

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 17 MARCH, 2012
AT WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PRE MEETING TOUR - "THE CONCOURSE"

SCCG delegates undertook a tour of Willoughby Council's new 'Concourse' development.

Delegates toured the Library and the main performance halls while being provided with details of the many integrated sustainability principles to reduce impacts on the environment and to provide comfort for users. This includes the largest stormwater re-use system in Australia, holding up to five mega litres of stormwater. For more information see: <http://www.theconcourse.com.au/>. A Big thanks to Willoughby City Council staff including the General Manager for facilitating the excellent tour of Council's very impressive new Concourse development.

IN ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cr. Brian Troy | Botany Bay Council |
| Cr. Wendy McMurdo | Hornsby Council |
| Cr. Cathy Griffin | Manly Council |
| Cr. Denise Wilton | Mosman Council |
| Cr. Veronique Marchandean | North Sydney Council |
| Cr. Jacqueline Townsend | Pittwater Council |
| Mr. Paul Hardie | Pittwater Council |
| Cr. Margaret Woodsmith | Randwick Council |
| Cr. Geoff Stevenson | Randwick Council |
| Mr. Nik Midlam | City of Sydney Council |
| Cr. Dr. Conny Harris | Warringah Council |
| Cr. Prue Cancian | Waverley Council |
| Cr. Wendy Norton | Willoughby Council |
| Cr. Lynne Saville | Willoughby Council |
| Cr. Nicola Grieve | Woollahra Council |
| Mr. Geoff Withycombe | SCCG |
| Mr. Stephen Summerhayes | SCCG |
| Ms. Rachael Buzio | SCCG |
| Dr. Ian Armstrong | SCCG |
| Dr. Judy Lambert AM | Honorary Member |
| Prof. Bruce Thom AM | Honorary Member |
| Mr. Phil Colman | Honorary Member |

1. OPENING

The meeting opened at 1.00pm. Cr. McMurdo (Chairperson) provided a Welcome to Country and opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to the meeting. Cr Norton welcomed delegates to Willoughby City Council on behalf of the Mayor Clr Reilly. Cr McMurdo thanked Willoughby for hosting the meeting and a great field trip.

2. APOLOGIES

Cr. Barbara Aird
Cr. Peter Towell
Cr. Dr. Christina Kirsch

Manly Council
Sutherland Council
Warringah Council

Resolved that the apologies be received and noted.

Councils not represented at the meeting
Leichhardt, Rockdale and Sutherland Councils.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Resolved that there was no declaration of pecuniary interests.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 3 December 2011 at the City of Sydney Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 3 December 2011 at the City of Sydney Council be confirmed.

4.2 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 1 December 2011 hosted by Woollahra Council at Club the Rose Bay

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 1 December 2011 at Club Rose Bay be received and noted.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

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

- **Sydney Harbour Councils**

The EO again noted he met with the Hunters Hill General Manager, Barry Smith late last year to discuss the SCCG resolution to potentially invite non Sydney Harbour Councils to join the SCCG. The EO noted that after much discussion on the possibilities including some of the potential limitations of smaller harbor Councils to afford member contributions. It was decided to hold off on any activity to invite councils until the next Sydney Harbour Council meeting scheduled for February 2012. This meeting of the Sydney Harbour Councils has not yet occurred.

Resolved that the SCCG EO report back to the SCCG on outcomes of the Sydney Harbour Council meeting once it is held.

- **Governance of Sydney Waterways**

The EO noted that at the last meeting it was resolved that:

Resolved that:

1. *The SCCG Secretariat and Prof Bruce Thom meet with Roads and Maritime Services, Dept. of Planning and Crown Lands to further discuss SCCG AGM resolution to better define responsibilities of Sydney estuary foreshore management.*

2. *Roads and Maritime Service be again invited to address the March 2012 SCCG meeting regarding:*

- * *The new government structure in relation to waterways and boating management,*
- * *Clarifying roles and responsibilities of waterway management authorities including Maritime,*
- * *The development of Sydney Boat storage strategy,*
- * *Development of the integrated waterways management strategy for Sydney.*

The EO noted that this meeting has not yet occurred and will be reported on at the next meeting.

