

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE FULL GROUP
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 23 JUNE
2018 HOSTED BY RANDWICK COUNCIL**

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr. Ian White	Northern Beaches Council
Mr Todd Dickinson	Northern Beaches Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr Lyndsay Shurey	Randwick City Council
Cr. Kathy Neilson	Randwick City Council
Cr. Philipa Veitch	Randwick City Council
Cr. Paula Masselos	Waverley Council
Cr George Copeland	Waverley Council
Mr Sam McGuinness	Waverley Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Megan McEwin	Woollahra Council
Mr George Cotis	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms. Sarah Joyce	SCCG (Incoming EO)
<i>For presentations</i>	
Mr Eduardo Pombo	MHL
Ms Karina Holden	Northern Pictures

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor of Randwick, Lyndsay Shurey welcomed attendees to Randwick City Council and gave an Acknowledgement of Country. The Mayor also noted her support for SCCG and wished the outgoing Executive Officer Geoff Withycombe well.

The Chair, Cr Saville welcomed delegates and thanked Randwick Council for hosting the meeting.

1.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted.

Cr. Rochelle Porteous	Inner West Council
Ms Jean Brennan	Inner West Council
Cr. David Walton	Northern Beaches Council
Cr. Jack Boyd	Sutherland Council
Cr Denis Fernandez	Willoughby Council
Cr. Mary-Lou Jarvis	Woollahra Council
Prof. Bruce Thom	Honorary Member
Ms Belinda Atkins	SCCG

Bayside, Inner West, Mosman, and Sutherland Councils were not represented at the meeting.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil declarations were made.

ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Guest Presentation 1. The Chair introduced guest presenter **Karina Holden**, the Producer and Writer/Director of the film Blue.

Notes from the presentation are provided below:

- Noted that as a Manly resident it was wonderful to be able to speak to people creating, leading and advocating for change.
- Blue is a film about the ocean and the challenges it is facing from climate change, declining species, habitat decline and plastics. It is a call to action for the community including schools, businesses, councils and government (state/federal)
- The film Blue premiered at the United Nations
- Provided information/case studies on groups that have taken action and provided solutions; including:
 - water fountains to minimise plastic bottle waste
 - biodegradable doggy bags (biobagworld.com)
 - 'responsible cafes' – 4000 around Australia. Estimated that 46 million coffee cups have avoided going to landfill annually.
 - ecofriendly events – council events plastic free, strawkelling events and beach cleanups, take part in plastic free July.
 - support local produce markets and encourage plastic free packaging and boomerang bags (use of environmentally friendly bags) (boomerang.org)
 - install effective stormwater filters, and seabins near ferry terminals and marinas
 - provide clear and useful information about recycling – put stickers on bins
 - host collection points for the NSW Government return and Earn Container Deposit Scheme
- Opportunities for Councils/community to host the film Blue at outdoor screenings and festivals.

Q1. Attempts to ban single-use plastic bags have seen resistance in the community – how do you get the community behind the campaign?

R – Need to provide an alternative e.g. Boomerang bags. Now that the big supermarket stores have made a change people will start to adapt.

Q2. What is happening globally with microplastics and the washing machine filters?

R – In US and the UK this issue has greater awareness. Mark Browne UNSW is working in this space. Councils can provide information on more efficient washing machines, microplastics and where filters can be purchased.

Q3. Can you provide an insight into the decision-making process regarding the elements/characters of the film?

R – Philanthropic funding was received in 2015 through an impact campaign. The film evolved over 2 years with input from others. The Living Blue report from WWF was released that stated that half of all marine life has been lost in the last 40 years. The film started out with a national focus but expanded to a global focus. The characters are both youth and mature people that reflect the lifetime we have seen. The film is about all of us reflecting that everyone can make a difference and we are able to identify with and see ourselves as part of the story. Noted that there was good engagement with students, working with Cool Australia to develop materials, lesson plans and short films which has been adopted by over 7000 schools.

Q4. What has been the response at the state and federal level?

R - Three days were spent at Federal parliament with over 120 people in attendance to see the film. 1 on 1 with senators was great engagement. This was an opportunity to talk about the big issues.

