments for a sustainable, productive and resilient coast.

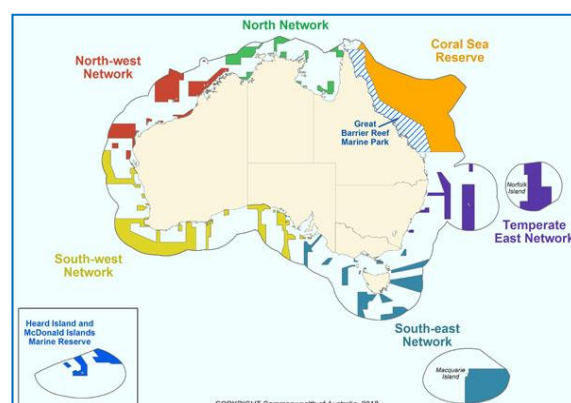
2) The establishment of a National Coastal Council or Commission

The establishment of a National Coastal Council or Commission is essential for cross-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation to address existing and future challenges facing Australia's coastal zone. This peak intergovernmental body should review and build on the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council's 2006 *National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management - Framework and Implementation Plan*⁴ and be tasked with providing assistance and advice on coastal policy and practice to the Australian, state, territory and local governments.

3) A National Marine Estate Management Strategy

The Australian marine environment is recognised for its outstanding natural beauty, diverse marine biota and valuable natural resources. Our national marine estate is the third largest of any nation in the world. Due to its significant natural, cultural, social and economic values the national and state marine estate must be managed in a coordinated and sustainable manner to ensure the ongoing conservation of marine biodiversity.

It is now time to develop an intergovernmental National Marine Strategy. This strategy would build on the fundamentals of the 1998 Australia's Oceans Policy and the Marine Bioregional Plans⁵, to develop a national framework working



collaboratively with all state, territory and local governments to coordinate management and conservation efforts for the entire Australian marine estate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Australian Government commit during the next term of government to:

1. Developing a National Coastal Policy.
2. Instituting a National Coastal Council or Commission.

This body should:

- Be made up of relevant ministerial representatives from national, state and territory governments with input from additional senior federal and state departmental, local government management, community, industry and research representatives, and be supported by an appropriately resourced secretariat.
- Identify the priority national coastal issues, risks and opportunities
- Develop the National Coastal Policy and associated implementation programs based on identified priorities, and associated guiding management principles
- Provide an auditing and reporting function on the implementation of the National Coastal Policy (potentially supported via a National Coastal Management Act)
- Enable cross-jurisdictional dialog on key coastal issues such as planning, industry, commerce, environment and emergency management
- Identify and address emerging issues relevant to national coastal management

3. Developing a National Marine Management Strategy.

This strategy should:

- Ensure comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation of marine natural assets and values
- Ensure the planning and management of the national marine estate and the state / territory marine estates are complementary
- Ensure sustainable use of the marine estate
- Implement obligations under international treaties
- Establish and enhance national marine research and monitoring and establish a national information portal

Information request: The SCCG requests the position of your party on the above recommendations.

Coastal Hazards: A Consistent and Coordinated Approach to Natural Hazards Management in the Coastal Zone

Desired Outcome: An Australian Government strategy and resource commitment to the delivery of consistent and coordinated approaches to natural hazard management in the coastal zone.

CONTEXT

Natural hazards including extreme weather events and other impacts of climate change are having significant financial, social and environmental impacts on coastal communities. The highly populated coastal zone is where the impacts of natural hazards are and will continue to be most felt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a number of existing programs and policies related to emergency management procedures in Australia, including the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience⁶. To build on these, and to ensure consistent approaches to natural hazard management in the coastal zone, the SCCG recommends the following strategies are developed and implemented through an endorsed and resourced National Actions Plan:

1. A national standard for hazard and risk assessments and standard definitions for all natural hazards across all jurisdictions
2. An inquiry into policies offered by insurance agencies to ensure fair and equitable coverage of natural hazards and to identify future risks and limitations.
3. Provision of incentives for all state and territory governments to legislate legal liability restrictions for natural hazards, similar to Section 733 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.
4. Develop a National Coastline Observatory Facility to address the paucity of sustained observation currently underway around Australia's coastline to underpin the necessary foundation information for coastal risk assessment, climate change shoreline forecasting and now-casting of coastal erosion and inundation warning systems⁷.
5. An intergovernmental agreement to continue to resource and update the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) [CoastAdapt](#) tool post 2017.
6. Reduce Australia's future risk of extreme weather events and other impacts of climate change by:
 - o Phasing out fossil fuel credits and subsidies for the mining sector
 - o Committing to a clear plan for phasing out fossil fuel-generated electricity and replacing with renewable energy.