- **Sydney Water Request to increase nutrient discharge into the Hawkesbury River**

The EO noted that at the last meeting it was resolved that the SCCG support the recommendation of the SCCG Technical Committee regarding concerns to increase nutrient discharge into the Hawkesbury River and approve the letter to the Minister for the Environment (cc Director General of Sydney Water), to be signed on behalf of the SCCG by the EO.

Delegates were referred to the subsequent letter from Sydney Water in the business papers advising that Sydney Water has now formally written to the Minister for Planning withdrawing the modification of the application

- **Marine and Foreshore Biodiversity awareness and appreciation strategy. (Mr. Phil Colman)**

Phil Colman and the SCCG Secretariat convene at a working group meeting early in the New Year at the Colman residence to address the potential development of the Marine and Foreshore biodiversity awareness and appreciation strategy.

This action remains outstanding however Mr Colman noted that initial discussions have occurred and a meeting will be convened shortly to address potential issues such as:

- General diversity studies – what do we have now?
- Environmental education; both schools and adults
- Marine biodiversity food chain - how it can effect what we go to buy from the fish market
- Meiofauna – what does the word mean and how terribly important it is
- Coastal Ambassadors – a discussion on one way a Council has attempted to educate the ‘masses’
- Clean beaches – a term that is too often abused and sometimes very environmentally unfriendly

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)

From 10 September 2011 meeting

NSW Reforms to Coastal Management” The SCCG meet with Warringah and Pittwater Councils to develop a joint letter to the Minister to address issues including: preparation of Emergency sub plans, and referrals to the Coastal Panel and other immediate implementation issues as identified.

In addition to the letter from the NSW Environment Minister the NSW Planning Minister has also now responded to this SCCG correspondence.

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP has now also responded to this correspondence on 14 January 2012. The Minister clarified the situations with referrals to the Coastal Panel under the SEPP (Infrastructure) noting:

“...the role of the Coastal Panel as a consent authority is subject to three tests. The characteristics of the works must be a sea wall or beach nourishment; those works must be on the open coast or entrance to a coastal lake; and on circumstance where a coastal zone management plan does not apply to the land.

Where proposed development involved a mix of building works and coastal protection works, consideration need to be given to the characterisation of the development in order to ascertain the relevant consent authority for the development. If the overall development can be characterised as (for example) a dwelling, then the local council would be the consent authority. Conversely, the Coastal Panel is unable to determine development application other than for works characterised as sea wall or beach nourishment”.

Delegates noted disappointment with this response noting the vast majority of development applications are for redevelopment and that it was very unlikely multiple foreshore owners will come together to propose a combined ‘seawall development’. Delegates again questioned why such development where a dwelling is being proposed together with a seawall or update for seawall can’t be considered “integrated development”.

Delegates were again informed that under the Coastal Protection Act, Councils can via the Minister, seek assistance and advice of the NSW Coastal Panel. Council’s seeking this advice were recommended to ensure that they also cc this directly to the Chair of the NSW Coastal Panel to ensure that the Panel is indeed aware that a request has been made.

Resolved that the SCCG again write to the Minister for Planning regarding the referral issues of seawalls and dwellings and seek that these issues again be revisited as part of the NSW Planning system reforms for consider as ‘integrated development’ status.

a) **Minister for the Environment – presentation to the SCCG**

Again invite the NSW Minister for the Environment to address either the March or June meeting of the SCCG.

