

COASTAL CURRENTS AUTUMN 2014

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP ED 71

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Coastal Currents. Were you one of the 1,900 participants in *Summerama*, our annual Summer Activities Program? Now in its 11th year, the program continues to enhance community awareness of coastal environmental issues, through the delivery of fun, family-oriented activities across our Member Councils. Check out the update below for more details.

We've had a busy start to the year, with the launch of the outcomes from two recent projects on modelling inundation scenarios and decision-making tools for coastal adaptation. Not only do the launches provide an opportunity to showcase the project outputs and network, we also hear from the project leaders and other experts in the field. The high calibre of speakers, along with the strong turnout of professionals in the coastal management field, is testament to the value of our work.

For more information on the two launches, check out the Capacity Building update on page 3.

At this time of year we publish our annual Funding Guide. The 2014 Guide includes details of more than 60 funding opportunities available throughout the year for Councils, communities, businesses and individuals to support the management and protection of our coastal and estuarine environments. Check out Matters of Interest on page 2 for details.

Finally, it is with great excitement that I announce that in 2014 we celebrate 25 years of caring for our coast. We are planning a number of exciting events to commemorate this significant milestone so keep an eye on our website over the coming months.

Cr Cathy Griffin
SCCG Chairperson



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The SCCG was established in 1989 to promote co-ordination between Member Councils on environmental issues relating to sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

The Group consists of 15 Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways in Sydney; Botany, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra. The Group collectively represent over 1.4 million Sydneysiders.

SCCG PROJECTS UPDATE

Summerama 2014

Summerama 2014 was a great success, with more than 60 events attracting over 1,900 participants across 13 Member Councils. Activities ranged from rock pool rambles, snorkelling tours and beach safety talks to craft workshops, film screenings and guided bushwalks. Check out our Facebook page for pictures and highlights of the program: <http://www.facebook.com/Summerama>



Thanks to the participating Councils this year - Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra. The 2015 program will be available on the Summerama website in December 2014.

Sydney's Salty Communities - Turning the Tide on Blue+Green Carbon

The Salty Working Group (initially comprising members from all 15 of the SCCG Member Councils) held its inaugural meeting in February to kick off our Biodiversity Fund project activity. The group forms the core of the project's 'community of practice', and will work collaboratively to develop research, policy, capacity-building and on-ground activities for funding via the project's devolved grants program.

Participating Councils are providing policy, reports and spatial information to build a regional picture of biodiversity protection and management in coastal Sydney. We'll use this to prioritise investment via the project's devolved grants program commencing mid 2014. Funding will be available to fill research and policy gaps, provide key resources and undertake on-ground planting, weed control and rehabilitation of remnant coastal vegetation communities and key habitat.

Beyond the scope of the working group, the project will benefit from guidance by specialists in the research and policy sectors. We'll be calling for people from agencies, universities, NGOs and elsewhere to form a reference group: if you are one of these people and have an interest in Sydney's coastal biodiversity, contact Michael Dean at michael@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au or head to the project web page for more information: http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/salty_communities



SCCG Web Sites

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au
www.summerama.com.au
www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au
www.monitor2manage.com.au

Printed on 100% recycled paper

SCCG PROJECTS UPDATE (cont.)

Emergency Risk Management: A Health Check for Local Government

We are working with Local Government and emergency services officers to develop a 'Health Check' tool for Councils to self-assess their preparedness and capability for emergency management, and support an integrated approach to emergency management. A draft Health Check was circulated during February for comment by the many people in Local and State Government who have contributed to the project. The contents of the Health Check have now been reviewed and we are also working to improve the functionality of the tool. The revised version will be considered by the Advisory Committee in early April. Following approval of the Advisory Committee the Health Check will be distributed to stakeholders across NSW for further trialling and review.

The project has been made possible by funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program. For more information please visit the project web page: http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Emergency_Management_Planning_Project



Sydney Harbour Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) Scoping Study

We are pleased to announce that, following a competitive tender process, GHD has been appointed to undertake (1) the literature and data review and (2) the scoping study. GHD will hold stakeholder consultation workshops to explore values and management issues of the Harbour. If you would like to participate, contact Stephen Summerhayes at stephen@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au.

Early this year we presented the salient elements of the project to a meeting of Harbour stakeholders conducting large projects (Sydney Harbour Strategic Initiatives Network) convened by Dr. Wendy Craik, Chair of the Marine Estate Management Authority and Dr. Andrew Stoeckel, Chair of the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel. The purpose of the meeting was to support a shared understanding of work underway in Sydney Harbour. The project was well received and MEMA committed to facilitate the exchange of Harbour knowledge among stakeholders.

Further details in relation to this process, a copy of the project factsheet, and information regarding the project generally can be found on the project web page: http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Sydney_Harbour_CZMP



NEWS IN BRIEF

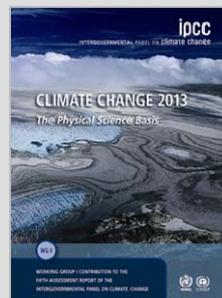
IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has finalised the remaining two reports of its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). The IPCC's Assessment Reports provide a wide-ranging synthesis of information about human-induced climate change.

