

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 24 JUNE 2017
HOSTED BY CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL AT
SYDNEY TOWN HALL - 12.00 noon**

FG2-17 Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr David Dekel	Bayside Council
Mr Frank Breen	Inner West Council (proxy)
Mr Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Mr Paul Hardie	Northern Beaches Council
Mr Adrian Turnbull	Northern Beaches Council
Cr Greg Moore	Randwick City Council
Cr Lindsay Shurey	Randwick City Council
Cr Leon Goltsman	Waverley Council
Cr Bill Mouroukas	Waverley Council
Cr Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council
Prof. Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr George Cotis	Honorary Member
Mr George Copeland	Honorary Member
Mr Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)
Dr David Rissik	NCCARF (Presenter)

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair, Cr. Lynne Saville opened the meeting at 12.45pm and provided an Acknowledgment of Country. The Chair thanked the City of Sydney Council for hosting the meeting.

The Chair noted that the local government elections will be held on 9 September, and that this meeting will be the last meeting of the Full Group prior to the elections. The Chair noted that some representatives would not be standing for re-election, and thanked those delegates for their expertise, knowledge and valuable contribution that they have provided in their term on the Full Group. For those that will be standing in the election the Chair wished them all the best for re-election stating that it was important that some of the current delegates remain on the Full Group to retain the current resource and knowledge base of the Group. The Chair thanked the Executive Committee and the Staff of the Secretariat for their work.

1.2 APOLOGIES

Mr Dick Persson	Northern Beaches Council
Ms Kylie Ferguson	Northern Beaches Council
Cr Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Cr Jack Boyd	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr Michael Forshaw	Sutherland Shire Council
Mr Phil Coleman	Honorary Member

(Mosman and The City of Sydney Councils were not represented at the meeting).

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil declarations were made.

RESOLUTIONS

R1.2 Apologies were received and noted.

R1.3 Nil notifications of pecuniary interests were received.

(Levenston/Dekel)
Carried

ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION

Guest presenter, Dr David Rissik (NCCARF – General Manager), was welcomed and introduced by the Chair.

Notes from the presentation are provided below:

- [NCCARF](#) funding in 3 phases (phase 1 – \$47mil, phase 2 – \$8.8mil, phase 3 – \$300,000)
- NCCARF has spent a block of funds specifically on adaptation research
- Have developed an Australian Community of Practice and a conference every 2 years consisting of practitioners and researchers.
- There are four existing [Adaptation Networks](#) that build the capacity of researchers
- Revised [National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plans \(NARPs\)](#) have been completed
- Noted that the coastal zone is a complex place which needs to be managed as a system.
- [CoastAdapt](#) is to be delivered and supported for 3-4 years
- Through CoastAdapt – engaged with stakeholders on wants/needs to develop content and the framework. Strong leadership within organisations is important in achieving outcomes.
- NCCARF is a bridge between science and action - 150 research documents were [synthesised](#) into plain English to highlight primary messages for various stakeholders.
- There was an expert and end user review of CoastAdapt to ensure technical veracity and accuracy of data, and useability of the tool.
- CoastAdapt is set up for various audiences e.g. the skimmer, the wader and the diver. It includes tools such as the Sea Level Rise to You tool (CSIRO projections) and the Shoreline Explorer tool, as well as 67 case study examples and risk assessment templates.
- There have been 717,000 visitors to the CoastAdapt website and 100,000 page downloads.

Delegates noted that this is a good presentation for all new councillors to see to enhance their knowledge. It was stated that it was often hard to have leadership at any level of local government if there are sceptics regarding climate change. NCCARF has made a case to stakeholders/sceptics by highlighting the benefits of adaptation now (how adaptation can manage the tangible things they can see e.g. flooding), adaptation pathways planning, and healthy decision-making. It was agreed for the presentation to be attached to the minutes and to provide useful to CoastAdapt:

- Webinar: <https://youtu.be/wZDnCllePqU>
- CoastAdapt: <https://coastadapt.com.au>
- Introduction to CoastAdapt: https://youtu.be/toZ_ijyzPV4
- Community Engagement: <https://youtu.be/8-0TOMJpBj0>
- Risk Assessment: <https://youtu.be/C715ZfabjW4>
- Using C-CADS: <https://youtu.be/nfwigP3UAtM>

The presentation slides are attached.

The Chair questioned what the SCCG could do to progress climate change adaptation research and provide further support for NCCARF. The EO noted that the SCCG had written to the Minister in late 2016 regarding support for CoastAdapt and continued funding for NCCARF. The Minister's Office provided a response in early 2017.

