

FG1-16 Minutes

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.  
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY 19 MARCH 2016  
HOSTED BY LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AT  
LEICHHARDT TOWN HALL - 12.00 PM**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cr. Brian Troy	City of Botany Bay Council
Cr. Mark Castle	City of Botany Bay Council
Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Frank Breen	Leichhardt Municipal Council
Cr. Craig Channells	Leichhardt Municipal Council
Mr. Jon Stiebel	Leichhardt Municipal Council
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr. Selena Griffith	Pittwater Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Cr. Sue Young	Pittwater Council
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick City Council
Cr. Greg Moore	Randwick City Council
Cr. Peter Towel	Sutherland Shire Council
Cr. Sue Heins	Warringah 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
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Ms Katherine Howard	SCCG (CPO)
Ms. Fiona Shadbolt	SCCG (PM-BR)
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Dr Elizabeth Strain	Sydney Institute of Marine Science (for presentations)
Dr Bob Creese	NSW DPI Fisheries (for presentations)
Mr Steve Hartley	NSW OEH (for presentations)
Mayor Darcy Byrne	Leichhardt Municipal Council (for welcome)

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**ITEM 1 - OPENING**

**1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The meeting opened at 12.30pm.

The Acting Chairperson, Cr. Lynne Saville opened the meeting and provided an acknowledgement of country.

Cr Frank Breen welcomed the SCCG to Leichhardt Council on behalf of Mayor Darcy Byrne and also provided an acknowledgement of country.

Mayor Byrne arrived later and formally welcomed the SCCG to Leichhardt. Mayor Bryne stated that the work of the SCCG is very important, that Leichhardt takes their responsibility to Sydney Harbour very seriously, and noted that there is a growing public sentiment for better care of the harbour. For example, Leichhardt is trying to ban plastic bags and investing in Gross Pollutant Traps.

## 1.2 APOLOGIES

Cr. Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Cr. John Mant	City of Sydney
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Cr. Matthew Robertson	Woollahra Council
Mr. David Dekel	Rockdale Council
Ms Belinda Atkins	SCCG (PPM)
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Dr Joanne Banks	Sydney Institute of Marine Science

### ***Councils not represented at the meeting***

Mosman Municipal Council, Rockdale City Council and Hornsby Shire Council.

## 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 PRESENTATIONS

The Acting Chairperson, Cr. Lynne Saville welcomed and introduced:

### **1. Dr Beth Strain, Sydney Institute for Marine Science – World Harbour Project**

Dr Strain presented on behalf of her colleague, Dr Joanne Banks, who was unable to attend and sent her apologies.

Initiated by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), the aim of the World Harbour Project is to link, facilitate, and enhance programs of research and management across major urban harbours of the world. The project will establish a coordinated network of researchers and managers, bringing global best practice in understanding and managing urban waterways to the 14 participating international partners, which include some of the world's most iconic cities.

Dr Strain also introduced a study trialling the installation of habitat 'tiles' to increase oyster recruitment on artificial habitat such as seawalls. There was interested discussion from the group around the benefits of increasing the numbers of bivalves on seawalls, for example, water quality, providing habitat for other species, and pre-empting space occupancy by invasive species.

A copy of the presentation is provided as attachment A2.1 to these Minutes.

## **2. Dr Bob Creese, NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries, and Steve Hartley, Office of Environment and Heritage Marine Estate Management Authority – Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment**

Dr Creese introduced the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment that is open for public comment until 24 April 2016. <http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/hawkesbury-shelf-marine-assessment>.

The NSW Government is inviting your comments on suggested management initiatives to enhance marine biodiversity in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion while achieving balanced community outcomes, including opportunities for a wide range of recreational and commercial uses. These initiatives are described in the Marine Estate Management Authority's [Discussion Paper](#).

The Discussion Paper summarises the outcomes of community engagement, the findings of the threat and risk assessment and presents eight suggested management initiatives being considered to address the priority threats.

Supporting the discussion paper are seven [background reports](#) including the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) Report. A series of [frequently asked questions](#) are also available.

Several questions were raised by the group, including:

- Questions regarding the Urban Mangrove Management Policy and how it relates to the Fisheries Management Act objective to protect mangroves. There are concerns this has the potential to be the 10/50 of coastal vegetation. Caution was urged regarding giving property owners the right to trim or clear mangroves. There is also a need to consider future habitat growing now.

Response: please submit all comments on this draft policy in writing by 24 April 2016.

- Comments on the effects of recreational boating activities.
- A question regarding whether there is political pressure to reverse existing Intertidal Protected Areas (IPAs) and Aquatic Reserves (ARs). The Discussion Paper does not give confidence that existing IPAs and ARs, often strongly supported by the local community, will continue to be protected.

