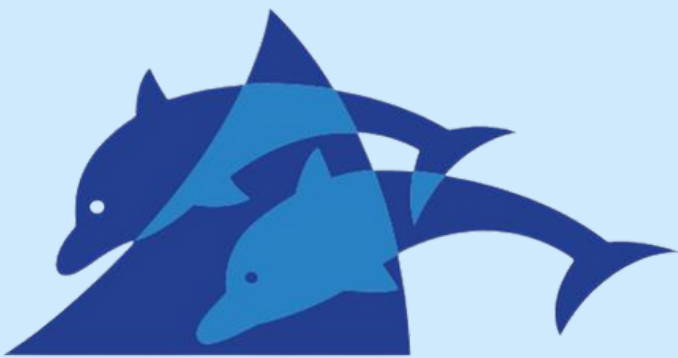




SCCG Member Prospectus



SYDNEY COASTAL
COUNCILS GROUP

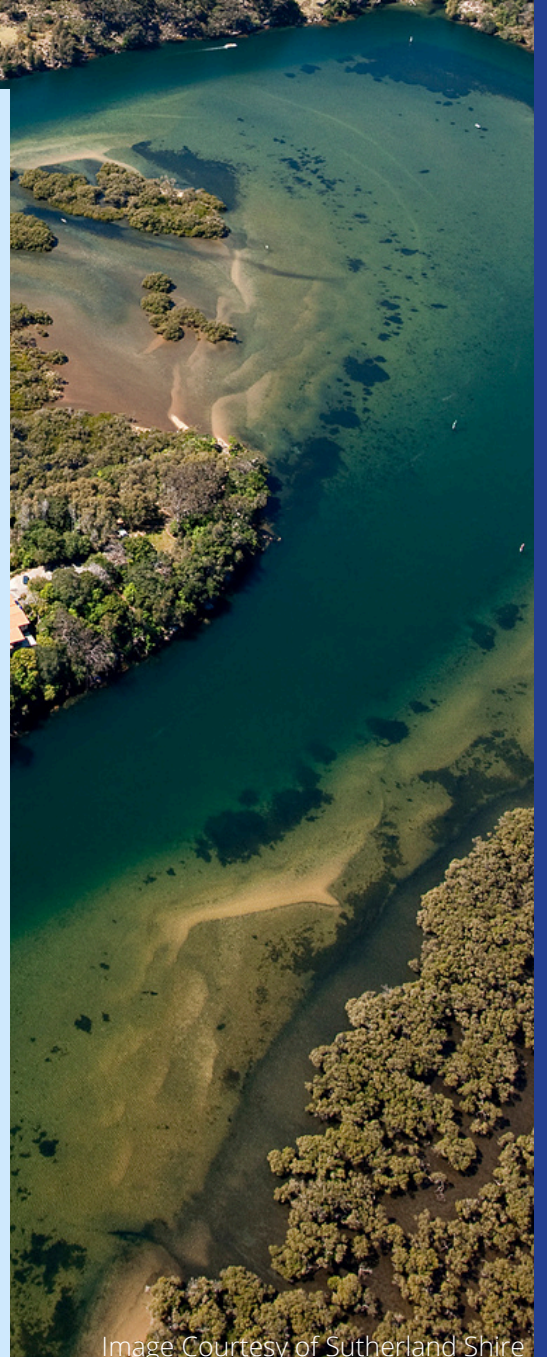


Image Courtesy of Sutherland Shire

Our coastal and estuarine environments are precious. There are threats to our coastal and estuarine environment that cannot be managed by individual councils alone. Issues such as improving waterway health, reducing marine debris, adapting to sea level rise, and managing shifting sands along our beaches can be complex and expensive to resolve and jurisdictionally challenging to manage by individual Councils alone.

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) works to tackle these problems by creating regional, consistent and collaborative approaches to the management of these threats. A list of SCCG projects can be found on our website at www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au.



Who are we?

The SCCG is a Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) 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 Parramatta, Lane Cove, Georges and Cooks Rivers.

Current member councils cover a breadth of estuarine and coastal areas in the Sydney region and include:

- Northern Beaches
- Willoughby
- North Sydney
- Inner West
- Woollahra
- Waverley
- Randwick
- Bayside
- Sutherland

The SCCG works collaboratively across its region and harnesses the individual and collective knowledge of its Member Councils, a suite of technical and academic experts and other coastal stakeholders to take leadership on sustainable coastal and estuarine management.

The SCCG's direction is identified in its Strategic Plan which sets 6 goals:

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, liveable 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.

To find out more see our [Strategic Plan](#) which highlights our strategic direction over the next decade from 2019-2029.



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 region's coastal and estuarine environment through collaboration, capacity building, advocacy and research.



What we do?

The strength of the SCCG rests in engagement and shared expertise 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 Group and provide general and specialised expertise in delivering a range of services and programs that build the capacity of members in the management of Sydney's urban coastal and estuarine environments. We also provide a strong regional cohesive voice to advocate for improved coastal and estuarine management and to seek funding for members through state and government grant programs.

The SCCG delivers this through the delivery of catchment wide projects, the development of evidence-based submissions, and the running of various committees which enable member Councils to have regular engagement with key state agencies, build their capacity, and to seek any impediments affecting coastal and estuarine environments to be addressed.



