

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.



**MINUTES FOR THE FULL GROUP MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2019**

HOSTED BY WAVERLEY COUNCIL

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Rochelle Porteous	Inner West Council
Cr Ian White	Northern Beaches Council
Mr Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr Kathy Neilson	Randwick Council
Cr Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council
Cr Paula Masselos	Waverley Council
Mr Sam McGuinness	Waverley Council
Cr Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis	Woollahra Council
Mr Greg McLean	Sutherland Shire Council
Prof. Bruce Thom	Honorary Member
Mr George Cotis	Honorary Member
Ms Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Ms Sarah Joyce	SCCG (EO)
Ms Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair Councillor Lynne Saville welcomed delegates to the meeting at Waverley Council and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted.

Cr Denis Fernandez	Willoughby Council
Cr Michael Forshaw	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr David Walton	Northern Beaches Council
Cr Andrew Tsounis	Bayside Council

Bayside was not represented at the meeting.

There was a quorum for the meeting.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil declarations were made.

ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION

Marine Estate Management Strategy, Ms Trish Harrup, Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

Presentation notes are provided below, and the presentation slides are attached to the Minutes at Attachment 1.

- The Marine Estate Management Strategy is a 10-year strategy, although there is currently funding for only stage 1 (2 years). MEMA is in the business planning phase for stage 2.
- The Strategy includes 9 initiatives, which are being managed by various agencies including OEH, DPI Fisheries and NSW Transport.
- Initiative 1 – most relevant to SCCG – related to water quality. A primary project is the risk-based framework. This has been integrated into the Coastal Management Manual. A Pilot program is currently being undertaken with Northern Beaches Council.
- OEH has engaged consultancy AECOM to undertake work on the application of the risk-based framework.
- Action to update the water quality and river flow objectives
- Reviewing gaps and tools available to manage diffuse source water pollution to ensure appropriate management.
- Investigation into options to fund stormwater management – report to be compiled by consultants and published.
- Initiative 1.4 focuses on marine litter – the impact of litter on the marine environment – EPA will build on the Don't be a tosser program. *GC noted that this program was about educating end users only and did not assist with stopping plastic/waste items at the source.*
- OEH and UNSW are currently undertaking a threat risk assessment of litter to identify the most prolific sources and gather an evidence base for further projects.
- Initiative 1.5 - Water quality monitoring report card system – could be a consistent state-wide application.
- Initiative 2 – action to audit commercial dredging in estuaries. *The question was asked whether this will be NSW wide and whether it will only relate to estuaries? BT noted that MHL have been auditing dredging of entrances. It was suggested that Councils would like the opportunity to provide input into scoping of actions.*
- Initiative 3 Climate Change – minimal funding has been allocated for Stage 1 – hoping to be further funded in Stage 2. Includes actions around mapping estuarine communities to identify those at risk from sea level rise.
- Initiative 4 – Aboriginal cultural values – pilot on the south coast focussing on the marine protected areas. *Noted by the group that Stage 2 could focus on Sydney, particularly Botany Bay.*
- Initiative 5 – reducing impacts on threatened and protected species – being led by NPWS. Increasing coordination and response to wildlife emergencies, education to reduce negative human/wildlife interactions. Focus is on southern right whales, seals and shorebirds. *SJ noted that SCCG is in contact with NPWS re: participating in the project relevant to shorebirds. Query on whether life guards have been considered as a stakeholder in wildlife management? Council officers could also play a role in educating the community/schools. Suggestion that dolphins and turtles also be included in the project. It was noted by OEH that turtles are covered under the existing Saving our Species Program. It was suggested that this program must include a compliance aspect with sufficient funding for compliance officers.*
- Initiative 6 and 7 led by DPI Fisheries and RMS respectfully. Boating is an issue for coastal councils – re: user conflicts, safety and impacts on seagrass from moorings. *Suggested SCCG approach DPI Fisheries and RMS to provide more information on these initiatives and potentially present at the next Full Group meeting.*
- Initiative 8 & 9 include actions around enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits and delivering effective governance for the marine estate.

The Chair thanked Ms Harrup for her presentation. A thank you letter has been sent to Ms Harrup on behalf of the Group.

ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Full Group Annual General Meeting held on 1 December 2018 were confirmed. The Minutes of the Technical Committee and Executive Committee were received and noted.

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING

The EO provided an update on actions arising from the 1st December 2018 AGM. The EO noted that a letter was sent to Linda Scott (LGNSW) inviting her to be an honorary member of the Group. SCCG is awaiting a reply.

The business arising from this meeting is summarised below. It identifies the actions for the Secretariat and delegates to complete prior to the next meeting on 27th July.

