

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.



MINUTES FOR THE FULL GROUP MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2018 HOSTED BY WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Rochelle Porteous	Inner West Council
Ms Jean Brennan	Inner West Council
Cr Ian White	Northern Beaches Council
Mr Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr Kathy Neilson	Randwick City Council
Cr Murray Matson	Randwick City Council
Cr Paula Masselos	Waverley Council
Cr George Copeland	Waverley Council
Cr Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis	Woollahra Council
Cr Megan McEwin	Woollahra Council
Ms Micaela Hopkins	Woollahra Council
Prof. Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr George Cotis	Honorary Member
Ms Sarah Joyce	SCCG (EO)
Ms Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)
Ms Josephine Zappia	SCCG (SO)
Dr Mark Browne	UNSW

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Deputy-Chair Councillor Ian White performed the duties as the Chair for this meeting. Cr White welcomed attendees and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

Councillor Mary-Lou Jarvis welcomed delegates to Woollahra Council.

1.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted.

Cr Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr Denis Fernandez	Willoughby Council
Cr Philipa Veitch	Randwick City Council
Cr Colin Hesse	Inner West Council

Bayside and Sutherland Councils were not represented at the meeting.
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1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil declarations were made.

ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Guest Presentation: Understanding and Managing the Problems of Debris, Dr Mark Browne, UNSW

Water Pollution and State Priorities

- NSW has best laws for plastics in the world: Australia is the only country in the world where plastics are classed as pollutants.
 - Pollutants are defined as “Physical, chemical, and biological change in waters or harms aquatic life”
- According to the Marine Estate Management Strategy, the most important threats to water pollution are litter and marine debris, stormwater and sewage, and inadequate regulation.
- 85% of debris is micro plastic, and there has been a 450% increase in the last 100 years. There are 25% more fibres where there are more people.
- There is a NSW Government target to reduce litter by 40% by 2020.

Microfibres and their significance

- Fibres come from acrylic, nylon and polyester. Pathways are through sewage and stormwater. Clothing fibres from washing machines are a large source in sewage.
- Sydney discharges 420,000 litres of stormwater every day to the Sydney harbour; and 1.2 million fibres per minute into the harbour during rainfall.
- There are larger quantities of plastics where there are drains. Problems its causing- in densely rainfall areas there are 50% fewer species in areas with more stormwater.
- Plastic bioaccumulates in fish species.
- Problems for species and human health:
 - Plastic contains and transfers toxic chemicals
 - Natural and plastic fibres linked to health issues in animals and humans; plastics caused problems in a study on fish populations: In 74% of cases they caused: oxidative stress, alter the concentration of calcium in the cells, changes to DNA, and when cells divide, reduced immunity, cause inflammation and fibrosis of tissues: (similar to the impacts of asbestos), change the size of organs, and cause endocrine disruption
 - Ecological issues- oyster species populations were fewer and less abundant in in areas with high concentration of plastics,
 - Long term impacts are a loss of biodiversity

UNSW's Research

- North Sydney and Mosman council have installed rock pools on sea walls to bring biodiversity back to the area. This is an example of how solutions can be made to problems.
- UNSW has a field laboratory to gain accurate data on organisms in their natural habitat.
- Australian research Council has partnered with Industry and UNSW to conduct an experiment: trialling washing machine filters and different types of clothing e.g slow fashion/fast fashion/natural clothing to see which reduced the most emission into sewage and the effect on biodiversity.
- Filters also need to be tested for potential human health issues.
 - Results; size of filters versus sustainable clothing
 - Experiment: field laboratory where organisms are in their natural environment and we can gain stronger data v laboratory tests where organisms do not act as they do in their natural environment
 - Research Development and Education partnerships can solve fibre pollution using robust scientific evidence. After this takes place, the results need to be communicated
- Mosman Council supported a trial of washing machine experiments (type of clothing /fabrics)
- Need testing/scientific evidence to understand the scope of the problem and obtain real evidence behind solutions.
- Research: cradle to grave life cycle assessment, manage sources and pathways, Cost Benefit Analysis

- Education- communicate solutions to councils and community need an outreach program once evidence is concluded (3 years).
- More Resources are needed (\$120,000 gap in funding)
- Partners- Melbourne Water, SA Water, Parley (providing 60,000 of clothing), Eileen Fisher, Hornsby Council, Mosman Council, NSW EPA, Australian Research Council.

Questions from the Full Group

Q1. How are sources of plastics (microfibres) detected? R. Spectrum testing of sewage shows almost 100% of fibres found in sewage are from clothing. Other methods include identifying the polymer and matching its signature to an existing database to determine its source. Acrylics and polyester are mainly found in sewage whilst polypropylene is mainly found in stormwater (from concrete source).