AR5 has been undertaken as a three-stage process:

- Working Group I: the physical science of climate change (released in September 2013)
- Working Group II: impacts, adaptation and vulnerability (released on 31 March 2014)
- Working Group III: mitigation strategies (released on 11 April 2014).

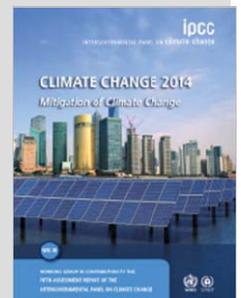
A Synthesis Report summarising all three components will be released in October 2014. The latest reports confirm findings from AR4 (conducted in 2007) and provide further evidence that climate change is already affecting many natural and human systems. For more information visit: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>



Working Group I
Physical Science



Working Group II
Impacts, Adaptation
& Vulnerability



Working Group III
Mitigation

MATTERS OF INTEREST

SCCG Funding Guide 2014

The 2014 SCCG Funding Guide is now available. This annual Guide details a variety of grant programs for Councils, communities, businesses and individuals to support the management and protection of our coastal and estuarine environments. The 2014 edition includes over 60 funding opportunities as well as award opportunities for Member Councils to present their outstanding achievements. The Guide is available for download from our website:

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/funding_guide



SCCG Annual Survey

In December 2013, we conducted our annual survey of Full Group (FG) delegates and Technical Committee (TC) representatives. The Survey is designed to gather feedback on our performance and the continuing and future needs of Member Councils. Results assist us to identify ways to enhance our support and tailor activities appropriately. We presented the results to the TC and FG earlier in the year and will continue to look at how we can integrate their feedback into our work in 2014 and beyond.

CAPACITY BUILDING

'Storm Surge and Tsunamis - Exposure, Vulnerability and Cost' COVERMAR Project Launch - 27 February 2014

On 27 February 2014, we launched the key deliverables of the *Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources (COVERMAR)* project. The project, conducted over approximately three years with a combined cash and in-kind value of more than \$500,000, was Sydney's first probabilistic assessment of the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and different building types to multiple inundation, namely storm surges and tsunamis.



The launch was attended by over 60 individuals representing 40 different organisations. It featured presentations from the principle researcher, Dr Filippo Dall'Osso, Geoscience Australia, the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) and the Hazards Research Group, University of Sydney. Attendees learnt about exposure, vulnerability and the economic cost of storm surge and tsunamis. Presentations also reflected on the role of the NSW SES and the contribution to research and information by Geoscience Australia. A panel discussion at the end of the launch provided an opportunity for participants to explore issues further. More information, including the Project Launch Outcomes Report, is available on our website: <http://www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/covermar>

'Adaptation Pathways - From Impacts to Action' Project Launch - 27 March 2014

On 27 March 2014, we launched the outcomes from our recent project *Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government*. The project explored the many variables that shape responses to climate change, with a focus on adaptation options for coastal inundation and erosion. It integrated information on exposure and risk, feasible adaptation strategies and the multiple values that influence Local Government decision-making, including governance, economic, social and environmental values.



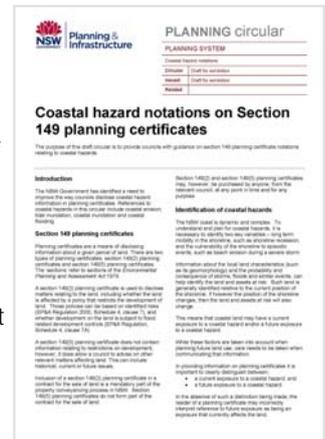
Fifty-two individuals attended the launch, representing 28 different organisations. The launch featured presentations from the principal researcher, Dr Ben Preston of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA), as well as the Coastal & Marine Unit of the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and the SCCG. Presentations examined three key elements to

coastal adaptation – exposure assessments, decision-making tools and monitoring & evaluation. This was followed by a panel discussion and workshop. More information on the project is available at: http://www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/projects/prioritising_coastal_adaptation

SUBMISSIONS, ADVOCACY, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Draft Planning Circular on Coastal Hazards

On 30 January 2014, the NSW Government released a draft Planning Circular on coastal hazard notations. The Circular recommends Councils disclose coastal hazard information on planning certificates by distinguishing between current and future threats. Further information on the Circular is available from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure: http://planspolicies.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=6384



The SCCG made a submission on the draft Circular based on consultation with our Member Councils. Our submission called for more guidance for Councils on the disclosure of coastal hazard information and greater leadership from the State Government in assessing and responding to coastal hazards. Our submission is available at: <http://www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au/Submissions>

Recent grant applications

We have recently submitted three Eols for grant opportunities under the NSW Environmental Trust's Environmental Research Grants program. If successful, the three projects will focus on:

- how climate change adaptation behaviours can be harnessed to support future desired outcomes
- tools for Councils to formulate behavioural management training resources to address plastic pollution across the entire waste hierarchy
- understanding and responding to the potential impacts of seawater intrusion on coastal aquifers.