The EO noted that unfortunately the Minister for the Environment cancelled her scheduled presentation to the 2011 SCCG AGM last year however the Group again invited the Minister to address this or the June meeting and the Minister has now accepted the invitation to address the 16 June meeting.

b) **Plastic Parking Tickets**

*The Group write to Member Councils highlighting issues of impacts from plastic parking and infringement notices and request member councils consider alternatives and requesting a response to the SCCG correspondence. **(Action Outstanding)***

The SCPO provided an update on developments. In order to fully report to Councils on the issue, the SCPO has been investigating the environmental impacts of the range of machine printed tickets and available alternative solutions. Specifically, information has been sought from manufacturers addressing:

- Range of available materials
- Relative advantages and disadvantages
- Composition
- % of recycled materials

- Environmental status
- Breakdown products, timeframe and agents
- Relative energy cost, C footprint, lifecycle assessment
- MDS, reports, studies and the like
- Details above in relation to other qualities (security features, thermal qualities, ink etc)

A meeting has been held with one manufacturer who will report back on the issues above. Replies are awaited from the other Australian manufacturer of consumables.

Resolved that the SCPO table a report at the next meeting for consideration.

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

7. **PRESENTATION – “City of Sydney - Low Carbon Initiatives”** **Mr Nik Midlam.** **(Presentation slides attached)**

As requested by SCCG elected delegates, Mr. Nik Midlam (Manager Carbon Strategy) from the City of Sydney provided a review of the numerous ‘low carbon’ initiatives being led by the City of Sydney Council including details of the Tri-generation program.

Mr Midlam delivered the presentation that included:

- Drivers for City of Sydney to address its many carbon initiatives
- Issues in relation to potential augmentation of the traditional Sydney power infrastructure
- City of Sydney activities to achieve its zero emissions strategies including initial offsetting activities to its \$12M renewable energy fund and the current focus on implementing local carbon reduction programs and projects including major solar installations and retrofitting programs
- Details of City of Sydney Decentralised energy master plan 2010 – 2030 and its mix of options to achieve zero carbon scenarios.

Mr Midlam was thanked for his very informative and well articulated presentation.

Resolved that:

- 1) the presentation be heard and considered at the meeting.
- 2) Mr Nik Midlam be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

8. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

8.1 **Staff appointments for the SCCG**

Proceedings in Brief

Through grant funding and other changes, the Secretariat has had several changes. The Executive Officer provided a verbal report at the meeting.

- Stephen Summerhayes has now been appointed the SCCG Senior Coastal Projects Officer.
- After a very competitive process Rachael Buzio has now been appointed as the Group’s Coastal Projects Officer
- The EO informed that Group that unfortunately Sophie O’Dwyer has resigned from the position of Project Officer – Climate Change Adaptation, after only 3 months in the position. Daily travel from the southern highlands to Sydney had become unsustainable. The EO however introduced and welcome Dr Ian Armstrong filling this position for at least a 12 month contract. The EO noted that Ian comes to the Group very well qualified and will indeed be a great asset for the Coastal Adaptation Projects and the Group generally.

Resolved that

- 1) the report be received and noted.
- 2) The new staff be congratulated and welcomed to the SCCG.

8.2 Renewal of the SCCG City of Sydney Hosting ContractProceedings in Brief

The EO informed delegates that there has been no new news has been received from the City of Sydney.

Resolved that the Chair and the EO seek a meeting with the City's Executive Office with a view of obtaining some certainty on the current hosting arrangements.

9. REPORTS
**Reports 9.1 – 9.7
FOR CONSIDERATION**
9.1 NSW Reforms to Coastal Management in NSWProceedings in Brief

The EO noted an email was received from Mike Sharpin (OEH) yesterday afternoon noting a statement made by Minister Parker's Office last week to the Sydney Morning Herald re the Ministerial Taskforce. This was in response to a question relating to sea level rise at Lake Macquarie – part of the statement was included the SMH article: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/developer-may-sue-to-trigger-rethink-on-sea-level-rises-20120305-1uecc.html>

Minister's Statement: *Current sea level rise benchmarks used to guide land use planning and infrastructure design in NSW are based on advice from both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and CSIRO. The NSW Government is committed to regularly reviewing these benchmarks to ensure that they are based on the most appropriate science.*

The O'Farrell Government is concerned about the impacts of projected sea level rise on coastal erosion and flooding in coastal areas. To address these issues, a Ministerial Taskforce has been established to ensure that NSW has the best plans, legislation and other arrangements in place to deal with coastal risk. Establishing this Taskforce is an important step in ensuring that NSW has the best arrangements in place to manage coastal erosion and other coastal hazards, both now and into the future.

