

FG4-15 Minutes

**SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER, 2015
HOSTED BY THE CITY OF SYDNEY AT THEIR CHAMBERS
TOWN HALL, SYDNEY
12.00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr. Brian Troy	Botany Bay Council
Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Frank Breen	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cr. Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Cr. Tom Sherlock	Mosman Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Cr. Selena Griffith	Pittwater Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Mr. David Dekel	Rockdale 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
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Ms. Belinda Atkins	SCCG (MPP)
Ms. Fiona Shadbolt	SCCG (PM-BR)
The Hon. Dr Rob Stokes MP	Minister for Planning (Speaker)

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 providing an acknowledgement of country and welcomed the Minister, The Hon. Dr. Rob Stokes MP and delegates.

1.2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The following apologies were noted:

Cr. Mark Castle	Botany Bay Council
Cr. Linda Scott	City of Sydney Council
Mr. Peter Coad	Hornsby Council
Cr. Geoff Stevenson	Randwick Council
Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Cr. Vanessa Moskal	Warringah Council
Cr. Sally Betts	Waverley Council

Councils not represented at the meeting
Hornsby, Randwick, Sutherland

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. Dr ROB STOKES MP, NSW MINISTER FOR PLANNING

The Acting Chairperson, Cr. Lynne Saville welcomed and introduced the Minister.

Minister Stokes thanked the SCCG for substantial advocacy regarding the improved protection for our coasts. There has been much change in community attitudes and the SCCG has made a demonstrable contribution for more than 25 years focusing on water issues and coastal management more generally including working actively with Government regarding coastal reforms.

The Minister reviewed previous coastal legislation and policy that has lasted for 30 years noting how these have now become outdated. Dealing with legacy of development decisions the Minister noted we are now facing consequences of those decisions and there is a clear need to bring laws up to date with new ways of thinking.

Decisions should be based on future character of the community so there is a need for strategic planning focus and for the community not to be reactive. The Government is therefore proposing to provide new coastal reforms right now so they will last for another 30 years. Resources and support will be updated over time to continue to provide advice to Councils (toolkit).

Minister Stokes provided a detailed summary of the reforms including:

- Change of name for the new Bill
- The four new coastal areas
- The new Coastal Management SEPP
- Links to Integrated Planning and Reporting framework

The Minister finally thanked members of the Coastal Expert Panel including Prof Bruce Thom for the work they have done in providing advice and support.

Questions from delegates addressed issues including:

- Coastal Reforms and links to Council LEPs
- Funding and resourcing coastal management activities
- Representation on the Coastal Council
- Offshore aggregate mining for beach nourishment purposes
- All Coastal zone management areas (4) applying to Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay including 'Vulnerability' and Wetlands / Littoral rainforest
- Regional planning, priority precincts, Urban Growth NSW, Sydney Planning committee and the Greater Sydney Commission.

RESOLUTION

- 2.1 The Hon Dr Rob Stokes MP be thanked for his attendance and presentation.

ITEM 3 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 (a) *Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of 19 September 2015*

3.1 (b) *Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of 10 September 2015*

3.1 (c) *Minutes from the Technical Committee Meeting of 8 October 2015*

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING (from the Annual General Meeting of 19 September 2015)

Actions arising from the Annual General Meeting of the SCCG held on 19 September 2015 were reviewed. Progress against actions are reported in Attachment A3.2 of the business papers.

3.3 CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

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.

RESOLUTIONS

- R3.1.a That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 19 September 2015 hosted by Mosman Council be confirmed. (Griffin / Griffith)
Carried
- R3.1.b That the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 10 September 2015 be received and noted. (Goltsman / Levenston)
Carried
- R3.1.c That the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting hosted by Warringah Council on 8 October be received and noted. (Dekel / Massey)
Carried
- R3.2 Representatives consider, discuss and make any necessary recommendations and resolutions relating to Business Arising. (Troy/Griffin)
Carried
- R3.3 That the circulated "sent" and "received" correspondence be received and noted. (Norton / Griffith)
Carried

ITEM 4 – MEMBER COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Due to a lack of time this item was deferred until the next meeting.

ITEM 5 QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES REPORT (JUNE–AUGUST 2015)

5.1 COLLABORATION

The MPP noted the update on 'Collaboration' provided in the business papers including meetings, committees, presentations and partnerships. The MPP provided a brief review of key additional Collaboration activities.

