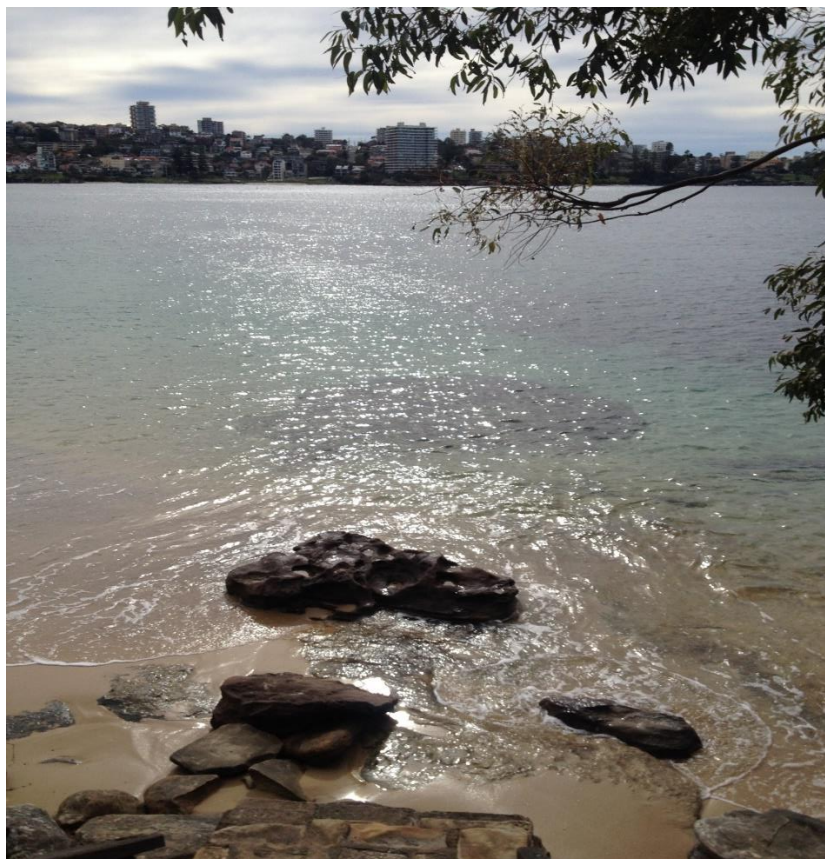


Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program

Information Session

28 February 2019

Outcomes Report



INTRODUCTION

In times of increasing global temperatures, rising sea levels and greater frequency of coastal storm surges coupled with a swelling population in the catchment, it is imperative that there is a holistic, collaborative and sustainable approach to the sustainable management of Sydney Harbour.

The key objectives of the information session were to:

- Provide background context on the NSW coastal management reforms/framework;
- Provide an overview of the Greater Sydney Harbour Estuary Scoping Study completed as part of stage 1 of the coastal management program
- Engage relevant councils and public authorities and raise awareness of the coastal management program;
- Gain an indication of the willingness of participants (Councils and public authorities) to collaborate on the development of a coastal management program for Sydney Harbour;
- Gain an understanding of any barriers to working collaboratively to develop a Sydney Harbour coastal management program;
- Gather collective ideas to assist in preparing the road-map for future stages of the coastal management program.

AGENDA

Start	H:m	Program
9.15 am	0.15	Registration and coffee/tea on arrival
9.30 am	0:10	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country: <i>Sydney Coastal Councils Group</i>
9.40 am	0.25	NSW Coastal Management Framework <i>Office of Environment and Heritage</i>
10.05 am	0.40	Greater Sydney Harbour Estuary Coastal Management Program Overview of Scoping Study Potential costs and benefits <i>BMT</i>
10.45 am	0.20	Morning Tea
11.05 am	0.15	Where to From Here Process and timeframes <i>Sydney Coastal Councils Group</i>
11.20 am	0.35	Q & A Session Questions from the floor – to assist in Council/Authority decision-making
11.55 am	0.05	Meeting Close
12 noon	0.30	Lunch

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Sarah Joyce, Executive Officer of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG), opened the event with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed those in attendance on the day. Sarah introduced SCCG and outlined its success in leading regional collaborative programs including the previous Sydney Harbour Coastal Zone Management Plan Scoping Study, facilitating steering committees and communities of practice, and advocating to all levels of government.

