

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.  
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2016  
HOSTED BY CITY OF SYDNEY AT  
SYDNEY TOWN HALL - 12.00 PM**

FG2-16 Minutes

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cr. Brian Troy	City of Botany Bay Council
Cr. Mark Castle	City of Botany Bay Council
Cr. John Mant	City of Sydney Council
Mr Frank Breen	Inner West Council (representing the Administrator)
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Northern Beaches Council
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick City Council
Cr. Greg Moore	Randwick City Council
Mr. David Dekel	Rockdale Council
Cr. Peter Towel	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr. Leon Goltsman	Waverley Council
Cr. Bill Mouroukas	Waverley Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Ms. Belinda Atkins	SCCG (PPM)
Ms. Katherine Howard	SCCG (CPO)
Ms. Fiona Shadbolt	SCCG (PM-BR)
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms Rachel Walmsley	EDO NSW (for presentation)

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**ITEM 1 - OPENING**

**1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The meeting opened at 12.35pm.

The Chair, Cr. Lynne Saville opened the meeting and thanked City of Sydney for hosting the meeting. The Chair provided an acknowledgement of country and welcomed representatives of two new councils: Inner West Council and Northern Beaches Council.

**1.2 APOLOGIES**

Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Linda Scott	City of Sydney Council
Mr. Jon Stiebel	Inner West Council
Ms. Kylie Ferguson	Northern Beaches Council
Mr. Dick Persson	Northern Beaches Council
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member

<p><b><i>Councils not represented at the meeting:</i></b> Mosman Council</p>
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**1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No declarations were made.

## RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 Apologies were received and noted.
- 1.2 No notifications of pecuniary interests were received.

## ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION

The Chairperson, Cr. Lynne Saville welcomed and introduced:

**Rachel Walmsley, Policy and Law Reform Director, [EDO NSW](#)**

The NSW Government is proposing major changes to the regulatory environment for the management of native vegetation, wildlife and biodiversity.

A new *Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2016* has been proposed to replace the existing *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001* and parts of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. A new *Local Land Services Amendment Bill 2016* has also been proposed. The two draft Bills and various supporting documents, a total of 657 pages, are available here: <https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/>

Rachel presented a comprehensive summary of the proposed changes and their implication for vegetation management across NSW, with particular attention to the ramifications for the greater Sydney region, and also how this review intersects with other ongoing legislative reform in NSW (e.g. Coastal Management reforms, the Planning and Environment Act review, Crown Land and Local Government reforms).

The Regulations to the Biodiversity Conservation Act, State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) and model Development Control Plan have not yet been released. The expected timeline is that the NSW Government will try to pass the two bills in 2016 and then release the regulations, SEPP, model DCP and Native Vegetation Regulation Map. The SEPP at least will be the subject of a separate public consultation.

A copy of the presentation is provided as Attachment 2.1 to these minutes.

Additional information is available via the EDO NSW website:  
[http://www.edonsw.org.au/biodiversity\\_legislation\\_review](http://www.edonsw.org.au/biodiversity_legislation_review)

Comment on a draft SCCG submission to the reforms has been sought from the SCCG Full Group and Technical Committee.

*Submissions to the NSW Biodiversity Reforms are due by 5pm 28 June 2016.*

## RESOLUTION

- 2.1 That Ms Walmsley be thanked for her attendance and presentation on the NSW Biodiversity Reforms.

(Saville / Levenston)  
Carried

## ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 3.1 (a) *Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of the Full Group on 19 March 2016*
- 3.1 (b) *Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of 8 March 2016*
- 3.1 (c) *Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of 17 May 2016*
- 3.1 (d) *Minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting on 21 April 2016*

### 3.2 BUSINESS ARISING (from the Ordinary Meeting of 19 March 2016)

Actions arising from the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 19 March 2016 were reviewed.

### 3.3 ANNUAL SURVEY 2016

Members who have not yet completed the survey online were asked to complete a hard copy of the survey during the meeting. Annual survey responses are requested by 30 June.

### 3.4 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting was reported at Attachment 3.4 of the business papers and circulated in hard copy at the meeting.