SCCG – Sydney Water Partnership – water assets data exchange

The SCCG has been actively working with Sydney Water on a more streamlined, consistent and integrated approach to exchanging water infrastructure related data across Sydney Water and member councils. Over the last three months, the Group has been working with Sydney Water to

determine the logistics for exchanging the data and develop an associated 'Data Sharing and Mutual Confidentiality Agreement'. This has now been finalised and member councils are working with Sydney Water to swap all related water asset information.

Specifically, Sydney Water will provide SCCG Member Councils with all of their geospatial asset information including wastewater, water, stormwater and land information. In return, Member Councils will provide Sydney Water with stormwater geospatial asset data, including data relating to Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices, water treatment systems and water recycling and reuse schemes. The Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU) of the NSW Government's Land and Property Information division has agreed to facilitate the data exchange between Sydney Water and SCCG Member Councils.

Thus far ten of the fifteen member councils have signed the data sharing agreement.

Flying Fox Management

A meeting was hosted by the SCCG on 18 November with OEH, SCCG, and member Councils including Manly, North Sydney, Pittwater, Rockdale, Sutherland and Warringah as a result of the SCCG correspondence to OEH relating the 2015 Flying Fox Camp Management Policy.

Key areas of focus for the meeting centred around specific points of interest including: a) Effectiveness of dispersal activities and alternative management actions; b) Regional management approaches; c) Community engagement and education; d) Research and monitoring; e) Funding.

The primary resolution from the meeting was agreement on the implementation of a regional forum in 2016.

EPA Letter Pollution Notifications

A letter was sent to the Chair and CEO of the NSW EPA, on 28 October 2015, regarding member Councils concerns on the issue of pollution incidents. The correspondence highlighted the lack of communication, advice, information sharing, clarity and consistency around the roles and responsibilities of local and state government agencies with respect to pollution response, notification and signage. The letter requested the assistance of the EPA in convening an interagency meeting comprising representatives from SCCG, EPA, Local government NSW, NSW Health, NSW Office of Water, Sydney water and RMS.

A response letter was received from the Chair and CEO of the EPA stating that he personally is supportive of the initiative and that the EPA would support the convening of an interagency meeting. A meeting will be convened in early 2016.

SCCG Summerama Program

The Summerama Program will be held again during January 2016. The theme for the 2016 Summerama Program is water pollution. The Summerama Program will be launched on 15 December with media releases and the opening of the photo competition.

Activities are organised and delivered by participating Councils, while SCCG coordinates the program and promotional campaign. This collaborative approach means that resources can be shared across Councils and promotions gain broader reach, while individual activities are tailored to the local area and community.

5.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

Items taken as read.

5.3 ADVOCACY

Recent SCCG advocacy was reviewed

Submissions:

- Draft NSW Invasive Species Plan – September 2015
- Inquiry into management of sharks in NSW waters – October 2015
- LLS Draft State Strategic Plan and Draft Greater Sydney Local Strategic Plan

Activities:

- NSW Coastal Reforms
 - Review of SCCG process to preparing regional submissions (<26 Feb)
 - Engagement of legal advice (with LGNSW) and CBA expertise (pro-bono UTAS)
 - 2nd Workshop of the SCCG Coastal Reforms advisory Committee – 16 December

5.4 RESEARCH

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

- Determining of member council expenditure of the April storms
- 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 (successful \$150K Grant Application with CSIRO and Eurobodalla Council)

RESOLUTIONS

5.1 That the Secretariat's update on key activities be received and noted.

5.2 Delegates consider and discuss items including the NSW Coastal Management Reforms
(Breen / Dekel)
Carried

ITEM 6 DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 SYDNEY WATER PARTNERSHIP - FINAL DRAFT MOU FOR CONSIDERATION OF SIGN OFF

Since the last meeting the Secretariat has been working on the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sydney Water. A final draft MOU is now available for consideration of sign off. This MOU has been developed over several months in consultation with various sections of Sydney Water.

The MOU is intended to establish a framework for the parties to work collaboratively to advance Integrated Water Management (**IWM**) and build on the history that the parties share.

SCCG and Sydney Water share a vision to facilitate a collaborative approach to IWM and enhance Sydney's urban water, sewerage and stormwater network to optimise environmental, social and economic outcomes. This MOU sets out a framework to advance this vision.

The MOU is comprised of the 'MOU' and the 'Schedule'. The Schedule describes the proposed key outcomes for the parties participating in this MOU (**Key Outcomes**) and the activities to be undertaken by the parties to facilitate achieving the objectives. This is described as those "key Outcomes" which have been agreed on as a focus area over a five year period from 2016 – 2021,

as well as “Priority Activities” that will be progressed (as far as possible) within a twelve month period. It is anticipated that the scope of this MOU will evolve as the relationship matures.