The two guest speakers; Bruce Coates, Manager Coast, Estuary and Floods, Office of Environment and Heritage; and Paul Donaldson, Senior Coastal Scientist, BMT, were introduced.

Presentation notes are provided below, and presentation slides are provided on the SCCG [website](#).

Speaker 1: Bruce Coates, OEH, NSW Coastal Management Framework.

- Overview of the history of the coastal management reforms. The reforms aimed to create a new management framework to enable coastal councils and communities to: protect and enhance the social, economic and environmental values of the coast, ensure ongoing use and enjoyment of our beaches and foreshores, plan for and respond to current and future risk from coastal hazards and threats to coastal environments, and increase our resilience to an uncertain climate future.
- In 2016 the NSW Government announced \$83.6 million over five years towards the management of the NSW coast- this is a joint initiative of the Department of Planning and Environment and the Office of Environment and Heritage.
- The new coastal management framework commenced in April 2018, comprising the Coastal Management Act 2016, Coastal Management SEPP, NSW Coastal Management Manual, Coastal Management Programs, and a grants program.
- The Coastal Management Act establishes a new strategic framework and clear objectives for managing coastal issues in NSW. It promotes strategic and integrated management, use and development of the coast for the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the people of NSW.
- Coastal Management SEPP updates and consolidates SEPP 14 (Coastal Wetlands); SEPP 26 (Littoral Rainforests); SEPP 71 (Coastal Protection) and clause 5.5. of the Standard Instrument – Local Environmental Plan.
- The Coastal Management manual provides guidance to local councils, public authorities and communities about how to implement the new coastal management framework. It adopts a five-stage risk management process: 1) identify the scope of the CMP, 2) determine risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities, 3) identify and evaluate options, stage 4) prepare, exhibit, finalise, certify and adopt the CMP, 5) implement, monitor, evaluate and report.
- Coastal Management Manual Part A provides an introduction and mandatory requirements for a CMP; and Part B provides guidance for preparing and implementing a CMP.
- The purpose of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) is to 'set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of land within the coastal zone'. The focus of a program is to achieve the objectives of the Coastal Management Act. CMPs are prepared by local councils in consultation with their communities and relevant public authorities.
- Coastal and Estuary Grants Program: funding assistance is available to help councils to both prepare and implement CMPs. \$9.5 million is available for preparation of CMPs to help councils to transition to the new arrangements, including additional technical studies. \$63.2 million is available for implementation of CMPs.
- The NSW Coastal Council is appointed to provide advice to the Minister on coastal issues.

Questions:

Q1: The grant funding is 50/50? A: Yes at this stage, although the program may be reviewed.

Q2: Are there any legislative requirements for Councils to complete a CMP? A: The completion of a CMP is voluntary unless the Minister issues a directive. The 2021 timeline is a transitional arrangement for councils with a certified Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) to transition to a CMP. Councils that develop a CMP will have access to the grant program.

Q3: Are the grants only for councils? A: there is no funding for other public authorities. It is focused on councils and ROCs. Councils can apply for the grant and work in partnership with a public authority on implementation.

Speaker 2. Paul Donaldson, BMT, Greater Sydney Harbour Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study.

- The Greater Sydney CMP Scoping Study was initiated by Local Land Services, and prepared by BMT, in consultation with OEH, SCCG, PRCG, foreshore councils and State Government Agencies. It's the first CMP Scoping Study for large coastal system and is Stage 1 (of 5) in the CMP process.
- The physical setting comprises 4 catchments- Parramatta River, Lane Cove, Middle Harbour, and Port Jackson.
- The scoping phase considered the: environment and heritage context, the development context, coastal planning and governance, stakeholder engagement feedback, Greater Sydney Harbour values, threats/hazards, and a 'First Pass' risk assessment.
- The CMP presents an opportunity to establish a governance framework for managing Greater Sydney Harbour with a system-wide CMP.
- Proposed CMP structure: 1) A single, whole-of-system CMP is needed to facilitate coordinated and integrated management; 2) Sub-catchment scale plans and 3) Local Implementation schedules.
- Benefits to councils for preparing a CMP: opportunity to understand and manage coastal climate risks, requirement for state agencies to participate in, and have regard to CMPs in their management operations, great forum for community engagement, good social, environmental, economic outcomes, and statutory immunity for councils for actions that accord with the CMP, and access to state government funding.
- Benefits of preparing a system-wide CMP: working collaboratively to attract funding and investment, efficiency savings, improved capacity to address catchment-wide issues and interests, improved communication, advocacy, and promotion.
- Strong leadership, governance, and communication and engagement are important enablers for making CMPs work.
- Scoping study recommendations: prepare a Greater Sydney Harbour CMP that encompasses Sydney Harbour estuary tidal waterways and catchment land, establish a whole-of-government partnership for the CMP planning and implementation, establish a collaborative arrangement with strong senior leadership to drive the CMP forward.

