

# COASTAL CURRENTS



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The SCCG was established in 1989 to promote coordination between Member Councils on environmental issues relating to sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

The SCCG currently consists of ten Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways, and represents around 1.3 million Sydneysiders.

## From the Chair

Happy New Year from SCCG. Welcome to 2018 - where our Summer has certainly been ramping up with extremely high temperatures, particularly in our west. What a fantastic opportunity to explore the coast and Sydney's beautiful beaches and swimming spots. Whilst out and about why not help to keep our beaches and waterways clean and [take 3 for the sea](#), or try out the new reverse vending machines to return and earn on plastic containers.

We hope you found some time during January to take part in Summerama Activities across the SCCG region—if not there is still a bit of time to get out there and enjoy the coast.

Temperatures are not the only thing that has been high this Summer, with King Tides reaching 2.03m on 4 December 2017; and again reaching 2.04m, 2.07m, and 2.05m on 2, 3 and 4 January 2018 respectively; with localised flooding and overtopping of seawalls and foreshore areas occurring throughout Sydney. Is this a snapshot of what we can continue to look forward to under a changing climate?

During Summer consider your health, safety and risk to your property from natural disasters such as flood and bushfire. Be prepared ahead of time with a plan on how you can beat the heat, protect yourself and your home, evacuate if you need to, and assist family, friends and neighbours in need.

SCCG has another busy, challenging and exciting year ahead in 2018, with our new Business Plan to be finalised by March. We are also awaiting further news from the State Government on the coastal reforms and proclamation of the Coastal Management SEPP and release of the Coastal Management Manual—so watch this space.

Councillor Lynne Saville  
**SCCG CHAIRPERSON**

Sutherland Shire  
COUNCIL



Mosman  
COUNCIL

Bayside Council



Randwick City  
Council  
a sense of community



INNER WEST COUNCIL

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

# Collaboration



## Get the Site Right Campaign

In November 2017, SCCG joined forces with the Parramatta River Catchment Group, Cooks River Alliance, Georges River Combined Councils Committee, our Member Councils, the NSW EPA and the Department of Planning and the Environment to implement a campaign highlighting the impacts of soil and sediment runoff on the water quality and aquatic life of our creeks, rivers and harbour, and the need for efficient erosion and sediment controls on building sites.

The results are now in - during November over 900 building sites were inspected across our participating council areas - of these sites 62% were compliant with erosion and sediment controls whilst 38% of sites were non-compliant, leading to \$212,146 worth of fines being issued.

The Get the Site Right campaign will be run again in May and October 2018, so for developers and DIY renovators - make sure you get your site right!

Here are some handy tips:

- ⇒ Ensure you have an erosion and sediment control plan for your site and adhere to it at all times.
- ⇒ Install a sediment fence to prevent materials from leaving the site.
- ⇒ Place stockpiles within a bunded area away from drainage paths, and cover the stockpiles at the end of each day.
- ⇒ Use materials such as sediment socks to minimise sediment runoff into stormwater drains. Ensure that the materials used are appropriate for the soil/sediment type.
- ⇒ Vehicles moving on and off the site should be limited to one stabilized entry/exit point to ensure sediment is not tracked off site.
- ⇒ Clean equipment in a bunded area prior to leaving the site.
- ⇒ Maintain grassed or vegetated areas to minimise erosion.
- ⇒ Check erosion and sediment controls everyday to ensure they remain in good working condition.

To report sediment runoff or other pollution incidents contact the NSW Environment Line on 131555 or your local council.



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## FUN IN THE SUN — SUMMERAMA 2018



SCCG's annual Summerama Activities Program in collaboration with our Member Councils, is in full swing during January 2018, including activities along the coast from Pittwater to Sutherland. Activities include coastal walks and talks, rockpool rambles, kayaking, snorkeling, science of the surf, and coastal crafts for the kids.

Join in the fun this summer and connect with the coast, but you will need to hurry - Summerama ends on 28th January with the 'Summerama Coastal Explorer Bus Tour', proudly supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

For more information on the 'Summerama Coastal Bus Tour' or to book click [here](#).

The Summerama Photo Comp is open until 31 January 2018, so take a snap of yourself enjoying Sydney's coast this January and post the photo to the [Summerama Facebook](#) page - great prizes to be won.



SOURCE: SUMMERAMA



# Advocacy

## Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan and District Plans

SCCG provided a submission on the Greater Sydney Region Plan and District Plans. Below are our key recommended actions:

1. Explicitly recognise that Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) is at the heart of the Greater Sydney Region Plan and District Plans;
2. Set up a sufficiently resourced Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Unit within the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC);
3. Develop a new Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation Framework document (for region and district plans);
4. Identify appropriate coasts and waterways as Collaboration Areas;
5. Provision of a statement clarifying how the detail of the former Implementation Plans will be carried forward.
6. Reduce unnecessary repetition (between Strategies in the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Actions in draft District Plans) and develop new Actions from supporting text under each Planning Priority.