It was suggested that the issue of reduced support for climate change action and funding be put to the media. The lack of adaptation funding support in the recent Federal budget was highlighted. GW highlighted key issues and questions that could be raised in relevant correspondence to the Federal Government and potentially the media. Delegates raised Crowd funding as a potential action, although it was noted that this method would require more thought and a business case.

RESOLUTION

R2.1 That Dr David Rissik be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

R2.2 SCCG to write to the Federal government including the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Local Government (cc the Australian Coastal Councils Group) regarding; i) priority and allocation of funding for climate change adaptation; ii) support for NCCARF as a climate change adaptation research and implementation facility.

(Breen/Dekel)
Carried

ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 (a) *Draft Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting on 18 March 2017*

3.1 (b) *Draft Minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting of 4 May 2017*

3.1 (c) *Minutes of the Executive Committee 1 June 2017*

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING

Actions arising from the Ordinary meeting held on 18 March 2017 were reviewed by the EO.

It was noted that a response letter from Sydney Water, with regards to the Healthy Waterways Action Plan, has been drafted for the signature of the General Manager. SCCG should receive this letter shortly. It is likely that Sydney Water will support the Action Plan and the initiatives subject to business case assessment.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting was circulated in hard copy at the meeting.

3.4 ANNUAL MEMBER SURVEY

The EO noted that the Annual SCCG member survey is open for completion by delegates. The importance of member councils feedback was reiterated. All Delegates were asked to complete the survey monkey online by 10 July, and to forward the survey onto other relevant people within their council. Hard copies of the survey were also provided at the meeting.

3.5 FINANCE STATEMENTS

The EO noted the finance statements were provided and opened this item up for questions/discussion.

3.6 STAFFING

The EO noted that the Coastal Projects Officer, Alexander Fletcher had resigned from his position due to family matters which required him to return to the UK. It was noted that this position will not be re-advertised at this stage, and the refilling of this position will be reassessed over the coming months.

There was a concern for staff resourcing and wellbeing with the question of whether two and a half staff members would be sufficient to ensure the delivery of projects and services.

RESOLUTIONS

R3.1a	The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 18 March 2017 were confirmed.	(Norton/Shurey) Carried
R3.1b	The Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting on 4 May 2017 were received and noted.	(Dekel/Norton) Carried
R3.1c	The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 1 June be received and noted	(Goltsman/Levenston) Carried
R3.2	The Business Arising was discussed, considered and noted.	(Levenston/Breen) Carried
R3.3	The circulated correspondence was received and noted.	(Goltsman/Shurey) Carried
R3.4	Full Group delegates to complete the Annual survey by 10 July 2017 and to forward the survey onto other relevant people within their council	
R3.5	The Finance Statements for the period of 1 July 2016 – 31 March 2017 were received and noted.	(Dekel/Levenston) Carried
R3.6	That a letter be sent from the Group to Alexander Fletcher wishing him the best for the future.	(Goltsman/Saville) Carried

ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION ITEM – SCCG MOVING FORWARD

The EO provided an update on governance and membership issues.

It was noted that the recommendation to leave the SCCG by the City of Sydney (CoS) is understood to go to the Council meeting on Monday 26 June. If the recommendation is resolved the CoS would cease its membership on 31 December 2017. The City of Sydney has stated that it would honour the hosting agreement until its end date of 30 June 2018.

The EO provided information on the process noting that the SCCG (Chair nor the EO) was contacted formally by the CoS regarding their decision, and initially heard about the recommendation through another member Council. Cr Saville addressed the initial CoS Committee meeting on 8 May and Cr Goltsman spoke at the Committee meeting on 19 June following the close of the submission period. The SCCG submitted a letter during the public exhibition period. A letter was sent to the CEO, Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor requesting a meeting to discuss. A response was received from the Deputy Lord Mayor, however a meeting has yet to be arranged through the Office of the CEO.

It was noted that the Full Group / Executive councillor delegates need to promote the importance of the SCCG to their Council/colleagues. The statement was made that all councils are connected and that we all need each other in partnership and the SCCG is a conduit for this.

The EO provided a brief update on the meeting held between the SCCG secretariat and senior staff from the Northern Beaches Council, stating that the Northern Beaches Council had provided a

report to council on membership and it had been resolved that the fees for 2017/18 were unacceptable. An options report on proposed membership fees for 2017/18 has been prepared for Executive Committee consideration. The outcomes of the Executive Committee resolution will form the basis of a letter to Northern Beaches Council.

The need to address direct and indirect impacts from amalgamations was stated. In the case of the Northern Beaches it was noted that an Administrator was currently making the determinations and is under pressure to show savings. This view may be different after the Council elections in September.

It was noted that sometimes decisions made by delegates on the committees (Councillors and staff) may be personal and/or not in direct alignment with the position of the Council. The point was made that future delegates on the SCCG committees must be made aware that they must represent the council position.

