



Planning,
Industry &
Environment



Parramatta River
Catchment Group



Sydney
WATER

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

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30 June 2021

Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (GSHCMP) – June 2021 update

Dear Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (GSHCMP) Steering Committee and Partners Group,

We hope that you're keeping safe in light of recent COVID events. The Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Team has continued to make progress and shares this positive update with you:

NSW Coastal and Estuary Grants Program

- Twenty councils within the Greater Sydney Harbour Catchment have agreed to participate in the application for a Planning Grant under the NSW Coastal and Estuary Grants Program. This is truly a multi-council proposal focussed on waterway health and a great outcome.
- The Project Team, in consultation with DPIE-EES Greater Sydney Branch, has prepared the application and now awaits an anticipated change to the guidelines in early July to enable a single submission on behalf of all.
- The SCCG as an incorporated entity and serving as a Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) will be responsible for the submission on behalf of all councils in association with the PRCG.
- The application focuses on managing threats to water quality from the catchments building on the issues raised over many years from studies that have documented contaminants in these areas.
- The application recognises the legacy of past contamination, ongoing inflow of pollutants off both private and public lands including roads, issues related to growth of population and development controls, aging infrastructure and how different climate change factors will affect the management of waterway health.

Sydney Water is on the Project Team

- Sydney Water has joined the Project Team and has prepared the concept diagrams on inputs from the catchment to the Harbour under both wet and dry conditions. These diagrams are available for all Councils to use and can be accessed [here](#).

The Strategic Review of Marine Litter Starts

- The SCCG and PRCG have commenced their strategic review of marine litter in the catchment funded by EPA. The Regional Litter Prevention Strategy is being piloted in 3 Councils. Further information on the RLPS is available [here](#).

- They have also submitted an Expression of Interest under DPIE's Smart Acceleration program in partnership with CSIRO, EPA, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and six councils: this project will examine technologies for improving monitoring of stormwater using artificial intelligence to track litter in waterways.

Investigating Ways to Improve Waterway Health Management

- Staff in the "delivery engine" supporting the PRCG Masterplan and staff at the SCCG continue to investigate ways to improve management of waterway health including ways to strengthen planning instruments and the application of DPIE's LEP Assessment Tool for waterway clauses. This is an important step in applying the [NSW Government's Risk-based Framework](#) and the selection of appropriate indicators relevant to both ecological and public health.

Continued Discussions with NSW Government

- Professor Thom continues to undertake wide-ranging discussions with senior officials from different NSW Government agencies to help in the coordination process required by this multi-council project that is relevant to five ministerial portfolios.

Regards,



Prof. Bruce Thom
Chair, Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Steering
Committee

Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Project Team