

COASTAL CURRENTS



The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Quarterly Newsletter | Spring Edition 2017 | #85



From the Chair

Spring is in the air, and this is a great time to visit and appreciate Sydney's beautiful beaches, waterways and green spaces!

The SCCG Secretariat attended the NSW Coastal Conference at Port Stephens from 8-10 November, and I am pleased to report that the hard work of the SCCG and its project partners on the three-year Sydney Salty Communities Program has paid off, with SCCG being awarded the 2017 NSW Coastal Management Award for Innovation.

But we must not rest on our laurels, it is still a busy time for the SCCG, with consultations and forums being held with our Member Council Executives and technical staff to develop a new Business Plan to set the focus, direction and governance of the SCCG in 2018.

Our Annual Report, which highlights the main achievements of the SCCG for 2016/17, was officially tabled at our Annual General Meeting held on 28 October, and is now available on our [website](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new Councillors and staff delegates elected to the SCCG Full Group Committee, and welcome back those Councillors and Staff who remain as the SCCG delegates. We look forward to working closely with you over the coming year.

Christmas is now just around the corner, and SCCG and our Member Councils are once again gearing up for the January 2018 Summerama Activities Program. Fun activities for the whole family during the January holidays will be advertised in [December](#) so start planning your fun days out enjoying the coast.

On behalf of the SCCG, seasons greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

Councillor Lynne Saville
SCCG CHAIRPERSON

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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 and estuarine environment.

The SCCG currently consists of eleven Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways, and represents nearly 1.5 million Sydneysiders.



www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Collaboration

Get the Site Right

This November, SCCG has joined forces with the Parramatta River Catchment Group, Cooks River Alliance, Georges River Combined Councils Committee, our collective Member Councils, the NSW EPA and Department of Planning and Environment to implement a month long awareness and compliance campaign.

Get the Site Right targets erosion and sediment control practices on commercial and residential building sites across Sydney, and aims to raise awareness of the impact that soil and sediment runoff has on our local creeks, rivers and waterways including Sydney Harbour.

Throughout the month, building sites are being monitored to ensure that they comply with erosion and sediment control guidelines and plans, with Council officers providing education materials to raise awareness as well as issuing warnings and fines to non-compliant sites to ensure developers, builders and home renovators 'Get the Site Right'. The Blitz Day, held on 21st November, saw compliance officers from more than 20 councils across Sydney out in their local communities ensuring compliance.

In the lead up to the campaign, over 70 Compliance Officers attended three training workshops on 26 October, 1 November and 8 November, to hone their knowledge and skills in erosion and sediment control practice and procedure.

Staff from SCCG, the Catchment Groups and Department of Environment and Planning also raised awareness of the Get the Site Right campaign at the Sydney Homeshow from 27-29th October, talking to home builders and renovators, providing relevant information on building site requirements for erosion and sediment control, and demonstrating the effects of sediment runoff using the Cooks River Catchment Model.

To get your site right ensure you have a comprehensive erosion and sediment control plan in place before building begins. Here are some top tips to consider: Install sediment fencing; maintain vegetated areas to reduce erosion; cover and bund sand and soil stockpiles; divert water flow around work sites where possible; clean equipment before leaving the site; store and dispose of waste appropriately; reduce vehicle movements to a stabilized access point; use sediment socks to protect drains; and conduct a daily check to ensure erosion and sediment controls remain in good working condition throughout the course of the building works.



Partnerships

CRC for Low Carbon Living Roadshow

SCCG partnered with WSROC and the CRC for Low Carbon Living to host a Roadshow on 20 October 2017, on engaging communities and facilitating change. The event was attended by 43 people from 21 organisations including local councils, state government agencies and Universities.

The Roadshow aimed to establish relationships between researchers and practitioners, share and build knowledge on behavior change research around environmental/sustainability and low carbon programs, and to explore future opportunities for how research findings and outcomes could be applied by councils in effectively engaging with communities and decision-makers.

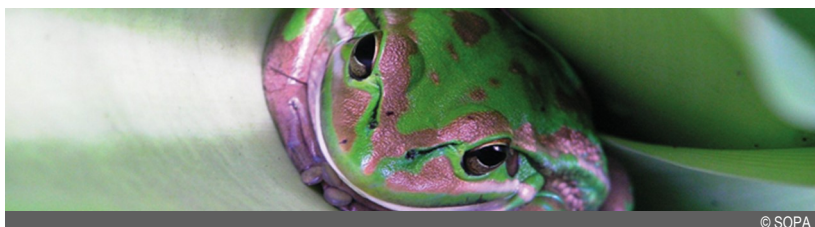
Flying-fox Local Government Forum

SCCG attended the Local Government Flying-Fox Forum held on 26 October 2017. The Forum, hosted by Local Government NSW and facilitated by Office of Environment and Heritage enabled Council staff from across NSW and Queensland to come together to share knowledge and experiences and identify gaps and future opportunities for managing Grey-headed Flying-fox.

On the day, SCCG co-facilitated a workshop session on a national and regional approach to Flying-fox management. It was clear that consistent mapping, data collection and a shared data portal were crucial, as was consistent messaging for councils and the community, and a national program for Flying-fox camp management responses, to enable wholistic solutions across boundaries that will aim to resolve issues pertaining to flying-fox conservation and conflict between flying-foxes and communities rather than continuously moving them on to create problems elsewhere.

