

COASTAL CURRENTS



The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Quarterly Newsletter | Winter Edition 2018 | #88



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In This Issue

From the Chair	1
Welcome & News	2
Collaboration	3
Projects	3
Coastal Info	4
Just for Interest	4

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group was established in 1989 to promote coordination between Member Councils on environmental issues relating to sustainable management of the urban coastal and estuarine environment.

The SCCG currently consists of nine Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways, and represents around 1.3 million Sydneysiders.

From the Chair

It was the end of an era for the Sydney Coastal Councils Group with Geoff Withycombe leaving the Group at the end of June, after 23+ years at the helm. Geoff was given a formal sendoff at the Full Group meeting in June, where he was thanked for his contribution and achievements. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

I have the pleasure of introducing the new Executive Officer, Sarah Joyce, and I welcome Sarah to the role. I am confident that Sarah will lead the SCCG with a renewed strategic direction and focus on addressing regional priorities identified in our Business Plan.

SCCG has continued to collaborate and work in partnership with other organisations, having taken part in another successful Get the Site Right Campaign, and joined as a partner in AUSMAP. We are continuing to work with the Office of Environment and Heritage on regional actions for Grey-headed Flying-fox and will shortly be providing our councils with mapping and training on count methodology.

We are in the process of finalising a tool for our members and other coastal councils that will assist in assessing the vulnerability and condition of priority coastal recreational infrastructure to hazards and climate change.

We understand new government reforms are on the way so will continue to advocate on behalf of our members to achieve positive outcomes.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Lynne Saville
SCCG CHAIRPERSON

Sutherland Shire
COUNCIL



Bayside Council



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL



Randwick City Council
a sense of community



northern beaches council



INNER WEST COUNCIL

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Welcome & News

Word from the Executive Officer



It is with much excitement that I would like to introduce myself as your new Executive Officer, but firstly I'd also to say a huge thank you to Geoff Withycombe for his stellar job in the position over the past 23 years.

I come to this role after 13 years with the Office of Environment and Heritage and a further five years with the Department of Planning, where I gained experience in environmental planning, natural resource management, policy development and public consultation.

Specifically, I was recently involved in project managing the public consultation process for the Aboriginal cultural heritage reforms; OEH's input into the marine estate reforms; and executive officer for the EPA Board.

I have long been passionate about protecting our beautiful coastline. From my time at university where I took every opportunity to undertake beach-related fieldwork, to teaching my children to respect and enjoy, what I believe to be Australia's greatest natural asset.

I am looking forward to working with you all in the future to progress the priority outcomes of our Business Plan, and future strategic direction of the SCCG.

Yours

Sarah Joyce



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SCCG—New Location

After 10+ years based in the City, SCCG has now moved its office location. SCCG would like to thank the City of Sydney for hosting the SCCG Secretariat over a lengthy period of time.

The Secretariat has commenced its new hosting agreement with the Northern Beaches Council and as such our office is now based at the Manly Town Hall.

Please note that we have a new mailing address and phone numbers. For our contact details click [here](#).

SCCG Business Plan Implementation

SCCG adopted its Business Plan 2017-2019 in March with three priority themes:

- i) Catchment Management;
- ii) Pollution Reduction; and
- iii) Policy and Legislative Reforms.

SCCG has been commencing work on actions in the Business Plan.

One such action included an SCCG hosted event for our members on the coastal reforms. This event included presentations from Department of Planning and Environment, Office of Environment and Heritage and Professor Bruce Thom (Chair of the NSW Coastal Council), as well as a workshop for members focusing on local and regional priority outcomes for coastal management.



**Sydney Coastal Councils Group
Business Plan 2017-19**

This document is based on extensive consultation with senior and technical staff of SCCG Member Councils.
The Plan has been reviewed and endorsed by Member Council General Managers or their nominated delegates, and was adopted at the SCCG Full Group Meeting on 17 March 2018.

Collaboration



Get the Site Right

The Get the Site Right campaign was launched again in May 2018 by the Parramatta River Catchment Group in partnership with the SCCG, Cooks River Alliance, Georges Riverkeeper, NSW Environment Protection Authority and Department Planning and Environment.

The campaign targets erosion and sediment control on construction and building sites, and also aims to raise awareness about the effects of sediment laden run-off on our waterways.

Results are in! During May 746 sites were inspected across Sydney and the Central Coast with \$212,412 in fines issued. Over 100 council officers were out in force on the blitz day held on 16 May inspecting 498 sites.

The May campaign highlighted a 75% compliance rate on sites where site managers had a good understanding of erosion and sediment control. Education was also a factor in the improvement seen between repeat site inspections, where the compliance rate was only 42% at sites on first visit compared to 75% on the repeat visit.

Make sure your next DIY project or building site is up to scratch and compliant with requirements for erosion and sediment control.