Actions from 30 March FG Meeting	By Whom	Due Date	Status
Write thank you letters to the Meeting Host Council and the Presenter	SEC	1/4/19	Completed
Follow up with DPI Fisheries and RMS regarding MEMA Strategy Initiatives – with potential to invite them to the next meeting.	SEC	1/6/19	
Progress option 1 and 2 and clarify the legality of option 5 of the Membership Expansion Options Report.	SEC	1/6/19	
Full Group Delegates to provide comments on the draft strategic plan to the EO by 22 nd April.	All Delegates	22/4/19	
Letter to be sent to Northern Beaches Council confirming venue for next meeting.	SEC	9/4/19	

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence since the last meeting was received and noted. The MPP clarified that the correspondence report is run two weeks prior to the Full Group meetings in order to be included in the Full Group Agenda. As such the correspondence in/out folders include correspondence dated up to 15 March 2019. Anything received after the 16th March will be included in the correspondence report for the next Full Group Meeting in July.

3.4 QUARTERLY FINANCE STATEMENTS

The Chair noted that the previous restricted funds from older projects now acquitted had been moved to general funds. The quarterly finance statements to 28 February 2019 were noted.

3.5 SCCG FINANCES

The EO noted the shortfall in the 2018/19 budget and the need to increase funding for the group. The GM's Forum was held on 22nd March 2019 to primarily discuss the finances and the willingness of members to increase member contributions by 13% (to break even) or 40% (fully resourced to implement strategic plan objectives). Following this meeting the EO requested all GM's to provide confirmation of their position on a membership contribution increase. Confirmation from GM's was received on Friday 29th March 2019 and forwarded to the Executive Committee for resolution at its meeting on morning of 30th March 2019. Based on the feedback it was noted that the Executive Committee has recommended a 13% increase in membership fees for 2019/20, with a reassessment of contributions and a potential for a further increase to be undertaken in 6 months' time. There is a need to be clear on the benefits/value of SCCG to members, with Councillor delegates championing for the Group.

A question was asked whether SCCG pays a host fee? The Chair responded that the host fee at Northern Beaches is similar to that paid at the City of Sydney previously, however SCCG has increased costs with respect to payroll, travel and teleconferencing.

The potential for Hornsby Council to re-join the group was raised and it was suggested that SCCG approach Hornsby to present to them on the group and benefits of membership. It was suggested that SCCG could raise its profile and promote the group further through e.g. the quarterly newsletter and Councillor bulletins.

RESOLUTIONS

R3a Minutes of the Full Group AGM held on 1 December 2018 were confirmed.

R3b Minutes of the Technical Committee Meetings were received and noted.

R3c Minutes of the Executive Committee were received and noted

R3d The circulated correspondence was received and noted.

R3e The Quarterly finance statements to 28 February 2019 were received and noted.

(Masselos/White)
Carried

ITEM 4 DISCUSSION ITEM

4.1 SCCG MEMBER EXPANSION OPTIONS

The EO presented five options for expansion, as per the options report in the Full Group Agenda.

1. Expand membership into Sydney Harbour
2. Expand Membership outside of Sydney
3. Invite State Agencies to become members
4. Council opt in/opt out funding models
5. Seek Sponsorship

It was noted that joining with other catchment groups such as Parramatta River Catchment Group was considered, however in discussion with PRCG it was stated that they would not consider this option in the short-term as they are focused on implementation of its Parramatta River Masterplan.

The point was raised regarding SCCG's role in facilitating Coastal Management Programs to ensure consistency, with seven programs currently relevant to SCCG. This work has the potential to bring in other council members.

It was considered by some delegates that there may be a potential conflict of interest by having state agencies as members, although they could potential provide grants or become partners with SCCG. It was identified that for option five, Sydney Water is a suitable sponsor, although again there were concerns that this could stifle the work of SCCG, particularly in terms of advocacy. It was recommended that the legality of SCCG in being able to obtain sponsorship be clarified.

The following suggestions were made:

- Presentations to GM's/Councillors of Sydney Harbour Councils that are currently not members (including Mosman, City of Sydney and Hornsby)
- Presentation to Central Coast Council and Wollongong Council as they border current members.
- Arrange a meeting with the newly appointed Environment Minister.
- Arrange a meeting with Robyn Preston (Member for Hawkesbury, Councillor Hills Shire Council)

RESOLUTION

The EO's report on the SCCG membership expansion options was received and noted, with the recommendation at this stage being to progress options 1 and 2 and clarify the legality of option 5.

(Masselos/White)
Carried

ITEM 5 ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided a brief update on key initiatives.

Bayside, Inner West, North Sydney, Woollahra – no update

Sutherland Council – stormwater queries, need further data, how to best capture stormwater.