We are also awaiting the outcome of two other grant applications under the State Emergency Management Projects which will build on our two recent projects, COVERMAR and Emergency Management Planning – Piloting a Health Check for Local Government.

Environmental Grant opportunities

Floodplain Management Grants - OEH

The Floodplain Management Program provides financial support to councils and eligible public land managers for the development of floodplain risk management plans (and associated background studies) and the provision of essential information to the State Emergency Service to enable the effective preparation and implementation of local flood plans to deal with flood emergency response. Applications close 15 April 2014. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/Floodgrants.htm>

Protecting our Places Program - OEH

The Protecting our Places Program aims to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life. Applications close 30 May 2014. www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/pop.htm

Environmental Grant opportunities (cont.)

Environmental Education Grants - NSW Environmental Trust

The Environmental Education program supports educational projects or programs that develop or widen the community's knowledge of, skills in, and commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour.

Expressions of interest are due by 17 April 2014.

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/education.htm

Environment and Conservation Grants - The Ian Potter Foundation

Through its Environment & Conservation program area, the Ian Potter Foundation aims to support Australian urban and regional communities to live sustainably and preserve biodiversity in the face of challenges such as land degradation, limited water resources and climate change. Small grants (up to \$20,000) close 27 May 2014. Large grants (over \$100,000) close 4 April 2014.

<http://www.ianpotter.org.au/funding-objectives-ec>

Litter Prevention Grants Program - NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

This grant program funds litter prevention projects that target NSW's most littered materials and litter hot spot sites. Projects will integrate a range of strategies including enforcement, infrastructure and education, and use EPA-developed tools and resources such as 'Hey Tosser!' creative materials and the 'Local Litter Check'. Applications close 18 April 2014.

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/grants.htm#LPGP>

Recreational Fishing Trust - NSW Department of Primary Industries

Funding is available under the Recreational Fishing Trust for projects that improve recreational fishing in NSW.

Applications close 14 April 2014. www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/licence-fee/apply-for-funds

Check out the *SCCG Funding Guide* for other grant opportunities: www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/funding_guide

NSW COASTAL NEWS

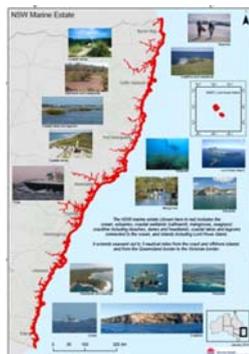
Marine Estate Community Survey

The Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) is conducting a survey to capture community views about the NSW marine estate and its future management at local, regional and State scales. The survey will be targeted to stakeholder and focus groups plus randomised samples of NSW community residents.

The public may submit their views on the future management of the marine estate by email (contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au), however these will not be included in the survey results.

More information is available at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/marinereform/marine-estate-community-survey>



NSW COASTAL NEWS (cont.)

Final Report on Review of Local Government released

The NSW Government has released the Final Report of the Independent Local Government Review Panel, entitled 'Revitalising Local Government'. The Report contains 65 recommendations under 12 key themes, focusing on long term sustainability, strategic capacity, fiscal reforms, revenue and funding, structural and governance reforms, and improved relations between local and state governments.



The release of the Report concludes the Panel's four-stage review process, which commenced in July 2012. Councils were invited to respond to the report until 7 March 2014. Further information is available at: <http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/Information.asp?areaindex=LGR&index=102&mi=1?426,106>

NSW set to gain approval powers under the EPBC Act

In December last year, the Federal and NSW Governments signed a bilateral agreement to create a single environmental assessment process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The agreement, which was signed within two days of the close of public submissions, gives the NSW Government responsibility for assessing projects relating to matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. The Federal and NSW Governments are currently in the process of developing a second bilateral agreement that will give NSW the power to determine certain approvals under the EPBC Act. There will be an opportunity for public submissions on the draft Agreement once it is finalised. More information is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/environment-assessments/bilateral-agreements/nsw>

Update on Reforms to Coastal Management in NSW

Stage 2 of the NSW coastal reforms is underway. The reforms are being overseen by relevant Government Ministers, with the advice of the Coastal Expert Panel. The Coastal Ministerial Taskforce has approved the scope of the Stage 2 reforms and more detailed proposals are now being developed in three key areas:

- establishing a simpler and more integrated legal and policy framework for coastal management
- providing improved guidance and technical advice to councils, while enabling and supporting local decision making
- identifying potential funding options, particularly to implement coastal asset management strategies.

The second stage appears to have a greater focus on the role of local government in coastal management, with consideration of a technical advice service for Councils, along with other information support arrangements. For more information visit: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/stage1coastreforms.htm>