

SCCG 2026 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Abbreviations: C&E Grant – Coastal & Estuary Grant, CMP – Coastal Management Program, DRF - Disaster Ready Fund; MEMA – Marine Estate Management Authority, SIMS – Sydney Institute of Marine Science, SMWG - SCCG's Sand Management Working Group; TfNSW – Transport for NSW

2019-2029 Objectives	2025 Initiative	Priority	Key Mechanisms for Delivery	Funding Source	KPIs
Goal 1: People and Places Adapt to Climate Change Future Shocks and Stressors					
a. Coastal management programs in our region are delivered effectively and efficiently	i. Deliver the Outer Sydney Harbour CMP Stage 2-4	1	SCCG's CMP Leaders meetings	C&E grant funding Partner contributions	CMP Stage 2 and 50% of CMP Stage 3 to be completed by end of 2025 (subject to commencing project by end of 2024)
	ii. Continue to identify impediments to the CMP process and advocate for these to be addressed on behalf of members.	1	Advocacy submissions; CMP Leaders Meetings; Annual Coastal Council Survey	Membership fees	4 CMP Leaders Meetings held; Meeting actions completed within 6 months
	iii. Investigate opportunities to apply for a grants to develop studies that assist multiple CMPs.	2	SCCG CMP Leaders meetings	Membership fees	1 grant project idea scoped for consideration by GM Forum
	iv. Advocate for the DCCEW and DPHI to appropriately address the recommendations from the NSW Audit Office's review of the CM Framework including ensuring member Councils input into the rollout of the Audit recommendations.	1	Advocacy submissions; CMP Leaders Meetings; Annual Coastal Council Survey	Membership fees	1 Advocacy Submission and 4 CMP Leaders Meetings
b. The resilience of our region to the effects of natural hazards and climate change is increased	i. Advocate for Greater Sydney Disaster Action Plan, focusing on coastal erosion, inundation and tsunami hazards and facilitate Councils' involvement through SCCG role on Regional Steering Committee	2	Advocacy Submissions SMWG	Membership fees	1 advocacy submissions developed
	ii. Initiate a project to scope and/or develop a coastal adaption planning framework for Sydney	1	CMP Leaders Meeting	Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 grant funding	Investigate submitting a grant application to develop a coastal adaptation planning framework if and when grant funding becomes available
	iii. Work with councils to facilitate, prioritise and implement works to address coastal erosion, such as beach nourishment	1	SCCG's Sand management Working Group	Membership fees	4 SMWG Meetings; Meeting actions completed within 6 months
Goal 2: Waterways and foreshore are protected and healthier					

a. Direct and indirect pollution loads are reduced in key hotspots in our region	i. Monitor and identify actions to address pollution hotspots and other issues in consultation with Sydney Water	1	SCCG and Sydney Water meetings; SW Incident Status Reporting System	Membership fees	4 SCCG and Sydney Water Meetings 1 Water Quality Themed TC meeting Meeting actions completed within 6 months 1 workshop with Sydney Water and council staff
	ii. Partner with Stormwater NSW and Stormwater 2030 on advocating for more sustainable stormwater funding starting with increasing the NSW stormwater levy.	1	Participation in Stormwater NSW seminars, workshops and committee meetings; Coordinated advocacy	Membership fees	1 Advocacy submission; 1 workshop with SCCG members
	iii. Facilitate the Get the Site Right program and encourage all member councils to participate in addressing sediment and erosion on construction sites.	1	Get the Site Right Planning Group meetings; media release; coordinated reporting on results	Membership fees	2 planning group meetings Promote 2026 campaign amongst SCCG members; Analyse campaign outputs to determine campaign success and ongoing trends; establish a yearly campaign survey for SCCG participating councils (6/9) to analyse council staff feedback.
	iv. Explore the potential use of protection of the environment policies as allowed for in Chapter 2 of the POEO Act 1997 as a regulatory driver for stormwater quality improvement and necessitating increased funding.	2	Consultation with and representations to NSW Government; Technical Committee; Stormwater NSW meetings	Membership fees	1 advocacy submission
b. Improved water quality at beaches and estuaries in our region	i. Continue to advocate for the NSW Beachwatch program to remain a state funded and led program.	1	Representations to NSW Government; GM Forum	Membership fees	Report to each Executive Committee and GM Forum meeting if there are changes proposed to the future of the Beachwatch program
	ii. Explore opportunities to build member Councils' capacity to pursue WSUD drawing on current and previous National and State capacity building programs and in possible partnership with other organisations.	2	Technical Committee Grants Committee Advocacy submission	Membership fees	1 workshop with councils to explore technical and funding opportunities
	iii. Continue to advocate for improvements in the notification and management of future pollution incidents on Sydney Beaches based on the outcomes of SCCG's 'debris ball' incident workshop in 2025.	1	Workshops with Councils and state agencies; advocacy letters; Sydney Water meetings	Membership fees	1 workshop and 1 advocacy letter
Goal 3: Marine biodiversity is protected and enhanced in the bioregion					
	i. Advocate for the establishment of new marine protected areas in the marine bioregion that meet the internationally binding principles of Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR)	1	Technical Committee Advocacy submissions	Membership fees	1 submission per year and participation in forums held by relevant conservation organisations.