Response: The assessment process is looking at all existing spatial management initiatives including IPAs and no-take ARs with "fresh eyes" and considering what threat is being addressed by IPAs and ARs, and are they effective at addressing those threats?

The social values and benefits of ARs are also being taken into account. There is a wealth of environmental, social and economic data on benefits for protected areas. MEMA is aware that there are tensions between different groups in the community. MEMA want to put evidence, including community views, to the State Government.

There was discussion of a couple of two specific areas of concern to group members – Cabbage Tree Bay and Long Reef.

- It was raised that Management Initiative "5.2 Reducing red tape for low-risk boating infrastructure" is not clearly defined in the Discussion Paper. What are the definitions of "red tape" and "low-risk boating infrastructure"?  
Response: The current State Government wants to reduce regulatory burden, and the Authority have been given specific instructions to look for opportunities to do this. "Low risk boating infrastructure" could not be defined today.
- It was pointed out that conflict between different sectors of the community is often driven by poor communication and lack of understanding. E.g. what is a marine park? Many people don't understand that a marine park has multi-use zones and is not solely a no-take area.
- The SCCG expressed a strong recommendation that the existing IPAs and ARs are maintained.

- A question was asked about how this assessment process is linked to the Coastal Management Reforms process.  
Response: the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment is linked to the Coastal Management Reforms process.
- A question was raised about the resourcing of implementation of the proposed Management Initiatives by local councils.  
Response: There is an acknowledgement in the Discussion Paper that four of the Management Initiatives will incur new State Government funding (pages 18-21 of the Discussion Paper). It is understood that implementation will require partnerships with local councils, community groups, user groups etc.
- A question was asked about how the geographic regions for activities or initiatives will be prioritized for investment.  
Response: this level of detailed prioritization work has not been done yet, this will form part of the next steps of the process.

*Dr Creese and Mr Hartley stressed the need to provide any feedback to the Discussion Paper and associated background documents to the Authority in written submissions by 24 April 2016.*

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- 2.1 That Dr Strain from the Sydney Institute of Marine Science be thanked for her attendance and presentation on the World Harbour Project.
- 2.2 That Dr Creese and Mr Hartley of the Marine Estate Management Authority be thanked for their attendance and presentation on the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion.  
(Goltsman /Towell)

## **ITEM 3 - ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **3.1 VOTE FOR NEW CHAIR FOR SCCG**

The Acting Chairperson, Cr. Lynne Saville explained the need for a vote on a new Chair due to the former Chair no longer being a representative for his council on the SCCG (Section 11.2 – SCCG Constitution).

The independent returning officer, Mr George Cotis, took nominations for a new chair.

Cr. Lynne Saville was nominated by Cr. Norton and seconded by Cr. Goltsman.

No further nominations were received.

Cr Lynne Saville was elected the new Chair of the SCCG Full Group.

There is no need to elect a new Vice Chair under the Constitution which only requires a maximum of two Vice Chairs. Full Executive Committee elections to occur at the September AGM.

### **3.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

3.2 (a) *Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of the Full Group on 12 December 2015*

3.2 (b) *Minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting of 10 December 2015*

3.2 (c) *Minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting of 11 February 2016*

### **3.3 BUSINESS ARISING (from the Annual General Meeting of 19 September 2015)**

Actions arising from the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 12 December 2015 were reviewed. Progress against actions are reported in Attachment 3.2 of the business papers.

### 3.4 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting was reported at Attachment 3.3 of the business papers and circulated in hard copy at the meeting.

#### RESOLUTIONS

- 3.1a Councillor Lynne Saville is elected the new Chair of the SCCG Full Group until 2016 AGM.  
(Norton / Goltsman  
Carried
- 3.1b That (i) the SCCG write to Cr. Stevenson to thank him for his efforts and also to (ii) Randwick City Council to congratulate the outgoing Chair on his sterling work and to express the SCCG's appreciation of his work as Chair of the Full Group.  
(i)Norton/(ii)Shurey/  
Griffith  
Carried
- R3.2.a That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 12 December 2015 hosted by City of Sydney be confirmed.  
(Griffin/ Levenston)  
Carried
- R3.2.b The Minutes of the Technical Committee hosted by Randwick City Council on 10 December 2016 were received and noted.
- R3.2.c The Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting hosted by North Sydney Council on 11 February 2016 were received and noted.
- R3.3 Representatives consider, discuss and make any necessary recommendations and resolutions relating to Business Arising.  
(Goltsman/Griffith)  
Carried
- R3.4 That the circulated "sent" and "received" correspondence be received and noted.  
(Goltsman / Towell)  
Carried

### ITEM 4 – MEMBER COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided updates on Council activities and discussed issues and needs where relevant. The updates are provided in attachment A4.1.

