



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP INC.

councils caring for the coastal and estuarine environment

# SCCG Water Pollution Hotspots Survey Results Report 2019

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# 1. Introduction

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) Water Pollution Survey provides an opportunity for Technical Committee representatives, and other relevant Executives and staff, to inform SCCG of water pollution hotspots in their LGA. The results of this survey will be used to develop a water pollution hotspot map of the SCCG region which can be presented to Sydney Water.

This report details the results of our Water Pollution Hotspots Survey, which was distributed to our members online during January/February 2019.

The survey was comprised of the following 7 questions:

1. Do you have any water pollution hotspots?
2. Please identify the location(s) of the water pollution hotspot(s) and provide mapping where possible.
3. How many water pollution hotspots do you have in your LGA?
4. For each hotspot location, what is the source of the water pollution?
5. How long has the nominated location(s) been a water pollution hotspot?
6. What steps have been taken to address this water pollution issue at these hotspots?
7. Please provide any other comments or feedback regarding the pollution issue.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Survey Design

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The online survey platform Survey Monkey was used to design and gather survey responses. Results were exported to Excel for data analysis.

The survey primarily used multiple choice-style questions in order to collect data on water pollution hotspots in the respondent's LGA. A comments field after most questions allowed respondents to elaborate.

Most questions were not compulsory, and participants were able to skip questions if they felt they did not have enough knowledge of the issues or the question was not applicable for their LGA.

### 2.2 Survey Participants

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Survey responses were received from six of our nine member councils, namely; Bayside, Northern Beaches, Randwick, Sutherland Shire, Waverley, and Woollahra Councils.

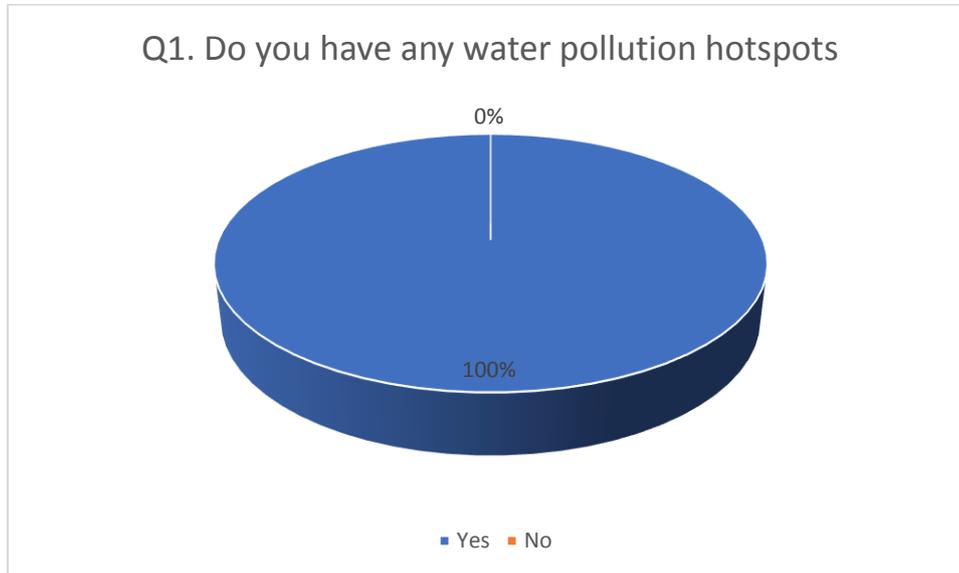
Those Councils that did not respond noted the following reasons:

- They had no/minimal pollution hotspots
- They have been/are able to address pollution hotspot issues without assistance
- Limited resources re: staff /time to gather the required data to respond to the SCCG survey.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The survey results are provided below.

