



## **Sydney Coastal Councils Group Business Plan 2017-19**

This document is based on extensive consultation with senior and technical staff of SCCG Member Councils.

The Plan has been reviewed and endorsed by Member Council General Managers or their nominated delegate, and was adopted at the SCCG Full Group Meeting on 17 March 2018.



## Through 25 years of action, SCCG has been a key driver of sustainable and integrated coastal and estuarine management for the Sydney region.

SCCG was established as a Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) in 1989. It currently has ten Member Councils, moving to nine in July 2018.

Recent local government reforms and associated amalgamations have had a major impact on the organisation. These reforms together with significant changes to coastal planning have led to a review of SCCG's governance and business planning.

This Business Plan draws on the strengths and needs of our Member Councils, within the context of Sydney's unique coastal and estuarine environment. We have worked hard to ensure this Plan and program of activities captures our common interests and shared activities for improved waterway outcomes

It defines our priorities and direction over the next six months (2017-18) and work program for the following financial year (2018-19). Our work program builds on the values of our Member Councils and the opportunities provided by the State Government's new regional focus on coastal and estuarine planning and management.

Our plan also reflects the state government's new regional direction for water. These include:

- Using Sydney's waterways to create a blue-grid for the City
- Developing a new coastal management framework with an expanded boundary for estuarine processes that encompass local government areas of Sydney's major rivers
- Establishing District Plans which have collaborative regional planning at their heart.

### Our priorities for 2018

- Develop a regional program to reduce plastic litter in our waterways (Action 2.2)
- Build capacity to identify and manage impacts of new coastal legislation and policy on local government (Action 3.3)
- Lobby Sydney Water (SWC) to address key hotspots for sewer defects and non-compliant connections within member council areas (Action 2.3)
- Secure grant funding of minimum \$200,000 per annum to deliver on coastal and estuarine issues of regional significance for Member Councils. (SCCG KPI)
- Expand membership through recruitment of Councils within the greater Sydney metropolitan region. (SCCG KPI)

# Creating a practical plan that returns value to Member Councils

## Our Vision

Resilient coastal and estuarine environments.  
Engaged communities.  
Local leadership – regional impact.

## Our Mission

Working collaboratively to manage and advocate for the protection and health of coastal and estuarine environments.

## Our Goals



**Goal 1: COLLABORATION:** to enhance cooperation between, and coordination of, actions by Member Councils and stakeholders.



**Goal 2: CAPACITY BUILDING:** to exchange knowledge and build expertise of Member Councils



**Goal 3: ADVOCACY:** to provide a regional and cohesive voice representing Member Councils



**Goal 4: RESEARCH:** to identify and address current and emerging regional coastal and estuarine issues







## Over the last five years SCCG has

- Secured grant funding in excess of \$3.6M to deliver programs for member councils including the award winning \$1.3M Sydney Salty Communities program
- Successfully advocated changes to state government coastal reforms package and consultation process
- Established a memorandum of understanding with Sydney Water to deliver on healthy waterways













## We will continue to:

- **Identify and submit applications for government funding** to deliver coastal and estuarine projects of regional significance on behalf of Member Councils.  
Key grant opportunities include:
  - Coastal and Estuary Grants Program,
  - Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program,
  - Environmental Research and Education grants,
  - Climate Adaptation grants
- **Facilitate knowledge sharing, capacity building and peer to peer learning** among member councils through workshops, training, working groups and information portal.
- **Reform governance, operations and finances** to support effective delivery of the strategic regional priorities of Member Councils. This includes expanding membership through recruitment of Councils within the greater Sydney metropolitan region.









## Activities program

<b>Theme 1: Catchment management:</b> Manage coastal and estuarine resources to protect environmental, social and cultural values					
#	Action	Progress measures	External partners	Year	Goals
1.1	Improve capacity of member councils to undertake appropriate management responses to coastal and estuarine hazards through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sharing – collate information sources</li> <li>Identify key research needs of Member Councils – updated SWOT analysis</li> <li>Potentially inviting other NSW coastal councils</li> <li>Review SCCG website to provide improved access to targeted local and regional information.</li> </ul>	6 Monthly meeting / workshop with technical staff At least 1 exec, staff, councillor meeting Scope and prioritise workshop program for capacity building Review of web site completed Information portal established with member council input	Government Agencies External Experts (as identified) Internal	2017-2019 2017-18 2018-19	
1.2	Provide Member Councils with an asset management decision-framework to support appropriate and effective management of recreational coastal assets	Recreation asset management prioritisation tool finalised and implemented by Member Councils	Water Research Laboratory Engineers Australia	2017-18	
1.3	Advocate to the NSW Planning Department for mandatory WSUD standard provisions in LEPs and DCPs based on agreed standards and best practice.	Baseline review completed Position paper developed and circulated to Department Planning	MEMA SPLASH Network GSC	2017-18 2018-19	
1.4	Support coordinated, strategic approach and funding opportunities to access offshore sand for beach nourishment.	Agreed actions determined by Working Party	Government agencies	2017-19	