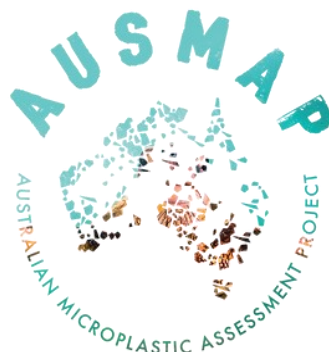
To report sediment runoff or other pollution incidents contact the NSW Environment Line on 131555 or your local council.

AUSMAP

AUSMAP— the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project, is a nation-wide citizen science program designed to document and analyse microplastic pollution in Australian aquatic environments through a standardised microplastics surveying method undertaken by certified trainers throughout Education and Zoos Education Centres, schools, councils, and community groups.

The Total Environment Centre and Macquarie University are the Project leaders, along with a consortium of research, not-for-profit, environmental education, government and sustainable business organisations.

SCCG is a core partner of AUSMAP and looks forward to its involvement in this exciting project.



Projects

Adapting Priority Recreational Coastal Infrastructure

The Adapting Priority Recreational Coastal Infrastructure project is nearing completion.

SCCG engaged Manly Hydraulics Laboratory and Engineers Australia through the National Committee on Coastal and Ocean Engineering (NCCOE) to prepare an assessment methodology and decision framework for priority recreational coastal infrastructure assets regarding coastal hazards.

The assessment method is a tool that councils can use to evaluate the condition and vulnerability of their recreational infrastructure to hazards and the impacts of climate change, and estimate likely future maintenance requirements.

The tool has been tested on more than six public recreational infrastructure assets in three different NSW coastal councils to assess the value, affordability and sustainability of public recreational infrastructure and the amenity values it provides.

It is designed to guide better understanding of assets, but can also be used as a mechanism to highlight where funding should be prioritised to make specific coastal recreational assets viable.

This tool will be launched over the next couple of months across our Member Councils and distributed to coastal councils more broadly.



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Coastal Info

Cities Power Partnership Summit

The Cities Power Partnership has now signed up 70 Councils across Australia.

Registrations are open for the inaugural Cities Power Partnership summit for current and prospective members of the Climate Council's free national program supporting local climate action, which is now the largest program in Australia with 85 members and growing.

To be held in Kiama on the NSW South Coast, 2 hours south of Sydney, the summit will inspire and connect local governments and partners working on carbon emission reduction projects, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and community advocacy.

Featuring case studies and an exciting local and international speaker line-up, topics covered include setting & achieving carbon reduction targets, project financing, voluntary carbon markets, public EV charging & fleet electrification and climate change media training workshops.

This is a local government climate event for council sustainability staff, energy managers, Mayors and Councillors.

The Summit gala dinner will also host the inaugural CPP Member Awards, recognising outstanding achievements by councils & Individuals.

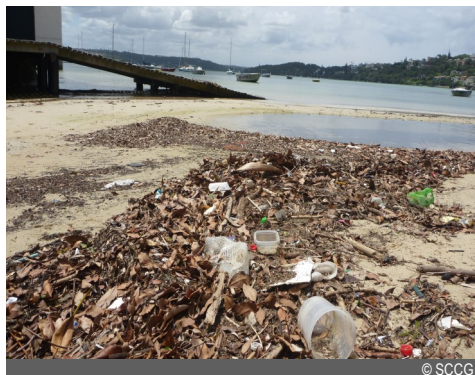
Register at www.cpps Summit.org.au

Anthropogenic Debris Symposium

A Symposium is being held by the University of NSW, University of Sydney and the Sydney Institute of Marine Science with support from SETAC Australasia and the Australian Research Council.

The Symposium will explore current scientific understanding and management of the sources, fate and impacts of the different size and types of anthropogenic debris on ecosystems.

Speakers will include Professor Richard Thompson, Professor Tony Underwood, Professor Gee Chapman, and Dr Mark Browne.



When: 21st August 2018,
8.30am - 7pm

Where: Sydney Institute of
Marine Science, Chowder
Bay Road, Mosman

Tickets: \$100 non-
members/\$50 SETAC
members.

To register click [here](#).



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Plastics

One of our members, Randwick City Council recently resolved to ban single use plastics (e.g. bags, bottles and straws) from its council operations and events, commencing from 1 July 2018. This will also apply to external and council supported events held in Randwick by 1 January 2019.

Congratulations to Randwick City Council for making this decision.

We also recognise our other Member Councils that have a sustainable event management policy in place and have taken steps to minimise/ban single-use plastics.

Our Members have been busy during Plastic Free July running programs and activities for council staff and community.

SCCG and the staff at Northern Beaches Council had the privilege of meeting the 'Queen' to discuss actions for reducing plastic in our lives over a hot beverage and keep cup.

NSW is now the lone state silent on a single-use plastic bag ban. Help spread the message to your community, local Minister and the Premier that single-use plastic bags have to go.

Just for Interest

Check out the YouTube video "[Marine Plastic Pollution](#)" published by the IUCN as part of the IUCN marine plastics and coastal communities initiative.