Q5. SCCG's Business Plan includes a theme on pollution reduction/plastics – what ideas/advice do you have to establish a regional program?

R - Partner with existing programs, provide materials/information on websites and assist in the rollout of the film screenings. It was noted that engaging with school children is a good opportunity to change behaviour in the household.

Guest Presentation 2. The Chairperson introduced the second guest speaker **Eduardo Pombo**, Manly Hydraulics Laboratory.

Notes from the presentation are provided below:

- Introduced Manly Hydraulics Laboratory
- Four milestones of the project; establishing a steering committee; survey of councils; development of the assessment tool; promotion of the tool.
- Presented at the NCCARF Conference in May. In July it will be presented at the COPEP Seminar, and in September at the 'Changing Estuaries, Coasts and Shelf Systems Conference in Perth. An abstract has been submitted to the NSW Coastal Conference.
- The tool assesses recreational assets (jetties, pools, wharves, parks, seawalls, beaches etc). A survey was completed by NSW coastal councils – with a 75% response rate. Information was provided on how councils are currently managing assets. All SCCG member councils participated in the survey.
- Approach was to develop an easy to use tool to show asset condition and how assets would behave and adapt to climate change. Trigger levels were set for each asset. Tool provides reliable information using multi-criteria analysis methodology (5 categories).
- Tool provides a scoring/rating system for various scenarios. Covers cultural aspects of assets; asset replaceability; alignment with local/regional/national policies (climate change); community value – how asset is used by the community, number of users and frequency of use; resilience of asset to climate change.
- Identification of adaptation pathways for each asset.
- Tool tested by Northern Beaches, Sutherland, Tweed Councils. Case studies developed.
- Opportunities to engage with various staff within Council departments to complete the tool.
- More data is required on use of assets – this data was difficult to obtain / Councils do not currently collect this information.
- Tool can be used to develop a business case and can highlight where councils need to invest in assets management/maintenance.
- Project that could be built upon in the future beyond coastal assets.

Q1. MHL has collected data for a long period of time – was data collected prior to that and by whom? R – MHL collects natural systems data. Buoys employed in 1974. Who collected previous data depends on the type of data.

Q2. Will predictions for SLR become more accurate? R – Using the scenario figures from IPCC which is the best data currently available.

Q3. Have MHL had definitive responses from the case study councils on the tool.

R – Councils were pleased with the tool, the tool was very easy to use, believed the tool would be useful in managing assets.

Q4. If sea level rise is significant there may be potential for cultural valued assets to be lost dependant on funds available for replacement/management costs?

R – Each council needs to make its own determination based on the outputs of the tool.

The EO noted that SCCG may meet with LGNSW in the near future about the possibility of further investing in this tool or using this tool to extend to other assets over time.

Action: Presenters Karina Holden and Eduardo Pombo to be thanked for their presentations via letter.

Action: Cr Masselos to follow up with Linda Scott (LGNSW) regarding putting Blue and plastics on the agenda of the Annual Conference to be held in Albury in October.

ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Draft Minutes of the Full Group Meeting held on 17 March 2018 were confirmed. The Minutes from the SCCG Technical Committee held on 10 May 2018 were received.

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING

The EO provided an update on actions arising.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence since the last meeting was received and noted.

3.4 FINANCE STATEMENTS

There were no queries regarding the Finance statements for 1 July – 31st March 2018. The Finance Statements were adopted.

3.5 SCCG HOSTING ARRANGEMENT

It was noted that SCCG is to be hosted by Northern Beaches Council at the Manly Town Hall. Northern Beaches Council was thanked for hosting SCCG. Geoff Withycombe also thanked the City of Sydney for hosting the SCCG over the past 10+ years.

3.6 SCCG Staffing

It was noted that the contract for the Manager Projects and Programs, Belinda Atkins has been extended for a further three-year term. Noted that the Support Officer, Molly O'Halloran has resigned. Interviews for the Support Officer position to be held on 19 July.

The Chair introduced Sarah Joyce, the incoming Executive Officer to the Full Group, noting the competitive selection process. The Chair welcomed Sarah on behalf of the Full Group. Sarah thanked the Group for the opportunity and gave an overview of her qualifications and experience, and previous work with OEH and EPA. Sarah noted that she would be meeting with Member Councils to identify future priorities and strategic direction.