**Theme 2: Pollution reduction:** Reducing direct and indirect pollution loads on our waterways

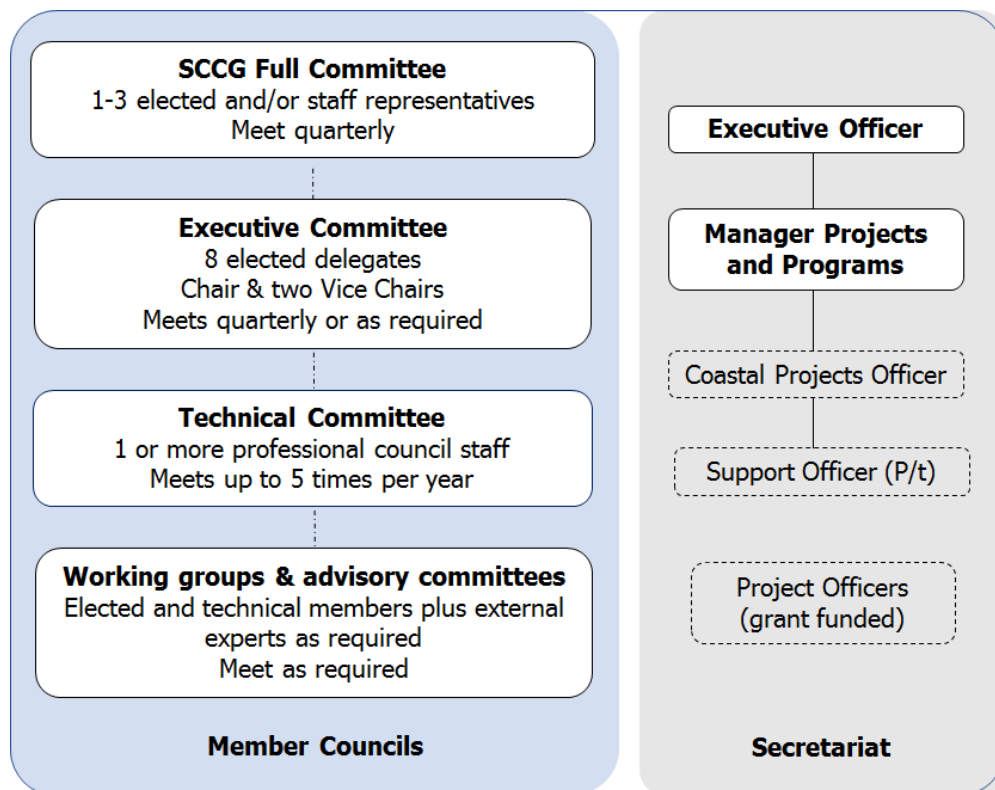
#	Action	Progress measures	External partners	Year	Goals
2.1	<p>Work with Sydney Water Corporation (SWC) and other project partners to deliver actions from the “Systems Management for Healthy Waterways Action Plan”.</p> <p>Key focus areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory and funding arrangements</li> <li>• Systems performance (stormwater, sewer overflows, non-compliant connections)</li> <li>• Information transparency, sharing and effective communication and engagement.</li> </ul>	Implementation of Healthy Waterways Action Plan and agreement on priority actions	SWC Stormwater NSW Research Organisations State agencies	2017-19	   
2.2	<p>Establish a regional program to reduce plastic litter impacting on marine and estuarine environments, incorporating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A communications and education package</li> <li>• A review of current local government responses to plastic litter</li> </ul>	Member Councils agree to use same behaviour change campaign	Harbourcare EPA TEC ROCs	2017-19	  
2.3	Lobby SWC to address effective action on key hotspots for pollution including problem areas for sewer defects and non-compliant connections.	Agreed program of works by Sydney Water to address pollution hotspots in Member Council LGAs	SWC EPA ROCs	2017-19	  
2.4	Develop a pollution notification protocol to clarify roles and responsibilities of organisations in relation to notification of pollution incidents.	Develop agreed notification protocol	Sydney Water EPA	2018-19	 

**Theme 3: State and regional legislative reforms:** Facilitating local government input into and implementation of federal and state legislation and regulation

#	Action	Progress measures	External partners	Year	Goals
3.1	<p>Liaise with State and Federal Government advocating common issues of concern and interest for Member Councils. Current focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal and estuarine reforms</li> <li>• Government investment in marine estates</li> <li>• Climate adaptation and hazard management.</li> </ul>	Documentation of issues and opportunities raised with state and regional agencies	Government agencies	On-going	
3.2	Assess and advise member councils on impacts of new legislation and policy on local government coastal and estuarine management.	Coordinate forums and seminars on issues of relevance to local government	Government agencies	2017-18 Ongoing	 
3.3	<p>Improve capacity and strength of Member Council responses to State Government policy and legislative reforms with a focus on coastal and estuarine management.</p> <p>For example: NSW Coastal Management Reforms, State Marine Estate Management Strategy, District and Regional Plans</p>	Delivery of capacity building resources and knowledge sharing workshop for coastal and state marine estate reforms	OEH GSC	On-going	 
3.4	<p>Assist Member Councils to deliver Coastal Management Programs, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on coastal hazards mapping</li> <li>• Procurement guidance and consultancy engagement re. coastal reforms.</li> </ul>	Coastal reform working group established and resources prepared	OEH Other Government agencies	2018-19	  

## Current SCCG Organisational Structure

The SCCG comprises three core Committees and a Secretariat (shown below). Dedicated working groups and advisory committees are also periodically established to advance specific issues and projects.



