

Federal Election 2019 Policy Recommendations



Key Coastal Management Issues

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) is a Regional Organisation of Councils representing 9 Councils in the Sydney coastal region.

The SCCG's mission is to lead sustainable management of the coast through collaboration, capacity building, advocacy and research. For more information go to www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Australia's coastline is one of our most valuable national assets. Approximately 85% of Australians live within 50 km of the coast and the coastal population continues to grow, placing increasing pressures on natural values.

Australia's coastal and estuarine environment is critically important to the nation's environmental, social and economic prosperity and values, including intrinsic environmental values of the coast.

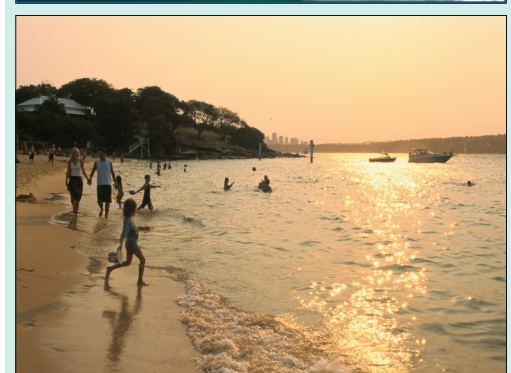
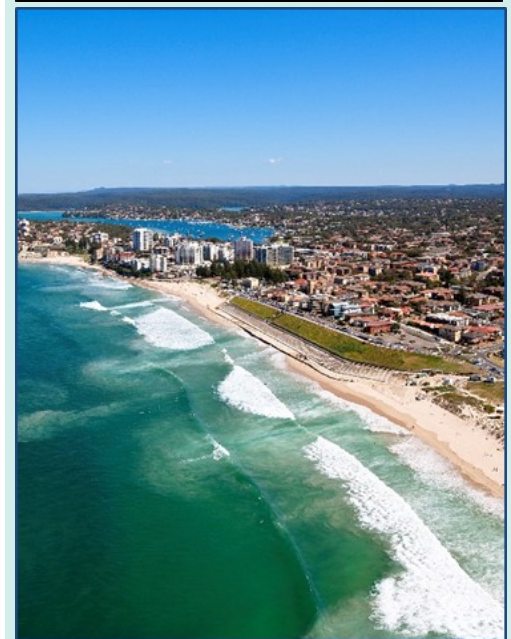
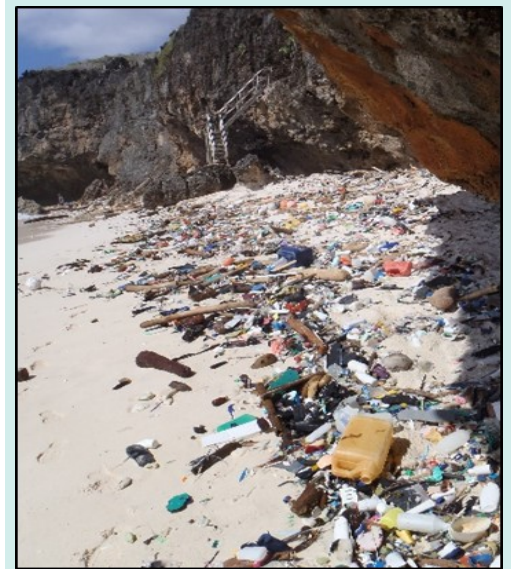
There is a clear need to ensure the long-term sustainable management, conservation and protection of Australia's coastal and estuarine environment, this requires coordinated action from all levels of government, with strong leadership and direction from the Australian Government.

Key Coastal Management Issues that need to be addressed consistently at a national level include:

- ⇒ National Coastal Management
- ⇒ Climate Change
- ⇒ Water Management
- ⇒ Plastic Pollution

With the Federal Election on 18 May 2019, it is essential that all political parties contesting the Federal Election commit to addressing these key coastal management issues.

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group recommends actions/ initiatives to address these key coastal management issues.



Coastal Management Actions Recommendations

Coasts

- ⇒ Develop a National Coastal Policy /Act that sets the vision and direction for the sustainable management, conservation and protection of the coast throughout Australia.
- ⇒ Develop a coast and marine conservation strategy that provides a robust framework for increasing the spatial network of marine parks, ensuring comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation of coastal/marine life and values.
- ⇒ Further funding allocated for national coast care programs.

Plastics

- ⇒ Establish a National ban on single-use plastic bags.
- ⇒ Develop Industry regulations and set ambitious targets for Industry packaging reduction and recycling under a new mandatory Australian Packaging Covenant; with clear, comprehensive annual auditing and public reporting of the outcomes.
- ⇒ Work with neighbouring countries to develop cooperative programs to clean up marine debris pollution in international waters.

Water

- ⇒ Introduce a national standard requiring, as a minimum, secondary treatment of sewage released from ocean outfalls.
- ⇒ Develop a National Integrated Water Management Plan for the sustainable management of Australia's water supply, equitable use, and environmental flows for healthy river systems.

Climate

- ⇒ Strong national leadership and direct climate change action, including:
 - * Development of a National Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy that achieves >85% renewable energy and net-zero carbon pollution.
 - * Develop further funding programs for research and on-ground works related to resilience of biodiversity in the face of climate change impacts.