## RESOLUTIONS

- R3.2.a The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19 March 2016 hosted by Leichhardt Municipal Council were confirmed.  
(Levenston / Goltsman)  
Carried
- R3.2.b The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 8 March 2016 were received and noted.  
(Levenston / Goltsman)  
Carried
- R3.2.c The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on 17 May 2016 were received and noted.  
(Levenston/Towell)  
Carried
- R3.2d The Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting hosted by Rockdale Council on 21 April 2016 were received and noted.  
(Dekel / Massey)  
Carried
- R3.2 Representatives discussed and made any necessary recommendations and resolutions relating to Business Arising. Business Arising was noted.  
(Shurey / Norton)  
Carried
- R3.4 The circulated "sent" and "received" correspondence was received and noted.  
(Shurey / Dekel)  
Carried

## ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 4.1 SEWER OVERFLOWS ACTION PLAN

The draft SCCG Sewer Overflows Action Plan was presented for consideration by the Full Group.

The Manager Programs and Projects outlined the process for finalising the Action Plan. Full Group delegates provided comments and gap analysis to the draft Action Plan. The draft will also be referred to the Technical Committee for additional consideration, and then the SCCG Secretariat will meet with Sydney Water to discuss proposed actions, prior to finalisation of the Action Plan.

#### RESOLUTION

R4.1 The draft Sewer Overflows Action Plan was received and noted and comments provided to the Secretariat.

(Towell/ Shurey)  
Carried

### 4.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS

A brief update was given on the current status of the Member Council amalgamations.

The SCCG has continued to supply support and services to Member Councils during the difficult and uncertain period of amalgamations.

As a result of the amalgamations to date, SCCG has now twelve Member Councils, including two new Member Councils: Inner West Council and Northern Beaches Council. The former SCCG Member Councils of Leichhardt, Manly, Pittwater and Warringah no longer exist. It has been assumed that 'membership' of the SCCG is considered an 'asset' of the former councils (as defined in the [Local Government \(Council Amalgamations\) Proclamation 2016 under the Local Government Act 1993](#), and there is therefore no need to formally invite new councils to become SCCG Members.

Pending the outcomes of further proposed amalgamations, SCCG membership may go down to seven Member Councils. The EO noted that this will not affect our legal entity status as an Incorporated Association under the Incorporated Associations Act 2009, which requires a minimum of five members.

In March 2016 the Executive resolved that SSCG will formally review membership contributions in September 2016 following the outcomes of Council amalgamations. At present, membership fees include a base rate for each member of \$25,000 plus a nominal fee based on population size \$20/1000 residents. The change from fourteen to seven Member Councils will require a change in the calculation of the fees. At the September 2016 SCCG Annual General Meeting any required changes to the membership contribution formula will be considered.

At the AGM minor changes to the SCCG Constitution will also be recommended including changes to Member Council names made.

The SCCG is seeking meetings with the General Managers and Administrators of the two new Member Councils to discuss relevant issues and the finalisation of delegate representation on the SCCG Full Group and Technical Committee.

The EO noted that the Administrators of the new councils has the functions of the council and the Mayor of the council via Section 12(3) of the Proclamation and therefore eligible to represent their councils on the SCCG Full Group. The SCCG Constitution allows for up to 3 delegates with such delegates being elected members and/or staff as determined by the individual member council (Clause 4.1.1).

Both the Administrators for Northern Beaches Council and Inner West Council have indicated that representatives from their new Council Advisory Committees will be representing them at SCCG meetings.

A delegate raised perceived issues regarding the ability of these former councillors to represent the new council at SCCG noting they are no longer councillors, nor potentially considered staff.

The EO noted that the new Council Administrators have nominated these representatives to represent them at the meeting and referred to Clause 4.1.5 of the SCCG Constitution which allows for a proxy (an Alternate delegate) to represent the Council when the delegate of Council is unable to attend.

Other SCCG delegates highlighted that former SCCG Full Group representatives have knowledge of the SCCG and a strong interest in coastal management issues.