## Improving our governance

The SCCG to amend its Constitution to support increased accountability and communication with Member Councils, as well as opportunities to expand membership.

### The following amendments have been endorsed:

- » Consolidating the SCCG Executive through one leadership group – the Full Committee. It would incorporate within it all functions and role of the Executive Committee.
- » Providing expanded opportunities for Member Councils to review SCCG directions, activities and progress against strategic requirements by convening two meetings of Member Council Senior Officials (March/November).
- » Acting on opportunities for increasing SCCG Council representation within the Greater Sydney region to meet the expanded definition of estuarine influence as defined within the NSW Government coastal reforms.

## Financial arrangements

Member Council's current funding contribution to the SCCG is a base rate of \$25,500 plus \$20/1000 residents based on 14 Councils and an operating budget of \$385,000.

For the next twelve months funding has been agreed at:

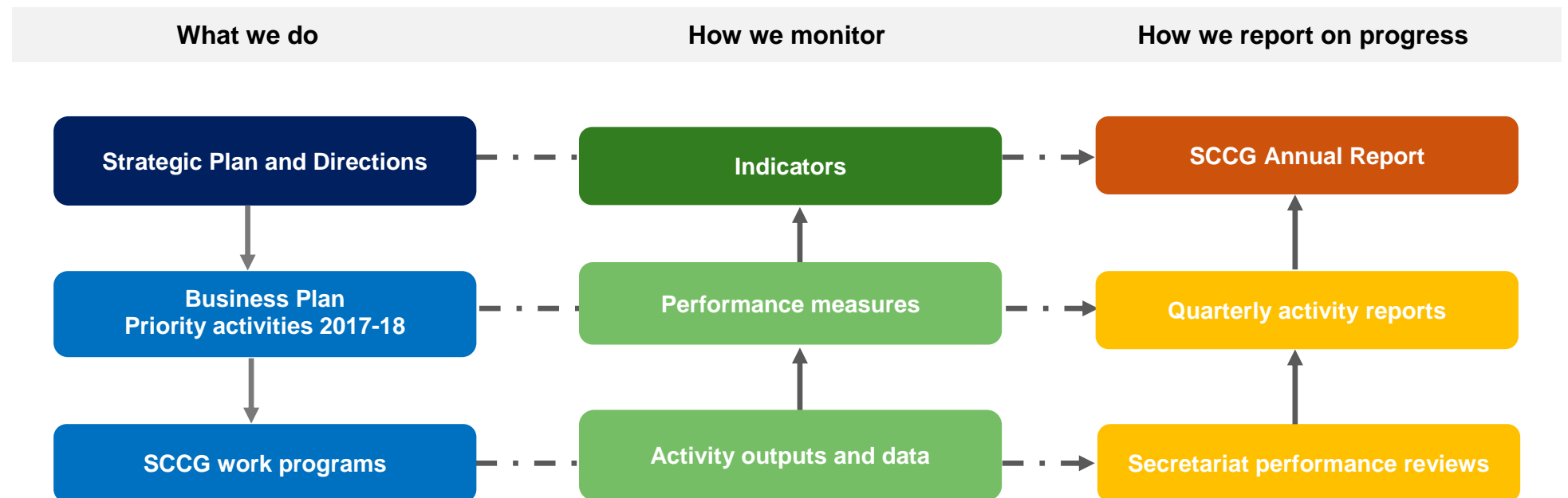
**Base rate (\$27,724) +\$40/ 1000 residents**

This will provide an operating budget of \$300,000 and support two full-time employees for 2018-19 financial year.

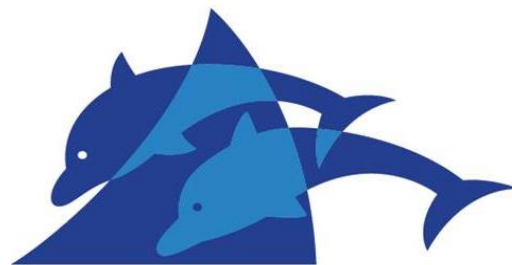
# Monitoring Program

This Business Plan identifies the activities that SCCG will implement over the next eighteen months to support sustainable management of coasts and estuaries. Delivering on these actions is based on the collaborative effort of Member Councils and our project partners. By March 2018, we will provide a clear summary of how the SCCG is progressing on meeting its stated program of priority activities for 2017-18.

All SCCG activities will be monitored and evaluated, with reporting on implementation in our quarterly activity reports and Annual Report. As part of our on-going commitment to delivering activities that address the priority needs of Member Councils we will revise our Business Plan annually and feed into the scheduled revision of the SCCG Strategic Plan in 2019.







**SYDNEY COASTAL  
COUNCILS GROUP**

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