

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.



**MINUTES FOR THE FULL GROUP MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 27 JULY 2019**

HOSTED BY NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr Ian White	Northern Beaches Council
Cr Candy Bingham	Northern Beaches Council
Cr Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr Paula Masselos	Waverley Council
Cr Mary-Lou Jarvis	Woollahra Council
Mr Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr Kathy Neilson	Randwick Council
Cr Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council
Cr Michael Forshaw	Sutherland Council
Mr George Cotis	Honorary Member
Ms Sarah Joyce	SCCG (EO)
Ms Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)
Ms Kate Vitnell	SCCG (SO)

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

1.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted.

Cr Denis Fernandez	Willoughby Council
Cr Megan McEwan	Woollahra Council
Cr Andrew Tsounis	Bayside Council
Cr Rochelle Porteous	Inner West Council

Bayside and Inner West were 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 PRESENTATIONS

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

Ms Sarah Fairfull, NSW DPI Fisheries (Marine Estate Management Authority) – Presentation on the progress of the Marine Estate Management Authority.

- The Strategy is aimed at improving coordination and management to deliver effective programs and promote the health of the marine estate. There are 9 initiatives involved in the strategy.
- Initiative 1 – Improving water quality and reducing litter aims to reduce diffuse water pollution by clarifying roles and improving industry standards, compliance and best practice.
- Initiative 1.3 - delivers on ground activities that reduce diffuse source water pollution i.e. investment in riparian vegetation and bank stabilization, wetland rehabilitation, biodiversity offsets policy and increased education and training.
- Initiative 2 – delivering healthy coastal habitats will be achieved through the streamline approval process offered by Strategic Plans and Coastal Industry programs which will be delivered to Councils.
- Initiative 3 – Planning for climate change will involve research of ecological processes, conservation (i.e. mangroves) and the support of adaptation planning. Conservation of mangroves will involve enhanced mapping of estuarine communities involving all coastal councils and should be noted as an opportunity for data sharing.
- Initiative 4 – Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate will be achieved by establishing identified Aboriginal positions which has already occurred in the South Coast.
- Initiative 5 – Reducing impacts on threatened and protected species will involve expanding the commercial fishing observer program.
- Initiative 6 – Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture that both meets ecological objectives as well as recreational and cultural objectives i.e. providing alternative fishing opportunities.
- Initiative 8 – Enhancing cultural and economic benefits will involve establishing a Marine Integrated Monitoring Program as well as mapping current and future use of the marine estate.
- Initiative 9 – Delivering effective governance through working collaboratively as well as reducing duplication of red tape in regulatory instruments.
- DPI Fisheries are currently in the process of re-engaging with new Ministers since the election. Updates will be provided.
- Identified as opportunity for Technical Committee to engage in Stage 2 of Marine Estate Management Program (workshop to be held 22nd August).
- Councils can register with NSW Marine Estate to receive updates on the Strategy. <https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/nsw-marine-estate/get-involved>

Shark Management, Mr Marcel Green, NSW DPI Fisheries

- \$16M NSW Shark Management Strategy involves 5-year trial of new and emerging technology as well as grant funding – Aerial surveillance (helicopters, drones), detection and deterrence (smart drumlines, shark listening stations), Research and Community Awareness and Education.
- SMART Drumlines are part of the detection and deterrence technology, providing a shark alert in real time. It works in the same way as a traditional drumline with the addition of a real-time signal which provides an alert that an animal has been caught on the line. There is a 30 minute timeframe after receiving the signal for contractors to reach the drumline and release the animal.
- 100 SMART units in NSW – not placed in Sydney Harbour
- Catch Data – 701 animals caught and released from December 2015 till present – 507 were target shark species and 194 non-target species. There was a total of 5 fatalities over that time including 1 target species - White Shark and 4 non-target species.

- Tagging allows the Shark to be monitored – enhancing research and mitigation measures
- Tagged Sharks have been shown to generally leave the area for approx. 2 months
- Pros – limited by catch and mortality, units are cheap and simple (\$3500/unit + comms \$23/month/unit) and minimal impact on animals
- Cons – contractors cost \$1300-\$2400 a day, limited by weather & sea conditions, assumed shark takes bait before entering surf zone
- North Coast 6-month shark net trial comparison – Shark Net: 11 Sharks caught (5 released alive & 6 fatalities) 409 Non-target animals caught (210 released alive & 199 died). Smart drumline: 52 target species caught (no fatalities) and 19 Non-target species caught (1 fatality).
- A Northern Beaches Smart Drumline trial has been undertaken between February and April 2019. Smart Drumline vs nets – Shark Net: 0 target species caught, and 5 non-target species caught (3 released and 2 fatalities). Smart drumline: 2 target species caught and released, and 13 non-target species caught (12 released, 1 fatality).
- Survey and focus groups show communities prefer education, research and some drone measures as opposed to shark nets and SMART drumlines.
- Noted that shark mitigation should be targeted to specific areas.
- Personal responsibility is a mitigation measure. E.G. electrode in a sticker placed on a surfboard has shown to be 60% successful as a shark deterrent and has been included in a rebate system in Western Australia.
- [SharkSMART](#) Website and the App provide real time data of shark sightings – improving community awareness.
- NSW Shark Management Strategy to be reviewed in 2020.