The SCCG submission can be viewed on the SCCG [website](#).

## Plastics and the Marine Environment

When out and about this Summer, give a thought to our marine animals and how plastic litter can pollute our waterways and often harm or kill marine animals such as turtles, dolphins, and marine birds through entanglement, suffocation, ingestion, and choking. Micro plastics also enter the marine environment and accumulate in the food chain, and may well end up on your dinner plate. Watch this National Geographic short 3D animation '[Are You Eating Plastic for Dinner](#)'.

You can help to clean up our marine environment by disposing of your waste appropriately; volunteering with a local community group to clean up plastics from our parks, beaches and waterways; shop smart by choosing products that don't include microbeads, and by refusing, reusing and recycling plastics.

South Australia, ACT, Northern Territory and Tasmania already have a ban in place for single use plastic bags. With Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria to bring in a ban during 2018. Yet NSW is still sitting on the fence, lagging behind every other state and territory in Australia in taking action to protect our marine life and reduce plastic pollution.

This is not good enough— add your voice and help spread the message by contacting your local Member or the NSW Premier's Office today.



SOURCE:PCFML.ORG.AU



SOURCE:ECOWATCH.COM

# Projects

## Funding Guide 2018

SCCG develops an annual funding guide that includes grant programs and funding opportunities within NSW and Nationally, that are open to local councils, community groups and organisations. Funding opportunities support: conservation; environmental research; natural resource management; heritage protection; and sustainability education.

The 2018 Funding Guide is now available on the SCCG [Website](#).

## Adapting Recreational Infrastructure

The SCCG grant project funded under the LGNSW Building Resilience to Climate Change program, in partnership with the National Committee on Coastal and Oceans Engineering (NCCOE), is progressing.

The Project is in the process of developing an assessment and decision-making tool for recreational coastal infrastructure condition and vulnerability with respect to climate change.

In early 2018, six case studies will be nominated and developed based on identified priority assets. This tool and case study material will provide a resource for Councils and build Council capacity in adapting to the pressures of climate change, and increasing resilience of coastal infrastructure.



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# Coastal Info

## Witness King Tides

We have seen extremely high King Tides cause localised flooding around Sydney this Summer.

Green Cross Australia run the 'Witness King Tides' project which provides an opportunity for the community to visually understand what future sea level rise predictions might mean for their local neighbourhood.

The project encourages members of the community to visit their favourite local spots on the coast or estuary, or a known landmark, to take photographs of the King Tides. These photographs can be uploaded and shared through the Witness King Tides Flickr page to build a picture of potential future impacts of climate change and sea level rise. For more information go to [witnesskingtides.org](http://witnesskingtides.org)

Remember to be prepared to start snapping those photos during the next King Tide. For tide predictions for 2018 click [here](#).

*Meanwhile ...*

Whilst you have your phone or camera handy - those enthusiastic citizen scientists amongst us can use redmap to log and map sightings and photographs of marine species including fish, sharks and rays, marine mammals, reptiles, invertebrates as well as algae and plants spotted along Australia's coast. The data captured will be used to map extension in distribution ranges of Australian marine species in response to changes in the environment including ocean warming.

For more information go to [redmap.org.au](http://redmap.org.au)



## Surf Safety

If you are spending your time this summer at the beach, the foreshore or in the water, remember to think safety first.

- ⇒ Swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags
- ⇒ Check and monitor the weather forecast and surf conditions
- ⇒ Watch for rips (deeper, darker coloured water, a rippled surface surrounded by smooth waters and fewer breaking waves). If caught stay calm and float with the rip, or try swimming parallel to the beach towards breaking waves.
- ⇒ Avoid rock fishing and other water activities in powerful swells
- ⇒ Wear a life jacket when boating, rock fishing and undertaking other water activities.
- ⇒ Slip, slop slap and keep hydrated on those scorching summer days.

For more information go to [beachsafe.org.au](http://beachsafe.org.au)



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© WITNESS KING TIDES



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## Coastal Management Teacher Resource Guide

The Coastal Processes and Responses Node led by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) has published a Teacher Resource Guide on Coastal Management, targeting years 7-10 students. The guide can be downloaded or viewed as an e-book. For more information click [here](#).

## Container Deposit Scheme

It was reported by the EPA on 1st January 2018, that the NSW Return and Earn Scheme had seen 18 million containers returned during the first month of the scheme. By mid-January that figure was up to over 40 million. This is positive news for the environment as some of those plastic containers may have otherwise ended up in landfill or in our waterways and oceans, impacting on water quality, amenity and marine life.

For a list of collection points near you go to [returnandearn.org.au](http://returnandearn.org.au)

## Just for Interest

Watch this eye opening YouTube clip '[Plastic Ocean](#)' published by the United Nations in May 2017.

