

FG3-15 Minutes

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 2015
HOSTED BY MOSMAN COUNCIL AT THEIR CHAMBERS
CIVIC CENTRE, MOSMAN SQUARE
12.00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Cr. Mark Castle	Botany Bay Council
Cr. Frank Breen	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cr. Carolyn Corrigan	Mosman Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr. Selena Griffith	Pittwater Council
Cr. Sue Young	Pittwater Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Cr. Geoff Stevenson (Chairperson)	Randwick Council
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council
Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Cr. Vanessa Moskal	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
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Ms. Wendy McMurdo	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms. Emma Norrie	SCCG (CPO)
Ms. Fiona Shadbolt	SCCG (PM-BR)
The Hon. Paul Toole MP	Minister for Local Government (Speaker)
Ms Emma Logan	Minister's Chief of Staff

ITEM 1 - OPENING

1.1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The meeting opened at 12.20pm.

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed the Minister and delegates. Cr. Carolyn Corrigan, Deputy Mayor of Mosman Council, welcomed delegates and provided an acknowledgement of country. She also noted Council's desire to stay independent through the Local Government reform process.

1.2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Chairperson welcomed Cr. Carolyn Corrigan (Mosman) and Cr. Frank Breen (Leichhardt), who were attending their first SCCG meeting. The following apologies were noted:

Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Linda Scott	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Craig Channells	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Rochelle Porteous	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Daniel Kogoy	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Tom Sherlock	Mosman Council

Mr. David Dekel	Rockdale Council
Ms. Alexandra Vandine	Rockdale Council
Cr. Sue Heins	Warringah Council
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Copeland	Honorary Member
Ms. Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)

Councils not represented at the meeting
Hornsby, Rockdale, City of Sydney

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1.1 That apologies be received and noted.
- 1.2 That notification of pecuniary interests be received.

ITEM 2 - GUEST PRESENTATION THE HON. PAUL TOOLE MP, NSW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ATTACHMENT 1 - Minister's speaking notes

At the Executive Committee meeting of 23 April 2015, following the re-election of the Baird Government, it was resolved to invite the Premier or his ministerial representative to address the Full Group. The Premier was unavailable to attend and nominated the Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government, to address the Group on his behalf.

Minister Toole briefly discussed the reforms to Local Government and then provided a detailed overview of the coastal reforms. A copy of the Minister's speaking notes are attached to the Minutes for SCCG delegate's information (only).

Items addressed included:

- Introduction
- Local Government reforms
- Coastal Management reforms
- Questions and Answers

Outcomes of the Q&A session are also attached to the minutes (Attachment 2) for delegates' information.

Issues addressed included:

- Determination of who is a Coastal Authority
- Linkages between new Coastal Bill and coastal ecology research and threats to coastal processes?
- Explanations of financing mechanisms
- Protection of sensitive coastal areas
- Certification of Warringah Councils CZMP.
- Membership of the Coastal Advisory Body
- Needs for coastal reform process to:
 - Re-instill the necessary local and state government partnership
 - Regulating the proposed funding and financing mechanisms
 - Needs for any type of Advisory Body to have functions including: i) coordination and integration, ii) dispute resolution and arbitration, iii) research and technical advice (including agency support), iv) consultation and communications, as well as an v) auditing and compliance role.
- Recreational boating pressures

- Additional opportunities to revisit councils' 'Fit for the Future' submissions
- Timing for Fit for the Future outcomes

RESOLUTION

- 2.1 The Hon Paul Toole MP be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

ITEM 3 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1.1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20 June 2015

Draft Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 20 June 2015 were emailed to delegates on 3 July 2015. A copy was also attached to the business papers.

The EO noted that Resolution 5.2 of the Minutes states that 'Delegates *endorse* the SCCG Strategic Plan 2015-2019', where the correct terminology should have been 'adopt'. As such, the EO recommended that Resolution 5.2 be amended to state that 'Delegates adopt the SCCG Strategic Plan 2015-2019'.

3.1.2 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 23 April 2015

Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of 23 April 2015. A copy attached to the business papers.

3.1.3 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of 23 July 2015

Minutes from the Technical Committee meeting of 23 July 2015 are available on our website at: <http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/tc>

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING

Actions arising from the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG held on 20 June 2015 were emailed to delegates on 3 July 2015, along with the Minutes. Progress against actions reported in Attachment A3.2 of the business papers.