The Chair thanked Geoff Withycombe (GW) for his twenty-three years work at SCCG, assisting in having led and driven SCCG to become a significant organisation regionally, nationally and internationally, and acknowledged his efforts on behalf of Member Councils. Members of the Full Group provided their best wishes. George Cotis noted that GW has shown resilience in facing challenges and has worked well advocating for the SCCG. Wendy McMurdo noted GW's knowledge and leadership of the SCCG and standout achievements including the 2009 Eureka Award, his ability to work with others, obtain funding for the SCCG, and network and advocate at all levels of Government. Peter Massey noted the difficulty GW has faced in dealing with an array

of different Councils and has managed this well, also noting GW as a good resource for councils. Cr Copeland noted the extraordinary effort of GW and the SCCG in completing projects, working with only 2.5 staff. Cr Norton noted GW's energy in advocating on behalf of SCCG in the media, and his ability to get the federal Ministers in the room to talk to SCCG.

RESOLUTIONS:

R3.1a	Minutes of the Full Group Meeting on 17 March 2018 were confirmed.	
R3.1b	Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting on 10 May 2018 were received.	(Masselos/White) Carried
R3.2	Business Arising from the 17 March 2018 Meeting was considered and noted.	(Masselos/Massey) Carried
R3.3	The circulated correspondence was received and noted.	(Masselos/Norton) Carried
R3.4	Finance Statements for 1 July 2017 - 31st March 2018 were received and adopted.	(Copeland/Masselos) Carried
R3.5	Formally thank Northern Beaches Council and write a thank you letter to City of Sydney for hosting the SCCG.	(Masselos/Saville) Carried
R3.6	A formal thank you provided to Geoff Withycombe for his service to the group, leadership, and knowledge; and a formal welcome provided to Sarah Joyce.	(Masselos/Neilson) Carried

ITEM 4 ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided a brief update on key initiatives.

Northern Beaches

- Resolution to build a common seawall in Narrabeen – self funding, on public and private land. Awaiting private dwellings to lodge DA's.
- Geotechnical issue at Balgowlah – heritage rockpool – has been remediated.
- Dune management – three different management procedures and volunteer groups for each of the previous councils – are working on bringing this into one.
- Creek management – extensive work in manly lagoon, sediment removal at Burnt Bridge Creek, noxious tree removal in riparian areas.
- Grant project on protection of assets and development of a practice note - partnered with IPWEA. Presented at the NCCARF conference in May.

North Sydney

- Pop up bar for event – using washable plastic glasses
- Smart energy future expo – uptake of renewable energy for multi-unit dwellings. 300 participants.
- Reverse vending machines – have suggested a couple of locations – in negotiation.
- Coal Loader Platform opening/launch. Was televised.

Randwick

- Motion to ban plastics at council events.
- Review of strategic plan – amendments re: in principal support to go to net zero emissions by 2020

Waverley

- Waverly – not using single use plastics at events, including alternative conditions of consent for food businesses. Return and earn at Bondi Pavilion.
- Vaucluse/Diamond Bay – community consultation phase, implementation phase 2020.
- Plastic free Bronte – 300 people watched Blue film screening, giving paper straws to businesses.
- Whale caught in ropes off Bondi. Motion put up to Council regarding the need for a Sydney Marine Park.
- Coastal walkway restoration works approx. 80% complete.

Willoughby

- Developed a draft Water Strategy to manage the total water cycle through catchment management water efficiency and water harvesting to achieve sustainable water use and cleaner waterways. This Strategy outlines the actions and policies that will enable achieving realistic water targets over a four-year period from 2018 to June 2022. The Strategy includes;
 - Water Use and Efficiency - Audit of main users, set targets and details actions
 - Water Harvesting and Reuse - Audit of rainwater tanks and stormwater harvesting assets, including risk management and a strategy for further installations
 - Waterway Health - 18/19 program includes a GPT renewal and \$42k for hand cleaning of creeks and a significant improvement to maintenance practices.
 - WSUD - Review of existing WSUD sites including raingardens and a list of proposed sites for investigation.
- A single use plastics forum was held with the community, with actions to develop policy and increase campaigns.
- Curriculum based Environmental Excursions for High Schools in the Willoughby area have been ongoing, with the entire year 8 of Willoughby Girls High participating in June.
- Engagement with Primary Schools has commenced to produce this year's edition of the 'Wildlife Story Book'.
- Reserve Action Plans updates have been produced for Mowbray Park, OH Reid Reserve and Flat Rock Gully, to establish reserve management
- Also, kayakers on Lane Cove River have complained to council about the volumes of litter and plastic being discharged into the river from Willoughby stormwater.

