

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP Inc.
MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER, 2013
AT THE CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE

Cr. Brian Troy	City of Botany Bay Council
Cr. Irene Doutney	City of Sydney Council
Cr. John Mant	City of Sydney Council
Cr. Cathy Griffin	Manly Council
Cr. Tom Sherlock	Mosman Council
Cr. Jacqueline Townsend (Mayor)	Pittwater Council
Cr. Selena Griffith	Pittwater Council
Mr. Paul Hardie	Pittwater Council
Cr. Geoff Stevenson	Randwick Council
Cr. Lindsay Shurey	Randwick Council
Cr. Peter Towell	Sutherland Council
Cr. Sue Heins	Warringah Council
Cr. Sally Betts (Mayor)	Waverley Council
Cr. Leon Gottsman	Waverley Council
Cr. Wendy Norton	Willoughby Council
Cr. Lynne Saville	Willoughby Council
Cr. Greg Levenston	Woollahra Council
Mr. George Cotis	Honorary Member
Dr. Judy Lambert AM	Honorary Member
Mr. Geoff Withycombe	SCCG (EO)
Mr. Stephen Summerhayes	SCCG (MP&P)
Ms. Emma Norrie	SCCG (CPO)
Mr. Michael Dean	SCCG (PO-B)
Dr. Ian Armstrong	SCCG (PO-SP)

1. OPENING

The meeting opened at 12.40pm. Cr. Griffin (Chairperson) welcomed delegates. The EO welcomed the new SCCG Project Officer – Biodiversity, Michael Dean. The EO noted that Michael has been employed under a 12 month contract to manage the Federally funded “Sydney’s Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue – Green Carbon” project.

The EO noted that the Group has been recently successful with 2 award nominations:

SCCG Highly Commended in Resilient Australia Awards 2013

The SCCG were recently awarded Highly Commended in the Resilient Australia Awards for the Landslide Risk Management Education Empowerment interactive website developed in partnership with the Australian Geomechanics Society. The Awards recognise innovative practices and achievements across the nation that are making communities safer, stronger, more resilient and better prepared to manage emergency situations. In awarding the project, the judges noted that “*the partnership between the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (including 15 Councils) and the professional association, AGS, is a novel and innovative relationship between practitioners and regulators.* Please visit the website for more information: irm.australiangeomechanics.org

SCCG Highly Commended - 2013 NSW Coastal Awards

The Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards are presented to publicly recognise and acknowledge the contributions of individuals, groups, organisations and agencies toward the ecologically sustainable management of the NSW coastal zone. The Awards were presented at the 22nd Annual Coastal Conference Dinner.

The SCCG was awarded 'Highly Commended' for the project 'Assessment and Decision Framework for Seawall Structures' under the 'Innovation' category. Details on the project are available on our website at:

http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Project/assessment_and_decision_frameworks_for_seawall_structures_project

2. APOLOGIES

Cr. Mark Castle	City of Botany Bay Council
Cr. Darcy Byrne (Mayor)	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Daniel Kogoy	Leichhardt Council
Cr. Barbara Aird	Manly Council
Cr. Tony Carr	North Sydney Council
Mr. Peter Massey	North Sydney Council
Mr. Phil Colman	Honorary Member
Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom AM	Honorary Member

Resolved that the apologies be received and noted.

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

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Resolved that there was no declaration of pecuniary interests.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the SCCG held on 21 September 2013 at Manly Council.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the SCCG held on 21 September 2013 at Manly Council be confirmed.

4.2 Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 17 October 2013 hosted by the City of Sydney at Sydney Park.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Technical Committee Meeting of the SCCG held on 17 October 2013 hosted by the City of Sydney be received and noted.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

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

- **SCCG Water Recycling Handbook for Councils**

Due to numerous other priorities the draft Handbook will now be tabled at the March 2014 meeting.

- **Nominations for SCCG Honorary Members**

The Secretariat wrote to nominees inviting them to consider becoming Honorary Members. They have all now accepted.

- All other actions from last meeting completed or underway.

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)

- a) Honorary members 2013 -214
 - *The SCCG write to nominees inviting them to become honorary members for 2013-14*
- b) Annual Reports and Strategic Plan Implementation Monitoring Report
- c) SCCG write to GMs and Mayors providing the above reports
- d) Letter to Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment:
 - The SCCG write to the Prime Minister and Minister for Environment congratulating them on their appointment and include information on the SCCG and its ‘National Coastal Management Issues’ document for their information and inviting them to address a future meeting of the SCCG.
- e) Letter to New Mayors
 - SCCG send letter to new Mayors

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

7. PRESENTATION – “Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031 ” - Ms Norma Shankie-Williams - Director Metropolitan and Regional Strategies, Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI).