Randwick Council

- Stormwater issues at Coogee – election campaign issue – funds promised
- Clean Up Australia Day at Coogee Beach
- AUSMAP monitoring – microplastics survey – over 13000 items counted.
- Screening of documentary Blue

Waverley Council

- Ocean outfall at Diamond Bay, Sydney Water community consultation, currently at the design stage of the project – focus will be on Parsley Bay (Woollahra side).
- Plastics – combining events and plastics policies including removing use of balloons. Supporting Plastic Free Bronte. Rangers are educating on single use plastics in the community.
- GPT Review
- Coastal Management Program Scoping Study – open ocean with the three councils (Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick).
- Mayoral minute – alternatives to herbicides

Willoughby Council

- Council environment and compliance staff are currently working with Sydney Water, EPA and Fire and Rescue regarding the recent pollution incidences in Scott's Creek.
- Council is reviewing Part C5 of the WDCP
- Public consultation has been completed for Council's new Draft Our Green City Plan 2028, which includes maintaining health waterways through education, monitoring, GPTs and regulatory action.
- Planning underway for "Water and Wildlife" Willoughby Fauna Fair 2019 is on 31 March - celebrating local wildlife, bushland and community participation and providing environmental education, engagement and entertainment.
- Environmental Workshops and Events Calendar compiled in conjunction with Lane Cove and North Sydney Councils distributed to Libraries and Community Centres.
- Council has started a waterway health audit in industrial zoned catchments, including education and compliance.
- Council is currently constructing two new GPT's in the Flat Rock Catchment.

Northern Beaches

- Council celebrated the 17th anniversary of Cabbage Tree Bay becoming a No Take Aquatic Reserve. The reserve covers 20 ha with 40 volunteers.
- Partnered in the crayweed project managed by SIMS – crayweed is being restored at Cabbage Tree Bay.
- On 26th March 2019 Council approved the program of financial assistance to private property owners at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach in accordance with its Policy. Residents will be able to request up to 20% funding towards there works (10% council, 10% state government).
- Fire at storage units in Brookvale on 27 March required use of suppression foam. Council working to reduce the environmental impact of the foam on aquatic life in Brookvale creek. Queenscliff Beach and Pool will remain closed until confirmed safe, warning signs have been installed, Brookvale Creek will be flushed, removal of dead fish.
- Allocation of \$200,000 towards a free compost program for residents.

ITEM 6 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT

Due to time constraints, Item 6 was not dealt with at the meeting. Items for 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 to be taken as read as per the Full Group Agenda papers.

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Due to time constraints, Item 7.1 was not dealt with at the meeting.

7.2 SCCG DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

The SCCG Strategic Plan comes to an end on 30 June 2019. The Strategic Plan is now under review. The EO ran through the structure of the proposed Strategic Plan. What were previously known as the goals will become the SCCG guiding approach (Collaboration, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Research).

The EO asked for feedback on the proposed vision. It was noted that the new vision was too long and did not consider the intrinsic values of the environment/ecosystem health, nor does it include 'enhancement or protection'. It was noted that it should also consider users and keep the old vision terminology relevant to engaged communities, whilst adding in 'coordination or collaboration and regional leadership. Need to project what we do not just what we want as a future state. It was noted that we need to ensure that the vision aligns with the objectives of the constitution.

With respect to the goals it was suggested for goal 3 to remove the word 'adequately', and for goal 4 to potentially add in the word 'smart' if this is relevant to SCCG work. For goal 2 – it needs to better encompass beaches could use 'waterways and foreshore'. For goal 1 – potentially add in population pressures and impacts on the marine environment and associated planning activities, as well as increased pressure from number of users and frequency of use.

It was suggested that goal 6 be reviewed as the objectives do not align with the goal. The objectives relate more to internal staffing and finance which do not need to be included in the strategic plan. Based on this goal we would need to add in an objective on surveying values of members. Need to change the wording as SCCG does not make decisions on behalf of councils – e.g. 'trusted and respected to undertake work that reflects the value of its members'. Key benefits of SCCG are 'representation, leadership and liaison'.

It was noted that there needs to be a governance aspect which should reflect the committees, however this may fit best in a separate governance plan as a component of the Strategic Plan framework instead of objective/initiatives in the Strategic Plan itself.

RESOLUTION

Submissions on the draft Strategic Plan from Full Group delegates to be received by 22nd April for inclusion in the draft Strategic Plan for consideration at the Executive Committee meeting on 3rd May.

(Porteous/White)
Carried

7.3 PROPOSED MEETING DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Group will be held on Saturday **27 July 2019**. The meeting will be hosted by Northern Beaches Council at Manly Town Hall, pending confirmation.

7.4 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Due to time constraints Item 7.4 was not dealt with at the meeting. Please forward any agenda items to the Chair or EO four weeks prior to the next meeting.

ITEM 8 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

8.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT

Item taken as read.

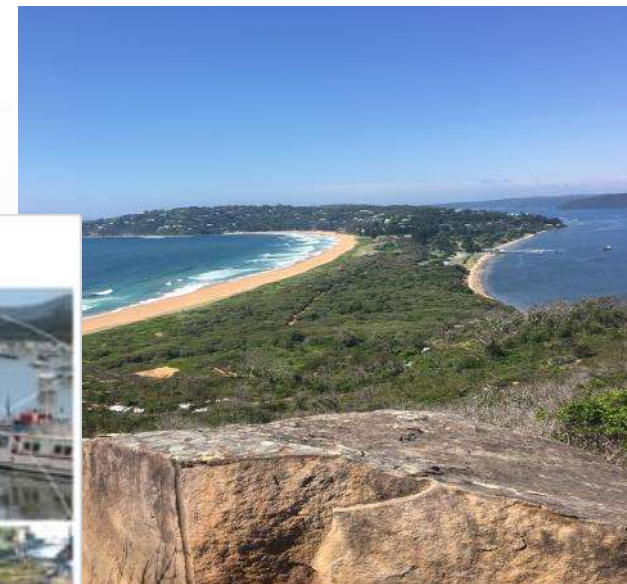
The meeting closed at 4.30pm

Confirmation of meeting:

