

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 15 JUNE, 2013
AT THE CITY OF SYDNEY**

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr. Brian Troy	City of Botany Bay
Cr. Mark Castle	City of Botany Bay
Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney
Cr. Linda Scott	City of Sydney Council (part of meeting)
Mr. Chris Derksema	City of Sydney
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cr. Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Cr. Tom Sherlock	Mosman Council
Cr. Selena Griffith	Pittwater Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Cr. Geoff Stevenson	Randwick Council
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council
Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Cr. Sally Betts (Mayor)	Waverley Council
Cr. Leon Gottsman	Waverley Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Mr. Stephen Summerhayes	SCCG (SCPO)
Ms. Rachael Buzio	SCCG (CPO)
Dr. Ian Armstrong	SCCG (POSP)

1. OPENING

The meeting opened at 12.30pm. Cr. Griffin (Chairperson) welcomed delegates to the Meeting. Cr Griffin thanked the City of Sydney for hosting the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Cr. John Mant	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Roy Bendall	Mosman Council
Cr. Jacqueline Townsend (Mayor)	Pittwater Council
Cr. Shane O'Brian (Mayor)	Rockdale Council
Cr. Sue Heins	Warringah Council
Cr. Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council
Mr. George Copeland	Honorary Member

Resolved that the apologies be received and noted.

Councils not represented at the meeting
Hornsby, Leichhardt, North Sydney, Rockdale, Warringah and Woollahra.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Resolved that the there was no declaration of pecuniary interests.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 16 March 2013 at Woollahra Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 16 March 2013 at Woollahra Council be confirmed.

4.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the SCCG meeting held on 7 March 2013 hosted by the SCCG at City of Sydney.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Executive Committee of the SCCG held on 7 March 2013 at the SCCG be received and noted.

4.3 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the SCCG meeting held on 16 March 2013 at the Redleaf Pool Café

Resolved that the Minutes of the Executive Committee of the SCCG held on 16 March 2013 at the Redleaf pool Café be received and noted.

SCCG Executive Committee Meeting 15 June

Cr Griffin (Chairperson) provided a review of key actions and outcomes of the Executive Committee meeting held before the Full Group meeting including staff contract issues, and the draft host council service agreement.

4.4 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 2 May 2013 hosted by City of Sydney.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 2 May hosted by City of Sydney Council be received and noted.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Business arising from minutes other than those items listed below in Reports.

- **Governance of Sydney Waterways**

The meeting between Roads and Maritime Services, Dept. of Planning and Crown Lands on these issues had yet to be facilitated. The SCPO will incorporate these issues into the SCCG project 'Scope Study – Coastal Zone Management Plan for Sydney Harbour' and Prof Thom AM will report back update on a potential meeting with agencies at the next SCCG meeting.

Resolved that the SCPO will incorporate these issues into the SCCG project 'Scope Study – Coastal Zone Management Plan for Sydney Harbour' and Prof Thom AM will report back update on a potential meeting with agencies at the next SCCG meeting.

All action completed and or addressed in business papers.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Sent and Received Correspondence

Resolved that the circulated “sent” and “received” correspondence be received and noted.

6.2 SCCG correspondence from the last meeting (including responses where available)

- i. NSW Reforms to Coastal Management Letter to Member Councils encouraging the continued application of the former NSW Sea Level Rise benchmarks. (see item 9.1)
- ii. Container Deposit System – (Responses received)
- iii. Annual Invitation for SCCG Consultation with Member Councils

Resolved that the SCCG correspondence from last meeting be received and considered.

7. PRESENTATION

7.1 A New Planning System for NSW – Ms Corrine Fisher (The Better Planning Network) (Presentation slides attached)

Proceedings in brief

Ms Corrine Fisher of the “Better Planning Network” (BPN) provided delegates with a review of the activities of the BPN and key issues and concerns in relation to the Planning reform process.

Key focus of the presentation included:

- How it all started
- Where we are today
- The NSW Planning review
- Proposed Objects of the Bill
- The Strategic Planning Ladder
- The Community Participation Charter
- Who prepares and makes strategic plans ?
- Ways of disregarding strategic planning
- Types of developments
- The White Paper proposals are not the answer
- So what’s our Vision ?
- The BPN campaign
- How you can help

For more information see: <http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/>.

Delegates were informed that the NSW Department of Planning and the Minister’s office was formally invited to address the SCCG however declined the invitation due to lack of ‘policy resources’.