I can confirm that the Taskforce will also review the application of sea level rise planning benchmarks and the adequacy of the science informing these benchmarks and will report to the NSW Cabinet within the next few months.

Delegates noted concern that it now appeared that the Task Force announced by the Minister in September 2011 ([media release](#)) was now not a truly independent Task Force being a "Ministerial Task Force".

Delegates further noted concerns of some recent Government backbenchers' calls for some long term moratoriums on implementation of the SLR benchmarks.

Resolved that

- 1) the SCCG write to the NSW Minister for the Environment Group noting

- Support of the review process and noting SCCG key issues of concern (from previous consultation and submissions)
 - Seeking details of the Task Force Terms of Reference
 - Seeking details of consultation processes with relevant stakeholders
- 2) Provide a cc of the above letter to the LGSA seeking that they also write to Minister to seek clarification of the processes.

1) Coastal Erosion Issues – Pittwater Council

The Pittwater delegate was asked to provide an overview of the issues being addressed in the preparation their Coastal Erosion Emergency Management Plan.

It was noted that Council had now completed the plans for their two erosion “hot spots”. These plans are prepared consistent with the new State guidelines and the \$5K support funding provided by OEH. This expensive and timely process also has included community engagement with letters and facilitated workshops.

Council submitted the draft Plan(s) to staff of OEH who requested such substantial changes that the original draft has now become a reference document with an entirely new plan being proposed. OEH have noted they only want a plan describing what the Council will do in an emergency. It was noted that Council is proposing to undertake specific actions in times of coastal erosion to include: closing the beach, managing areas of dangerous access, dropping of the erosion scarp post event, while taking no actions to protect private property.

Council has reiterated in its draft Emergency Plan that it remains not supportive of the “solutions” described in the Coastal Protection Act that includes small scale sand bag protection strategies. It also notes that the Institute of Engineers are ineffective and give false expectations for some form of coastal protection.

Pittwater Council has also highlighted the confusion and potential duplication of the Coastal Emergency Action plans to those actions and procedures articulated in the DISPLAN and the associated sub action plans.

Council is also seeking legal advice to address the mix of coastal protection works in areas of the Basin Beach and also Bilgola Beach. This is to address issues in relation to location and potential liabilities for maintenance and performance of both private and public protection works on private and public lands.

Council was reminded that draft Emergency Management plans should be being considered by the NSW Coastal Panel and to also send the draft Plan directly to the Panel when sending to OEH for comment.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) Through discussion, the SCCG determine additional actions to address Member Council issues and concerns.

9.2 SCCG Annual Survey 2011 – Results and Recommendations (Presentation slides attached)

Proceedings in Brief

The aim of the annual survey is to enable the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Secretariat to identify what SCCG activities have assisted member councils and importantly to identify additional avenues and activities to further enhance this assistance. The SCPO reviewed the outcomes report attached to the business papers including key outcomes, recommendations and workshop potential actions.

Workshop Outcomes – Confirmed Secretariat actions:

1) SCCG's performance against its Strategic Plan 2010-2014

- workshop with the Technical Committee strategies to improve and foster collaboration, guidance and capacity building among and between the SCCG and Member Councils
- facilitate working groups to draw upon individual & collective experience
- facilitate two fields trips per year to promote peer to peer learning

2) SCCG Projects and Capacity Building Activities:

- Workshop with the Technical Committee capacity building topics under the subject areas that were ranked by the Full Group and Technical Committee in the top 3.
- Confirm the preferred method of capacity building delivery strategies in relation to the areas identified in a).