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Marine Estate Management Strategy



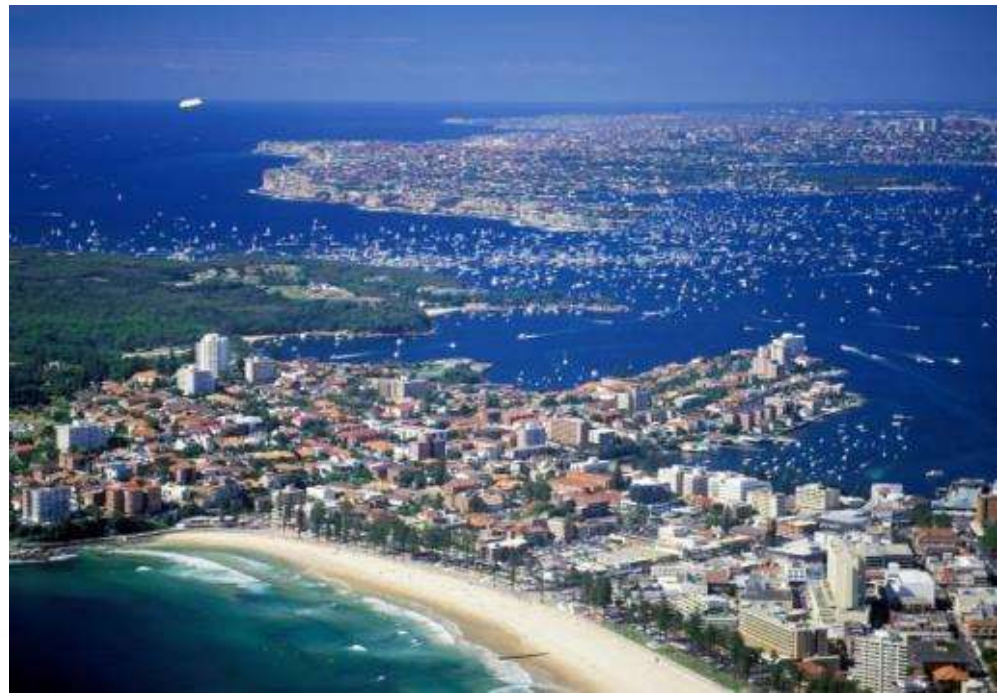
Images: Joe Neilson, Trevor Kloeden and Sarah Joyce

Marine Estate Management Strategy Initiatives

Initiative 1	Improving water quality and reducing litter
Initiative 2	Delivering healthy coastal habitats with sustainable use and development
Initiative 3	Planning for climate change
Initiative 4	Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate
Initiative 5	Reducing impacts on threatened and protected species
Initiative 6	Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture
Initiative 7	Enabling safe and sustainable boating
Initiative 8	Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits
Initiative 9	Delivering effective governance

1

Improving water quality and reducing litter



We will improve water quality and reduce marine litter by:

- working with local councils to improve the quality of stormwater
- restoring coastal habitats to reduce water pollution caused by erosion and land degradation
- implement marine litter campaigns and establish a Marine Litter Working Group

1.1 Improve water quality in agricultural and urban catchments using a pilot-based implementation of the *Risk-based Framework* through:

- urban pilots – Northern Beaches



Why	Trial implementation of the <i>Risk-based Framework</i>
How	Assist implementation into development planning
Involvement	Northern Beaches Council
Linkage	Coastal Management Program Coasts & Estuaries Grant Fund
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct assistance for the Northern Beaches Council• Case study of implementation of the <i>Risk-based Framework</i>• Share outputs/lessons learnt

1.2 Improve the management of diffuse source water pollution by:

- roles and responsibilities
- building capacity to implement the *Risk-based Framework*
- update the Water Quality and River Flow Objectives
- options to fund stormwater management



Why	Build capacity of local councils Clarify policy position
How	Consultation
Involvement	Councils key stakeholders
Linkage	Coastal Management Program Coastal & Estuaries Grant Fund
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify barriers and opportunities• Inform OEH re council perspectives• Tools to address (longer term)• Identify options to fund management of stormwater

1.3 Facilitate and deliver on-ground activities that reduce diffuse-source water pollution through investigation and provision of funding programs and financial incentives

On-ground investment in:

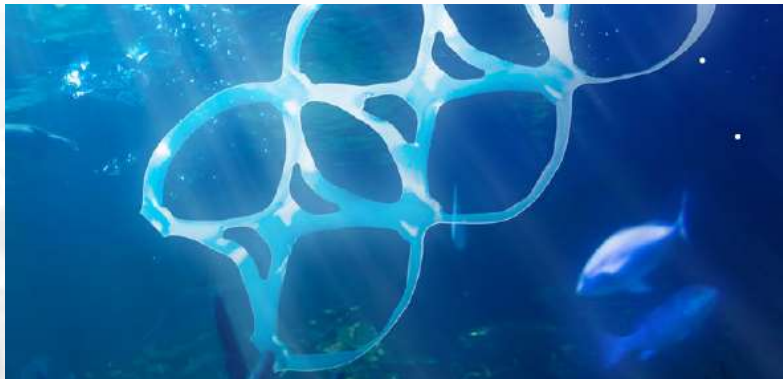
- Oyster reef restoration
- Riparian vegetation
- Bank stabilisation
- Wetland rehabilitation



Why	TARA identified diffuse source water pollutants as a priority threat to water quality
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-ground works to directly reduce the diffuse sources of water pollution• Research and monitoring programs proposed to fill knowledge gaps
Involvement	Key stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Land Service• DPI Agriculture• Industry• Councils
Linkage	Various funding and on-ground works programs
Opportunities for SCCG	Limited in stage 1 implementation - pilots occurring in the Richmond River

1.4 Implement a targeted marine litter campaign and establish a Marine Litter Working Group to:

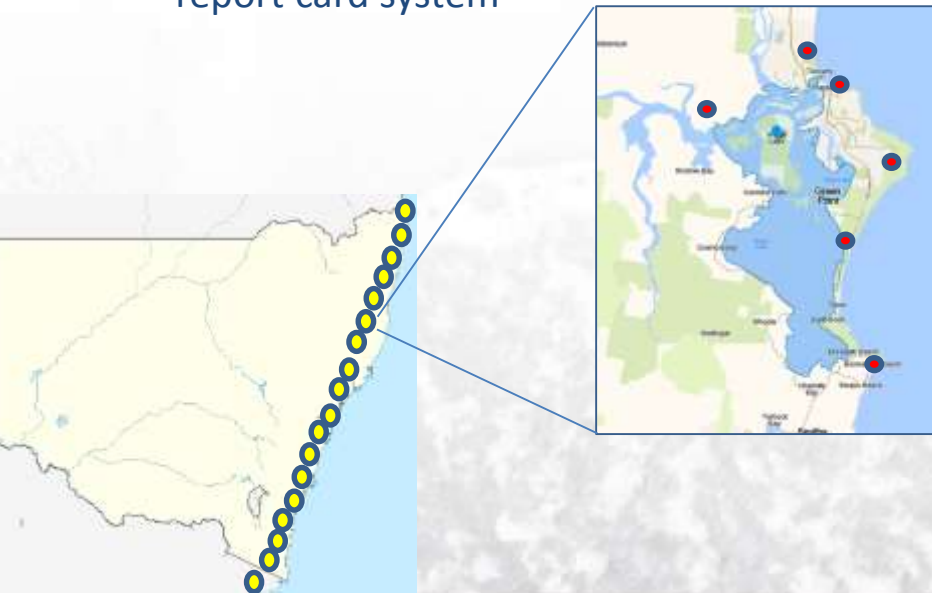
- deliver a targeted marine litter campaign
- establish a Marine Litter Working Group to oversee review of existing evidence



Why	Litter is a significant issue in the marine estate, especially to the aesthetic value and wildlife
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of the problem• Establish working group
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPA• OEH• Taronga Zoo• Research organisations• Community groups
Linkage	‘Hey Tosser!’ campaign Container deposit scheme
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councils will be able to use materials developed to promote the marine litter campaign• Improved understanding the risks associated with marine debris

1.5 Develop monitoring, reporting and performance indicators for water quality actions and fill key knowledge gaps. This action is integrated into the Monitoring Program and will:

- gather data to quantify land use pressures to determine effectiveness of actions
- standardised water quality and ecosystem health monitoring program using a common set of indicators
- report card system



Why	Monitor and report on the health of NSW waterways
How	Estuary Health Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statewide scientific monitoring program
Involvement	OEH and Local Councils (Northern Beaches Council)
Linkage	CMP funding – identify risks, vulnerabilities, remediation and continue monitoring
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine current status/health of waterways • Use Report Card results to inform the scope of developing CMPs and access funding to remediate waterways where needed

1.5 Develop monitoring, reporting and performance indicators for water quality actions and fill key knowledge gaps. This action is integrated into the Monitoring Program

COMMUNITY REPORT CARDS



ACKNOWLEDGE REMEDIATION ACTIONS

Riverbank Stabilisation



Erosion is a significant environmental issue affecting the health and stability of our waterways.

Our river estuaries have been exposed to erosion bank erosion in many areas due to past vegetation clearance, ongoing cattle grazing and wash from boating activities.

Sediments from the erosion reduce water clarity impacting on estuarine ecological health.

Coastal settlements directly impact on the cycle, professional and recreational fishing industries by scattering the gills of fish and releasing their ability to fight disease.