A dynamic discussed ensued which segued into the discussion and workshop regarding the draft SCCG submission (see item 10).

Resolved that:

- 1) The presentation be heard and considered at the meeting.
- 2) Ms Corrine Fisher (BPN Convenor) be thanked for her attendance and presentation.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8.1 SCCG – City of Sydney hosting contract

Proceedings in Brief

The SCCG has now been provided with a draft contract. Delegates were informed that the Executive Committee considered the draft and at their meeting prior to the Gull Group meeting resolved that the Chairperson sign the contract and return to the City of Sydney with a thank you cover letter.

Delegates noted their appreciation and sincere thanks for the continuing support of the City of Sydney to host the Group's secretariat.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) The Chairperson sign the contract and return to the City of Sydney with thank you cover letter.

9. REPORTS

Reports 9.1 – 9.6 **FOR CONSIDERATION**

9.1 NSW Reforms to Coastal Management in NSW

Proceedings in brief

Delegates were referred to the report in the business papers. The EO noted that OEH had provided a brief update including that the following documents and information are schedule to be released by OEH in June:

- Revised “Code of Practice under the Coastal Protection Act”
- Revised “Guide to the statutory requirements for temporary coastal protection works”
- Revised “Guidelines for authorised officers under the Coastal Protection Act 1979
- Revised “Guidelines for preparing coastal zone management plans”
- An update to the “Flood Risk Management Guide”
- Consultation draft guide on mapping coastal hazards on the open coast.

The preparation of a business case for the proposed coastal technical advice centre is continuing and will be considered in the context of the stage two reforms.

- **Stage 2 reforms**

Prof Bruce Thom was invited to provide an update. Prof Thom noted that at present NSW has three ‘panels’ addressing coastal issues: the Expert Panel, The NSW Coastal Panel and the new Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel.

The Coastal Expert Panel was set up by the Minister Parker to provide advice on how the Government may best improve coastal legislation, policy, regulation and practice in NSW specifically to focus on coastal hazards in relation to land use planning.

Prof Thom noted the recent workshop undertaken by the Expert Panel at the end of April consulting around a set of questions prepared by the Expert Panel.

The SCPO represented the Group at this event. The SCPO inquired when the record of these consultations will be made available as was agreed to at the workshop. Prof Thom noted that the

Panel had requested that this indeed be released however the Minister has not replied to this request as yet.

From these workshops several additional submissions have been received notably from Warringah and Pittwater Councils.

Paul Hardie was invited to review key issues of Council's submission. Mr Hardie noted that final submission has yet to be endorsed by Council and he was unable to provide specifics at this time.

Prof Thom noted that the Expert Panel will be meeting on Monday to be briefed by Department of Planning, Local government, and the Marine Estate Authority. Prof Thom noted interest to hear from the new Authority regarding their involvement in coastal management.

- **NSW Climate Adaptation Research Hubs**

The EO noted that the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is establishing a Hub for Adaptation Research in NSW. This aims to harness the capabilities of NSW academic institutions to deliver climate impact and adaptation science research of state significance.

The Hub will comprise three priority research nodes in the areas of:

1. Coastal Processes and Responses
2. Biodiversity
3. Adaptive Communities

The SCCG participated in the development of a bid for "Coastal Processes and Responses" and also the "Adaptive Communities" hub. Outcomes of this process has not yet been officially announced by the NSW Minister for the Environment however it was noted that the research consortium bidding for the "Coastal Processes and Responses" hub has been successful with the SCCG as the key end user partner.

The EO noted that he will provide more information at the next meeting.

- **SCCG Member Councils' consideration of the SCCG recommendation that Councils continue to apply Sea Level Rise benchmarks**

The EO again noted to delegates that on 7 February, the SCCG wrote to its member councils seeking consideration of the SCCG resolution of the 12 December meeting:

In light of the nature and implications of the Stage 1 NSW Coastal Reforms, the Group write to Member Councils encouraging them to continue to apply the former [NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement](#), considering the [Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2009 Technical note: Derivation of the NSW Government's sea level rise planning benchmarks](#).

The EO provided an update of feedback from member councils to date.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) The SCCG follow up with the NSW Minister for the Environment if and when the Expert Panel workshop outcomes will be made available to participants
- 3) The EO provide the next meeting with information in relation to the successful NSW Climate Adaptation Research Hub for Coastal Processes and Responses
- 4) The SCCG maintain a watching brief on member councils' considerations and use of sea level rise benchmarks.