(Slides Attached)

Ms Shankie-Williams provided delegates with details of:

- The process for review, changes and revised priorities of the (draft) Metropolitan Sydney for Sydney to 2031
<http://strategies.planning.nsw.gov.au/MetropolitanStrategyforSydney.aspx>
- The recently released Socio-Economic profile for Sydney
- Recent activities and outcomes from the DoPI Centre for Demography, Research and Policy

Question themes included:

- How will the sub-regional planning boards will work?
- Crisis in education on North Shore – how will the new Centre cater to different regional trends & what if they get it wrong?
- How will the Strategy encourage greater use of public transport?
- What about a congestion charge for central Sydney?
- Are you proposing a scheme where people can transfer development rights elsewhere so that you can secure that land as rural in perpetuity?
- How do you quantify the value of rural land, particularly in light of future food needs? This needs to be firmly articulated in the Strategy & stronger protections are needed.
- Will the North sub region be expanded to include more councils ?
- How will development pressure be alleviated on Sydney’s coastal councils, particularly in light of the housing targets? Coastal areas should be zoned so that no further development is permitted – otherwise councils will continue to have to fight against developers.

- Coastal areas are subject to high recreation pressures and this will increase with population growth. There doesn't seem to be recognition of this in the Strategy. Open spaces must be provided for recreation.
- No mention of sewerage in Strategy.
- Are we looking at global cities that are much larger than Sydney for guidance?
- If you were heading up SCCG what relationship would you seek to have with the Department of Planning and how would you go about that?
- Have indicators for liveability been developed ?
- Will Council reporting be taken into account in the reporting process?

The EO thanked Norma for her presentation. The EO also noted and congratulated her on her distinguished 20 year public service with DoPI. The EO noted that Norma has not survived the restructure within DoPI being replaced by a senior Victorian government officer in the new year. The EO welcomed any potential ideas for future collaborations with Norma including supporting possible independent planning research that Norma might wish to pursue.

Resolved that:

- 1) the presentation be heard and considered at the meeting.
- 2) Ms Shankie-Williams be thanked for her presentation and congratulated on her distinguished 20 year public service career with DoPI.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8.1 Establishment of workshop with Sydney Water, IPART and the NSW EPA to end ocean outfalls.

Proceedings in brief

As resolved at the last meeting Cr. Griffin seeks to establish a workshop with Sydney water, IPART and the EPA to end ocean outfalls.

A brief introduction was provided including a summary of the intended purpose and intended outcomes of the workshop(s). It was noted that:

- 2013 is the 125th anniversary of Sydney Water
- SCCG has a history of working on sewerage issues (as noted in the report in business papers)
- The aim of the workshop is to review historical progress & encourage Sydney Water to look forward with the ultimate aim of ending ocean outfalls (ie, looking back to inform future process)
- The 1994 Strategy resulted in deep ocean outfalls and north-side storage tunnel
- Little progress recently – mainly maintenance
- 2005 renewed Strategy focused on water efficiency and access in response to the drought
- 2009 revised Strategy looked at STP odour & maintenance
- Increased quantity & increased toxicity of sewerage

Delegates were split into four sub groups and asked to complete a workshop sheet. This process sought to better clarify key elements of a proposed workshop to end ocean outfalls. Delegates were asked to identify:

- Purpose (what should the workshop achieve)
- Agenda Items (what are the critical components)
- Linkages (how does it link to other projects / initiatives)
- Participants (who should be targeted to attend)
- Other (please specify)

Resolved that:

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) The Chairperson lead a discussion and workshop to scope workshop purpose, agenda, linkage and participants
- 3) A working group be established to further consider necessary research and scope the proposed workshop for 2014.
- 4) Secretariat to report back to March meeting – workshop outcomes and proposed detailed agenda.

8.2 WORKSHOP - Celebrating 25 Years of the SCCG (1989-2014)Proceedings in Brief

SCCG is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2014.

Delegates work-shopped potential ideas to celebrate this significant milestone. Worksheets were completed in groups seeking input in relation to areas such as key messages, communications and marketing, catchphrases, events and collaborations.

The EO noted that a similar workshop will be held at next week's TC meeting. Outcomes from each workshop will be collated for consideration of a working group to be established.