The question was asked whether this negotiation on fees with the Northern Beaches Council would mean a decrease in SCCG funds and if this would affect other council's fees. The EO noted that all invoices have been provided to councils and that the fees of the other member councils would not be impacted on for 2017/18 FY. The EO noted that the CPO position (now vacant) would not be replaced immediately, and would be reassessed once membership fees for the Northern Beaches have been resolved. Whilst the SCCG will be a position down, the SCCG secretariat will do its best to continue to implement member services and achieve set outcomes.

It was noted that the Northern Beaches stated that SCCG needed to review its services/governance in light of recent amalgamations to ensure the SCCG is still meeting council needs/priorities. The EO stated that the annual survey provided council staff/delegates with the opportunity to provide initial feedback on needs, focus areas of the SCCG and future positioning. It was also recommended that the SCCG meet with council senior staff of all member councils and then facilitate regional consultation sessions to finalise the review of strategic direction, governance, services and resources in the coming months developing a revised business plan for formal member council consideration towards the end of the year.

It was noted that all councils had to be involved and on the same page. There have been instances where one council has attended consultation meeting to shape the future of similar groups, and made changes to services/structure to suit themselves and their needs and then pulled out of the organisation, leaving the remaining councils in a compromised position. This could jeopardise the future of the group. In the meetings/consultation sessions need to determine whether everyone is on board, how they are committed to the group and what structure will achieve council's needs.

RESOLUTION

R4.1 Delegates discuss the ongoing scope, focus and resourcing of the SCCG

R4.2 SCCG Chairperson and the Executive Officer write to member councils seeking a meeting with General Managers and Mayors/Administrators to ensure that the SCCG objectives, strategies, programs and services remain applicable, appropriate and of value to member councils, and that member council needs continue to be met.

R4.3 SCCG forward a membership expression of interest to all NSW coastal councils subsequent to the considerations from the consultation with member councils.

(Levenston/Breen)
Carried

ITEM 5 - MEMBER COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided updates on key council initiatives.

Bayside Council:

- Have integrated NRM and coastal policies from the previous Rockdale and Botany Councils.
- Have completed the regional fox project (via funding from the SCCG Salty Communities program) which has now been handed over to SSROC.
- Completed a 4-year grant project through Cooks River Alliance – Culture and Country event had over 250 attendees, the majority of which were indigenous peoples.
- Aboriginal River Keeper team at Georges River Combined Councils Committee.
- New Bayside Council Policy on community gardens (there was 1 community garden and 6 are now proposed).

Inner West:

- Waterway health improvement program – partnership with Sydney Water – 5 parks
- Wetlands project at Blackmore Oval is going ahead using the existing detention basin.
- Raingarden design and implementation
- Urban ecology/climate change workshops – to feed back into Community Strategic Planning process.
- Inner West wrote a letter in support of the SCCG submission on the land management and biodiversity conservation reforms.
- Put up SCCG motions from the Federal Election document to the National General assembly. All motions were endorsed other than the renewal of funding for community coastal activities and CoastCare.

Northern Beaches:

- Master planning for Freshwater and Palm Beach – undertaking community consultation on landscape and recreation value, and management to best suit community needs.
- A strategic review is happening regarding the Pittwater waterway zoning process.
- There has been cliff/buff erosion and landslips – a review is being undertaken of Whale Beach, Avalon, Bigola and North Narrabeen. Grooming works has been undertaken.
- Redevelopment of surf clubs at Mona Vale and Long Reef – coastal risk/hazard assessments.
- Collaroy/Narrabeen – Council requesting 10% funding contribution from the state government.

North Sydney:

- Have undertaken a condition assessment of 30 GPT's. 80% of the waste is recycled. Design changes based on the assessment has increased gross pollutant capture from 300 to 550 tonnes per annum.
- Community recycling centre was opened by the Minister for Local Government/Environment. Since it's opening in April the centre has seen 70 cars per day, collecting 2 tonnes of problem waste and 11/2 tonnes of e-waste.

Randwick:

- There is a development occurring near the community gardens site. The community gardens utilised the water runoff from this site – Council is now working with the developers on a method of capturing the water runoff from the development for continued use by the community gardens.
- Stormwater and sewer problems at Coogee – cracked pipes has been identified as an issue.
- Habitat for Hollows program is being supported.
- Investigating the inclusion of green walls into the LEP.

Waverley Council:

- Small grant program for Schools. Moriah College has used this grant to set up water refill stations at the School. They have banned plastic bottles and have provided metal drink bottles to the students.
- Native plantings along the foreshore (supported by funding from the SCG Salty Communities program) has received a good community response.

