



SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.

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1 September 2022

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

The GSHCMP Project Team has continued to make progress and is delighted to share this positive update with you.

Progress update

The current Stage 2 of the GSHCMP focused on *determining risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities* is progressing well with the delivery of three interrelated studies:

- Recent completion of Study 1 that investigated the effectiveness of stormwater management measures across 20 councils in the catchment;
- Study 2 in progress to identify council needs and management options to help improve stormwater discharge and waterway health in the catchment; and
- Study 3 in progress to review options for establishing a governance and sustainable funding structure that would ensure the sustainable health of the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment.

Complementing the three studies is the delivery of a series of workshops with technical experts and councils on the topic of water quality, climate change and catchment initiatives. The outcomes of all three studies and technical workshops due in October will shape our recommendations to the NSW Government in November 2022 where we seek to build a compelling case for a more coordinated management of Greater Sydney Harbour.

Stage 3 of GSHCMP

The Stage 3 grant application is currently in preparation. On 23 June 2022, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Wendy Tuckerman, wrote to the 20 Councils participating in the current stage to thank them for their contributions to the development of this CMP and encouraged their continued support in the next stage. Strathfield Council has now joined a group of councils participating in the project. Contributions from the 21 councils have now been requested.

Sydney Water boat tour

The Project Team extends its gratitude to Sydney Water for inviting the Project Management Committee on a boat tour around its water quality monitoring sites in the Sydney Harbour in June. This unique opportunity offered an exclusive look into the organisation's rigorous monitoring program and laboratory services and greatly enhanced our understanding of the current and evolving technologies used to measure the health of the environment. A short video about the boat tour is available [here](#).

Release of the Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (RLPS) and implementation progress

The SCCG and PRCG are proud to announce the launch of the [Greater Sydney Harbour Regional Litter Prevention Strategy – For a Litter Free Greater Sydney](#). Development of the strategy was supported with grant funding from the EPA in 2021-2022 and is the product of broad council and community engagement. The strategy provides direction for collaborations across the Greater Sydney Harbour region that contributes to the NSW Government’s target of 60% litter reduction by 2030 and 30% plastics item reduction by 2025.

Further funding has been granted to implement the initial phases of the strategy in 2022-2023. Key elements of program include:

- Installing Don’t be a Tosser signage at selected litter hotspots to complement local council’s education
- Delivering school education program focused on litter prevention to raise awareness
- Engaging the community through litter prevention forums. The first [forum](#) will be held on 22 September 2022.
- Developing a centralised web portal to provide a catchment-wide, shared knowledge base for ongoing litter prevention

You can read more about the project on the website [here](#).

Partnership with SOPA and CSIRO on the Smart Places Acceleration program

Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA), SCCG, PRCG and CSIRO worked together to finalise the business case submitted by SOPA on 1 June 2022, for the project *Smarter Cleaner Sydney Harbour - smart sensors in stormwater management*. If successful, the project will provide timely information to assist councils in maintaining their GPT assets as well as improve current understanding of the types of litter flowing in streams and waterways. Advice has been received that the application is currently being considered and the outcomes will be known shortly.

Ongoing communiques

We will continue to release communiques on an as-needs basis to keep you updated on the progress of our work. Please feel free to share this communique within your organisation.

Best wishes,



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