Information Request: The SCCG requests the position of your party on:

1. Developing a National Actions Plan to implement the proposed strategies to manage natural hazards in the coastal zone as outlined above, and
2. What additional strategies and actions your party might implement to ensure adaptation to and mitigation of natural hazards in the coastal zone

Water Management for Cities

Desired Outcome: National leadership, policy direction, and action to achieve sustainable and integrated water management for urban cities.

CONTEXT

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), two thirds of Australia's population lives in a greater capital city⁸. In 2015, Infrastructure Australia released the Australian Infrastructure Audit which projected Australia's population to grow 36.5% to 30.5 million in 2031⁹. Population growth will drive a significant rise in the demand for infrastructure services, particularly in cities, with almost three-quarters of this growth projected to be in the four largest capital cities – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. In total, these four cities are projected to grow by 46 per cent, to 18.6 million in 2031¹⁰.

This population growth will impose additional demands and pressures on aging urban water infrastructure, leading to more frequent overflows, leaks, flooding and shortages. Adding to this is the increased likelihood of extreme weather events such as droughts, storms or floods under a changing climate.

Climate change projections for Australia suggest a hotter, drier climate, wetter tropics, rising seas and more intense fires and floods¹¹. Predicted decreases in rainfall of 10% by 2030 and 20% by 2050, and the increase in the severity and occurrence of floods, bushfires and drought, will affect the security of public water supply in Australia's most populous cities¹². Conserving water supplies, managing water services and infrastructure, and ensuring water security will be critical components of climate change adaptation strategies for Australian cities.

Aging water infrastructure, or assets that are not purpose built to cope with a broad range of conditions, are particularly vulnerable to climate change, leading to asset failure and increased renewal and replacement costs. Replacement costs for the 146,000 km Australian water network could cost \$40-175 billion, whilst the 123,000 km sewer network could cost \$34 to 148 billion to replace and upgrade¹³. It is recommended that a national long-term investment program be put in place to fund the management and maintenance of water infrastructure in light of future pressures.

Urban development also increases the area of impervious surfaces within a catchment, generating larger volumes of stormwater runoff. This increases the pressure on stormwater infrastructure and contributes to poor water quality, carrying pollutants such as oils, heavy metals and nutrients to our waterways, which negatively impact on ecosystem and public health. The 2015 Senate Inquiry into Stormwater Management in Australia¹⁴ makes a number of recommendations for the Australian Government to reduce these impacts. This report and its recommendations should be endorsed and implemented as a matter of priority.

In recognising the challenges, it is clear that there is a need to manage water in the urban context on a whole-of-water cycle basis, within sustainable limits, in order to create more sustainable, liveable cities.

Many local governments and water utilities are already utilising more efficient, decentralised approaches to conserve potable water and capture stormwater runoff, including rainwater tanks, stormwater harvesting and reuse schemes, green infrastructure, and Water Sensitive Urban Design principles. However, the use of these approaches has generally been ad hoc, voluntary and/or dependent on available funding.

According to the ABS, most Australian households (79%) took at least one step to save water around their home over a 12 month period¹⁵. Increased water efficiency measures by Australian households, local councils, water utilities, industry, and government agencies can lessen the demand for potable water supplies in urban cities; resulting in greater environmental benefits and

a sustainable water supply in the future. To achieve this outcome there needs to be direction, leadership, commitment and investment from the Australian Government.

The National Water Initiative (NWI) agreed to by COAG in 2004 was a shared commitment by governments to increase the efficiency of Australia's water use¹⁶. Key Outcomes of the Initiative included providing healthy and reliable water supplies; increasing water efficiency; encouraging reuse and recycling of wastewater, improved pricing regimes and innovation in water supply sourcing, treatment, storage and discharge.

The abolishment of the independent, statutory National Water Commission, the lack of progress on actions for urban water management and efficiency under the NWI, the cessation of transparent reporting and auditing of progress, are symptoms of the decline in government commitment and prioritisation for urban water management over recent years. This is of great concern, considering the current and future water pressures faced by cities.