Fisheries Compliance, Mr Joel Cox, NSW DPI Fisheries

- DPI Fisheries have several programs which target compliance
- Operation Turbo Reef – study looked to what months (mostly Jan/Dec), days (weekends) and time of the day (late afternoons) most offences occurred
- Offender Gender (75% Male and 25% Female)
- Vietnamese and Chinese most common offenders followed by Pacific Islander
- Constructed a hotspot map to target communities for education programs – cross referenced this with location of education signs
- The Plan for Fisheries Compliance involved:
 - i. Maximising voluntary compliance through increased access to education and information (Re-vamp of signage, international education programs i.e. via planes, talk back radio in multiple languages, multilingual guides)
 - ii. Create effective deterrence to illegal activity through enforcement measures (Plain clothes officers, long range scope cameras)
 - iii. Develop strategic alliances with key groups
- 10% increase in compliance from 2014-2019 – worst offenders have been prosecuted
- There are 9 Compliance Officers to cover the Sydney region although others are called in from other areas at busy times.

Queries and issues raised following the presentations included the following:

- Timeframe for re-engaging with new Ministers on the Marine Parks Proposal.
- Inclusion of mapping of Sydney Harbour in the next stage of the funding for the MEMA Strategy.
- Marine litter working group to be established as part of the EPA marine education campaign.
- Pre-packaged bait is a primary litter problem related to fishing. Some biodegradable bags have been trialled, but the high cost has meant low take-up. Need for further sustainable fishing education.

ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Full Group Meeting held on 30 March 2019 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 30th March Full Group meeting. She noted that all actions have been completed aside from one regarding Membership Expansion options which is ongoing. It was noted that the EO was meeting with Cr Linda Scott (LGNSW and City of Sydney representative in early August).

The query regarding the legality of option 5 within the membership expansion report (Sponsorship) as per the SCCG Constitution was clarified. The EO noted that the SCCG constitution was silent on the matter of sponsorship, therefore the model constitution applies. With regards to sponsorship the model constitution states in Part 5 (39) 1 *'The funds of the association are to be derived from entrance fees and annual subscriptions of members, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, any other sources that the committee determines'*.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence between 15 March and 12 July 2019 was received and noted.

3.4 QUARTERLY FINANCE STATEMENTS

The Quarterly Finance statements to 31 March were received and noted.

The EO noted that the 13% increase on membership fees for 2019/20 had been accepted by Councils, and that the majority of member councils have paid the 2019-20 membership fee. Two membership payments are still pending.

Resolution:

R3a	Minutes of the Full Group Meeting, 30 March were confirmed	
R3b	Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting were received and noted	
R3c	Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings were received and noted	(Shurey/White) Carried
R4	The circulated correspondence was received and noted	(Masselos/Massey) Carried
R5	The Quarterly finance statements to 31 March 2019 were received and noted	(Masselos/White) Carried

ITEM 4 Quarterly Activities Report

4.1 Collaboration

Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program

The EO provided an update on the Sydney Harbour CMP, noting that the initial steering committee meeting was held in July 2019 with the next meeting to be held on 19 August and the Partners Group in late September. SCCG is awaiting updates from DPIE in regard to the funding model for the Sydney Harbour CMP.

It was noted that the work SCCG is undertaking in regard to the Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program and Marine Estate Management Strategy were important programs to strengthen SCCG's reputation and to be used as an opportunity to promote SCCG in order to expand membership.

The Chair provided a statement that the SCCG EO and staff be thanked for their work in facilitating the Sydney Harbour CMP.

Get the Site Right

The MPP provided an update on the Get the Site Right Program noting that the majority of SCCG councils took part during May 2019 to conduct site inspections of building sites and raise general awareness of building site compliance with erosion and sediment controls. 18 Councils undertook 1,182 inspections with a 63% compliance rate which was an increase of 13% on last year's results.

