

# COASTAL CURRENTS



The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Quarterly Newsletter | Summer Edition 2015 | #78

## From the EO

Welcome to the Summer edition of our quarterly newsletter *Coastal Currents*.

It has been another great year for the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and its members, with many highlights and achievements for 2015. Including the completion of the Coastal Zone Management Plan Scoping Study for Sydney Harbour and the development of the new SCCG Strategic Plan 2015-19.

Projects currently being implemented by Councils through the Salty Communities Program (main round) are starting to take shape, with on-ground works restoring habitat and enhancing biodiversity outcomes.

We look forward to another busy year in 2016, kicking off with advocacy on the Coastal Reforms and the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment, the development and delivery of the Emergency Management project, building the capacity of our members in Integrated Water Management and working collaboratively through our newly formed partnership with Sydney Water, as well as new research projects and the continuation of the Salty Communities Program.

On behalf of the SCCG, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Geoff Withycombe  
**SCCG Executive Officer**

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

The Group consists of fifteen 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.



NARRABEEN LAGOON ENTRANCE — PHOTO COURTESY OF WARRINGAH COUNCIL

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WILLOUGHBY SALTY ECOSYSTEMS—PART OF THE MAIN ROUND OF OUR SYDNEY'S SALTY COMMUNITIES GRANT PROJECTS

## Project Update

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



Main round grants are underway with reports for the first stage due in December. Contracts are being finalised for the Supplementary Round Grants. These projects will be finalised by the end of December, and details will be uploaded to the webpage in the New Year.

The CSIRO SCCG partnership project, 'Climate Ready Tool - Managing Coastal Ecological Communities in the Face of Rapid Change', is near completion. The project is developing a 'climate-ready tool' to assist Councils explore the consequences of climate change for their ecological management over the long term and to scope near-term actions to start addressing those challenges. The SCCG has received a small grant from the Greater Sydney Local Land Service to extend this work into 2016.

The Literature, Data and Practice Review fact sheet is available [on our webpage](#).

Also keep an eye on the project webpage for all the latest news:  
[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/salty\\_communities](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/salty_communities)



A) MOSMAN FORESHORE BIODIVERSITY AND B) BALLS HEAD RESERVE CANOPY RECOVERY, NORTH SYDNEY

### Patricia Harvey OAM

A Memorial Service was held at the Mosman Art Gallery on 24 November 2015 for Patricia Harvey.

Patricia was the longest serving Chairperson of the SCCG, serving for ten years from 1997 to 2007.

The Memorial Service was attended by Councillors on the SCCG Executive and Full Group, and SCCG staff.

The SCCG Executive Officer gave a personal reflection to recognise Patricia's achievements and thank her for her legacy to the Group and coastal management as a whole.

# Matters of Interest



## SCCG Strategic Plan

Check out the SCCG Strategic Plan 2015 –2019, this sets out strategies and activities under our four goals: Collaboration, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Research.

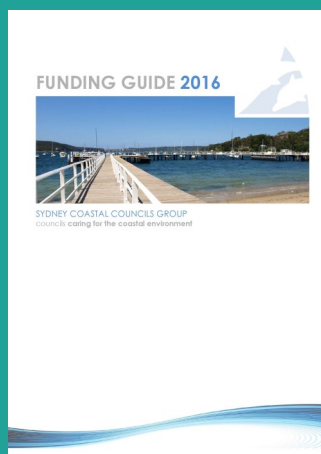
## Summerama 2016

The Summerama Program is on again in 2016! This includes fun and fantastic activities across twelve of our coastal Councils (Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra). Check out the Summerama webpage to find an activity in your Council area. Activities span the month of January and range from educational walk 'n' talks to snorkelling, rock pool and wetlands tours, as well as many creative activities for the young, the more mature and families.

The theme for Summerama 2016 is 'finding a solution to waterway pollution'.

Our annual **photo competition** was launched on 15 December, and closes on 31 January 2016. So get out there, make a difference, find your solution to water pollution and selfie it up for the photo comp!

There are great prizes to be won including a Captain Cook Cruise voucher proudly sponsored by Captain Cook Cruises.



## Funding Guide

Watch out for our Funding Guide which will be available on the website by the end of January 2016.

# Coastal News



## NSW Coastal Conference

The NSW Coastal Conference was held from 10-13 November 2015, hosted by the Great Lakes Council in Forster.

The three day conference was comprised of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, field trips (addressing local coastal, estuary and marine management issues), networking events and the Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards.

Concurrent sessions included presentations of projects under the following topic areas: a) Adaptive Management: Innovative Approaches for a Changing Coastal Zone; b) Applied Research: Good Science, Better Outcomes; c) People Power; d) Making the Connections; e) Findings from the Coastal Processes and Responses Node – NSW Adaptation Research Hub.

The SCCG Program Manager – Biodiversity gave a presentation on the Salty Communities Grant Program, in particular highlighting the effective collaboration between experts and practitioners, and the partnership with CSIRO to deliver the Climate Adaptation Project.