3) The Secretariat prepare a Guideline for presenters which includes:

- Checklist to assist presenters:
 - i) Demonstrate subject knowledge
 - ii) Explain important issues and principles clearly
 - iii) Respond to participants' views and comments
 - iv) Organise, prepare and keep to time limits
 - v) Ensure events are interesting, engaging and fun
- Incorporates a multi-tiered evaluation form which produces clear measures of success which can be compared across presenters
- Techniques to promote audience engagement and interest

4) Full Group and Technical Committee Meetings

- The Secretariat develop the intranet
- The Agenda be uploaded to the internet with a link provided to delegates to enable online viewing and download
- Strict time management be maintained at meetings
- The Secretariat further refine and simplify the Agenda
- Full Group Agenda be prepared in digital form. Delegates who would like a printed copy the Agenda to advise the CPO who will organise printing and dispatch.

Resolved that:

- 1) The survey report be received and noted;
- 2) Confirmed actions be undertaken by the Secretariat

9.3 SCCG Summerama 2012 - Outcomes and Recommendations Report

(Presentation Slides Attached)

Proceedings in Brief

Delegates were informed that the Summerama 2012 saw 1,888 participants 'getting amongst it' in the 74 activities taking place across 13 Member Councils.

New activities were added to the program, such as educational talks about sustainability issues (Tim Silverwood, Simon Carter) which proved popular given the broader awareness of these issues, while the old favourites cemented their place on the program by selling out weeks in advance (Dr Rip's Science of the Surf, Rockpool Rambles put on by various councils).

While more activities this year required a nominal cost-covering fee from participants, the program still offered loads of free activities to the public, ensuring Summerama is an easy and effective way for Member Councils to encourage their citizens to engage with the coastal environment.

For the first time, the SCCG employed a dedicated Summerama Coordinator, Sarah Billens, to coordinate the compilation and promotion of the program. In order to fund the promotional campaign, sponsorship was sought and the long-time supporter Landcare/Coastcare once again delivered with \$5000 from their *Be Natural* grant.

The promotional campaign was run via multiple channels: print, web, outdoor, social media, press and a competition. Branding was refined to exploit these channels, all using a new fresh, fun and beachy look and feel designed for Summerama 2012. Campaign results were pleasing, with online metrics showing that the website hits, amount of Facebook 'likes' and Twitter followers all increased on last year.

The inaugural Summerama Photo Competition was held with the intention of raising awareness about the program by attracting more people to the Summerama social media pages and also to create a database of pictures.

Overall, feedback from participating Member Councils shows that the press exposure and word-of-mouth are fruitful methods of encouraging participation. While Councils appreciated the effort made with the promotional materials produced, they most valued the new website and the comprehensive press kits (logos/photos/various lengths of promotional text).

A series of recommendations have been developed for consideration when planning the 2013 program. The Secretariat will soon reconvene the Summerama "Champions" (Summerama representatives appointed by participating Member Councils) to consider these recommendations with an outcomes report to be considered by the SCCG Technical Committee.

Resolved that:

- 1) The 2012 Summerama Outcomes and Recommendations Report be received and noted.
- 2) The CPO conduct a workshop with Summerama Champions to consider the Report's recommendations and make recommendations to the Technical Committee for consideration.
- 3) Sarah Billens be thanked for her great contribution.

9.4 SCCG 'Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation' project - update report

Briefing Notes

In 2009 the SCCG secured grant funding under NDMP to undertake a project with the CSIRO entitled Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation. At the last meeting it was resolved to table a project update for consideration.