4.2 Capacity Building

Blue Event

The Blue Event was held in April as part of the Ocean Lovers Festival. The MPP noted that she had attended the Blue event and sat on the Environment Panel for this event on behalf of SCCG. Whilst not the usual audience for SCCG (corporate's/businesses, UN, embassy officials etc) it provided a good opportunity for SCCG to raise the profile of local government as leaders in the space of marine conservation /plastics and promote the work that local councils are doing in this space.

4.3 Advocacy

Key Coastal Policy Recommendation

SCCG prepared its key policy recommendations document for the 2019 federal election. The key recommendations were based on climate change, water management, national coastal management and plastics pollution. The document can be viewed on the SCCG [website](#).

The Chair noted that Willoughby Council endorsed these recommendations and included a number of these recommendations as motions to the National Assembly Local Government Conference, which were adopted.

Advocacy Updates (Meetings with Agencies, Ministers and Research Institutions)

The EO noted that the next meeting with Sydney Water will be held on 19 September 2019 as part of scheduled quarterly meetings. It is hoped that Sydney Water re-signs the MoU with SCCG and revised comments from council can be raised in these discussions.

An opportunity for collaboration and advocacy was raised in regard to the delivery of Stage 2 Marine Estate Management Strategy. SCCG has an opportunity to input into the delivery of Stage 2 which would allow any issues/project ideas raised by Council to be brought to MEMA directly at a workshop organised for technical committee members on 22 August 2019. It was noted that Councillors could email any ideas through to the Executive Officer prior to this workshop on 22nd August.

The question of why SCCG no longer collaborates with Sydney University was raised. The MPP noted that the collaborative partner SCCG has dealt with has been ill for several months. However, there is a potential to re-establish this relationship with SCCG supporting a grant application in regard to Water Quality.

It was noted that the EO will be meeting with Councillor Scott on 5 August 2019 regarding membership, this being the first time that SCCG has met with the head of LGNSW. SCCG has discussed with LGNSW whether SCCG could be given the opportunity to speak/have a stall at the LGNSW forum, however, the agenda for this forum is already full for 2019.

4.4 Research

Water Pollution Hotspot Survey

Seven member councils provided information on water pollution hotspots through a response to the Water pollution hotspot survey. The Survey report was discussed at the last quarterly meeting with Sydney Water 26 June 2019, with Sydney Water agreeing to review the report and provide responses on what is happening/being done at known locations. Sydney Water were also keen to add questions to the survey and apply this on an annual basis. A hotspot map has been developed and will be updated annually at a minimum.

Grants

The EO noted that SCCG had recently submitted a grant application under the Community Resilience Innovation Program, enabling SCCG to build on the UNSW MyCoast Study, and aiming to increase community preparedness for climate change and associated hazards. As indicated by the MyCoast Study, there is an apparent gap between what the public know and what the public needs to know to prepare for storm events such as East Coast Lows and sea level rise. News on whether the grant was successful will be known by November but it is hoped that if successful this grant would allow SCCG to employ one extra staff member to facilitate the program.

SCCG has also reinvigorated the beach nourishment working group which is set to include Northern Beaches, Bayside, Sutherland and Woollahra Councils. It was also indicated that there could be an opportunity to seek grants in order to source sand and potentially collaborate with Universities to undertake sand nourishment research.

ITEM 5 ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided a brief update on key initiatives

Bayside, Inner West and Woollahra – no update

Sutherland:

- Solutions are being sought to address erosion in Botany Bay National Park. NPWS have placed sandbags at the bank to prevent erosion as it threatens the health of Norfolk Pines however an erosion control measure must now be included and subsequently approved pursuant to a SEPP as sandbags may only be used for less than 90 days.
- Sutherland is also facing legal obligations to dredge Port Hacking within 5 years.
- Flood Management Plan for Bundeena is on exhibition
- Cronulla CBD – plastic bag free project being implemented. Strong focus on community education and working with schools as part of a competition to design reusable shopping bags.
- Walk the Walls anti-graffiti campaign

Randwick

- State Government has provided Council with the \$50,000 promised to address stormwater issues at Coogee.
- Community gardens program
- Installation of 'smart' technology Gross Pollutant Traps.
- On a recent visit from a Japanese delegation, interest in traditional custodian acknowledgement prompted the idea to include traditional foods at future events and an opportunity for the promotion of indigenous culture.

Waverley

- Waverley Council is participating in the Sydney Water Reference Group to provide a solution to untreated wastewater outfalls at Vacluse, Rose Bay and Diamond Bay. The most prominent solution of diverting the wastewater to Bondi's treatment plant is currently in the design, concept and development phase.
- Council is also collaborating with Randwick, Woollahra and DPI in the Eastern Suburbs Open Coast CMP Scoping Study – Thanks to SCCG for their advice.