The EO noted it is still not clear whether members of the new Council Advisory Committees could be considered as 'staff' of the new councils as they are being remunerated. The EO further noted that the new representatives were only nominated in the last few days and that it was great to have representation at very short notice from these new council entities.

A delegate questioned potential issues of presence of a quorum at the meeting with the perceived doubts around formality of these delegates representation.

The only attendee at this meeting whose delegate status is in doubt stated that he was happy to take a non-voting, observer role for today's meeting until the matter can be resolved.

There is a concern that if the new Member Councils choose to send only one representative to the Technical Committee, that staff member may find it difficult to adequately represent the views and provide the expertise of the new, much larger, area that they represent during the transition period.

A suggestion was made that the SCCG may need to make transitional arrangements to continue to operate during the transition period of the amalgamations, to ensure adequate representation from the new Member Councils and the entire area that they represent, and that the transitional arrangements may need to be reflected by changes to the Constitution.

The EO noted that to change the Constitution requires a 'special meeting with a minimum of 21 days' notice and the support of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the membership.

The EO noted that he would also talk to the Department of Fair trading, the Department of Local Government and review relevant legal advice from other ROCs on these types of issues and seek other advice as required, and will report back to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

It was decided that there is no need to make additional changes to the Constitution to provide for transitional arrangements at this time, with any necessary amendments to be considered as part of the SCCG AGM to be held in September.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- 4.1 The SCCG EO will seek clarification from the Department of Fair Trading and/or the Department of Local Government regarding the ability of Full Group delegates to appoint a proxy when they are unable to attend a meeting; and whether that proxy delegate also needs to be an elected member or staff member of a Member Council. Any relevant advice received to be provided to the Executive for consideration within two weeks of this meeting.
- 4.2 The SCCG EO will contact the Administrators of the new Member Councils and inform them of discussions and seek their responses.
- 4.3 Mr Frank Breen will seek clarification as to whether he is considered a staff member of Inner West Council.

(Goltsman / Norton)  
Carried

## ITEM 5 – MEMBER COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided updates on council activities and discussed issues and needs where relevant. The updates are provided in Attachment 5.1.

### RESOLUTION

5.1 The member updates were received and noted.

(Dekel / Shurey)  
Carried

## ITEM 6 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT (APRIL – JUNE 2016)

### 6.1 COLLABORATION

- *Internal and External Committees, Events, Workshops, Presentations*
- *Sydney Water Partnership*
- *Flying Fox Management*
- *Waterway Pollution Response Interagency Meeting*

An update on all Secretariat Collaboration activities was included at Item 6.1 in the Agenda Papers. The CPO provided a short update on the outcomes and feedback from the Sydney Regional Flying Fox Forum. Other items taken as read.

### 6.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

- *SCCG Grant Applications*
- *SCCG Grants Committee*
- *Healthy Waterways Workshop*

An update on all Secretariat Capacity Building activities was included at Item 6.2 in the Agenda Papers.

The EO reported on recent grant applications prepared by the Secretariat and partners. Three grant applications were made to the Environmental Trust Research Program and one to the Environmental Trust Education Program this year. All were unsuccessful and the Secretariat has sort feedback on our applications.

The MPP gave an update on the Healthy Waterways Workshop on 3 May, one of the items under the MoU with Sydney Water. This workshop focused particularly on pollution incident response and notification protocols. Sydney Water is working on an outcomes report from the workshop. SCCG is planning to work with Sydney Water on a joint protocol of pollution incident notification and response, another activity under the MoU.

Other items taken as read.

### 6.3 ADVOCACY

An update on all recent and upcoming Secretariat advocacy activity was included at Item 6.3 in the Agenda Papers.

#### Hawkesbury Shelf Multi-Use Marine Park

A draft background paper on a proposed resolution for SCCG to support a multi-use marine park for the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion was circulated with the agenda for the Full Group's consideration. The proposed resolution was to follow up the SCCG's previously stated support for effective spatial management of the bioregion via a multi-use marine park for the bioregion, not purely focused on Sydney.

#### RESOLUTION

6.1 The SCCG follow up the submission to the MEMA Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment by writing to the Premier for NSW and the Ministers for Primary Industries, Planning and the Environment, stating SCCG Member Council support for a multi-use marine park for the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion.