The 3 key phases of the project include:

- **Stage 1** Effect of Climate Change on Sea level Rise and Extreme Sea Levels
- **Stage 2:** Development of Model Planning provisions to integrate sea level rise and extreme sea level events into relevant planning strategies of the SCCG
- **Stage 3:** Develop and distribute community risk disclosure information and corresponding community and stakeholder education program.

The EO noted that Stages 1 and 2 have now been finalised with Stage 3, 90% complete.

Stage 1: The draft inundation maps were tabled for delegates information and consideration. Delegates discussed the need to provide the SCCG region inundation maps to Member Councils

General Managers as soon as possible. The EO noted that some final changes are being made and a secure FPT server is being established to allow Councils to securely access their own maps in GIS format.

This release to member councils will be supported by:

- An internal SCCG launch forum providing review of each of the 3 project stages (April / May),
- A comprehensive technical document articulating the methods and assumption in the inundation modelling and associated mapping,
- A 2 to 4 page “easy to read” summary of the above technical document, and
- A secure FTP online server to allow Councils to securely access their own maps in GIS format

Stage 3 is currently in the final stages of drafting. This resource document is being designed to assist Councils with internal and external communications and engagement in relations to the communication challenges faced by Councils with regards to the present and future considerations of coastal inundation and associated sea level rise for coastal inundation.

Delegates congratulated the SCCG and the CSIRO on this very important initiative and project outcomes.

Resolved that

- 1) the report and project be received and considered.
- 2) The SCCG formally write to General Members informing them of the project outcomes and providing them with their final inundation maps prepared by the CSIRO
- 3) The SCCG be congratulated on the outcomes of this very important project.

9.5 Provision of the SCCG Annual Funding Guide 2012

Proceedings in Brief

The EO noted that this annual SCCG product due in March remains outstanding with the new CPO currently finalise it.

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and noted;
- 2) The final guide be formally sent to Member Councils for their utilisation and placed on the SCCG web site for more general access;
- 3) Delegates assist to highlight the availability and continuous improvement of the SCCG Funding Guide; and
- 4) The SCCG produce the 2013 Funding Guide by March 2013.

9.6 SCCG Coastal Adaptation Pathway Projects

Proceedings in Brief

In July 2011, the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) was awarded funding under the Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Project (CAP) for three projects-

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

Funding has been provided by the Australian Government represented by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. The Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways program is an Australian Government Initiative.

The new Project Officer, Dr. Ian Armstrong provided an introduction and update for each project:

1) “Prioritising Coastal Adaptation and Development Options for Local Government”

Update:

- Literature review completed
- Consultants appointed to deliver MCA decision tool
- First stage stakeholder consultation workshops completed

The PO noted that Councillor support for this project was critical. The complexity of the issues means that the more input we get the better the tool can provide support for future decision making.

2) “Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project”;

Update:

Five case studies have now been selected via 5 criteria a) Interconnectiveness; b) Data availability c) Barriers to Adaptation d) Diversity of Climate Change impacts e) Vulnerability

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • Existing infrastructure in Sydney CBD; | (Ultra Urban) |
| • Green Square town centre; | (Redevelopment) |
| • Cooks River stormwater catchment; | (Complex Governance) |
| • Wollongong coastal hazards; and | (Coastal Hazards) |
| • Berry Creek bush land | (Biodiversity / Conservation) |

Consultants appointed to deliver project (“Arup”) and the consultation with stakeholders is now in full swing.

3) “Assessment and Decision frameworks for Existing Seawalls

Update:

The Literature review has now been drafted and currently being considered by the established National Technical Reference Group. Case studies have been sort from Member Councils with the ‘Coastal’ site being Bilgola Beach (Pittwater) and the ‘Estuarine’ location being Clontarf (Manly). (The Gold Coast seawall is also being considered by Griffith University in a complementary however separate activity). The EO noted that the Project Team is currently working out how some considerations can be also given to other nominated case study locations (Sutherland, Rockdale and the City of Sydney).

Recommended that the report be heard and considered.

