



# Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc

## Prospectus



Published 2019  
Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.  
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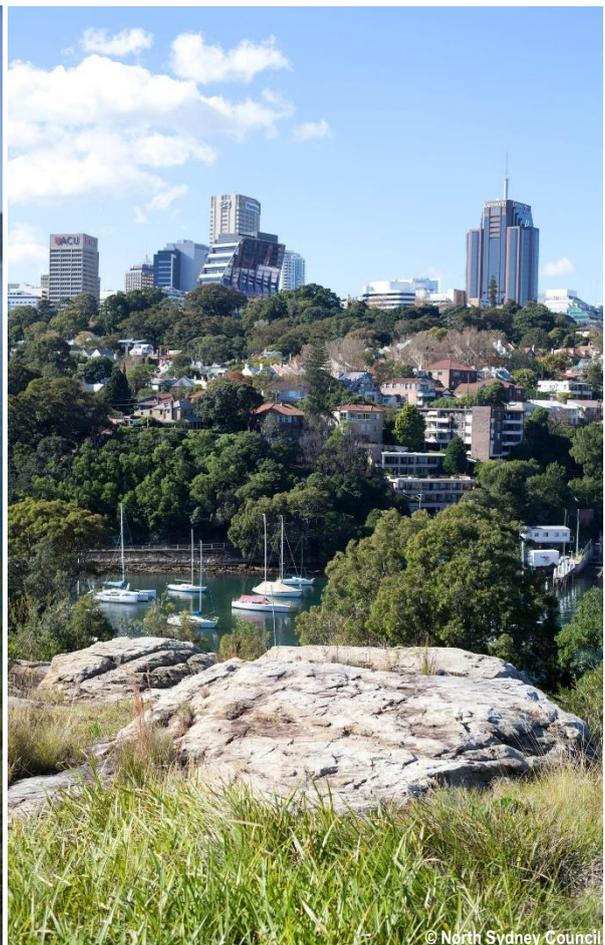
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## Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to:

- Introduce the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) and its purpose;
- Highlight SCCG's work and achievements in sustainable coastal management over the past 30 years;
- Articulate SCCG's value to coastal and estuarine councils within greater Sydney as well as coastal councils on the North and South coast of NSW;
- Inform other potential industry associations, government agencies, non-government organisations and individuals about SCCG;
- Outline SCCG services and key activities offered to members;
- Outline opportunities for membership expansion and new members investment contributions.



## Who is the Sydney Coastal Councils Group?

*'Through 30 years of action, SCCG has been a key driver of sustainable and integrated coastal and estuarine management for the Sydney region'.*

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) is a Regional Organisation of Councils currently representing over 1.3 million Sydneysiders across nine member Councils. Collectively we cover an area of approximately 800 square kilometres with a coastline of almost 600 kilometres, encompassing the waterways of Broken Bay, Pittwater, Port Jackson, Port Hacking, Botany Bay, Middle and North Harbours and the lower reaches of the Lane Cove, Georges and Cooks Rivers.

SCCG was established as an Incorporated Association in 1989 to address the discharge of primary treated sewage off Sydney's shoreline at North Head, Bondi, Malabar and Cronulla, resulting in the installation of the deep ocean outfalls. The SCCG quickly expanded its membership and evolved from a single-issue to a broader movement for sustainable and integrated coastal management.

SCCG is now a well-respected industry leader who applies and facilitates collaborative, effective and consistent approaches to the sustainable management of our coastal and estuarine environment.

We work collaboratively across our region and harness the individual and collective knowledge of our member Councils, a suite of technical and academic experts and other coastal stakeholders to take leadership on sustainable coastal management.

The strength of the SCCG rests in engagement and contributions of the elected representatives, executive and technical staff of our member Councils, and the capacity of our Secretariat to facilitate coordination, collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the SCCG.

Through our Strategic Plan, the SCCG delivers a range of services and programs that assist all Member Councils collectively and individually in the management of Sydney's urban coastal and estuarine environments.

SCCG provides benefits to its member Councils across a range of coastal management issues including; climate change adaptation and resilience; coastal infrastructure and asset management; strategic and land use planning; biodiversity restoration and conservation; healthy waterways and water quality; and integrated water management.

Over the last 30 years SCCG has established and built its reputation as a trusted, respected, experienced and knowledgeable organisation that values and represents its members.

