



SYDNEY'S SALTY COMMUNITIES
turning the tide for blue+green carbon

Sydney's Salty Communities

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

visit www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/salty_communities for details

We are now working towards the final stages of Sydney's Salty Communities program. **In total the Salty program has issued 21 grants worth just over \$1.39 million for projects valued at \$2.79million.**

Main round projects are now complete except for the **Southern Sydney Fox Management Group (SSFMG)** and **Living Shorelines** projects, which were both extended to accommodate permit/licence delays. These will finish in December 2016 along with the six supplementary round projects.

Special projects are underway and near completion. These are a valuable addition to the Salty program, ensuring coverage of all priority areas identified through the two grant rounds, the [Literature, Data & Practice Review](#) and by the Working Group. We recently held a series of capacity building seminars focussing on key issues identified by the Working Group. The Salty program's [MERIT page](#) provides a good overview of the latest news and successes.

The Salty Grant program outcomes and materials will be showcased at the "Lessons from the Salty Program" event to be held in February 2016.

PROJECT BACKGROUND.

Sydney's headlands, harbours, bays and foreshore environments support a range of salt-dominated and salt-influenced ecosystems with unique biodiversity and carbon sequestration rates equivalent in parts to tropical rainforests. *Sydney's Salty Communities* allows SCCG and partners to support on-ground projects at local and sub-regional scales to address pressures from pollution, weeds, feral animals, degradation, neglect, inundation and erosion. Coastal land managers (especially councils and their local communities) restore, enhance and maintain biodiversity values and functions in these critical areas.

Community of practice

We are encouraged by the growth in the Community of Practice: the reach of the project has expanded. It was pleasing to see both new representatives of existing member councils as well as new organisations represented at our Urban Ecology Seminars series. We foresee that much of the program's legacy in this regard will continue, especially through projects with ongoing commitment or which have found new homes for the future, for example:

- **Connected Corridors** with Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GS LLS)
- **Climate Ready Tool:** GS LLS, CSIRO, ARC
- **SSFMG** with SSROC, and through postgraduate research funding (APAs) secured
- **Hollows as Homes** with the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
- **Living Shorelines:** has applied for grants to expand to other sites throughout NSW

Climate-ready management

In our last newsletter, we introduced the Climate Ready Tool which outlines key adaptation concepts and provides opportunities for councils to build capacity through understanding & utilisation of these concepts in planning biodiversity management. The tool is [available on the program webpage](#). It has since been further developed as part of our Capacity Building series. We are working to develop case study material to enable councils to better engage with the concepts presented in the tool, and GS LLS is running workshops with this tool.

Grants

Main Round

The **SSFMG** (Foxes) and **Living Shorelines** projects were extended and will conclude by December 2016. The legacy of **SSFMG** has been secured, finding a home at SSROC. **Living Shorelines** has encountered challenges in the approvals process and will not be able to install its five reefs until early 2017. They have recently released [a YouTube video illustrating the process](#) behind their project.

For an overview of what these main round projects achieved, [visit the program webpage](#).

Supplementary Round

These six projects will conclude by December 2016. They are progressing well and the **Connected corridors for biodiversity** mapping project has not only secured at least four years hosting on the GS



LLS ArcGIS server but also, due in part to enthusiastic response, is exploring several opportunities to extend the mapping to the whole of the Sydney metropolitan area (it currently covers the areas of SCCG & SSROC members, plus Strathfield). For an overview of this and the **Dee Why Lagoon biodiversity, Warriewood Wetlands biocontrol, Hollows as homes, and Fishermans Walk** projects, visit the [program webpage](#).

Special Projects

Dr Kerrylee Rogers and Professor Neil Saintilan have completed the first stage of the **Mangrove & Saltmarsh threat analysis** project funded through the Salty program, with the other deliverables due in December. Dr Louise Metcalf from ARIES has completed the data collection and interview phase of the **Review of Backyard Habitat Programs** and the draft report will also be complete by mid-December. We have engaged Ecology Australis to provide a **Blue Carbon Advocacy** brochure, covering the basic science and the management challenges and opportunities it represents. The brochure will be available to councils by the end of 2016.

Capacity Building

SCCG held several free half-day seminars focussing on key issues in urban ecology to strengthen the community of practice around urban biodiversity management. **Outcomes reports will soon be available from these sessions, including resources.**

Executive Seminar: Planning for Adaptation

Held at Waterfront, Circular Quay on 18 October 2016, this seminar was aimed at local government directors. We were pleased to have 28 attendees. Speakers A/Prof Rod Simpson, Greater Sydney Commission, Dr Mark Stafford Smith, CSIRO and Prof Darryl Low Choy, Griffith University, framed the seminar in a global context and explored regional challenges and opportunities around climate change adaptation and resilience.

Urban Ecology Series

Held on 9-10 November, we thank North Sydney Council for hosting this series at the Coal Loader



for Sustainability. The series offered three sessions engaging with the latest thinking and research on urban ecology. The CSIRO's Dr Michael Dunlop and Paul Ryan from the Australian Resilience Centre presented to 29 attendees on **Biodiversity & climate change in an urban landscape**. This introduced The Climate Ready Tool, developed with SCCG as part of the Salty Program. The range of councils



represented meant the tool was promoted to areas beyond its original scope.

In **Communicating about weeds in an urban landscape** Dr Eleanor Glenn (Common Cause) explored the implications of research into values and psychological priming and framing, while IAP2's Helen Christensen examined public engagement in detail. The 31 attendees responded positively to this challenging seminar.

A/Prof Sarah Bekessy (RMIT) engaged the 43 in attendance on **Connectivity & biodiversity in an urban landscape**, emphasising the value of every-day-nature in the future of cities. Katie Oxenham from SSROC provided a review of the programs that she has been involved with around connectivity, including the Salty-funded Connected Corridors for Biodiversity project.

Expert Reference Group

Mr Mark Beharrell (Northern Beaches Council)
Assoc Prof Melanie Bishop (Macquarie University)
Prof Gee Chapman (U. Sydney)
Prof Ross Coleman (U. Sydney)
Mr Dan Cunningham (Sydney Water)
Mr Bill Dixon (Greater Sydney LLS)
Dr Michael Dunlop (CSIRO)
Ms Erin Fardy (Sydney SW Regional

Weeds Committees

Dr Richard Major (Australian Museum)
Mr Michael Miller (Department of the Environment & Energy)
Dr Kerrylee Rodgers (U. Wollongong)
Mr Simon Rowe (OceanWatch Australia)
Dr Jennifer Taylor (ACU)
Mr David Watts (Aboriginal Heritage Office)
Mr Geoff Withycombe (SCCG)

Images

Overleaf

SCCG & CSIRO Inundation mapping.

Above, left to right

- Executive seminar: Planning for Adaptation.
- Water testing as part of the Salvinia weevil program (Emma Griffen, Northern Beaches Council).
- Native Plantings (Northern

Beaches Council).

- Wedge-tailed eagle *Aquila audax*, Dee Why Fauna Fair (Northern Beaches Council).

Below

Left: *Calyptorhynchus funereus*. Seabamirum, CC BY 2.0.

Inset: White-faced heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*, Dee Why Lagoon.

PROJECT CONTACT.

FIONA SHADBOLT Project Manager

Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc. Ph: 02 9288 5974
Email: fiona@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au



Australian Government



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