9.2 SCCG Capacity Building Program & Engagements Report

Proceedings in brief

The Secretariat is working with Member Councils to ensure the SCCG Capacity Building Program meets their needs. The CPO provided delegates with a review of current activities

- The SCCG Capacity Building Program 2013-2014

The CPO reviewed the latest draft of the SCCG Capacity Building Program 2013-2014 activities as defined by delegates and member councils. Key subject areas are:

- Biodiversity and vegetation
- Building Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change
- Communicating Climate Science
- Coastal Ecology Lecture Series
- Coastal Management Lecture Series and Manual
- Communication
- Ecologically Sustainable Development
- Partnership events with Beachwatch
- Insurance
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Law and Policy
- Progressing Community engagement

The next SCCG event is “The Art of Communication” (1 August – Customs House)

The CPO reviewed elements of the forum to include:

- **SESSION 1** Please explain
- **SESSION 2** Tools of the trade
- **SESSION 3** Information is beautiful: market your message
- **SESSION 4** Communication conundrums

Delegates were also informed that the event will feature Wendy Harmer and the Honourable Rob Stokes MP.

Resolved that

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) Delegates attend and assist promote the SCCG forum “The Art of Communication” (1 August – Customs House)
- 3) The CPO distribute the SCCG Capacity Building Program 2013-2014 document to the Full Group and Technical Committee for comment.
- 4) The CPO distribute the final document to Member Council General Managers.

9.3 SCCG Climate Change Adaptation Activities

9.3a SCCG Coastal Adaptation Pathway Projects

Proceedings in Brief

- 1) “**Prioritising Coastal Adaptation and Development Options for Local Government**”;
- 2) “**Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure**”;
- 3) “**Assessment and Decision frameworks for Existing Seawalls**”.

The Project Officer - Special Projects provided a detailed update on each project’s progress including launch of final project outputs and next phases of the programs including related capacity building programs.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be heard and considered.
- 2) the Secretariat develop and implement a specific capacity building training program to promote uptake of the outputs of the program by Member Councils.
- 3) The draft capacity building program be tabled at the next SCCG Technical Committee in 2013 for consideration.

9.3b Benchmarking Climate Change Adaptation and the SCCG (Activities 2005 – 2013)Proceedings in Brief

The Project Officer – Special Projects provided a review and discussion on an internal report aiming to benchmark SCCG and Member Councils activities in adaptation over almost 8 years. The report also benchmarks current climate change adaptation activities by the SCCG and Member Councils providing guidance on areas of need and specifically priorities for future capacity building and research needs.

The report developed utilises:

- The internal survey distributed to Member councils in late 2012
- Current SCCG research
- SCCG Annual performance survey of Member Councils (2012)

The report concludes defining current programs and future priorities under the established SCCG adaptation streams of:

- “Know your enemy”
- “Plan for Change”
- “Get Smart”
- “Act, Watch and Learn”
- “Put the House in Order”
- “Money talks”

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be heard and considered.
- 2) SCCG develop and implement a specific capacity building training program to promote uptake of the outputs of the program by Member Councils.
- 3) The draft capacity building program be tabled at the next SCCG Technical Committee in 2013 for consideration.

9.4 SCCG Grant Programs UpdateProceedings in brief

The report included in the business papers includes details of: a) recently submitted grant applications (2013) and b) unsuccessful grant applications (now “shelf projects”).

The EO and SCPO provided brief details of recent SCCG “Caring for Country” grant applications. “The Coastal Plastic Pollution Solution” (\$992,000) and “Sydney’s Salty Communities – Turning the tide for Blue-Green Carbon” (\$1,905,000).

The EO further noted the SCCG, NSW Environmental Trust Research Grant, “Cross-Shore and Long Shore Sediment Transport Study” (\$100,000) had been unsuccessful.

Resolved that the report be received and considered.

9.5 SCCG Water Recycling Handbook for Councils

Resolved that the report be received and noted.

9.6 **MINI WORKSHOP - SCCG National Policy Issues for the Federal election 2013**

Proceedings in Brief

Despite to the limited time left in the meeting the EO facilitated a brief workshop regarding SCCG National Policy Issues for the Federal election 2013.