As resolved at the last meeting, an invitation has been extended to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, to present to the December meeting. The EO noted that the Minister is only available on 12 December (not 5 December as proposed) and it was agreed to postpone the SCCG meeting to that date.

The Secretariat will further consider inviting the Environment Minister to present to the Group at a future meeting.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence sent and received since the last meeting was reported at Attachment A3.3 of the business papers and circulated in hard copy at the meeting.

3.4 SCCG CONSTITUTION

(Special Meeting)

The AGM was suspended and a special general meeting to consider the new Constitution opened.

'SPECIAL' MEETING'

3.4 Proposed amendments to the SCCG Constitution

Opening

Cr. Stevenson (Chairperson) opened the Special Meeting at 1.35pm.

The Chairperson noted attendance and apologies as per the AGM and no pecuniary interests noted.

Introduction:

The Executive Officer provided an introduction to the item.

The proposed amendments are to update the Constitution to align with the new SCCG Strategic Plan (ie a new Mission and Goals etc). This requirement provides a timely opportunity to review the Constitution as a whole.

The SCCG Constitution can be amended via *Clause 20 – Amendments*:

This Constitution may be amended from time to time by a resolution passed at a Special or Annual General Meeting of the Group by votes equivalent to three quarters of the number of delegates entitled to vote. Such amendment shall not take, and shall have no effect, unless ratified by at least three quarters of member councils entitled to vote.

Summary of main changes

- All proposed changes are marked up in Track changes
- Section 2 amended to reflect new SCCG Mission and Goals (replacing Aim and Outcome Statements)
- New Section 4.2 Technical Committee - this has been added after much consideration by the Secretariat and indeed by representatives of the TC. This inclusion to the Constitution is to ensure more formality of this key SCCG committee
- Section 11.3 – more explicitly outlining that no more than one delegates per member council is permitted on the Executive Committee
- Section 16.2 – slight change here to more explicitly note that the “Full Group” (as representing all members) approves the budget (which has always been the case)
- Other minor edits

The SCCG Executive Committee considered these amendments at their last meeting and resolved to endorse the final draft Constitution recommending it to members for adoption.

Cr. Griffin asked whether the constitution should clarify whether meetings are open for public observation. After some discussion, it was agreed that the issue of public participation and observers would be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration, with advice provided at the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

- 3.1 That Resolution 5.2 of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG hosted by City of Sydney on 20 June 2015 be amended to state 'Delegates adopt the SCCG Strategic Plan 2015-2019'. (Cr. Goltsman, Cr. Towell)
- 3.2 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the SCCG hosted by City of Sydney on 20 June 2015 be confirmed, pending amendment of Resolution 5.2. (Cr. Goltsman, Cr. Towell)
- 3.3 That the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 23 April 2015 be noted. (Cr. Goltsman, Cr. Towell)
- 3.4 That the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting hosted by City of Sydney Council on 23 July 2015 be noted. (Cr. Saville, Cr. Shurey)

- 3.5 Representatives consider, discuss and make any necessary recommendations and resolutions relating to Business Arising.
- 3.6 That the next meeting be postponed to 12 December 2015 to accommodate a presentation from the Minister for Planning. (Cr. Griffin, Cr. Saville)
- 3.7 That the circulated “sent” and “received” correspondence be received and noted. (Cr. Towell, Cr. Goltsman)
- 3.8 That members adopt the revised SCCG Constitution. (Cr. Troy, Cr. Griffin)
- 3.9 The Association apply for registration of the changes (to the NSW Department of Fair Trading) within 28 days of the special resolution (Cr. Troy, Cr. Griffin)
- 3.10 The amended final Constitution of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Incorporated, 2015 be sent to member councils Mayor and General Managers for their information. (Cr. Troy, Cr. Griffin)
- 3.11 That the issue of public participation and observers to Full Group meetings be referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and advice at the next meeting (Cr. Griffin, Cr. Goltsman).

ITEM 4 MEMBER COUNCILS ROUNDTABLE

Delegates provided an update on Council activities in relation to:

1. Update on ‘Fit for the Future’ status and amalgamation proposals
2. Coastal issues and needs

Details of these updates are provide in Attachment 3.