Create Habitat At Home

As part of the Salty Communities Connected Corridors for Biodiversity project, SCCG, the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and the Greater Sydney Local Land Service (GSLLS) worked together to create a habitat corridor map across 23 local council regions. Linking to this map, a new brochure has now been developed for the community entitled 'Create Habitat at Home'. The brochure provides information on the importance of creating biodiversity habitat in the urban environment and in your own backyard, and highlights what you can do, and the type of habitat you can create. If you would like copies of the brochure to give out to your community contact [SCCG](#).



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Advocacy

Crown Lands

SCCG provided a submission on the Crown Lands Management Regulation in September. The Submission is available [here](#).

Draft Environment SEPP

The draft Explanation of Intended Effects (EIE) for the Environment State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) has been released for public consultation. This new SEPP will consolidate seven existing SEPPs including SEPP 19 Bushland in Urban Areas and the Sydney Regional Environment Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005.

The Public exhibition period closes 15 January 2018. Have your say by making a submission [here](#).

The NSW Marine Estate

The Marine Estate Management Strategy has been released for public exhibition. Click [here](#) to view the draft Strategy.

The Strategy details how the vision for the NSW Marine Estate will be achieved over the next ten years. Submissions can be made until Friday 8 December 2017 via the online submission [form](#).

SCCG attended the general stakeholder workshop on 14 November and collaborated with MEMA in the development of a targeted workshop held for NSW Councils and Local Land Services across Greater Sydney to workshop management initiatives and actions to inform the finalisation of the Strategy and the development of the Implementation Plan.



Coastal News

NSW Coastal Conference

The NSW Coastal Conference held 8-10 November 2017 at Port Stephens, was again a resounding success.

On the opening day of the Conference, Wednesday 8th November, Mr Scot MacDonald MLC, the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning announced the appointment of the new NSW Coastal Council. The Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom, also an Honorary Member of the SCCG, was introduced as the Chair of the NSW Coastal Council. We would like to congratulate and welcome the members of the NSW Coastal Council; Professor Bruce Thom, Dr Kate Brooks, Dr William Glamore, Associate Professor Rox Cox, Mr Angus Gordon, Ms Jane Lofthouse, and Ms Annelise Tuor, who we look forward to working with in the future.

During the Conference SCCG presented on the Emergency Management Health Check Tool for Local Councils (emhealthcheck.com.au), and co-authored papers with OceanWatch Australia and EMM Consulting on '[Finding a Path for Blue Green Innovation](#)', presented by Simon Rowe; and with University of Wollongong and Macquarie University on '[Mangrove and Saltmarsh Threat Analysis in a Large City](#): Opportunities and Challenges for Management', presented by Laura Mogensen.

SCCG Success — NSW Coastal Management Award

At the NSW Coastal Conference Dinner held on 9th November 2017, SCCG was announced as the winner of the 2017 NSW Coastal Management Award for Innovation, received for the three-year Sydney Salty Communities grant-based program. The program invested approximately \$1.3 million in 17 projects to restore and enhance habitat and coastal biodiversity across the region, including conducting revegetation works on over 11.7 ha, planting 65,118 trees, removing 196 feral animals, developing 2 management plans, delivering 336 community engagement activities and building the resilience of our coastal biodiversity to climate change. The program also involved working with partners on special projects including regional collaboration, research outcomes, capacity building of technical and executive level council staff, and the development of useful tools and documents, including the Climate Ready Tool developed by CSIRO in partnership with SCCG.

SCCG would like to thank the Australian Government for funding the program under the Biodiversity Fund, and extend our appreciation and thanks to all of our



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Salty Communities project partners, collaborators, councils, members of the Working Group and Expert Reference Group, and most of all the Salty Communities project staff Fiona Shadbolt and Duncan Webb, who together have made this project an award winning success.

Return and Earn Container Deposit Scheme

Litter, particularly plastic, is a major problem worldwide, polluting our environment, impacting adversely on marine life, and creating a visual blight on our landscape.

In NSW, more than 160 million containers end up as litter every year.

As of 1 December 2017, the Return and Earn container deposit scheme will roll out across NSW. From that date you will be able to return eligible containers to hundreds of collection points and reverse vending machines across NSW for a 10 cent refund. Refunds can also be donated to charity.

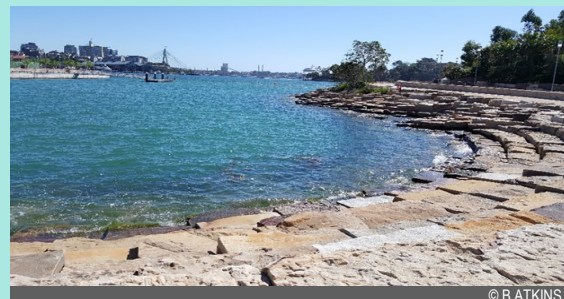
To find out more about the Scheme including what containers are eligible for refund and the location of collection points, click [here](#).



Just for Interest

In October 2017, the SCCG Technical Committee visited the headquarters of the Barangaroo Delivery Authority to learn about the environmental works and sustainability initiatives being implemented on the site including; recycled water treatment and on-site renewable energy generation, carbon neutrality, and contaminated lands remediation. This was followed by a cultural tour of Barangaroo Headland Park, a beautiful blue/green oasis in the city.

[Check out](#) the Aboriginal Cultural tours or other things to see and do at Barangaroo.



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