We are an organisation with a strong commitment to:

- Integrity and credibility;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Evidenced based research;
- Innovation;
- Continuous improvement



## Our Guiding Principles

- Restore, protect and enhance the coastal environment, its associated ecosystems, ecological and physical processes and biodiversity
- Facilitate the sustainable use and management of coastal resources now and in the future
- Promote adaptive, integrated and participatory management of the coast.

## Our Vision

Resilient and healthy coastal and estuarine environments that are protected, conserved and managed in a manner consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

## Our Mission

Engaging with our members and their communities to lead sustainable management of our regions coastal and estuarine environment through collaboration, capacity building, advocacy and research.

## Our Goals

SCCG has six primary goals as presented below. These six goals will ensure that key coastal management issues are addressed through the delivery of the SCCG Strategic Plan.

1. People and places adapt to a changing climate and future shocks and stressors

2. Waterways and the foreshore are protected and healthier

3. Marine biodiversity is protected in the bioregion

4. The SCCG Region is comprised of sustainable, livable and 'smart' cities

5. There is a collaborative, effective and consistent approach to coastal and estuarine management

6. SCCG is trusted and respected to make representations that reflect the values of its members

## SCCG Timeline of Highlights/Achievements

- 1989 Established as an Incorporated Association
  - Campaigns/advocacy – reducing water pollution/ocean outfalls
- 1998 Developed the Sydney Regional Coastal Management Strategy
- 2001 Protecting Sydney's Wetlands – Model DCP
- 2004 Summerama Coastal Community Activities Program commencement
- 2007 Landslide Risk Management Project (development of Landslide Guidelines and Practice Note)
  - Legislative Assembly Standing Committee – Natural Resource Management and Climate Change
- 2008 High Commendation – Australian Safer Communities Award (Landslide project)
  - Awarded the Warren Medal – Civil College (Landslide Project)
  - Environmental Trust grant – Groundwater Education Workshop Series
  - Submission – National Inquiry into Climate Change and Environmental Impacts on Coastal Communities
- 2009 Sea Level Rise Policy Statement Risk Management guide and NSW Coastal Planning Guideline
  - Submissions – North Side Storage Tunnel; NSW government Sea Level Rise Policy Statement
- 2010 Audit of Sea Level Rise; Coastal Erosion and Inundation Legislation and Policy
  - Submissions – NSW Biodiversity Strategy; Water Sharing Plans for Greater Metro area; Water Management Inquiry; Native Vegetation of the Sydney Metro Catchment; Coastal Reforms Package
- 2011 Grant funding for three projects – Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project
  - NSW State Election Key Policy Position
  - Submission – Sydney Harbour National Park Draft Plan of Management
- 2012 Grant funding under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program for the Coastal vulnerability to multiple Inundation Sources Project
  - Submission – Scientific Audit Report on Marine Parks; A New Planning System for NSW Green Paper
  - Grant funding - Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation Project
- 2013 Community Action Grant – Quantifying the Value of Sydney's Beaches
  - Grant funding - Natural Disaster Resilience Program - Piloting a Health Check for Local Government
  - Grant funding - Estuary Management Program - Sydney Harbour Coastal Zone Management Plan Scoping Study

- Grant funding – Environment Trust - 'Becoming Social project'
- 2014 Submission – Planning Circular on Coastal Hazards
- Australian Government Grant funding – Sydney's Salty Communities Program
- Submissions – Crown lands Management Review; Moorings Review; 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice
- 25 Year Anniversary Conference and Gala Evening (29 August)
- NCCARF Climate Adaptation Champions Awards (Highly Commended in Local Government Category)
- NSW Resilient Australia Awards (Local Government Category Winner – Covermar project)
- Grant funding under Natural Disaster Resilience Program for Stage 2 - Implementing and Embedding an Emergency management Health Check for Local Government
- 2015 Submissions - document to political parties contesting the 2015 NSW Election; Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review; Review of Sydney Water's Sewage Treatment Environment Protection Licences; SEPP's review; Senate Inquiry into marine plastic pollution; NSW Invasive Species Plan; IPART Review of Sydney Water Pricing
- Establishment of SCCG Coastal Reforms Advisory Committee
- SCCG Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019 development and adoption
- 2016 Submissions – Container Deposit Scheme; NSW Coastal Reforms; Review of the Shark Meshing Program; Pest Management Review Report; Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment; NSW Biodiversity Conservation Reforms; Inquiry into Flying-fox management
- Water Pollution Interagency Meeting
- Signed MOU between SCCG and Sydney Water; Healthy Waterways Workshop (with Sydney Water)
- Policy Recommendations Federal Election document
- Regional Flying-fox Forum
- 2017 Submissions – Coastal Management SEPP; Planning Legislation Updates and District Plans; NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment; Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms; Environmental Impact Assessment Improvement Project; Crown Land Management Regulation; NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy
- Presented evidence to the Senate hearing for the Inquiry into Efficacy and regulation of Shark mitigation and Deterrent Measures
- Development of the Healthy Waterways Action Plan
- Grant funding – Tool Implementation Partner for CoastAdapt