RESOLUTIONS

- 4.1 Delegates’ updates be received and considered.
- 4.2 The Secretariat investigate release of 5 million litres of raw sewage following power failure at Cronulla wastewater treatment plant.
- 4.3 The Secretariat investigate appropriate actions to lobby for the reduction of plastics used in recreational fishing, particularly bait bags and glow sticks.
- 4.4 The Secretariat invite a representative from the recreational fishing industry to present to the group to discuss fishing-related pollution, waste management, access and public safety.

ITEM 5 ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 SCCG ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Cr. Stevenson thanked the Secretariat for their work over the year, and delegates for their ongoing engagement, particularly noting their contributions to the redevelopment of the Strategic Plan.

The EO circulated the new Strategic Plan and thanked delegates for their contributions.

The EO noted that the Annual Report 2014-15 was emailed to delegates prior to the meeting. The EO thanked the Full Group and Executive Committee, the Technical Committee and the Secretariat for their contributions to the Group in 2014-15. The EO noted key achievements for the year including the 25th Anniversary, completing two major projects and distributing more than \$900k to on-ground projects under *Sydney’s Salty Communities*. The EO reviewed key achievements under each of the Group’s four goals – Collaboration, Capacity Building, Advocacy and Research. An overview of the Group’s financial performance was also provided.

Delegates were encouraged to review the Annual Report and provide any comments or feedback over the next week. The Final Report will be formally distributed to Member Councils in the coming weeks.

RESOLUTIONS

- 5.1.1 That the SCCG Annual Report 2014-15 be received, considered and adopted. (Cr. Levenston, Cr. Griffith)
- 5.1.2 That delegates provide any comment on the Annual Report by CoB Friday 25 September (Cr. Levenston, Cr. Griffith)
- 5.1.3 That the Report be formally sent to Member Councils and other interested organisations. (Cr. Levenston, Cr. Griffith)

5.2 ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Chair vacated his seat and handed over to the Returning Officer, Honorary Member George Cotis. George declared the position of Chairperson vacant and called for nominations.

Nominations received:

- Cr. Geoff Stevenson (Cr. Towell, Cr. Troy)
- Cr. Cathy Griffin (Cr. Griffith, Cr. Shurey)

Cr. Griffin chose not to accept the nomination. As such, Cr. Stevenson was declared Chairperson.

Nominations for Executive Committee membership were called. The EO noted that Cr. Doutney had advised she is unable to stand again as a Member in 2015-16. The following nominations were received:

Position	Delegate	Nomination / Seconder
• Vice Chairperson (ocean council)	Cr. Griffin	(Cr. Stevenson, Cr. Norton)
• Vice Chairperson (estuarine council)	Cr. Saville	(Cr. Norton, Cr. Griffith)
• Treasurer (Honorary)	Cr. Towell	(Cr. Stevenson, Cr. Goltsman)
• Secretary (Honorary)	Cr. Goltsman	(Cr. Saville, Cr. Mourourkas)
• Member	Cr. Griffith	(Cr. Griffin, Cr. Shurey)
• Member	Cr. Levenston	(Cr. Norton, Cr. Griffith)
• Member	Cr. Troy	(Cr. Stevenson, Cr. Saville)

RESOLUTION

5.2 The SCCG Executive Committee for 2015 – 2106 be:

Chairperson	Cr. Geoff Stevenson	Randwick Council
Vice Chairperson (Ocean council)	Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Vice Chairperson (Estuarine council)	Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Treasurer (Honorary)	Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Secretary (Honorary)	Cr. Leon Goltsman	Waverley Council
Members	Cr. Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council
	Cr. Selena Griffith	Pittwater Council
	Cr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council

5.3 ANNUAL HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATION

The SCCG considered nominations for honorary membership for 2015/2016 including incumbents and other suggestions. Cr. Towell nominated all incumbent members, subject to their acceptance (seconded by Cr. Goltsman). The EO explained that the Secretariat will write to nominated members to seek their acceptance.