Reduced water clarity limits the growth of seagrass which is the basis of the

PUBLISHED STATE-WIDE REPORT CARDS

Estuary Name	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
Brisbane Water				A			A			A			
Harvelton River				D			C			C			
Narrabeen Lagoon				C			B						
Dee Why Lagoon				C			A						
Con Cull Lagoon							C						
Meady Lagoon							C						
Middle Harbour Creek							A			E			
Late Cove River				C			C	B		C			
Panmatta River				D			D			C			
Cooks River				D			D			D			
Georges River				D			B			E			
Batem Bay				A									
Port Hacking							A			E			
Wattamolla Creek				B									
Belconnen Gully										D			
Belconnen Lake				C									
Towangy Creek				C			D						
Fairy Creek				D	C	D	D	D	D	B	D	D	C
Lake Macquarie				C			B			B		A	C

2

Delivering healthy coastal habitats with sustainable use and development



Main deliverables:

- audit of commercial dredging in estuaries
- evidence based techniques to maximise benefits with breakwater maintenance
- estuary-wide strategic approach to management of foreshore structures, banks and marine vegetation in priority estuaries
- evidence-based approach to address issues of both regulatory complexity and floodplain drainage impacts
- strong links and delivery through coastal reforms and Crown land reforms
- fish passage in 2 priority coastal locations - regional

Initiative actions 2.1-2.4

To protect coastal and marine habitats and associated species and enhance the health of the marine estate by improving the design, quality and ongoing management of foreshore development, use and waterways infrastructure.



Why	Declining biodiversity has negative social, cultural and economic impacts on numerous benefits of the marine estate.
How	Delivery of evidenced based and coordinated programs across relevant state and local government authorities (e.g. estuary wide marine vegetation management strategies)
Involvement	Councils key stakeholders
Linkage	CMPs, Crown land reforms and council strategic planning
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence based assessments• Improved state agency coordination• Streamlined regulation

3

Planning for a changing climate



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We will prepare for the impacts of a changing climate on the marine estate by:

- improving our understanding of ecological processes and biodiversity in the NSW marine estate
- identifying areas of importance for the management and conservation of mangroves and saltmarsh
- supporting marine estate managers and coastal communities to carry out adaptation planning and decision making in response to projected impacts of climate change.

3.1 Enhance mapping of estuarine communities (e.g. saltmarsh and mangroves) to identify those at most risk from sea level rise and model areas of land suitable for migration and those that should be prioritised for protection

Why	Mapping and modelling to improve preparedness and resilience
How	Research and monitoring / collaboration
Involvement	All coastal LGAs / expert workshop
Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMPs• Research and monitoring
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing of data• Inform future climate change planning and adaption

3.5 Research and monitor the effects of climate change and fill knowledge gaps (Marine Integrated Monitoring Program)

Why	Monitor trends and condition Fill knowledge gaps
How	Various projects
Involvement	Limited at this stage
Linkage	Research and monitoring
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of data

4

Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate



©John Spencer OEH

Increase Aboriginal participation in managing the cultural values of Sea Country by:

- establishing identified Aboriginal positions for involvement in Sea Country management and planning (Premier's priority)
- development of Sea Country plans
- local Aboriginal communities undertake management works on land and Sea Country
- economic development and cultural tourism development program – marine parks (supporting establishment of Aboriginal owned and operated businesses)

4.3 Increase Aboriginal participation in Sea Country Management, planning and monitoring through employment and training

- Pilot on the South Coast underway, to be expanded to central and northern regions of the marine estate - 25 projects underway e.g.:
 - Marine debris monitoring
 - Coastal weed removal
 - Shorebird nesting monitoring and protection
 - Cultural site protection works
 - Old oyster lease rehabilitation and vessel skills training and qualifications
 - Bark Canoe cultural project commences April

Why

To reduce threats to Aboriginal cultural heritage

How

Integration into decision making and marine estate operations

Involvement

Aboriginal people

Linkage

Coastal Management Programs

Opportunities for SCCG

- Share outputs/lessons learnt

4.4 Explore and assist Aboriginal communities to implement opportunities for economic development in the NSW marine estate and improved representation of Aboriginal cultural values in NSW marine parks

- Umbarra cultural marine tourism program
- 16 seat vessel currently undergoing the Australian Maritime Safety Survey process
- An approved business plan completed

Why	To reduce threats to Aboriginal cultural heritage
How	Integration into decision making and marine estate operations
Involvement	Aboriginal people
Linkage	Coastal Management Programs
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share outputs/lessons learnt

5

Reducing impacts on threatened and protected species



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We will better protect threatened and protected species by:

- improving responses to marine wildlife incidents, like freeing whales from nets
- helping the community report wildlife incidents
- expanding programs to prevent marine wildlife disease outbreaks
- expanding the commercial fishing observer program to understand and manage interactions with threatened and protected species
- reducing threats to threatened and protected species caused by boating.