The EO noted that at the last meeting it was resolved the SCCG will be active in the two following national advocacy programs:

- a) *Participation in the National Coastal Advocacy Alliance supporting the 'National Coastal Policy Initiative' together with other key coastal organisations around the country.*
 - b) *SCCG National Coastal Policy Issues for the Federal Election, 2013.*
- *SCCG request all registered political parties to outline their policy positions in relation key coastal management issues as determined by the Group.*
 - *Delegates workshop and define the key SCCG Policy positions for consultation of national political parties.*
 - *Outcomes of the workshop be reviewed and incorporated in to the draft policy document to be tabled at the June SCCG meeting for consideration of adoption prior to distribution to political parties for response.*

The EO reviewed the final draft key coastal management issues to take to political parties:

- National Coastal Council or Commission for Australia
- Implementing priority recommendations from the “Managing our Coastal Zone in a Changing Climate – The Time to Act is Now” report
- A consistent and coordinated approach to natural hazards management and climate change adaptation in the Australian coastal zone
- Funding for Local Government and community coastal programs
- A National Coastal Information System for Australia
- Maintaining public ownership of and access to and along the coastal zone
- A National Marine Management Strategy

Delegates endorsed the proposed issues. Delegates were further asked to assist with any proposed edits to each themes “Desired Outcome”, “Context” and the “Information requests”. It was noted that some of the information requests should be amended to, ensure that the Group receives clear responses focusing more on yes or no type questions and if no what will be done to address the issue more generally.

Resolved that:

- 1) the report be received and considered.
- 2) The draft SCCG National Policy Issues for the Federal election 2013 be finalised incorporating delegates’ input and sent to the SCCG Technical Committee for final input prior to being sent to all registered political parties for their response.

Reports 9.7 – 9.11 FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Resolved that reports for ‘information only’ be received and noted (pending inquiry).

9.7 Technical Committee Report (May Meeting)

9.8 Beachwatch & Harbourwatch Programs Update (Feb – April)

9.9 Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority’s Update

9.10 NSW Department of Primary Industries Aquatic Biosecurity & *Caulerpa taxifolia* Report

9.11 Key Activities Report for March – May 2013

10. SCCG SUBMISSION

This Item addressed after Item 7.1 “Presentation”

- **Draft SCCG Submission. A New Planning System for NSW Draft Planning Bill**

The SCPO provided delegates with a detailed review of the development and content of SCCG draft submission regarding the Planning White Paper and the Draft Planning Bill.

Delegates thanked and congratulated the SCPO on an excellent submission and contribution to these significant proposed reforms to the NSW planning system.

Resolved that:

- 1) The draft submission be received and discussed.
- 2) The draft submission be updated to address feedback from Delegates.
- 3) The updated submission be distributed to the Executive for endorsement.
- 4) The endorsed submission be submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on or before the closing date for submissions.

11. TREASURER’S REPORT

11.1 Finance Statements for period 30 June 2012 to 30 April 2013

Resolved that the financial statements for the period 30 June 2012 – 30 April 2013 be received and adopted.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Coastal Public Lands**

Delegates noted concerns regarding the proposal of Manly Council to sell off public open space near Little Manly. After much discussion Cr Tom Sherlock tabled a recommendation which was debated and accepted with amendment.

Resolved that SCCG email Member Council General Managers to express its support for responsible management of Council-owned foreshore land, in order to provide public amenity and access and to better manage the impacts of climate change. This includes limiting residential and commercial development or rezoning for such public foreshore land.

12.1 Remaining 2013 Meeting dates / Next Meeting

Dates	Location
• Saturday 21 September (AGM) 2013 at 12 noon	(Manly Council - pending) (NEW DATE)
• Saturday 7 December 2013 at 12 noon	(City of Sydney)

12.2 Items for Press Release

Resolved that items for press release be considered.

12.3 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

The Chairperson asked delegates to highlight interests for future presentations. Suggestions included:

- NSW Fisheries (new structure, focus and fishing waste management issues)
- Marine Estate Management Authority
- Local Land Services
- NSW EPA (waste, sewer licencing including North side Storage tunnel),
- Roads and Maritime Services (including boating trends and Sydney boating strategy)
- Minister for Local Government (The Hon. Don Page MP)

Resolved that delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for 21 September 2013 starting at 12 noon.

12.4 Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting (SCCG AGM) be held on 21 September 2013 at Manly Council (pending confirmation).

Cr. Griffin closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their attendance and contributions.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:

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