a. Marine biodiversity in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion is maintained or improved	ii. Continue to implement the Greater Sydney Harbour Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (SCCG, 2022) by supporting councils in litter prevention engagement and promotion of case studies through Litter Free Sydney website.	1	Litter Free Sydney website; sharing of information across members	Membership fees	1 update per month
	iii. Advocate for alternative bather protection measures to shark meshing to reduce impacts on non-target species.	1	Advocacy submissions	Membership fees	Majority of Councils supporting principles 1 advocacy submission developed
	iv. Support and promote activities that improve and protect marine biodiversity in our coasts and estuaries.	1	Advocacy submissions	Membership fees	1 Natural and Cultural Heritage Themed TC meeting Meet key requirements of MOU with SIMS
	v. Promote adoption of SIMS' living seawall initiatives and seagrass and crayweed restoration projects across the SCCG region	2	Technical Committee	Membership Fees	1 living seawall project delivered in SCCG region 2 Councils participating
	vi. Increase awareness of the threat of boat strike to the endangered population of Little Penguins at Manly and facilitate the distribution of information to Councils regarding avian flu	1	SCCG member on the NSW Recovery Team for the Little Penguin Population	Membership Fees	Release of education video to boating community yearly; Attendance at NSW Recovery Team meetings
Goal 4: The SCCG Region is comprised of sustainable, liveable and 'smart' cities					
a. Identification of best practice examples of sustainable, liveable, smart cities.	i. Explore opportunities for developing and/or implementing strategies regarding urban tree canopy and urban waterways across member council LGAs.	2	Technical Committee Grants Committee	Membership fees Grant funding and/or Fee-for-service	1 workshop with councils to explore technical and funding opportunities
	ii. Explore opportunities to use environmental analytics to improve environmental monitoring, performance improvement and smart technology adoption by member Councils	2	Technical Committee and NSW Government's SMART and Local Feedback Forum	Membership fees; Grant funding	1 Smart Cities Themed TC meeting Circulate relevant material to TC members via email and newsletter SCCG representation on Smart & Local Feedback Forum
Goal 5: There is a collaborative, effective and consistent approach to coastal and estuarine management					
a. SCCG outputs are improving the capacity of its member Councils to protect and manage its coastal and marine environments	i. Advocate regionally and at a state and federal level on behalf of members on sustainable coastal management, consistent with the SCCG strategic goals and where there are common advocacy positions among member councils.	1	Advocacy Submissions	Membership fees	4 Advocacy Submissions developed in total (see specific submissions above)
	ii. Identify expert members who can be engaged in policy development and communication processes and leverage connections and expertise	1	Technical Committee, Sand Management Working Group, GM Forum and Executive Committee	Membership fees	4 external presentations provided at Committee meetings 4 presentations provided by member Councils at Technical Committee meetings Expert contact list updated

b. Members are actively engaged	i. Continue to enable members to participate in decision-making by providing a range of engagement opportunities at all levels.	1	Technical Committee, GM Forum and Executive Committee	Membership fees	4 Technical Committee meetings 4 GM Forum meetings 4 Executive Committee meetings 4 SCCG newsletters distributed
	ii. Continue to provide information via communication channels (website, newsletter, materials, surveys).	1	Technical Committee, SCCG web-site, Litter Free Sydney web-site	Membership fees	
c. Strong partnerships are built and maintained with key stakeholders	i. Deliver on commitments identified in MOUs with Sydney Water.	1	SCCG and Sydney Water meetings	Membership fees	Yearly review of MOU and outcomes reported to GM Forum and SCCG Executive Committee
	ii. Continue to strengthen existing partnerships and explore options for other types of partnerships such as LGNSW, EPA, TfNSW and universities.	2	Development of Advocacy Submissions Meetings with SIMS, UNSW, Catchments Collective, Sydney Water and Transport NSW	Membership fees	1 new partnership established and formalised through an MOU or similar
Goal 6: SCCG is trusted and respected to make representations that reflect the value of its members					
a. Our strategic objectives align with the concerns, interests and needs of our members	i. Undertake the annual members survey.	1	Survey sent to all members in September each year	Membership fees	Survey sent to all members
	ii. Meet with members regularly and consult at committee meetings.	1	SCCG Committee meetings	Membership fees	28 meetings held
b. Member Councils' values are reflected in the work of the SCCG	i. Survey members to determine values.	1	Survey sent to all members in July each year	Membership fees	All member Councils complete the survey 80% agree or strongly agree to all questions
	ii. Alignment of values with the Operational Plan review.	1	Review of operational plan each year.	Membership fees	Review of Operational Plan completed
c. Maintain a high standard and ensure relevance of SCCG outputs for members	i. Ensure SCCG outputs meet the needs of members.	1	Survey sent to all members in September each year	Membership fees	80% agree or strongly agree to all questions