Management of the water cycle for cities needs to be placed firmly back on the agenda of all levels of government, with the Australian Government leading the way. The SCCG provides the following recommendations for the next Australian Government to achieve during its first term:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Endorse and implement the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into Stormwater Management in Australia 2015.
2. Initiate a National Inquiry on the sustainable management of Australia's water supply and planning for water security for urban cities.
3. Develop a nation-wide Water Security Assessment process to be implemented by the State and Territory Governments for all major cities.
4. Prepare a guideline document(s) for climate change adaptation and preparation, addressing water security solutions and design principles for cities.
5. Develop a national best practice policy framework / and / or a national standard for the implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design into all new developments and retrofitting into existing developments.
6. Development of an incentives program to ensure Water Sensitive Urban Design is incorporated into all new development projects, and retrofitting projects across all states and territories.
7. Commit to a long-term investment program for the management and maintenance of water infrastructure in cities.
8. Work with the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) to set national targets for water reuse by water authorities.
9. Introduce a national standard requiring, as a minimum, secondary treatment of sewage released from ocean outfalls.

<p>Information Request: The SCCG requests the position of your party on the above recommendations.</p>

National Action on Plastic Pollution

Desired Outcome: National leadership, strategy and action to drastically reduce the volume of plastic pollution entering marine and coastal environments.

CONTEXT

Plastics are versatile, inexpensive, durable and lightweight¹⁷, and they have become ubiquitous in manufacturing and packaging. They are also now one of the world's most pervasive problems^{18,19}. Typically 50 – 80% of the waste that accumulates on beaches, the ocean surface and the seabed is plastic^{20,21,22}. The UN Environment Programme listed plastic debris in oceans as one of three global emerging issues²³. Plastic debris threatens over 250 species of marine fauna by entanglement and ingestion²⁴.

Although waste is primarily managed by the states and territories, the Australian Government can show leadership and encourage national consistency by working with all remaining states and territories to achieve nationally consistent bans on single-use plastic bags and container deposit schemes to improve recycling of beverage containers.



Photo © CSIRO

The Australian Packaging Covenant and the National Environmental Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure (NEPM) are well-meaning initiatives to help reduce the volume of plastic packaging waste produced by Australian companies, but there are recent indications that these measures are failing to achieve their recycling and packaging reduction targets^{25,26} and there is room for significant improvements.

Microplastics absorb and concentrate persistent organic pollutants (POPs), providing a pathway for entry into the food web and onto the dinner table^{27,28,29}. Alarming quantities of microplastics have been detected in marine habitats around the world, including our own iconic Sydney Harbour, where a recent study discovered up to 60 microplastic items per 100 milligrams of seafloor sediment^{30,31}.

There are many sources of microplastics, including microbeads used in cosmetics. We acknowledge that the current Australian Government has stated its continued support for a voluntary phase out of microbeads, and if this does not achieve what is in effect a ban by 1 July 2017, then a legislative ban will be implemented³². The SCCG seeks the commitment of all major parties to a legislative ban on the import of microbeads during the first year of government.

Synthetic fibres from clothing also make up a significant proportion of microfibers in the marine environment and in the stomach contents and tissues of fish³³. A single synthetic garment can release >1,900 fibres per wash³⁴ and a third of the food we eat may be contaminated with microfibres³⁵. These fibres are too small to be filtered out by sewage treatment plants, but researchers think that improved fabrics³⁶ or a filter on washing machines³⁷ could be a solution.

SCCG Member Councils are already undertaking multiple initiatives to reduce the volume of plastic debris entering our estuaries and ocean. To make a real difference, Australia also needs to take action at the national scale and in each state and territory.

The Senate Inquiry into the Threat of Marine Plastic Pollution in Australia³⁸ makes a number of recommendations for the Australian Government to reduce these impacts. This report and its recommendations should be endorsed and implemented at the earliest opportunity during the next term of the Australian Government.