(Dekel / Levenston)  
Carried

#### Submissions recently completed:

- [Draft Joint Management Agreement for the Shark Meshing Program](#)
- [Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment](#)
- [Natural Resource Commission – Pest Animal Management Review](#)

#### Submissions upcoming:

- [Biodiversity Legislation Reform](#)
- [NSW State Environmental Planning Policies](#)

Other items taken as read.

#### Federal Election – SCCG Policy Document

Five key coastal management issues were selected with Full Group and Technical Committee input for the [SCCG's policy recommendations document for the 2016 Federal Election](#). The policy recommendations document was sent to ten major parties. Responses received will be collated into a report and circulated to the Full Group, Technical Committee and other coastal stakeholders.

#### NSW Coastal Reforms Update

SCCG have received confirmation that the proposed Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy will be exhibited for public comment, as the SCCG and other stakeholders requested. The SCCG will continue to engage with the Coastal Reforms process with the assistance of the SCCG Coastal Reforms Advisory Committee.

Other items taken as read.

## 6.4 RESEARCH

Delegates referred to the report in the business papers providing details of recent SCCG research activities including:

- *NCCARF Partnership Contracts*
- *Estimating Coastal Values Using Multi-Criteria and Valuation Methods*
- *April Storms – Cost Analysis*

The EO and MPP gave an update on the April Storms Research Project to quantify all money spent by member councils during the April 2015 East Coast Low 'super' storm. Only 5 council responses were received creating difficulties in undertaking the planned regional analysis. The Secretariat will meet with consultant group Risk Frontiers to determine an alternative approach. It was noted that most councils gave reasons for not supplying their data including a lack of available resources.

The EO noted that this is an ongoing issue and it remains important. It is important to determine what natural disasters are costing our councils.

Other items taken as read.

## 6.5 PROJECTS

The PM-BR gave an update on the SCCG Sydney Salty Communities Program which is progressing well and has been granted an extension until December 2016. Supplementary Round projects are halfway through. Four Special Projects have been decided on.

### RESOLUTION

5.1 The Secretariat's update on key activities were received and noted.

## ITEM 7 FINANCES

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1 JULY 2015 – 31 MARCH 2016

Financial statements for the period were tabled and discussed, and will be provided with the Minutes as Attachment 7.1.

### RESOLUTIONS

R7.1	The Financial Statements for period 1 July 2015 to 31 March 2016 were received and adopted.	(Dekel / Levenston) Carried
R7.2	The SCCG Draft Budget for 2016/17 was received and adopted.	(Levenston / Towell) Carried
R7.3	The Full Group moved to thank the Secretariat staff for continuing to operate under a tight budget.	(Towell / Dekel) Carried

## ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair mentioned that she would be attending the Crown Land Summit at Parliament House on 22 June. Parliament will vote on 23 June regarding holding an inquiry into Crown Land.

Cr. Norton reported that a memorial has been erected to the former Mayor of Willoughby, Cr. Patrick Reilly in place at the Willoughby Concourse Centre. Mayor Reilly was Vice Chair, Estuarine, of the SCCG for many years.

The EO stated that we understand that the next few weeks will be a challenging time for all local councils facing amalgamations. He thanked all Full Group members for their representation and contributions to ensure the success of the SCCG.

### 2016 MEETING DATES / NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Full Group will be on 17 September 2016, this will also be the Annual General Meeting. Delegates are asked to suggest Agenda items for the AGM.

Date	Location
• Saturday 17 September (AGM) 2016 at 12 noon	(Member Council - TBC)
• Saturday 10 December 2016 at 12 noon	(City of Sydney)

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### RESOLUTION

R8.1 A Member Council will host the next SCCG Full Group Meeting to be held on 17 September 2016 (pending confirmation).

R8.2 Delegates to suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting to be held on 17 September 2016.

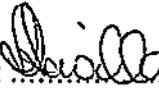
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## ITEM 9 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

9.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT (February – April 2016)

9.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:  .....

22/10/16'

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