### ITEM 5 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT (DEC 2015 – FEBRUARY 2016)

#### 5.1 COLLABORATION

- *Internal and External Committee, Events, Workshops, Presentations*
- *Sydney Water Partnership*
- *Flying Fox Management*
- *Pollution Response Protocols Interagency Coordination*
- *Walking Coastal Sydney*
- *Summerama Activities Program*

An update on all Secretariat Collaboration activities is included at Item 5.1 in the Agenda Papers. The CPO provided a short update on the outcomes and feedback from the successful 2016 Summerama Program. Other items taken as read.

#### 5.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

- *SCCG Grant Applications*
- *SCCG Grants Committee*
- *SCCG Funding Guide 2016 (released)*
- *Sydney Water/SCCG Healthy Waterways*

An update on all Secretariat Capacity Building activities is included at Item 5.2 in the Agenda Papers. The CPO tabled copies of the Terms of Reference for the new Grants Committee and the updated 2016 SCCG Funding Guide.

The EO reported on recent and upcoming grant applications prepared by the Secretariat and partners. Currently scoping opportunities for NSW Environmental Trust Education Program grants including Underwater Sydney online resources.

Other items taken as read.

### 5.3 ADVOCACY

An update on all recent and upcoming Secretariat advocacy activity was included at Item 5.3 in the Agenda Papers.

#### Submissions recently completed:

- Container Deposit Scheme
- NSW Coastal Reforms Stage 2

The EO provided an update on the substantial SCCG's submission to Coastal Management Reforms and brought to the Full Group's attention the fact that the NSW Government is proposing to publicly release maps for Coastal Vulnerability areas in April showing information on erosion for open coasts only; no estuarine hazards, coastal instability, tidal inundation or other hazards are currently incorporated into the maps. This is likely to be one of the more controversial areas of the reforms and it should not be rushed.

**The following draft motion was supported in principle by the Full Group. The draft motion will be sent to the SCCG Coastal Reforms Advisory Committee for finalisation and then forwarded under delegation to the SCCG Executive for ratification.**

5.1 *That the SCCG write to the Minister for Planning, seeking a delay to the proposed public exhibition of the Draft SEPP maps until such time as:*

*a) all relevant local government information in relation to all defined coastal hazards has been incorporated;*

*b) it is confirmed that council areas with existing mapping and associated development controls will be included in the coastal vulnerability mapping that will be included in the final SEPP;*

*c) that state-wide inundation mapping (in addition to the above) is incorporated; and*

*d) that the level of coastal vulnerability present in estuaries and coastal lakes is represented in the draft mapping.*

*Whilst acknowledging the five year transitional arrangements to be put in place by the Coastal Management Bill and the ability to add further hazard information to SEPP maps over time, the SCCG considers it inappropriate to go out the public with draft Coastal Vulnerability Area maps that only include modelled coastal erosion hazards for open coast sandy embayments. Of particular concern is the fact that currently there is no coastal hazards defined within any of the state's estuaries and coastal lakes, including Pittwater, Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay or Port Hacking.*

*The letter suggest that the maps are delayed in November in time for the Coastal Conference.*  
(Levenston/Troy)

## Submissions upcoming:

- Draft Joint Management Agreement of for the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program
- MEMA Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment
- Biodiversity Legislation Review
- Metropolitan Water Plan

The CPO drew the attention of the Full Group to the opportunity to submit to the Five Year Review of the Joint Management Agreements for the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program from DPI Fisheries. Submissions are due 31 March. The SCCG is preparing a submission. Other items taken as read.

## 5.4 RESEARCH

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

- Climate Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure Network
- Climate Adaptation Research Network for Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions
- Successful Grant – Estimating Coastal Values Using Multi-Criteria and Valuation Methods
- April Storms – Cost analysis

The EO 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. Delegates expressed their support for this activity. It was noted that some councils still waiting for repairs to be undertaken and it may be better to ask councils for an estimate of remaining costs.

It was resolved that the final April Storms Project Report be tabled for further discussion at June Full Group meeting with a view to sharing any outcomes of the project with relevant agencies such as Local Government NSW.

Other items taken as read.

## 5.5 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. Issues presented included:

- Supplementary Grants which have been awarded  
[http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/salty\\_communities#SupplementaryRound](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/salty_communities#SupplementaryRound)
- Visits have been paid to all Main Round projects. Project targets have b mostly achieved or exceeded and the three instances where there are slight delays are clearly justified and have plans in place to achieve them
- Success developing the CSIRO Climate Adaptation tool. This has recently been widely distributed  
<http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/The%20Climate%20ready%20to%20ol.pdf> and applications are in process with the Environmental Trusts research and education streams to extend this work
- Excellent media has been achieved for several projects, notably the Aquatic Corridors Project, reported as far afield as Switzerland and the Integrated Fox Control project.
- The grant outcomes and how these have been achieved thus far were explained and the process by which gaps will be filled (a special projects round) was also outlined.