Questions:

Q1: Where can we get a copy of the scoping study? A: The Greater Sydney Harbour Estuary Coastal Management Program Scoping Study can be downloaded from the SCCG [website](#).

Q2: Are the Harbour islands included in the CMP? A: Yes, the Islands were included in the scoping study. It is up to those leading/participating in the CMP to determine what will be covered.

Q3: Was the forward plan presented as a 9-year timeframe? A: No, there is an overlap in timeframes for all actions. The timing in the scoping study was to coincide with the 2021 timeframe.

WHERE TO FROM HERE

This session commenced with a workshop activity, with each table asked to discuss and provide feedback on identifying barriers to the development of a Sydney Harbour CMP, and suggest next steps in achieving a Sydney Harbour CMP.

Feedback from the workshop activity is provided below:

Table	Feedback
1. Burwood, Willoughby, Northern Beaches, Waverley Councils, LaPerouse Local Aboriginal Land Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers: funding and governance • Who is paying? How will costs be divided up? • Who is coordinating – SCCG? • Support for NSW funding of coordination – support for more than 50% funding from OEH.
2. City of Sydney, Ryde, Inner West Councils, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Ports Authority, Department of Planning and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers: governance • Potential for SCCG and PRCG to facilitate? • Suggestion to have an umbrella organisation or OEH leading the CMP • Engagement/Involvement/commitment of stakeholders (land holders/managers and authorities) • Need clarity – how the CMP fits into the LSPS, LEP, DCP and timings • How will the SHCMP and the Environment SEPP interact/timing (review of the SHREP?) • Clarity on how the GSC documents and CMP will talk to each other • What happens if councils don't come on board to participate in the CMP? How will this impact on the outcome?
3. Parramatta, Canada Bay Councils, DPI Fisheries, Sydney Water, Crown Lands, Greater Sydney Commission, NSW Coastal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers: governance • Council lead supported by agencies? • Need a formal agreement, commitment – issue if parties are not willing to commit. • Don't want to duplicate work (e.g. Parramatta catchment – there is an existing masterplan and CZMP – need to align vision/statements) • There could already be community consultation fatigue. • Issues – Coastal zone vs catchment (coastal inundation, catchment flooding, water quality – stormwater and sewer overflows), will actions under the CMP cover all these issues?
4. Sydney Water, Greater Sydney Commission, Parramatta River Catchment Group, Roads and Maritime Services, Office of Environment & Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith that diverse groups will come together to achieve • Need to commit to an agreement • Work together to put an action plan on the table (PRCG masterplan was considered a model for how the collaboration should occur) • Concern that there are insufficient resources for some to make a valuable contribution • Strength of the Coastal Management Act – legislative driver to require collaboration and integrative thinking.

<p>5. The Hills Shire, Canada Bay, North Sydney, Kuring-gai Councils, DPI Fisheries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers – governance, ability to resource • Who is responsible for what in the catchment? • Willingness of agencies, councils to discuss governance arrangements – selling this to local councils – basis for applying for funds? • Reflection of organisations capacity – need to understand capacity of councils to contribute - If local councils are contributing funds how will it be equitably distributed amongst councils • Councils that incorporate several catchments feeding into different estuaries • Council capacity/resourcing /ability to contribute to the CMP process varies • Justifications/reasons for councils to be involved in the CMP? • How will the CMP provide benefit – what is it that councils are not already doing? • Funding streams need to better align with council's community strategic planning /financial processes/timelines.
<p>6. Hornsby, Mosman Councils, Office of Local Government, LaPerouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of stakeholders that need to be involved • No of plans – multiple CMP per council • Environment doesn't belong to any specific boundary • Aboriginal community needs to be engaged – how to activate those people and groups holding the knowledge and information • Consider protocols and heritage – Aboriginal cultural issues need to be expanded • Silos within Councils and agencies – need engagement internally within councils/state government departments • Multiple legislation/charters/purpose to abide by • Differing council priorities • Local planning first – to feed into the whole of harbour plan • Governance and leadership – who? OEH? GSC role? Regional leadership? • How to accommodate growth safely • Need specific objectives – to align state legislation and authorities' objective/purpose and legal requirements for conservation • Suggestion for the working group to include a representative from another area that has already completed a CMP e.g. Newcastle/Port Stephens – so they can advise/assist/lessons learnt.