**Q1. Do you have any water pollution hotspots?**



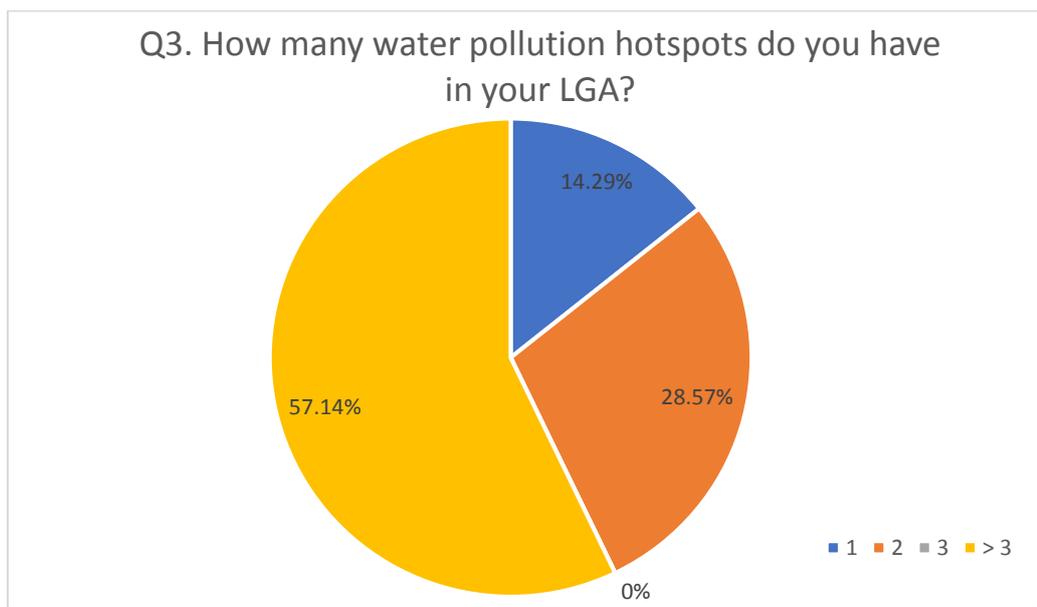
100% of respondents from the 6 member councils participating in the survey stated that they do have water pollution hotspots in their local government area.

**Q2. Please identify the location(s) of the water pollution hotspot(s).**

The following locations were identified as hotspot areas.

Council LGA	Hotspot Location
Bayside Council	Bardwell Creek Baderberong Creek Bicentennial Ponds
Northern Beaches Council	South Palm Beach Narrabeen Lagoon (Birdwood Park) Turimetta Beach Greendale Creek Curl Curl Lagoon Manly Lagoon Dee why Lagoon Dee Why Creek
Woollahra Council	Rose Bay Parsley Bay
Sutherland Shire Council	GyMEA Bay Baths
Waverley Council	Eastern Reserve Sewer Outfall Diamond Bay Sewer Outfall
Randwick Council	Yarra Bay Coogee Beach Malabar Headland <i>(map of pollution points attached as Attachment 1)</i>

**Q3. How many water pollution water hotspots do you have in your LGA?**



43% of respond have 1 – 2 pollution hotspots in their LGA, whilst 57% reported having greater than 3 pollution hotspot areas.