Willoughby

- Willoughby continues to implement its water management plan. A Gross Pollutant Trap is up for tender and construction and due to be completed next year.
- This trap will provide real time data of pollutants which will allow compliance officers to take swift action on industry and developments. Chatswood and Artarmon are identified as hotspots.
- It is also hoped this data can be used for education to target hotspots and prevent the incidence on non-compliance.
- Construction of these gross pollutant traps is estimated to cost \$2.5 million and an additional \$50,000 is likely needed for the manual clearing of pollutant traps and stormwater overflows.
- Willoughby is also steadily incorporating WSUD into its streetscapes.

Northern Beaches

- Recently completed the construction of its second community nursery at Curl Curl. Community volunteers propagate locally collected seeds which are then planted by bush care volunteers and council contractors as part of bush regeneration.

- Coastal Environment Centre hosted 10,000 students for various environmental education activities
- Progress was made to improve water quality and reduce the risks of flooding at Narrabeen Lagoon. 45,000m³ of sand cleared from the entrance was used to renourish and protect Collaroy-Narrabeen beach from coastal erosion.
- Construction of a 250m sea wall continues along Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach to protect Collaroy carpark. Private development applications have been finalised, while tenure arrangements are being negotiated between residents and the State Government. Financial assistance of up to 20% of the cost of construction works has been confirmed for eligible properties (50/50 split between Council and NSW Government)
- Urgent repairs of tidal pools were undertaken in order to protect rare seahorses in Sydney Harbour. Council have been working with NSW Fisheries and seahorse experts to develop new protocols for NSW councils to maintain tidal pools without disturbing seahorse populations.
- Council is developing a system to better understand the condition of bushland across the LGA and the effect of bush regeneration work
- Northern Beaches Environment Strategy has been developed and gives council strategic guidance to protect and preserve our environment. To be used as an umbrella document for specific environment action plans.
- Council received \$110,000 grant funding from Local Government NSW under the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change program.
- Council received Bronze Member Status of the NSW Government's Sustainability Advantage Program recognising sustainability achievements of member institutions.

North Sydney

- Community Garden Program – 6th community garden built.
- North Sydney Council has placed a ban on smoking in the CBD. While there are no enforcement measures in place for the first 3 months, the focus is on education as well as awareness and deterrence.
- Council has also banned the use of single use plastic.

ITEM 6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

It was noted that the Business Plan is due to be completed by end of June. The MPP provided an update on the progress of the business plan noting that the majority of actions had been completed.

6.2 SCCG DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

It was determined by the Executive Committee that the Draft Strategic Plan be endorsed at its September meeting and adopted by the Full Group at the Annual General Meeting on 30 November. This will enable the Strategic Plan to incorporate and reflect information from the key messages workshop, upcoming MEMA workshop and council's local strategic planning statements.

6.3 SURVEY/WORKSHOP OUTCOMES – KEY MESSAGING FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP

The Key Messages Workshop was held with the Executive Committee on 10 July 2019 with the purpose of compiling the key value(s) of SCCG to generate material that will attract possible new members.

A Survey on 'approaching new members' was sent to all member councils. Based on this survey, advocacy was noted as the most important aspect of SCCG however capacity building through the preparation of submissions, providing a cohesive voice and cross-council collaboration were also noted as important. Most Councils identified sea level rise as a result of climate change and water quality as the major issues that must be addressed in the future.

The main issues/discussion points that arose from this survey was whether SCCG should pair back its commitments and focus attention on a few specific management areas/issues and do these thoroughly, or to expand services in order to capture the interests of more Councils but risk the clarity and precision of the work. A further question then arose as to whether expansion would be suitable up and down the coast i.e. towards Central Coast Council and/or Wollongong Council or higher up in the catchment with a move towards estuarine management.

6.4 AGM MEETING DATE

The next Full Group Annual General Meeting will be held on 30 November 2019. Bayside Council will host the AGM at the Rockdale Town Hall.

Cr Michael Forshaw agreed to follow up the hosting of a full group meeting with the CEO. This has been approved and SCCG will write to the Sutherland Shire Council CEO regarding hosting of the first Full Group meeting in March 2020.

6.5 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Chair noted items including an update on the Greater Sydney Commission (blue/green grid) be provided as well as further updates on Marine Estate Management Strategy following on from the Technical Committee Workshop in August.

RESOLUTION

The SCCG EO to request a meeting with Minister Keen to seek a progress report on the Sydney Marine Parks Proposal, and to report back on the outcomes of this meeting to the Full Group.

(Bingham/Forshaw)
Carried

ITEM 7 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

7.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT

Item taken as read.

7.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICE REPORT

Item taken as read.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Confirmation / /