RESOLUTIONS

- R6.1 (a) The report be received and considered.
- R6.1 (b) The SCCG endorse the sign off of the MOU between the SCCG and the Sydney Water
- R6.1 (c) The Executive Officer be authorised to sign the MOU on behalf of the SCCG.

(Goltmans / Troy)
Carried

6.2 SCCG SEWAGE OVERFLOWS AND ASSOCIATED CONTAMINATION OF STORMWATER CAMPAIGN STAGE 1 - LITERATURE REVIEW AND ISSUES PAPER

Documents attached to business papers email and via web links below

- 1) [Literature Review - Sewage overflows management in the Sydney coastal region – December 2015](#)
- 2) [Draft Issues Paper - Sewage overflows management in the Sydney Region - December 2015.](#)

The EO provided a brief background on development of the Draft Issues Paper. The Secretariat engaged a Volunteer Research Officer – Alexandra Moors to undertake a literature review and develop an Issues Paper on the management of sewage overflows in the Sydney coastal region.

Interviews were also conducted with Sydney Water, the EPA, Total Environment Centre and Manly Environment Centre to examine different perspectives on the issue. A review of international best practice, historical trends and research papers has been undertaken to prepare a Literature Review to identify future options to reduce and mitigate the impacts of sewage overflows outlined in the Issues Paper.

Full Group comments and feedback was requested on the Draft Issues paper, to focus on identifying gaps, the draft options identified and ranking those options. It is hoped to have a draft Integrated Water Management Advocacy Plan in March/April for review.

RESOLUTION

- R6.2 (a) The report be received and considered.
- R6.2 (b) The Literature review be received and noted.
- R6.2 (c) The Draft Issues Paper be discussed and circulated to members for consultation.
- R6.2 (d) Delegates provide comment on the issues paper by the end of February (26 Feb)
- R6.2 (e) The Secretariat prepare a Draft Integrated Water Management Advocacy Plan for review. (March/April 2016 – pending)

(Dekel / Breen)
Carried

6.3 MEMBER COUNCIL FEEDBACK SESSION

The MPP noted that the SCCG has traditionally asked member Council delegates to complete a detailed annual member Council survey at the December Full Group and Technical Committee meetings. However, to better align with the Strategic Plan 2015-2019 and to coincide with financial year reporting, it has been determined that the annual member council survey will now be completed by Member Councils at the June 2016 Full Group meeting and July 2016 Technical Committee Meeting. Results for this will be reported and actioned at the September AGM as a component of the annual reporting process and annual implementation assessment of the SCCG Strategic Plan Actions Plan.

In the interim, Delegates were asked to participate in a feedback session. Delegates were requested to work in groups of 2-3 ensuring both ocean and estuarine councils were represented within each group.

Questions included:

1. How can the SCCG better support your Council
2. Full Group Meetings – suggestions for improvements
3. Risk, threats and opportunities for potential Council amalgamations (positioning of the SCCG)
4. Any further feedback can be written on post it notes and placed in the suggestion box available on the day

RESOLUTION

R6.3 (a) Delegates participate in the feedback session.

R6.3 (b) Further feedback be provided on post-it notes and placed in the suggestions box.

ITEM 7 FINANCES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1 JULY 2015 – 3- SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLUTION

R7 That the Financial Statements for period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015 be received and adopted

(Goltsman / Dekel)
Carried

ITEM 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

2016 MEETING DATES / NEXT MEETING

Date	Location
• Saturday 19 March 2016 at 12 noon	(Leichhardt Council – pending)
• Saturday 18 June 2016 at 12 noon	(City of Sydney)
• Saturday 17 September (AGM) 2016 at 12 noon	(Member Council)
• Saturday 10 December 2016 at 12 noon	(City of Sydney)

RESOLUTION

- R8a The proposed SCCG Full group meeting dates for 2016 be approved.
- R8b Leichhardt Council host the next SCCG Full Group Meeting to be held on 19 March 2016 (pending confirmation).
- R8c Delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting to be held on 19 March 2016.
- R8d A letter of thanks be sent to Minister Stokes MP for his attendance at the meeting.
(Goltmans / Breen)
Carried

**ITEM 9 EXTERNAL REPORTS
(for information only)**

- 9.1 BEACHWATCH REPORT (AUG-OCT 2015)**
- 9.2 GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES UPDATE**

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Confirmation of Minutes:
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