Conference papers can be downloaded at <http://www.coastalconference.com/papers.php>

## Update on Stage 2 Coastal Reforms

The draft Coastal Management Bill and the Explanation of Intended Effect for the Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy, was released publicly at the NSW Coastal Conference in Forster on Friday 13 November.

A draft manual including Part A, Part C and components of Part B were released for public exhibition alongside the Coastal Management Bill and Explanation of Intended Effect.

Maps are currently being developed and will be publicly released for comment in early January 2016.

The closing date for submissions on the coastal reforms is 29 February 2016.

For more information on the reforms, visit: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastreforms](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastreforms)

The Hon. Rob Stokes NSW Minister for Planning attended the SCCG Full Group Meeting on Saturday 12 December to provide an update on the Coastal Reforms and respond to queries. This was a great opportunity for the Group and the Minister's time was greatly appreciated.

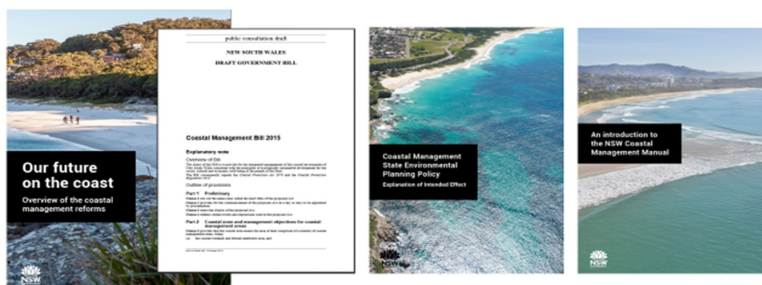




PHOTO COURTESY OF PITTWATER COUNCIL

## Advocacy

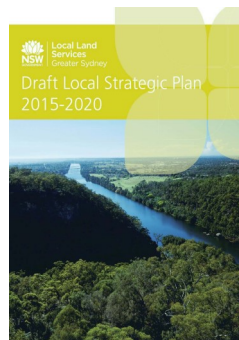
### SCCG Coastal Reforms Advisory Committee

The Committee came together on 16 December 2015 to workshop issues/concerns and opportunities, and to provide general comments on the Coastal Management Bill, and Explanation of Intended Effect for the Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy. A further meeting will be held on 16 February 2016, once the remaining components of the Manual including the maps are released, to inform the submission process on the coastal reforms.

### Local Land Service Greater Sydney Draft Strategic Plan

SCCG developed a brief submission in November on the Draft Greater Sydney Local Strategic Plan. Our submission highlighted the following points:

- ◇ Recognition that goals are broad in terms of monitoring and measuring of key performance indicators.
- ◇ A good strategic approach based on values that SCCG identifies with.
- ◇ Waterways and the harbour are deemed management priorities— strategies and actions should reflect this priority.
- ◇ The Plan should identify and consider all coastal landscapes including foreshores, intertidal zones and beaches.
- ◇ Strategic actions to have greater consideration of climate change and resilience.
- ◇ Consideration to be given to invasive pest species impacting on the harbour/ waterway, and biosecurity risks for coastal environments.
- ◇ Aiming for improving condition and habitat for ecosystem health as well as amenity and water quality.
- ◇ Consideration to be given to the development of a coastcare strategy/action plan to be implemented alongside the landcare strategy.
- ◇ Investment principles to consider key issues and priority environmental/social/ economic outcomes rather than being reliant on investor preferences and politics.



### Flying-fox Management

A Meeting was hosted by the SCCG on 18 November 2015 with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and member Councils in attendance.

OEH gave an overview of the 2015 Flying-fox Camp Management Policy, and a discussion was held around specific points of interest including; a) Effectiveness of dispersal activities; b) Regional management approaches; c) Community engagement and education; d) Research and monitoring; and e) Funding. The primary resolution from the meeting was agreement on the organisation of a regional forum in 2016.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox is listed as a vulnerable species in NSW. Flying-fox resources including Factsheets can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/flyingfoxcampol.htm>

## Upcoming events

### Species on the Move International Conference

Hotel Grand Chancellor, 9-12 February 2016, Hobart Tasmania

The conference is targeting scientists and natural resource managers working in the disciplines of global change, biogeography and evolution, and is relevant in the context of natural resource management, biodiversity management and conservation, and theoretical ecology.

For more information go to:

[www.speciesonthemove.com/](http://www.speciesonthemove.com/)

### The International Coastal Symposium 2016

This symposium will be held from 6-11 March 2016 at the Crown Plaza, Coogee Beach.

The theme of the symposium is 'Coasts in Space and Time'.

For more information go to:

<http://ics2016.org/>

### 56th Floodplain Management Australia Conference

17-20 May 2016, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, Nowra

For more information go to:

[www.floodplainconference.com/](http://www.floodplainconference.com/)