Roadshow – Engaging communities and facilitating change (CRC LCL & WSROC partnership)

Winner of the NSW Coastal Management Award – Sydney’s Salty Communities Program

Building Resilience to Climate Change Program – Adapting priority coastal infrastructure for climate change

2018 Get the Site Right Program Partnership

Practice Note 12.1 Workshop

Business Plan development (March)

Implementing the NSW Coastal Reforms in SCCG Workshop

Joined the Australian Microplastics Assessment Project as a partner

Submission – Draft Environment SEPP; Flying Fox Camp Management Code of Practice; Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Marine Parks Proposal; Western Harbour Tunnel Beaches Link

Submission to Minister for Environment on Coastal Management Program Impediments

2019 SCCG Key Recommendation document – State Government Election

Local Strategic Planning Statements Workshop

Member Council Marine Estate Management Workshop

Advocacy – Meetings Sydney Water/OEH/Planning/NSW Coastal Council

Summerama Activities Program (16<sup>th</sup> year anniversary)

Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program Information Session

Engaged by DPIE to establish and facilitate the Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program Steering Committee/Partners Group

Development of Strategic Plan 2019-2029

SCCG celebrates 30 years of driving sustainable coastal and estuarine management



## Why do we need regional collaboration?

Australia's coastline is one of our most valuable assets with 85% of Australians living within 50 km of the coast. Increasing pressures such as population growth, increased usage of our natural/built coastal assets, aging infrastructure, and impacts from climate change are a shared problem that are not defined by local government boundaries.

Over the next decade there will be unprecedented change to our coastal communities, governments, government services, commerce and to the way in which the coast is managed.

It is critical that our response to these developments builds on our experience, while harnessing innovations in technology and management practices.

There is a clear need to ensure the long-term sustainable management, conservation and protection of our coastal and estuarine environment through innovation, harnessing new technologies and collaborative action from all levels of government.

Through its collaboration, capacity building, advocacy and research efforts SCCG is in a prime position to show strong leadership, provide direction, and coordinate action regionally across Sydney and throughout coastal NSW to advance sustainable coastal management.

## Benefits of SCCG membership

SCCG membership provides a number of benefits and services to councils and council staff.

- A facilitated collaborative and consistent approach to coastal management
- Proactive response in identifying and addressing impediments, issues and solutions to coastal management
- Capacity to meet coastal management objectives on a local and regional scale
- Ability to inform legislation, policy and strategy development at a state level
- A cohesive and strong voice to advocate at all levels of government including Ministerial level
- Experience, expertise and specialist advice
- Provides best practice knowledge and resources on coastal management issues
- Acting as a trusted knowledge broker for industry/government information and providing a platform for sharing and collaboration
- Strong track record - for effective partnerships, successful projects, achievements and development of applicable tools/resources
- Resource efficiency and economies of scale - reduction in duplication of effort
- Positioning itself as a leader in the development of multi-council Coastal Management Programs, i.e. Sydney Harbour CMP.

## What does this mean for Councils?

For councils, becoming an SCCG member provides opportunities for:

- Utilising SCCG knowledge base and keeping abreast of emerging trends/issues
- Access to best practice research, publications, resources/tools
- Ability to participate in leading edge grant-based research projects
- Representing Member Council research interests and needs on key national research bodies and advisory committees
- Delivery of regional projects and services relevant and of interest to your council with regional and local outcomes/application
- Advancing the agenda for sustainable coastal management, climate change resilience and integrated water management
- Leverage off SCCG's network of existing research, industry and government partners/organisations
- Dedicated SCCG Secretariat to assist and advise councils on coastal management
- Directly influence SCCG strategic direction, priority projects and actions
- Value for money – achieving coastal management objectives through regional collaboration

## What does this mean for Council Staff?

For council staff, participation in SCCG provides opportunities for:

- Capacity building (professional development and knowledge building)
- Peer to peer learning and information sharing
- In-field learning via program case study presentations and on-site visits.
- A support system via SCCG staff
- Access to resources/tools
- Access to key contacts within government/non-government organisations
- Networking with likeminded people from councils across greater Sydney and beyond to share experiences
- Provision of qualified perspectives on regional coastal issues within the media and supporting member council staff with their public representations
- Provision of expert advice, information and data to assist staff in putting together reports

## SCCG Services

APPROACH	SERVICE	KEY ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Facilitate cooperation between, and coordination of actions by member Councils and coastal stakeholders</p>	<p>SCCG provides an effective and efficient mechanism for member Councils to drive regional collaboration and regional consistency on shared issues. SCCG is able to engage and collaborate with a range of key stakeholders including state government agencies, research institutes and the broader community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SCCG internal Committees (Full Group, Executive, Technical Committee, GM's Forum)</li> <li>➤ SCCG internal Working Groups (Coastal Reforms, Grants Committee, Summerama Champions)</li> <li>➤ Sand Nourishment Project Group</li> <li>➤ SCCG representation on external committees, working groups and stakeholder workshops/briefings</li> <li>➤ SCCG and Sydney Water MOU and shared data agreement, and Healthy Waterways Action Plan</li> <li>➤ Waterway pollution hotspots survey and mapping</li> <li>➤ Facilitating the annual Summerama community activities program</li> <li>➤ Partnership projects on key topics/issues relevant to members</li> <li>➤ Interface of communication between Federal, State and Local Government, Academic and research Institutions and other stakeholders</li> <li>➤ Resource sharing including innovation and best practice approaches</li> <li>➤ Review and input into policy, practices and emerging technologies</li> <li>➤ Access to substantial stakeholder networks and the coordination of information distribution and exchange between stakeholders</li> </ul>
<p><b>Capacity Building</b></p> <p>Develop and exchange knowledge and tools to support the role and build the capacity of Member Councils</p>	<p>SCCG builds capacity to sustainably manage coastal and estuarine areas through the provision of tools and resources; partnership and grant-based programs; forums and professional development opportunities; and knowledge sharing through extensive networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Development of tools and resources for council application (e.g. Emergency Management Health Check Tool; Adapting Priority Coastal Recreational Infrastructure for Climate Change Tool)</li> <li>➤ Dissemination of resources through a resource hub on the SCCG <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>➤ Provision of information, GIS data and mapping (e.g. biodiversity corridors mapping, inundation mapping/data)</li> <li>➤ Maintaining and building the SCCG network to ensure access to relevant decision makers, and technical, policy, academic experts</li> <li>➤ Facilitation and /or development of grant applications to address needs identified by member Councils</li> <li>➤ Hosting capacity building workshops, events and training for member Council staff.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <p>Provide a regional and cohesive voice representing Member Councils</p>	<p>SCCG provides a significant vehicle for influencing local, state and federal policies, strategies and programs. This proactive advocacy role improves the capacity of members to deliver a sustainable coastal and estuarine environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Significant regional submissions developed on behalf of member Councils on issues of interest/concern</li> <li>➤ Facilitation of dedicated advocacy working groups for specific government reforms, and planning requirements</li> <li>➤ Development and submission of key coastal/estuarine policy recommendations/position statements for the state and federal elections</li> <li>➤ Meetings with Ministers (and local members) to discuss key issues, impediments, challenges for councils and advocate for our members position on key areas of interest/concern</li> <li>➤ Input into regional/state/federal policy, planning and strategy development through representation on Committees and at Stakeholder Workshops.</li> <li>➤ Advocating to state government agencies through quarterly meetings (e.g. Sydney Water, NSW Coastal Council, DPIE)</li> <li>➤ Corresponding with state government agencies on issues of concern on behalf of member Councils</li> <li>➤ Attendance and provision of evidence to the Senate at public hearings on relevant inquiries/issues of concern.</li> <li>➤ Media releases/media opportunities</li> <li>➤ Newsletters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Research</b></p> <p>Identify and address current and emerging regional coastal issues</p>	<p>SCCG identifies and addresses current and emerging issues of relevance in alignment with priorities identified in the SCCG Strategic Plan. SCCG enhances the research capacity of member councils and drives beneficial and co-designed partnerships with a broad range of research institutions and key academics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Annual Survey of members to determine priority research issues/trends.</li> <li>➤ Desktop research projects benefitting member Councils</li> <li>➤ Leading edge research papers/studies (e.g. Salty Communities Program)</li> <li>➤ Grant-based research projects with partner Research Institutions (e.g. Community Understanding of Coastal Erosion, MyCoast Study – UNSW, Adapting priority coastal recreational infrastructure project – MHL).</li> <li>➤ Representation on research project advisory groups/steering committees (e.g. AUSMAP)</li> <li>➤ Testing and pilot implementation of research tools and resources to ensure application for councils (e.g. NCCARF CoastAdapt tool)</li> <li>➤ Research publications and resources disseminated to member Councils and/or provided on the SCCG website</li> <li>➤ Supporting and assisting members to integrate research outcomes into policy and management practices.</li> </ul>