Primary feedback is summarised below:

- Agreement that primary barriers are funding and governance
- The Sydney Harbour CMP process requires strong leadership and facilitation
- The importance of stakeholder collaboration (including aboriginal community, knowledge holders, land managers)
- Need for Council/Public Authority/stakeholder commitment
- Potential capacity of councils/public authorities to contribute to funding, and ensuring contributions are equitable
- Alignment of CMP with environment legislation, strategies and planning controls

Following the workshop activity, Sarah Joyce asked for a show of hands regarding the willingness of attendees/organisations to participate in the Sydney Harbour CMP.

Present in the room were representatives from sixteen of the twenty-one local councils within the Sydney Harbour catchment, as well as sixteen public authorities with a level of interest/responsibility in the management of Sydney Harbour. It was noted that the majority of the room indicated a willingness to participate/collaborate on the Sydney Harbour CMP.

Sarah Joyce ended the 'where to from here' session by outlining some key deliverables for the next steps in developing a Sydney Harbour CMP. These include corresponding with each Council/public authority regarding collaboration/commitment to the CMP, establishment of a working group that can develop a roadmap for governance and the way forward in completing the CMP including a leadership and equitable cost contribution approach, and the submission of a grant application for the Coastal and Estuary Grant Program.

Q & A Session

Questions raised on the day

Q1. Clarifying that a letter will be sent to Councils to nominate a representative on the Working Group, and that the Working Group will make the decisions?

A: Yes that is most likely to be the case, it will be up to the working group to look at other models and ways/timeframe to move forward.

Q2. Why can't OEH lead the Sydney Harbour CMP?

A: The CMP process is for Councils to complete. Councils need to own this process. OEH could potentially play a role in the working group. OEH would need to know that all parties are committed. It was noted that it took the Parramatta River Catchment Group almost three years to get to the point of agreed governance through the master planning process.

Q3. What are non-foreshore councils going to get out of participation in the Sydney Harbour CMP? Councils need to be able to justify the benefits?

A: Benefits include potential funding opportunities, inclusion of water quality/water sensitive urban design actions in the CMP as a priority, council will have access to and be a part of a long-term strategic plan for the catchment, integrating the CMP/actions into the councils community strategic plan to ensure greater opportunities for funding from other sources, and collaboration and closer relationships with public authorities.

Q4. What are the benefits to councils in participating in the Sydney Harbour CMP?

A: Benefits to councils include:

- Public authorities need to take part and 'have regard to' the CMP process – this ensures better collaboration with public authorities. If they do not assist there is recourse for the local council to raise this with the NSW Coastal Council.
- Grant funding opportunities for activities included in the CMP, including water quality and WSUD.
- Planning proposals e.g. to update/change mapping in the SEPP – more readily accepted if evidence is provided in a CMP.
- CMP assists councils in meeting objectives/requirements of the Coastal Management Act.
- CMP can assist in achieving the objectives of the District Plans/greater Sydney region plan.
- Liability – If a council has a CMP in place and makes decisions based on actions in the CMP – and this is taken to court – Local Government Act S773 provides some security for councils against liability as it can show it acted in good faith.

- Coastal protection works can be determined by councils if identified in a CMP – tougher assessment pathway to approval without a CMP.
- Collaboration and consistent approach between neighbouring councils/public authority across the catchment. Easier to track implementation of actions across boundaries.
- Provides an opportunity to establish a governance framework for managing Sydney Harbour. Greater political drive for a systems wide CMP.
- Link CMP to the IP&R framework
- Efficiency/savings for Councils who may not have to do a separate CMP

Questions Councils raised with the SCCG prior to the Information Session - Responses prepared by OEH.

