



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

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15 December 2022

Dear Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (GSHCMP) Steering Committee and Councils Partners,

As we come close to the end of 2022, the GSHCMP Project Team is pleased to share this positive update with you summarising our key achievements this year. It has been an amazing experience for me to work with such a dedicated Team and be able to interact with so many who are determined to address the challenges facing the need to protect waterway health of our iconic Harbour including the Parramatta River and all those drains and creeks that discharge into these waters. It has been a continual learning experience and what we have achieved to date provides a very sound foundation for future work.

GSHCMP Stage 2 completion

We are proud to announce the completion of Stage 2 of the GSHCMP focused on *determining risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities*. It involved the delivery of the following inter-related studies and reports:

- Study 1 investigated the effectiveness of stormwater management measures across 20 councils in the GSH catchment;
- Study 2 identified council needs and management options to help improve stormwater discharge and waterway health in the catchment;
- Study 3 reviewed options for establishing a governance and sustainable funding structure that would ensure the long-term sustainable health of the catchment; and
- Delivery of a series of workshops with technical experts and councils on the topic of water quality, climate change and catchment initiatives.

The outcomes of all three studies and technical workshops shaped our recommendations to the NSW Government which was recently submitted in November 2022. The Recommendations Report is an independent report from me as Chair of the Project Management Committee.

GSHCMP Stage 3 progress

We received the support and financial commitment of 20 of the 21 Councils for the development of Stage 3 of the GSHCMP and submitted a project grant application in November. Further advice from the Minister's Office is expected shortly.

The SCCG is also preparing a second project grant application to develop a risk management framework for coastal inundation with sea level rise, on behalf of GSH foreshore councils.

Implementation of the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (RLPS)

Implementation of the [Regional Litter Prevention Strategy – For a Litter Free Greater Sydney](#) is progressing well. Engagement with councils to participate in on-ground education and awareness raising projects is progressing with

Hornsby, Cumberland and Inner West councils, having expressed interests among the 21 GSH councils to tackle local litter issues at locations that have been identified as problematic litter hotspots. Take 3 for the Sea and Keep Australia Beautiful have been engaged to deliver education sessions on litter prevention to schools within the Parramatta River, Lane Cover River, Middle Harbour and Port Jackson sub-catchments of the GSH. The programs are tailored to the different age groups with the aim of increasing students' awareness of how litter pollutes the waterways and ocean and to invite wider engagement in litter prevention activities.

The first Community Litter Forum held online in September 2022 was attended by a breadth of GSH councils, community representatives and organisations. The Forum provided a valuable opportunity to share current project and initiatives which tackle litter and generated great discussions about the most effective approaches to litter prevention. Design is also being finalised to develop a centralised web portal to provide a catchment-wide, shared knowledge base for ongoing litter prevention. More information on the project is available [here](#).

Smart Places Acceleration program funding success

As you will remember from the September 2022 update, the SCCG in partnership with Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA), CSIRO and PRCG worked together on a business case for the project *Smarter Cleaner Sydney Harbour – Smart Sensors in Stormwater Management*, under the Smart Places Acceleration program. With great pleasure, we are excited to announce that the proposal was successful and will be delivered over the next 18 months.

This project aims to develop artificial intelligence (AI) supported technology which involves installing up to 60-80 sensors in stormwater assets across Sydney Olympic Park and partner councils' gross pollutant traps within the GSH catchment area. Coupled with camera traps to record floating litter along waterways, the two technologies together will allow the catchment to shift from a reactive to a proactive catchment management. By using AI to accelerate the detection and classification of rubbish in our waterways, SOPA and Councils can plan more effectively, respond more quickly and improve the quality of water faster than if done manually, while improving safety of the maintenance of assets and operation staff.

Ongoing communiques

We will continue to release communiques on an as-needs basis to keep you updated on the progress of our work. Please feel free to share this communique within your organisation.

On behalf of the Project Team, we extend our warmest wishes to you ahead of the holiday season. We greatly appreciate your support and partnerships and look forward to continuing working with you in 2023!

Best wishes,



Prof. Bruce Thom
Chair, Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering Committee