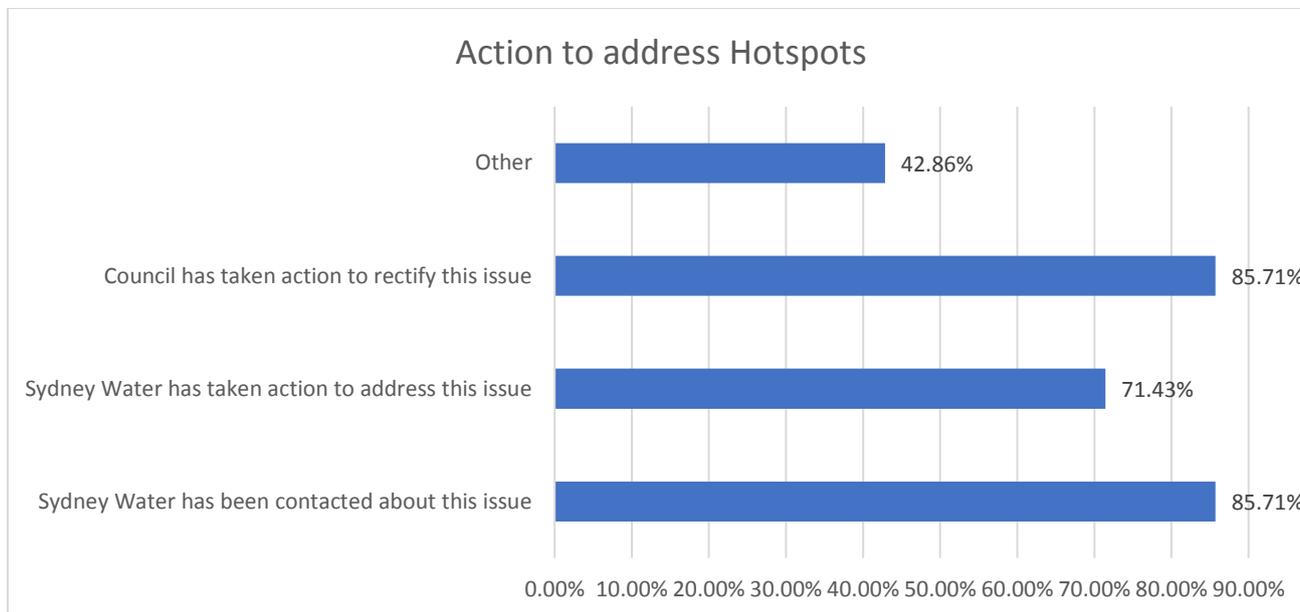
**Q4. For each hotspot location, what is the source of the water pollution?**

Hotspot Location	Pollution Source
Coogee North/South	Storm water pollution
Maroubra South	Dry weather sewer overflow Storm water Headland runoff / leachate
Yarra Bay	Dry weather sewer overflow
Malabar Bay	STP discharge/leak
Bardwell, Baderberong Creeks	Sewage and stormwater
Bicentennial Ponds	Landfill seepage
Scarborough Ponds	Temperature inversion
Lagoon sites, Dee Why and Greendale Creeks	Point Source – industrial area (paint/chemicals), sewer overflows, building sites, sediment leachates  Non-point source – stormwater events
Turimetta Beach	Diffuse sewer from nearby outfall site
GyMEA Bay Baths	Sewerage
Rose Bay, Parsley Bay	Sewer overflows
Eastern Reserve, Diamond Bay Sewer Outfall	Point source – sewerage

**Q6. How long has the nominated location(s) been a water pollution hotspot?**

All respondents report that the nominated locations for water pollution hotspots are long term problems, spanning from many years to decades.

**Q7. What steps have been taken to address this water pollution issue at these hotspots?**



Approx. 86% of respondents had contacted Sydney Water regarding water pollution hotspots, with 71% reporting that Sydney Water had taken some action in response, whilst 86% noted that Councils had themselves taken some action in an attempt to rectify the water pollution issue at the hotspot.

43% stated that they had undertaken other actions which included working collaboratively with council compliance staff, noting that staff are often under resourced; working with the EPA; and sporadically conducting water quality monitoring/sampling to investigate specific pollution incidents.

**Q8. Please provide any other comments or feedback regarding the pollution issue.**

Four respondents provided additional feedback regarding the pollution issue. Comments are provided below:

- Sewer overflows due to capacity deficiency issues is a regional issue affecting adjacent Councils of Bayside and Waverley.
- Sporadic fish kills either due to pollution or temperature inversions. Sporadic pollution from illegal dumping of chemicals/paint down the stormwater system. Leaking sewers.
- Although action has been taken by Sydney Water in the past, the issue of sewer overflows onto beaches remains an issue.
- Council is in regular contact with Sydney Water on this issue. They are in the process of rectifying this legacy issue, however, actions to address this pollution hotspot are costly and longer-term.

## **4. Conclusion**

The Water Pollution Hotspots Survey will enable SCCG to work collaboratively with Sydney Water to effectively map water pollution hotspots for our member councils, and where possible undertake collaborative action and advocacy to address these issues.

Attachment 1 – Randwick LGA Hotspot Maps.