Some additional specific recommendations on reducing plastic pollution from plastic bags, beverage containers, packaging and microbeads are made below.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The SCCG recommends that the next Australian Government achieve during its first term:

1. Endorse and implement the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry into the Threat of Marine Plastic Pollution in Australia³⁹.
2. Implement a legislative national ban on plastic microbeads, by, for example, listing products containing microbeads as a prohibited import, and banning the domestic production of personal care products containing microbeads under the *Cosmetics Standard 2007*.
3. Support research into reducing synthetic microfibres from entering the environment via washing machine wastewater in sewage, such as new, low-fibre-loss fabrics or washing machine filters.
4. Prepare template legislation for container deposit schemes and single use plastic bag bans for all remaining states and territories who have not yet implemented them.
5. Establish a forum for joint Commonwealth, state and territory decisions on reducing and mitigating plastic pollution and other environmental issues.
6. Set more ambitious targets for packaging reduction and industry recycling under the Australian Packaging Covenant; and provide clear, comprehensive annual auditing and public reporting of the outcomes of the Australian Packaging Covenant and the level of enforcement of the National Environmental Protection Measure by the states and territories.
7. Work with neighbouring countries in the region to develop cooperative programs to clean up marine debris pollution in international waters.

<p>Information Request: The SCCG requests the position of your party on the above recommendations.</p>

Funding for Community Coastal Programs

Desired Outcome:

- 1) Funding for community based coastal programs and initiatives.
- 2) The re-establishment of the Australian Government National Coastcare program.

CONTEXT

The SCCG recommends an Australian Government funding commitment for community based coastal initiatives that provides environmental protection, ecological restoration and capacity building activities.

There has been a considerable reduction in national support for community-based coastal programs over the last decade. As a result of this lack of support, most volunteer groups and organisations working with local authorities to undertake coastal conservation and education initiatives have had to reduce or redirect their efforts.

The contribution of the Green Army to conservation is acknowledged, however, the loss of many successful coastal initiatives and devolved grants program undertaken or supported by the Australian Government is a major concern. The SCCG believes the end of the very successful Coastal Action program, the Coasts and Clean Seas Program, Caring for our Country and the demise of the national Coastcare program has significantly limited the general community's ability to protect and enhance public lands in coastal areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the next term of government, the SCCG recommends:

1. A renewal of funding for community-based coastal conservation activities
2. Re-establish the successful national Coastcare program of state and regional coordinators supporting local communities

Information Request: The SCCG requests the position of your party on the above recommendations.

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APPENDIX 2: Sydney Coastal Councils Group Climate Change Adaptation Projects

The SCCG has been active in the climate change adaption space since 2005 and have produced several internationally leading programs with funding support from the Australian and NSW Governments. These are listed below:

- o [Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue+Green Carbon](#) (2013-2016) is enhancing the adaptive capacity of councils and the resilience of coastal habitats, foreshore and intertidal lands, responding to urban pressures and climate change. It comprises a 3-year research, capacity-building and on-ground rehabilitation program focusing on biodiversity and carbon storage in 'salt-influenced ecosystems' across Sydney's coastal environments and urban waterways.
- o [Emergency Management Planning: A Health Check for Local Government](#) (2014) a tool that allows a Council and regions to review their own performance in Emergency Management and to identify opportunities for improved outcomes, with reporting functions for ease of communication with the Council, emergency services and the community.
- o [Assessment and Decision Frameworks for Seawall Structures Project](#) (2013) developed tools and guides to evaluate the robustness and condition of existing small seawalls for coastal climate change protection and outline possible options for further upgrades.
- o [Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government](#) (2013) used multi-criteria analysis and spatial information to prioritise adaption options in response to coastal inundation and erosion.
- o [Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure](#) (2012) developed information, guidance and capacity building activities to ensure that organisations responsible for managing water infrastructure are able to implement appropriate asset management systems in a changing climate.
- o [Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation](#) (2012) mapped areas of risk to determine risk and developed consistent model planning and management responses in consultation with relevant state government agencies and the broader community. ([NCCARF Adaptation Good Practice project](#))
- o [Audit of Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion and Inundation Legislation and Policy](#) (2011) involved 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, prepared by the EDO NSW.
- o [Beach Sand Nourishment Scoping Study](#) (2010) developed the outline of a sand nourishment programme utilising suitable offshore sand deposits for amenity enhancement and to ameliorate increased hazard risk from sea level rise.
- o [Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises](#) (2008) developed and tested an integrated, systems approach to assist Councils in assessing their vulnerability to climate change and the barriers and opportunities associated with adaptation at the Local Government scale. (Eureka Prize Winner)



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