## Governance

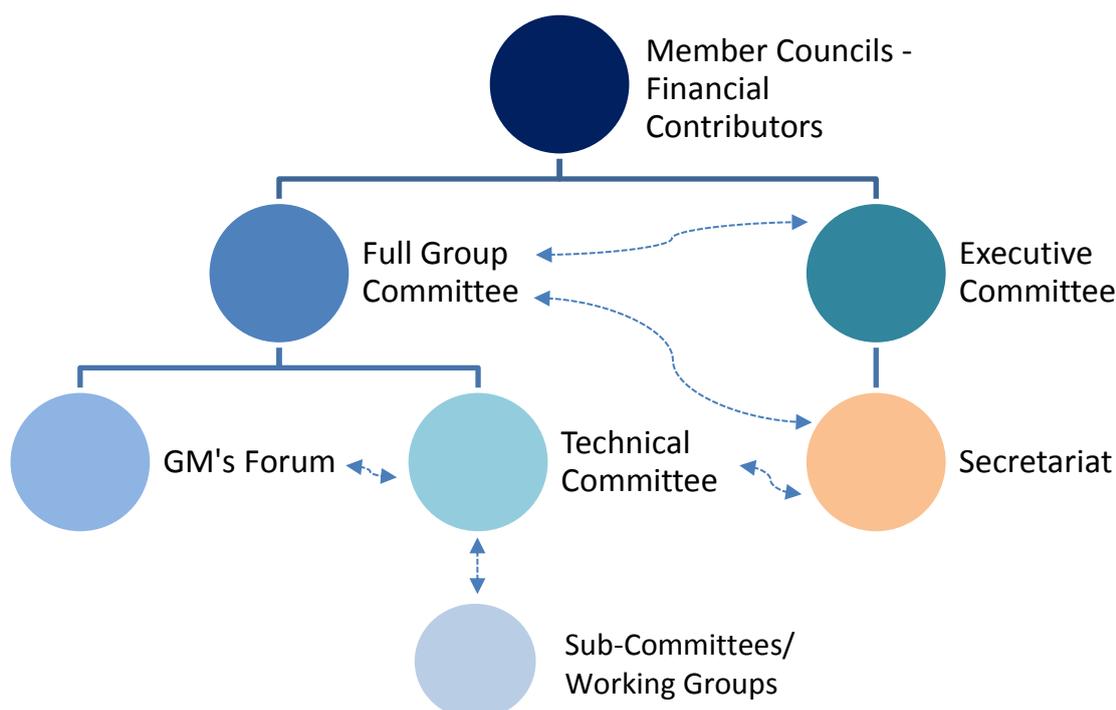
The current governance approach of the SCCG is a voluntary membership model whereby, Councils within the Sydney region opt to become members of the Group and contribute a membership fee which assists in the operation of the Secretariat including its implementation of projects and services on behalf of members. Membership contributions are supplemented by grant funds and sponsorship as required.

Member Councils participate and collaborate in the SCCG, as an Incorporated Association, under the provisions of sections 355, 357 and 358 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Our functions, powers and governance arrangements are described in our [Constitution](#).

Representation by member Councils is via four core committees, namely the Executive Committee, Full Group, Technical Committee and the GM's Forum. These committees provide efficient and effective opportunities for member Councils to come together as a platform for coordination, collaboration, networking and peer-to-peer learning.

The Full Group Committee provides for Councillors and senior staff to share information and direct the core activities of the SCCG. The Executive Committee are appointed at the SCCG Annual General Meeting providing regional representation and decision making. The Technical Committee provides a forum for professional staff to exchange information, network and collaborate on current and emerging needs/projects. In addition, the GM's Forum meets twice per year to enable GM's and / or senior staff to provide strategic direction and input into the development and review of the SCCG Strategic Plan.

The current Governance Structure of the SCCG is provided below.





# **SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP**

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