Key Projects

Outer Sydney Harbour Coastal Management Program

The SCCG is commencing the development of a coastal management program (CMP) for outer Sydney Harbour in accordance with the NSW Coastal Management Framework. This CMP draws on the work completed for the Greater Sydney Harbour CMP and has a renewed focus on issues pertinent to the harbour foreshore councils and their communities.

There are multiple benefits for member councils involved in the CMP. The CMP will involve the development of regionally consistent approaches for seawalls, coastal adaptation, litter prevention, coastal emergency management and monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Councils will be eligible to apply for grant funding under the NSW Coastal and Estuary Grants Program for approved actions. Councils will also be indemnified under Section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993 following CMP certification.

Ultimately, through active participation and collaboration on the CMP, councils will build their collective capacity to sustainably manage the harbour foreshore for the benefit of their communities.

Key Projects

SCCG Advocacy on the future of the NSW Beachwatch Program

The strength of the SCCG's advocacy was recently shown through proposed changes by the NSW Government on the future of its NSW Beachwatch Program.

In 2023, the government identified that the funding for the program would now require Councils in the Sydney region to pay. Through SCCG's advocacy with its members, consultation with NSW Government, and seeking its own independent legal advice, the SCCG and members have been able to push back on the NSW Government's cost-shifting proposal.



Key Projects

Regional Litter Prevention Strategy

The SCCG, together with Parramatta River Catchment Group, has developed a Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (RLPS) to invite a collaborative regional approach among the Greater Sydney Harbour catchment councils and communities to work together to prevent litter and achieve the NSW Government's litter prevention targets of 60% reduction in litter by 2030 and reduction in plastic litter by 30% by 2025.

The Strategy aims to identify regional collaborative approaches that can prevent items becoming litter in the first place, before it accumulates in parks, on streets, in drains, in creeks and rivers, in Sydney Harbour and ultimately in the marine environment.

Work on litter prevention has been greatly assisted with funding under the EPA's litter prevention grant programs. First year implementation of the RLPS focused on some collaborative on-ground projects with partner councils such as litter prevention signage at litter hotspots adjacent to waterways and school education sessions. A community litter prevention forum and catchment bus tour were also held to promote catchment wide impacts on Sydney Harbour. A dedicated litter prevention website called Litter Free Sydney is close to finalisation, which will showcase litter prevention projects and be a hub for litter prevention education and engagement.



Governance

The SCCG is an incorporated body under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009. A copy of the SCCG's constitution is available [here](#). Being incorporated means that the SCCG has its own legal identity separate from its members, which provides protection to members in legal transactions. Being incorporated also enables the SCCG to apply for a range of government grants to deliver projects that improve our coasts and estuaries on behalf of our members.

The SCCG is governed by the Executive Committee which comprises representatives from all member Councils. This committee is supported by the General Managers Forum which consists of General Managers, CEOs and senior staff from each Council. The roles and responsibilities of both committees are set out in the SCCG's constitution.

The SCCG also runs the following committees to to build the capacity of Council staff, share knowledge across Councils and with state and federal government, develop grant applications for regional collaborative projects, and develop evidence-based submissions in response to changes to policies and legislation.



Governance

Technical Committee

The SCCG Technical Committee provides a forum through which technical support can be provided to member councils as well as capacity building through information sharing, peer-to-peer learning and collaborative projects. Quarterly meetings focus on one of four themes: smart cities, biodiversity, water quality and coastal hazards and include expert presentations from industry, state agencies and academic institutions. Members also have a round table to share information on projects and initiatives.

Sand Management Working Group

The SCCG recognises the ongoing challenges faced by councils in both coastal and estuarine beach management in response to community pressures, storm events and longer-term climate change impacts of sea level rise. The Group brings together state agencies, researchers and member councils to advocate for broad sand nourishment activities in the Sydney region.

Grants Committee

The SCCG Grants Committee identifies suitable projects that address the goals of the Strategic Plan and support the interests of member Councils. Considerations include sources of grant funding and feedback on the preparation of grant applications.



Key State Agencies

CMP Leaders

Quarterly meetings are held with the NSW Coastal Council Secretary and DCCEEW for leaders of CMPs in the Sydney region. This enables CMPs to build their capacity to deliver CMPs, to obtain updates from the NSW Government on the Coastal Management Framework, and raise issues to be addressed. The outcomes of these meetings are then reported directly to the NSW Coastal Council which provides independent advice to the Minister for the Environment.

Transport for NSW

The SCCG meets regularly with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to collaborate on key initiatives and information needs which support both organisations' strategic goals. The meetings also enable SCCG member Councils to raise issues regarding maritime activities within their LGAs.

Sydney Water

Quarterly meetings between the SCCG and Sydney Water aim to address the key stresses of population growth and climate change and to collaborate on current and future opportunities. Meetings also provide a regular forum in which member issues can be raised.



If you would like more information on the many benefits of being a member council, contact Sarah Joyce, Executive Officer of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group at admin@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au.

The SCCG can also attend your offices to provide a more detailed briefing on the benefits of SCCG membership and to answer any questions.