Woollahra

- Woollahra has banned plastics at community events.

The Group commenced a discussion on a marine park for Sydney, noting the management of existing aquatic reserves and the inconsistencies on how aquatic reserves are managed within NSW and the limited compliance/enforcement. It was suggested that rather than Sydney focused a marine park should be discussed within the context of the Hawkesbury shelf bioregion. An Options paper has been developed for the Hawkesbury shelf bioregion recommending spatial management within the region.

The EO noted that SCCG have and will continue to use the terminology sustainable marine management and multi-use marine park. An example of a motion put forward by Waverley council will be attached with the minutes.

Resolution:

R4. SCCG to follow up with LGNSW on the motions put to the 2017 Local Government Conference regarding plastics and coastal management, and an update on progress of any actions arising.

(Norton/Masselos)
Carried

ITEM 5 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

5.1 COLLABORATION

The EO advised delegates to contact the Secretariat if they had any queries or wanted information regarding outcomes from meetings / committees listed in the Agenda.

The EO noted that as part of the Grey-headed Flying-Fox regional forum, SCCG and Office of Environment and Heritage are in the process of developing maps for our councils; and will also implement training on the flying-fox count methodology for council staff/community.

The AUSMAP partnership was introduced. SCCG will sit on the steering committee and assist with advocacy/promotion of the microplastics methodology and community / schools program.

Other items taken as read as per Item 5.1 in the agenda papers.

5.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

Information on this Adapting Priority Coastal Recreational Infrastructure for Climate Change was provided in the presentation by Eduardo Pombo.

5.3 ADVOCACY

Items taken as read as per Item 5.3 in the Agenda Papers.

The EO noted that the Minister has now met with the members of the NSW Coastal Council. Prof. Bruce Thom will provide an update on the NSW Coastal Council at the next Full Group Meeting.

5.4 RESEARCH

Items taken as read as per Item 5.3 in the Agenda Papers.

ITEM 6 BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

It was noted that the Business Plan was adopted in March 2018. Actions from the Implementation Plan are being implemented, including the completion of a workshop for member councils on the coastal reforms held on 14 May. The EO noted that some actions are progressing more slowly due to staff leave, resignation and organising the move of the SCCG office.

Resolution:

SCCG to write to General Managers introducing the new Executive Officer, Sarah Joyce and requesting a meeting to discuss the Business Plan and future priorities.

(Saville/Neilson)
Carried

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 PROPOSED MEETING DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked Randwick Council for hosting the Full Group meeting.

The next meeting of the Full Group will be held on **Saturday 15 September** 2018 at 12 noon, hosted by Woollahra Council.

7.2 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Potential speakers for future meetings were identified as Mark Browne / Tim Silverwood.

It was suggested that SCCG invite the Environment Minister, local Member of Woollahra, to present on vision/priorities of the Government and collaborative mechanisms regarding coastal reforms.

Agenda items can be provided to the Chairperson via the Executive Officer at least four weeks prior to the meeting.

Agenda items were noted as:

- An update on the sea walls at Collaroy (Roundtable)
- Update on Waverley Cemetery (Roundtable)
- Update from Prof. Bruce Thom (NSW Coastal Council)
- Woollahra to provide presentation on seawalls

The Chair invited Geoff Withycombe to be an Honorary Member. GW noted he was instead happy to assist the Secretariat and provide advice, information as required.

Action: SCCG to invite Minister Upton (as Environment Minister and Local Member of Woollahra) to speak at the Full Group AGM in September.

ITEM 8 EXTERNAL REPORTS

8.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT

Item taken as read.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm

Confirmation of Minutes: Date: / /