Q2. Are microbeads more of an issue than microfibres? R. Microbeads are being phased out of products, so this should become less of an issue. However, in our study, only two samples have found microbeads present indicating they are not as abundant as microfibres.

Q3. Has PVC piping shown to be an issue re: plastics breakdown? R. This study has not shown sufficient evidence / patterns of plastic breakdown from PVC piping.

Q4. Can plastic bioaccumulation be passed onto offspring? R. This type of study has not been conducted for fibres, however nanoplastic studies have shown that they can be passed on.

Q5. Are you looking to expand partnerships with other councils? R. The project is building research in various LGA's. Primarily looking for a council to provide a site location (in-kind) large enough to house a washing machine laboratory for experiments. Also, would like to partner with councils regarding the dissemination of study findings/outputs and involvement in the outreach program for the community.

The Chair thanked Dr Mark Browne on his presentation.

RESOLUTION	
R2.1	That the Presenter be formally thanked for his attendance and presentation (Porteous/Masselos) Carried
R2.2	That SCCG investigate opportunities to support further microplastics research and partnerships. (White/Jarvis) Carried

ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Draft Minutes of the Full Group Meeting held on 23 June 2018 were confirmed. The Minutes of the Technical Committee held on 23 August 2018 were received and noted.

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING

The EO provided an update on actions arising, noting that the Final Report on the 'Adapting Priority Coastal Recreational Infrastructure for Climate Change' project had been completed.

The EO advised that Minister Upton was invited to present at this meeting, but she was unable to attend.

The MPP advised that LGNSW had released the 2017 Local Government NSW Conference Action Report. With regards to the resolutions relating to plastics, it was noted that official letters had been written by LGNSW and forwarded to the relevant Ministers for action.

For further information the Action Report can be downloaded from the LGNSW [website](#).

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence since the last meeting was received and noted.

The EO suggested a change to current procedures, namely providing only the correspondence report and ceasing circulation of the hard copy folders during the meeting, as a means of saving paper and double handling of correspondence received electronically, with letters being provided on request. It was determined that no change to current process was required.

3.4 FINANCE STATEMENTS

Cr Matson enquired as to the current term of the SCCG term deposit, with the MPP noting that the term deposit matures every three months. The Finance Statements for 1 July – 30 June 2018 were adopted.

RESOLUTIONS

R3.1 Minutes of the Full Group Meeting on 23 June 2018 were confirmed.

R3.1b Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting on 23 August were received.
(Masselos/Massey)
Carried

R3.2 Business Arising from the 23 June 2018 Meeting was considered and noted.

R3.3 The circulated correspondence was received and noted.
(Jarvis/Norton)
Carried

R3.4 The Finance Statements for 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018 were received and adopted.
(Matson/Masselos)
Carried

ITEM 4 DISCUSSION ITEM

4.1 SCCG UPDATE ON GM MEETINGS AND GOVERNANCE

The EO provided an overview of her meetings with Member Council General Managers. Meetings have thus far been held with Northern Beaches, Sutherland, Waverley, and Woollahra Councils.

The EO noted that the SCCG had an opportunity to put in an expression of interest for the Research and Innovation Grant and recommended submitting an EOI on 'user pays' approach to recreational coastal assets as this was identified as a key issue by Sutherland Council. Discussion ensued around investment options to prevent cost shifting to local councils and options to fund council maintenance to cope with use/tourism, as well as the notion of providing equity of access to all.

As all councils were not in agreement on this recommendation, it was determined that an EOI on 'user pays' would not be submitted. However, it was resolved to submit an EOI based on water pollution and microfibre research.

The EO advised delegates that a legal review was undertaken on the SCCG Constitution and that amendments were required. It was noted that these amendments and a supporting report would be circulated prior to the AGM for adoption at the AGM in December.

The SCCG Business Plan adopted at the Full Group meeting in March 2018 states that the Executive Committee will be dissolved into one group (the Full Group). The EO noted that under the Constitution and *Incorporated Associations Act 2009*, the SCCG requires two voting bodies and recommended a smaller board/committee be established. Guidance on the size and composition of this board/committee was requested from the Full Group.

Delegates stated that they required further information on the current Constitution, proposed amendments, legal advice and the governance structure prior to making any determinations.

RESOLUTION

R4.1 Executive Forum to review the Business Plan and its implementation plan at its Meeting in February 2019.

R4.2 SCCG to prepare an EOI for the Research and Innovation Grant Program, in consultation with Dr Mark Browne, on research into water pollution (microfibres) and its impacts applicable to NSW.