Q5. What are the staff resourcing commitments if we agree to sign up – do we need to have a staff member who dedicates a certain time each week?

A: Assigning a council contact officer for the project is advisable, but the time required over the life of the project will vary. E.g. working group participation, reviewing draft grant funding application, reviewing draft tender documentation for outsourcing the work, project reference group or steering committee participation.

Q6. What happens if there is not enough Councils or agencies that sign up – will OEH cover the rest?

A: There is no minimum number of councils or agencies required. However, for an effective collaborative approach, it is better to have as many councils and agencies to be involved as possible. This approach will reduce the cost for each organisation, enhance coordination, and reduce duplication. It also has the benefit of scale.

The alternative is that councils work independently, however in this scenario councils would need to demonstrate how they have achieved the consultation and coordination requirements in the Coastal Management Act 2016.

Q7. Will there be any funding left in the program given there appears to only be funding available to 2021?

A: Similar to the NSW Floodplain Management Program, the NSW Coastal and Estuary Grants Program has been running for almost 30 years. There is \$9.5M currently available for preparing CMPs, and applications can be submitted at any time.

Q8. What are the timeframes for commitment?

A: No timeframes have been defined. Timeframes can be considered by the proposed Working Group. As mentioned above, applications under the planning stream of the Coastal & Estuary Grants Program can be lodged at any time.

Q9. Will councils that don't contribute monetary value to the CMP still be able to use the CMP to access funding? If so, what are the benefits to those who pay?

A: If a council area is not covered in a CMP then that council would likely be ineligible to apply for grant funding under the NSW Coastal & Estuary Grants Program.

Q10. Ku-ring-gai, for example, is classified in the scoping study as 'non-foreshore' but they have a small portion of foreshore – will they need to pay a different rate to that proposed.

A: Guided by the principles of fairness and equity, the exact contributions of each participating organisation are details the proposed working group can determine. The figures noted in the SCCG's letter sent to councils in December 2018/January 2019 were estimations and indicative only.

Q11. Can OEH clarify if the CMP will only focus on estuarine zones or whether funding/co-funding of actions on the freshwater parts of the catchment will be allowed/prioritised? If no resources are available for freshwater catchment management within the Sydney Harbour CMP what will be the benefit/return to Council for involvement in the Sydney Harbour CMP?

A: Where appropriate, the development of CMPs should take a catchment management approach to understanding and addressing coastal management issues, which includes freshwater flow inputs (quantity and quality). The NSW Coastal Management Manual recommends water sensitive urban design (WSUD) (including artificial wetlands) in the design of coastal urban areas and in the wider catchment, to improve the integrity of downstream environments such as coastal wetlands, littoral rainforests and coastal environment areas. Therefore, it would be advantageous if all LGA's within the Sydney Harbour catchment are included in the CMP so that water quality improvements that protect downstream receiving environments are considered and councils are able to apply for funding of actions through the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

Conclusion

This outcomes report will be distributed to those who attended the Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program Information session on 19 February 2019.

A list of organisations in attendance at the Information Session is provided at Attachment 1 below.

The presentation slides can be downloaded from the SCCG website as below:

[Presentation 1. OEH – NSW Coastal Management Framework](#)

[Presentation 2. BMT – Overview of the Greater Sydney Harbour Estuary CMP Scoping Study](#)

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group would like to thank all attendees for participating in the Information Session, and the Office of Environment and Heritage for providing the venue, catering and presenters.

We look forward to collaborating with you all in the near future.

Attachment 1. Organisations represented at the Sydney Harbour CMP Information Session

Councils	Public Authorities/Other Stakeholders
Burwood Council	Department of Planning and Environment
Canada Bay Council	Department of Primary Industries – Crown Lands
City of Sydney Council	Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries
Hornsby Shire Council	Greater Sydney Commission
Inner West Council	Harbour City Ferries
Ku-ring-gai Council	LaPerouse Local Aboriginal Land Council
Lane Cove Council	NSW Coastal Council
Mosman Council	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Northern Beaches Council	Office of Environment and Heritage
North Sydney Council	Office of Local Government
Parramatta Council	Parramatta River Catchment Group
Ryde Council	Port Authority NSW
The Hills Shire Council	Roads and Maritime Services
Waverley Council	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
Willoughby Council	Sydney Water
Woollahra Council	Transport for NSW