RESOLUTIONS

5.3 That nominations for Honorary Members include:

- E/Prof. Bruce Thom AM
- Mr Phil Colman
- Dr. Judy Lambert AM
- Mr George Cotis
- Mr George Copeland
- Ms Wendy McMurdo

5.4 The SCCG write to nominees seeking their acceptance.

5.4 EXTERNAL COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Cr. Stevenson suggested the Chairperson should act as a default representative on external committees – or at least act as an alternative. The following nominations were taken:

- Cr. Griffin self-nominated to continue representation on the Joint Expert Maritime Working Group (Cr. Saville, Cr. Moskal)
- Cr. Saville nominated to represent the Group on the Greater Sydney Local Government Advisory Committee, having attended previous meetings (Cr. Griffin, Cr. Goltsman)
- The EO nominated Fiona Shadbolt to replace Prof Bruce Thom on the Greater Sydney Local Government Advisory Committee (Cr. Stevenson, Cr. Griffin)

RESOLUTIONS

5.4 That SCCG representatives for external committees include:

- a) Joint Expert Maritime Working Group Cr. Griffin - (Cr. Saville, Cr. Moskal)
- b) Greater Sydney Local Government Advisory Committee

Cr. Saville - (Cr. Griffin, Cr. Goltsman)
Fiona Shadbolt (Cr. Stevenson, Cr. Griffin)

Alternative for all external committees: Cr. Stevenson (SCCG Chairperson)

ITEM 6 QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT (JUNE–AUGUST 2015)

6.1 COLLABORATION

The EO noted the update on Collaboration provided in the business papers including meetings, committees, presentations and partnerships.

6.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

[Sydney's Salty Communities](#)

The Project Manager provided an update on project activities, including:

- 6-month extension to program by the Federal Government
- on-ground projects currently underway under Stage I Funding round
- progress of the CSIRO Climate Ready Tool and related workshops with members
- prospective projects under the supplementary grant round (Applications close 9 Oct)
- modifications to the supplementary round
- The Literature, Data and Practice Review.

Cr. Saville requested an email copy of the Community of Practice Terms of Reference.

Cr. Saville asked how the CoP differs from other similar initiatives the SCCG has undertaken. The Project Manager explained that it is different in terms of the content and the people involved.

[Sydney Harbour CZMP Scoping Study](#)

The EO advised that the project is now complete and outputs have been distributed. The EO explained the context to the project and key outcomes, including the seven key management issues identified from the Scoping Study.

The EO noted the importance of consolidating planning processes across the Harbour and that next steps for advancing an integrated CZMP were workshopped with the Advisory Committee.

Cr. Griffin requested a list of agencies and individuals that the outputs were sent to, as well as a list of membership on the Advisory Committee (seconded by Cr. Saville). This information be attached to the Minutes (Attachment 4).

[Implementing and Embedding Emergency Management Planning in Local Government](#)

The EO noted that the project officially commenced on 1 July 2015. Grant funding of \$140,000 was secured to extend the outcomes of the pilot project that was completed in September 2014. The EO reviewed the aims of this second stage project, as well as project outputs and anticipated outcomes.

Cr. Griffith advised that she is organising a conference on disaster management on 13 November 2015 and requested an update on the project to provide at the Conference.

6.3 ADVOCACY

Recent SCCG advocacy reviewed

Submissions:

- Review of State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)
- Senate Inquiry into Marine Plastic Pollution

Activities:

- SCCG Coastal reforms Advisory Committee
- Update on the 2015 – 2016 campaign “sewage overflows and associated contamination of stormwater”

6.4 RESEARCH

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

- Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources (COVERMAR) 2.1: Watsons Bay
- Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Settlements and Infrastructure Network Advisory Panel (NAP)
- Australian Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions Network
- Estimating coastal values using multi-criteria and valuation methods (\$150K Grant Application)

RESOLUTIONS

- 6.1 That the Secretariat’s update on key activities be received and noted.
- 6.2 Delegates inquire on any activities of interest.

ITEM 7 DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NSW WATERS

The EO referred to the update report provided in the business papers. The Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development has commenced an inquiry into the management of sharks in NSW waters. The Secretariat will be preparing a Submission highlighting Member Councils' concerns. A draft Submission will be circulated for comment in October.

The EO also noted that he has been invited and will attend the Shark Summit on 29 September.