5.1 Improve strategic planning and coordination for marine threatened and protected species across NSW to address priority threats by:

- ensuring that MEMA's priorities are embedded in all new and existing marine wildlife programs
- facilitating successful collaboration
- maximising operational efficiencies



Why	Single framework needed to coordinate marine wildlife programs and ensure MEMA priorities are embedded
How	Inter-agency working group to develop framework
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPI• TfNSW• Saving our Species• RMS• Rescue and Rehabilitation organisations• Specialist Veterinarians• EPA• Local Government
Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saving our Species• Taronga zoo rehabilitation program
Opportunities for SCCG	Information to OEH on council perspectives around whale carcass disposal

5.2 Strengthen partnerships for marine threatened and protected species conservation responses to ensure effective wildlife management by:

- strengthening partnerships for faster response to incidents
- developing and implementing procedural tools and training
- expanding reporting capabilities and data-sharing platforms
- increasing data and knowledge sharing
- expanding the necropsy program
- developing protocols for responding to events affecting culturally significant species



Why	Marine wildlife incidents are high profile and need to be well co-ordinated and managed
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve incident response times • Train and upskill vets • Expand necropsy program and develop protocols
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI • RMS • Rescue and rehabilitation organisations • Veterinarians • EPA • Local government • TAFE
Linkage	Saving our Species
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved state agency coordination • Better understanding of threats to wildlife • Procedural tools for wildlife management e.g. seal interaction plan

5.3 Improve awareness of threats to wildlife and compliance with regulation to reduce (the number and severity of) impacts through education campaigns, social research and increased compliance through:

- targeted education campaigns promoting positive behaviours and stakeholder obligations
- increase compliance to through a targeted 'compliance' campaign(s)



Why	Behavioural change by community members and improved compliance can lead to a reduction in impacts from activities they participate in such as boating
How	Education and compliance campaigns
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community• Marine estate users commercial and recreational
Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOS• Marine wildlife programs
Opportunities for SCCG	Councils can use education materials developed

5.4 Improve reporting and data sharing on threats to marine wildlife to support evidence-based decision-making by:

- upgrading and expanding the Elements database
- increasing operational efficiency of responses to events
- improving response times and outcomes in wildlife events, including large whale disentanglement



Why	We can reduce threats if we have better data on what is impacting these species
How	Upgrading the Elements database to become available for external stakeholders to input data
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taronga• Rescue and rehabilitation organisations
Linkage	Saving our Species
Opportunities for SCCG	Sharing of data and reports from Elements database

5.5 Expand the existing observer programs, including the use of new technologies to high and moderate risk commercial fisheries to better understand threats associated with bycatch and interactions with threatened and protected species by:

- prioritising fisheries and determine appropriate observation methods specific to each fishery (considering timeframes, seasonality, resourcing, capacity, urgency)
- implementing appropriate observer program for the Ocean Trap and Line fishery
- implementing appropriate observer program for the Estuary General fishery
- developing and implementing management responses to threats to threatened and protected species and species assemblages identified through the observer program

delivery partners	OEH
other agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry bodies • Commercial fishers
location	NSW coast (TBC)
Timing / deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yr 1 – assess Ocean Trap & Line fishery • Yr 2 – assess estuary general fishery • Stage 2 – implement management responses

6

Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture



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We will ensure fishing and aquaculture provides for sustainable use by:

- introducing harvest strategies
- environmental assessment of recreational fishing and review of management rules
- best practice guidelines in the oyster industry to protect seagrass
- enhance recreational fishing experiences
- enhance social acceptance of fishers and develop fishers' skills through training to improve self-compliance
- enabling economic opportunities in new marine aquaculture ventures.

6.1 Introduce harvest strategies by:

- Develop policy for harvest strategies across NSW;
- Identify implementation priorities and develop two pilot harvest strategies;
- Apply decision-making tools (i.e. Fishpath) when determining triggers and management responses;
- Link commercial, recreational and cultural fisheries data to decision support tools to inform harvest strategies.



Why	To improve sustainability of key fisheries
Involvement	Commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers
Location	Statewide
Timing	2018-2020
Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harvest strategy policy developed• Effective process developed and demonstrated• Pilot harvest strategies developed for (1) hand gathering (pipis and beachworms) and (2) purse seine fishing for small pelagic fish

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Enabling safe and sustainable boating



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Balance the protection of coastal and marine habitats with access for safe and sustainable boating by:

- reducing vessel impacts on seagrass
- seeking solutions to growing demand for boat storage
- running a pilot program to reduce water pollution at marinas
- improving reporting of vessel collisions with wildlife
- increasing awareness of threats to wildlife through education and compliance
- running an education campaign on vessel cleaning to reduce water pollution
- improve boating infrastructure.