- Council is taking part in plastic free initiatives – including a program with businesses.
- Adopted a Bondi junction Green Infrastructure Masterplan and Implementation Plan (energy, water, waste), including targets such as 30% greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Willoughby:

- Better business Partnership event held
- Water reuse at Artarmon
- Condition assessment of stormwater pipes (80%). As a result, pipes have been rebuilt, or repaired.
- The Concourse – collecting water (volume = 5 olympic swimming pools). The issue with water purification is close to being resolved – the water can then be reused in the toilets and air conditioning systems as well as continuing to irrigate surrounding gardens.

Woollahra:

- The Connected Corridors for Biodiversity project mapping (prepared with funding from the SCCG Salty Communities program) is being included into the planning process.
- Rose Bay – Stormwater drainage issues that need to be resolved through drainage works. Bike East have requested a bike lane which may conflict with the works required.
- Cooper Park will open soon providing a community gardens with some 20 garden beds.

RESOLUTION

R5.1 The member updates were received and noted.

(Goltsman / Saville)
Carried

ITEM 6 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

6.1 COLLABORATION

As per Item 6.1 in the Agenda Papers.

Grey-headed Flying-fox Regional Approach

The MPP gave a brief update on the Grey-headed Flying Fox regional approach, noting that SCCG and the Office of Environment and Heritage have formed a partnership to develop and deliver a regional approach.

OEH have undertaken GIS mapping of GHFF camps, zoning and potential habitat/foraging areas that will enable council staff to determine with the best possible information where GHFF may camp and potential areas of community conflict to assist with land use planning and community engagement.

A Working Group of experts across local government, state government, ROCS, Universities, CSIRO, Royal Botanic Gardens, and other stakeholders has been developed to guide the development of the regional approach. The first meeting of this group was held on 14th June.

Beach Nourishment Implementation Advisory Committee

The EO gave a brief introduction on the Advisory Committee being established to identify and resolve issues around beach nourishment. The Committee will include: the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Dept. of Planning and Environment, Dept. of Industry (Lands), Dept. of Industry Division of Resources and Geoscience and Dept. of primary Industries (Fisheries), academic experts, councils including Bayside, Woollahra, Northern Beaches and Sutherland, as well as other stakeholders. The first meeting of the Committee will occur on 27 July.

Other Items taken as read.

6.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

As per Item 6.2 in the Agenda Papers.

Emergency Management Health Check for Local Government

The MPP gave a brief update on this project, noting it had now been acquitted. In total 38 councils across NSW have requested access to the Tool including 7 of our member Councils. 3 member councils have completed the tool and received reports, with a fourth having completed the stakeholder engagement component. Our member councils that have not yet requested access to the Tool are Bayside, Mosman, Randwick, and Waverley.

The Tool is being promoted again to councils including an article in the Local Government Focus, and an abstract has been provided to the NSW Coastal Conference. Evaluation of the Tool will be undertaken over the coming months.

Adapting Recreational Infrastructure for Climate Change

The EO gave a brief update on this \$80,000 grant project. An Advisory Committee has been established and the first project meeting will be 29 June.

Other items taken as read.

6.3 ADVOCACY

As per Item 6.3 in the Agenda Papers.

Reforms

The MPP provided a brief update on the SCCG Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms submission which was finalised and submitted on 21 June 2017. The MPP thanked delegates for their comments. The submission is available on the SCCG [website](#). The EO noted that SCCG may put together a press release for the media on the biodiversity reforms.

Bruce Thom provided an update on the NSW Coastal Reforms. Bruce noted that the coastal management planning process may be impacted on by the biodiversity conservation reforms. There are currently two Ministers that play a role in coastal management (the Planning Minister and the Environment/Local Government Minister). We are waiting on the sign off and release of the Coastal Management SEPP, the Manual and the mapping. The manual will be amended once the SEPP has been signed off. The Coastal Council will then be appointed.

6.4 RESEARCH

As per Item 6.4 in the Agenda Papers. Items taken as read.

RESOLUTIONS

R6.1 The Secretariat's update on key activities were received and noted.

(Dekel/Breen)
Carried

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

No general business items were discussed.

7.2 2017 MEETING DATES / NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Group will be held on 7 October 2017 at a host Council to be nominated (pending confirmation and outcomes of the Council elections on 9 September).

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 are proposed as:

- Saturday 7 October (**AGM**) 2017 at 12 noon (North Sydney Council)
- Saturday 9 December 2017 at 12 noon (City of Sydney)

7.3 Agenda Items for Next meeting

Nil agenda items were provided for the next meeting.

ITEM 8 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

8.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT

8.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE

Cr Saville thanked all delegates for their contributions to the SCCG.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

Confirmation of Minutes:

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