9.7 Final International Dissemination Seminar China-Australia Capacity Building Project for Strategic Planning in Climate Change – China

Briefing Notes

At the invitation of the Department of International Cooperation, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) as part of the ‘China – Australia Environment Development Partnership the SCCG EO visited China (Beijing and Hebei Province (ie Tangshan City), December 2011.

A report is attached to the business papers was reviewed.

The EO noted that the opportunity to present to and also spend time with very senior central government officials dealing with the enormous task of Climate Change management in China was exciting, rewarding and indeed a privilege. At all official and casual events there were always many officials waiting in queue for a conversation regarding what Australian is up to in this area and also much curiosity of experiences and techniques for regional coordination and cooperation across various levels of government demonstrated by the SCCG. Overall the EO left China feeling very positive about China's understanding and commitment to deal with both climate change mitigation and adaptation. In both public and private conversations the senior level Chinese government rhetoric provided an unambiguous, direct and action orientated discussion related to China's global responsibility and societal imperatives to ensure significant investment, priority and important action to deal with climate change. There was also some talk about more formal relations between the SCCG and other major coastal city areas in China to potentially develop more sister city type relations to continue to share knowledge and experience as we adapt to climate change impacts. Initial discussions with NDRC and Hebei Province official were held and maybe further pursued in consultation with the SCCG Executive Committee.

The SCCG Treasurer inquired who paid for the trip. The EO noted that all tour costs were covered by the NDRC with costs of flights to and from China coming from the SCCG Eureka Award prize money secured in 2010.

Resolved that the report be heard and considered.

**Reports 9.8 – 9.12
FOR INFORMATION ONLY
(pending inquiry)**

9.8 Technical Committee Report

Resolved that the report be received and considered.

9.9 Beachwatch Program Update

Resolved by the Beachwatch Advisory Committee representative that: the report on Beachwatch and Harbourwatch Programs be received and noted.

**9.10 (a) Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority's Report
(b) Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority's Report**

Resolved that the reports be received and noted.

9.11 NSW Department of Industry and Investment's Aquatic Biosecurity Report

Resolved that the report be received and noted.

9.12 SCCG Grant Program Report

Proceedings in Brief

The EO noted that the SCCG has been successful in securing \$64,000 under the NSW Environmental Trust for a social media based program entitled "Becoming Social". This grant will engage a communication company and communications academics to develop strategies and tools for local government in the use of social media to engage, consult and educate [coastal] communities in relation to environmental issues.

Resolved that the report be received and considered.

9.13 Key Activities Report for September 2011 – March 2012

Resolved that the SCCG Key Activities Report for September 2011 – March 2012 be received and noted.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

10.1 Financial Statements for period 30 June – 31 January 2012

Resolved that:

- 1) The financial statements for the period 30 June – 31 January 2012 be received and adopted.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Report of the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in New South Wales:**

http://www.marineparksaudit.nsw.gov.au/imagesDB/wysiwyg/FINAL_NSWMarineParksAuditReport2012_web1_3.pdf

11.1 2012 Meeting dates / Next Meeting

In December 2011 delegates resolved that due to the Local Government Elections the SCCG would have only 3 meetings in 2012 with the AGM meeting to be moved to the December meeting. 2012 meeting dates are:

- Saturday 16 June 2012 at 12 noon (City of Sydney)
- Saturday 8 December 2012 at 12 noon (AGM) (City of Sydney)

11.2 Items for Press Release

Resolved that items for press release be considered.

11.3 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

- **Confirmed Presentation:** The Hon. Robyn Parker MP, NSW Minister for the Environment. New Government's environmental directions and considerations for NSW coastal zone management.

Resolved that delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for Saturday 16 June (previously advised 11 June) 2012 starting at 12 noon.

11.4 Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Group be held on Saturday 16 June 2012 at the City of Sydney (pending confirmation).

Cr. Wendy McMurdo closed the meeting thanking delegates for their participation.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:

/ /