7.1 Reduce the threats to seagrass from vessels through improved regulation, administration, education, new mooring technologies and delivery mechanisms

AND

7.2 Establish a framework to manage increased mooring demand through the Moorings Review program by:

- introducing mooring apparatus standards and reviewing and modernising mooring management, administration, regulations and standards
- trialling 'novel apparatus' in mooring fields including multi-vessel moorings and environmentally friendly moorings (EFMs).
- phasing-in environmentally friendly moorings to protect seagrass areas
- improve audit of mooring fields and compliance with mooring licence conditions including condition of mooring and vessel
- optimise mooring field density

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce threats to seagrasses• Optimise mooring capacity
How	Moorings Reform Program
Timing	2018-2024
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport for NSW• Roads and Maritime• local boat owners
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential sites for trials of novel mooring apparatus

7.3 Manage boat-based contamination through the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) national framework and implement an education program in NSW to address the environmental impacts of water pollution from recreational vessel cleaning, anti-fouling and sewage pump out into waterways by:

- reviewing RMS's appropriate regulatory authority status under environmental regulations
- Undertaking a statutory review of the Marine Pollution Act 2012, with a focus on coverage
- conducting targeted enforcement and compliance activities
- delivering education programs for recreational boaters focusing on marine pollution

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce marine pollution from commercial and recreational vessels
How	Targeted education and compliance programs; and review of legislation
Timing	2018-2020
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for NSW • Roads and Maritime
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting education messages • joint education programs • reporting marine pollution from vessels

7.7 Continue improving environmentally sustainable boating and resolve conflicting uses and waterway access to the marine estate through the NSW Boating Now Program;

AND

7.8 Deliver waterways infrastructure in accordance with the Maritime Safety Plan to enhance social, cultural and economic benefits through an interagency approach; by:

- delivering and implementing the NSW Maritime Infrastructure Plan
- delivering infrastructure funding to councils
- improving the overall capacity and amenity of boating infrastructure on NSW waterways
- improving on-water behaviour
- improving aids-to-navigation
- delivering maritime infrastructure against Future Transport's six state-wide outcomes.

Why	Improve environmentally sustainable boating
How	NSW Boating Now Program Maritime Safety Plan Maritime Infrastructure Plan Future Transport
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating Now Round 2 – ends 2019 • Potential funding for future program
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for NSW • Roads and Maritime • Local councils
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to grant funding to improve boating facilities • Project and proposal development with Roads and Maritime

8

Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits



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Improve the social, cultural and economic benefits that the NSW community derives from the marine estate by responding to priority threats, through:

- implementing school and community education awareness programs
- establishing a Marine Integrated Monitoring Program
- Identifying and mapping current and future use of the marine estate
- provide incentives to enhance sustainable tourism, economic and recreational use

8.1 Increase stakeholder and community awareness of marine estate values, management arrangements and promote safe and ecologically sustainable use of the marine estate by:

- building on existing school and community education programs to encourage environmental stewardship, enhance self-compliance and promote physical and mental health benefits associated with nature

Why	Need for greater understanding among the community of the benefits of the marine estate and how their actions may effect these benefits
How	NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot components of the education strategy at targeted locations
Timing	2018-2020
Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMPs• Research and monitoring
Opportunities for SCCG	Share outputs/lessons learnt

8. 3 Establish and deliver the Marine Integrated Monitoring Programs social, cultural and economic components, to:

- develop a shared understanding of the NSW community's attitudes, values, perceptions, experiences, knowledge, aspirations, patterns of use to support evidence-based decision-making and adaptive management

Why	There is need to continue building understanding of the social, cultural and economic use and benefits, including intrinsic value, of the marine estate to better inform decision-making
How	Research and monitoring/collaboration
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPI• OEH• DPE• TfNSW• Councils• Universities
Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMPs• Research and monitoring
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share outputs/lessons learnt

8.4 Develop a baseline of current and future use of the marine estate, initially at a pilot scale, to support effective management, address resource use conflicts and access to the marine estate by:

- carrying out a comprehensive analysis of human use activities, supporting infrastructure and facilities, activity trends, management issues
- spatially mapping on a public facing digital platform

Why	There is need to continue building understanding of human use in the marine estate to better inform decision-making.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a high resolution spatial and temporal human use activities mapping tool• Pilot a spatial mapping project in Port Stephens and Sydney areas
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councils• Land and marine managers• Key stakeholders• Aboriginal people
Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMPs• Research and monitoring
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Input into activity mapping tools functionality• Data sharing

9

Delivering effective governance



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We will improve governance of the marine estate by:

- improving coordination and implementation of marine estate management programs
- identifying and mapping current and future use of the marine estate
- Increase stakeholder and community awareness and participation through the marine parks pilot program
- Streamline regulatory instruments – address inconsistencies, reduce duplication and red tape

9.1 Improve coordination and integration across all levels of government (including cross-border and land / sea interface) by developing a governance framework piloted at a catchment scale (see Initiative 1) by:

- identifying overlapping jurisdictional boundaries
- clarifying roles and responsibilities
- aligning policies and programs
- identifying opportunities for data management and sharing, research, monitoring and mapping, compliance and reporting, communication and engagement

Why	Improve efficiency and effectiveness in managing the marine estate	
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve governance arrangements • Review roles, responsibilities, opportunities to improve current processes across agencies • Communicating outcomes to the wider community. • Pilot Project - Richmond River 	
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI Fisheries • OEH • DPE • TfNSW • LLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNSW • RDA • LGOV • NGOs • Industry
Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkage to other eight initiatives • Coastal Management Reforms 	
Opportunities for SCCG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share outcomes / lessons learnt • Inform future governance arrangements 	