Cr. Griffin thanked the EO for continuing the Group's engagement on this issue and recommended inviting Amy Smoothey (DPI) to present to the meeting on her shark tagging work (seconded by Cr. Griffith).

Cr. Norton asked whether the Group has a formal position on the issue of shark management and what the EO would be presenting at the Shark Summit. The EO advised that the Group's position is to support a range of mitigation measures. The EO will not be making formal recommendations to the Summit, but will reiterate positions made in former correspondence.

Cr. Breen asked if the focus extends to estuarine areas. The EO confirmed this was a key focus for the Group and it is actively advocating for the trial of technological alternatives to lethal shark mitigation measures as part of Baird Governments \$100,000 to include Sydney's estuarine areas.

RESOLUTIONS

7.1.1 The report be received and noted.

7.1.2 That delegates review the draft SCCG Submission (when received) and provide feedback and input.

7.1.3 Amy Smoothey (DPI) be invited to a future meeting on her shark tagging work (Cr. Griffin, Cr. Griffith).

7.2 SYDNEY WATER PARTNERSHIP

The CPO provided an update on the progress of the agreement, noting that a draft agreement would be circulated for FG and TC comment in the coming weeks and that the Secretariat hoped to have the agreement finalised by December.

Cr. Saville noted that Sydney Water has had multiple plans over the years, but a focus on implementation is needed.

Cr. Griffin asked how the agreement relates to the Metropolitan Water Plan and whether there was an opportunity for the SCCG to lobby appropriate industries on the issue of flushable wipes.

The EO noted the focus on identifying a shared vision for integrated water management and intentions to host a biennial forum with Sydney Water.

Cr. Griffin recommended the Group consider how to support and advance Sydney Water's campaign around flushable wipes.

RESOLUTION

7.2 The report be received and noted.

7.3 NSW COASTAL REFORMS UPDATE

The EO noted the update provided in the business papers.

The EO noted the establishment of the Coastal Reforms Advisory Committee and outlined outcomes of their first workshop, held on 14 July 2015.

The EO noted that the Secretariat was recently invited to a meeting with Directors of OEH and Planning regarding the coastal reforms.

Cr. Griffin noted the importance of Councils focusing on the impacts of the coastal reforms and concern that the transfer of responsibility to Planning indicates a shift in focus on development issues.

RESOLUTION

7.3.1 The report be received and noted.

ITEM 8 FINANCES

8.1 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014-15

The EO noted that the Annual Financial Statement were subject to audit being undertaken.

RESOLUTIONS

8.1.1 The Annual Financial Statement for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 be received and noted. (Cr. Towell, Cr. Goltsman)

8.1.2 That Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc make the following statement (subject to the satisfactory audit of the SCCG finances):

In the opinion of the Members of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc:

- (a) *the accompanying general purpose financial report of and special schedules of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc for the period ending 30 June 2015 are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of:*
 - (i) *the state of affairs of the Group as at 30 June 2015, and the operating result and cash flows for the financial year ended on that date and all controlled entities; and*
 - (ii) *the other matters required to be disclosed;*
- (b) *the general purpose financial report and special schedules are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Group; and*
- (c) *the general purpose financial report is drawn up in accordance with accounting policy disclosed in the statement; and*
- (d) *no circumstances have arisen which would render the report false or misleading in any way.*

(Cr. Towell, Cr. Goltsman)

8.2 ANNUAL BUDGET 2015-16

The Treasurer, Cr. Towell, noted a focus on keeping membership fees stable for the next few years. Cr. Stevenson noted that the Executive Committee agreed to a 2 per cent rise in annual membership fees in 2015-16, rather than the proposed 4 per cent.

Judy Lambert noted the loss of free venue using the CoS Venues including Customs House.

RESOLUTION

8.2 As per the recommendation of the SCCG Executive Committee, that the SCCG Operating Budget for 2015-2016 be adopted. (Cr. Troy, Cr. Towell)

ITEM 9 GENERAL BUSINESS

The EO noted the change of date for the next FG meeting to 12 December at the City of Sydney, as resolved at Item 3.

Suggested agenda items:

- Cr. Saville suggested proposed changes to biodiversity legislation and the proposed new Biosecurity Act

Cr. Levenston suggested that at the next AGM, annual budgets be considered earlier in the agenda.

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

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:
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