## RESOLUTIONS

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



- 5.2 That delegates consider and discuss items including the upcoming submissions and the request for data on the costs of the April 2015 storm.
- 5.3 That the final April Storms Project Report be tabled for further discussion at June Full Group meeting with a view to sharing any outcomes of the project with relevant agencies such as Local Government NSW.

(Mouroukas / Heins)  
Carried

## ITEM 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 6.1 SCCG SEWAGE OVERFLOWS AND ASSOCIATED CONTAMINATION OF STORMWATER CAMPAIGN STAGE 1 - ISSUES PAPER OPTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

The Sewage overflows management in the Sydney coastal region Literature Review and Issues Paper were distributed to the Full Group for review and comment in December 2015. During the March Full Group meeting, members ranked options for improving sewer overflow management identified in the Issues Paper in order of priority. Five of the twelve options were identified as high priority actions during this session. The Technical Committee will also be asked to rank the options identified in the Issues Paper. The Secretariat will then prepare an Actions Plan based on both rankings and will distribute for further comment and review.

The EO reminded all members that all documents circulated in draft form for Full Group review are to be treated as in confidence unless otherwise clearly stated.

There was discussion of the recent article on new sewer overflow installations by Sydney Water in the [Daily Telegraph](#). The EO reported on his conversation with Sydney Water who have stated that the area affected is small, but that there are over 2000 'small' overflow points in Sydney Harbour. There was general agreement that this is inappropriate in 2016 and that there should be stricter regulation. The problem of infrequent, insufficient inspections of the sewer connections in new developments was also raised (Sydney Water used to inspect every new property but now inspections are conducted 'randomly' by the Department of Fair Trading). The issue of multiple regulatory bodies involved in water management was also raised.

### RESOLUTIONS

R6.1 The SCCG Secretariat prepare an Actions Plan based on the options from the Sewer Overflow Issues Paper identified as high priorities by the Full Group and the Technical Committee and will circulate for comment at a future date.

(Norton / Towel)  
Carried

R6.2 That Sydney Water be asked to speak to the Full Group on the matter of sewer overflows, their proposed new risk-based approach to sewer overflows, and their geographic priorities for improving water quality across Sydney.

(Towel / Goltsman)  
Carried

## ITEM 7 FINANCES

### FINANICAL STATEMENTS 1 JULY 2015 – 3- SEPTEMBER 2015

Amended statements tabled and will be provided free of charge with the Minutes. Error in GST has been corrected. (Attached to the Minutes).

### RESOLUTION

R7 That the Financial Statements for period 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015 be received and adopted

(Levenston / Breen)



## ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

### Reducing the Use of Plastics bags

Discussion was had regarding ongoing environmental concerns in relation to single use plastic bags. This included reviewing successful activities to reduce single use plastic bags in other areas (Tasmania and ACT) and more recent activities by member councils (Leichardt and Pittwater).

### 2016 MEETING DATES / NEXT MEETING

Date	Location
• <b>Saturday 18 June 2016 at 12 noon</b>	<b>(City of Sydney)</b>
• Saturday 17 September <b>(AGM)</b> 2016 at 12 noon	(Member Council)
• Saturday 10 December 2016 at 12 noon	(City of Sydney)

### RESOLUTION

- R8.1 The City of Sydney will host the next SCCG Full Group Meeting to be held on 18 June 2016 (pending confirmation).
- R8.2 Delegates to suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting to be held on 18 June 2016.
- R8.3 The SCCG write to General Managers emphasising the achievements of the SCCG over the last 26 years, in collaboration with its Member Councils, and the Group's continual relevance and importance in addressing sustainable coastal management and championing the issues/concerns of Member Councils. (Goltsman / Towell)  
Carried
- R8.4 That SCCG write to the Premier and the NSW Minister for the Environment outlining the issues relating to the continued use of single use plastic bags and their negative impacts on our coastal and marine environments. That SCCG ask the NSW Government to legislate a ban on single use plastic bags in supermarkets, along the lines of similar effective legislation enacted in the Australian Capital Territory . (Griffin / Breen)  
Carried

## ITEM 9 EXTERNAL REPORTS (for information only)

- 9.1 **BEACHWATCH REPORT (NOV 2015 – JANAUG 2016)**
- 9.2 **GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE**
- 9.3 **MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**
- 9.4 **DPI AQUATIC PEST AND HEALTH UPDATE**

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.

Confirmation of Minutes: .....

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