(Jarvis/Norton)
Carried

R4.3 That amendments, as recommended by the Executive Officer, be made to the Constitution for adoption at the AGM on 1st December 2018.

(Lost)

The EO to provide a report to the Full Group on the proposed amendments to the SCCG Constitution and the review of the Business Plan with regards to the governance model, including examples of governance models of other ROCS.

(White/Jarvis)
Carried

ITEM 5 ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided a brief update on key initiatives.

Inner West

- Iron cove greenway adopted by Council
- Masterplan - Dawn Frasier pool to deal with rising sea levels
- Gross Pollutant traps being installed

Northern Beaches

- Stage 1 works on sea wall has commenced in Collaroy
- Burnt Creek Bridge – removal of toxic weeds and restoration of riparian zone
- Council is moving a lagoon walkway - lagoon and biodiversity regeneration.

North Sydney

- Council opposes RMS plans to demolish a heritage item whilst the site is being heritage assessed.

Randwick Council

- Eco-living expo this weekend (Sunday 16th September).
- Online Water Quality Survey – how your rate water quality at various beaches and invitation to participants to a focus group to discuss results

- Screening of Blue on 21st October including Q&A with Tim Silverwood
- Council oppose plans for cruise ship terminal in port botany. Issues are around heritage and ecological impacts.

Waverly Council

- Policies on single use plastics have been harmonised. Council seeks the co-operation of cafes and shops to build buying power to have alternative to single use plastics
- Have held four meetings with Sydney Water regarding the Diamond Bay ocean outfall - options are on the table.
- Submission on Marine Park- 30% of Waverly is covered in the proposal.
- There has been increasing compliance on dumped rubbish and reporting – waste management policy.
- Opening of the walkway near the cemetery will be reopened shortly.

Willoughby Council

- Creek litter clean-up program
- Water Quality Monitoring Program covers 10 sites
- Motion to ban single-use plastics in Council operations and working with businesses to follow suit.
- Plastic-free July events were undertaken and there was a Jellyfish installation made from single use plastics for VIVID.
- Officers are endorsing the SCCG submission on Sydney Marine Park

Woollahra

- Rose Bay working party – investigating ways to remove pollutions
- National Park development proposal at South Head opposed by Council and community
- Sydney Marine Park's submission – inclusion of seahorses at Parsley Bay.

ITEM 6 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

6.1 COLLABORATION

Items taken as read as per Item 6.1 in the agenda papers.

6.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

Items taken as read as per Item 6.2 in the agenda papers.

6.3 ADVOCACY

Prof. Bruce Thom provided an update on the Coastal Reforms and the NSW Coastal Council. Key discussions were:

- The Act, SEPP and Manual came into force on 3 April 2018
- The first meeting of the NSW Coastal Council was held on 26 June 2018. This Council is made up of seven people with different specialisations as specified in the Act.
- Under the legislation, Councils may undertake a Coastal Management Program (CMP) for all or part of an area.
- This is a long-term strategy for coordinated management and the CMP should be embedded within Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.
- There are commonalities and interests between councils and therefore there is an advantage group collaboration.
- NSW is the only state with a s.733 provision, where councils are not liable for negative consequences or negligence on coastal management programs. If councils act in good faith, they are not liable.
- Judiciary role of councils to deal with emerging risks of climate change- what is acceptable risk under the circumstances?

NSW Marine Estate Reforms

The EO provided an update on the SCCG submission on the NSW Marine Parks proposal and requested delegates to provide any comments and or amendments. The following points were raised:

- Cabbage Tree Creek and Basin - powered craft should be excluded south from Constables Point;
- That the sanctuary zone be extended to include the Bonnie Vale Lagoon and the salt marshes and mangrove areas within Cabbage Tree Basin.
- Intertidal flats, Port Hacking - the intertidal area west of the chance to Fishermans Bay be declared a sanctuary zone, excluding powered craft and all fishing and gathering.
- Allow conservation and sanctuary zones to include transit zones for kayaks with fishing gear.
- Compliance and education are needed for enforcement of marine park.

6.4 RESEARCH

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

RESOLUTION

6.1 The Full Group endorsed the SCCG Marine Park submission pending amendments, as provided.

6.2 SCCG write a letter to the NSW Coastal Council regarding the need for strong compliance / enforcement.

(White/Masselos)
Carried

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 PROPOSED MEETING DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Group will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on 1st December 2018. A Member Council was not nominated to host at the meeting. The EO will approach Northern Beaches Council to host.

7.2 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Nil agenda items raised.

ITEM 8 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

8.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT

8.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE

Items taken as read.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

Confirmation of Minutes:/ /