



Planning,
Industry &
Environment



Parramatta River
Catchment Group



Sydney
WATER

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

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

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

Happy 2021 after a challenging 2020. The GSHCMP Project Team has continued to make progress and share this update with you:

The current CMP approach

- We are continuing to work on developing a Coastal Management Program (CMP) which at this stage focusses on waterway health. It brings together the inner and outer parts of Greater Sydney Harbour. This work builds on the Stage 1 Scoping Study and discussions held with partners and steering committee in 2019 and early 2020 (see Highlights attachment).
- These discussions continue to reinforce the position taken in early 2020 that a more coordinated approach is needed to manage water quality in catchments discharging into Greater Sydney Harbour. This approach has been supported in principle by all councils and agencies that form part of the Harbour's drainage basin.

Stage 2 Planning Grant opportunity

- Through the NSW Coastal and Estuary Grants Program we have an opportunity to apply for a CMP Stage 2 Planning Grant to gather relevant information and determine what actions are needed to address existing and emerging issues of waterway health.
- The Project Team has agreed that the first step is to focus on stormwater discharge and that the basis of further consideration as a CMP hinges on collecting information from all councils and agencies such as Sydney Water and EPA.
- A Stage 2 grant application has been prepared and will be distributed to each council for comment later this month. By showing that councils can work collectively to address common problems that align with coastal reforms there is potential in the future to enhance the scope of the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP.

The importance of working together

- We are aware that growing pressures of population growth, urban intensification, climate change (including changes in the intensity of stormwater discharge), and ageing channel and piping infrastructure are confronting all councils, Sydney Water and Transport NSW-Maritime. By taking a coordinated approach the aim is to generate cost savings and efficiencies in mitigating pollution threats. This CMP project targets these benefits for communities, councils and all who seek to enjoy swimmable harbour waters and protection of natural values.

- Government agencies consulted during 2020 are supportive of a collective approach, and my remit as Chair of the Steering Committee is to continue to consult widely and work towards a coordinated outcome. Minister Hancock supports the approach taken so far.
- The [GSHCMP educational video](#) produced last year sent the message that a coordinated partnership approach was critical to meeting our long-term expectation of healthy waterways.
- The time is now to get on with the task of assembling information across the entire catchment system draining into our iconic Harbour that will meet the objectives of improving waterway health.
- SCCG and PRCG have gained support to undertake a marine litter study. The Stage 2 CMP grant, if successful, will take the next step in defining actions and capacities towards implementing a coordinated approach that allows for sharing of information, setting priorities for investment, and ensuring mitigation of threats to waterway health.

We look forward to working with you in 2021.

Regards,



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

Greater Sydney Harbour CMP Project Team

Greater Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program (GSHCMP) Highlights

2018



- Stage 1 Scoping Study completed
- GSHCMP Project Team established

2019



- First meeting of Steering Committee. James Griffin MP opened meeting. Terms of Reference for Steering Committee and Partners Group developed
- Minister Hancock wrote to all Councils requesting involvement
- Minister Hancock requested Prof. Thom to Chair Steering committee
- SCCG review of GPT management of member Councils
- Parramatta River Catchment Group {PRCG} joined GSHCMP Project Team
- Steering Committee and Partners Group meetings held to gather perspectives on the governance model and the initial scope of the CMP
- Proposed governance model developed and considered by Minister Hancock.
- James Griffin MP appointed to the role of consulting with portfolio Ministers

2020



- Interviews held with senior officials in various agencies (approximately 25) as directed by Minister Hancock (April - September)
- DPIE leadership team support initial focus of CMP on waterway health (July)
- CMP Education Video developed with the support of the Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA)
- Meeting held with Minister Hancock and James Griffin MP to emphasise the need to move forward with the project
- Consultation with DPIE Legal on the role of a lead Council for a multi-council CMP
- Chair of GSHCMP Steering Committee joins Advisory Group of PRCG Parramatta River Masterplan
- Stage 2 Coast and Estuary Grant begins preparation
- SCCG and PRCG wins an EPA Grant to develop a Regional Litter Strategy for Greater Sydney Harbour
- Sydney Water prepares conceptual model for whole catchment
- Released communiques on progress during 2020

2021



- Stage 2 Coastal and Estuary Planning Grant application drafted
- Commencement of work on a Regional Litter Strategy for Greater Sydney Harbour
- Discussions continue with key agencies such as Sydney Water, Transport NSW and Greater Sydney Commission
- 'What is a CMP' education video developed