Resolved that:

- 1) A workshop be facilitated by the Secretariat.
- 2) A 25th Anniversary working group be established.
- 3) Outcomes of the workshop be document and tabled at first 25 Anniversary working group meeting

MEETING BREAK & DELEGATE WORKSHOP (20 minutes)**“SCCG ANNUAL SURVEY 2013”**

The aim of this short 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.

Resolved that:

- 1) Delegates complete the survey to be distributed at the meeting.
- 2) The Secretariat prepare a representations report for consideration at the March 2014 meeting.

9. REPORTS

**Reports 9.1 – 9.4
FOR CONSIDERATION**

9.1 NSW Coastal Reforms / Outcomes of the NSW Coastal ConferenceProceedings in Brief**a) NSW Coastal Reforms**

Delegates were referred to the attached report.

An update on the reforms has been provided by OEH. The EO summarised key issues:

- Stage 1 of the Government's coastal reforms is now largely complete. In August, the revised code of practice and other guiding material for the placement of temporary protection works were released.

- The SES brochure on emergency response roles and responsibilities was also recently released and distributed at the Coastal Conference.
- A draft planning circular on coastal hazard notification on section 149 certificates will shortly be released by Planning for comment.
- Consideration of the role of a technical advice service for councils has been rolled in to stage 2 of the reforms so it can be addressed along with the development of other information support arrangements for councils.

Stage 2 reforms

Stage 2 of the reforms is underway, with oversight by the relevant Government Ministers and the advice of the Coastal Expert Panel. The Coastal Ministerial Taskforce recently approved the scope of the stage 2 reforms and more detailed proposals are now being developed in three key areas:

- establishing a simpler and more integrated legal and policy framework for coastal management
- providing improved guidance and technical advice to councils, while enabling and supporting local decision making
- identifying potential financing models, particularly to implement coastal asset management strategies.

OEH have noted that Local government involvement in Stage 2 is essential to its success and OEH will bring proposals to councils for discussion in the near future.

b) Outcomes of the 22nd NSW Coastal Conference (12-15 November)

The EO noted that SCCG Secretariat staff attending this year's conference included: the EO, MP&P, CPO and the PO-SP .

This year's conference was hosted by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. The theme was "Valuing our Coastal Zone, Planning our Future, What's the big picture?"

The SCCG presented the following Paper & Poster:

a) **Funding Coastal Management Solutions in NSW, D Lord¹**, G Withycombe², I Armstrong²
¹Coastal Environment Pty Ltd / ²Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.

b) **Sydney's First Probabilistic Multi-hazard Assessment of Extreme Coastal Inundation F. Dall'Oso^{1,3}**, S. Summerhayes², D. Dominey-Howes¹, G. Withycombe²

¹School of Biological Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

²Sydney Coastal Councils Group Incorporated.

³Hazards Research Group, School of Geoscience, University of Sydney.

As noted earlier in the meeting the SCCG was awarded "Highly Commended" under the "Innovation" category for the Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards for its project "Assessment and Decision Framework for Seawall Structures".

Delegates were encouraged to go to the Conference web site where (most) papers are now available: <http://www.coastalconference.com/papers.asp>

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 Emergency Management Planning - a Health Check for Local Government

Proceedings in Brief

The Project Officer – Special Projects, Dr Ian Armstrong provided delegates with an update on project progress and next steps to finalise the project by 31 March 2014.

Ian reviewed key activities over the last 3 months including: the detailed consultation with SCCG members and local government more broadly across NSW, the development of the literature review and the resultant proposed structure and content of the Health Check tool. Ian then noted the time frames for project completion:

• Forum	11 December 2013
• Forum report	18 December 2013
• Draft Health Check	30 January 2014
• Consultation	27 February 2014
(Propose mini-workshops/piloting Health Check with groupings of Councils as best form of feedback and will allow consultation with regional councils)	
• Final Health Check & Report	27 March 2014

Resolved that:

1. The report be received and noted.
2. SCCG delegates consider coming to the workshop on 11 December
3. SCCG Delegates assist with member council promotion and participation in the project as draft materials come out at the end of January.

9.3 Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue-Green Carbon

Proceedings in Brief

Michael Dean, Project Officer - Biodiversity provided an update on the SCCG's \$1.9M Australian Government - Biodiversity Fund project entitled "Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue – Green Carbon". This included a review of the project aims, objectives, and key elements, activities to date and work programs for the next 6 months.

George Cotis noted that benchmark research is needed to inform activities. George inquired if there might be funding available for this type of community based research. The EO noted possibilities and requested a meeting out of session to scope ideas.

Resolved that:

1. The report be received and considered.
2. SCCG delegates assist with Member Council promotion and participation in the project.
3. George Cotis and the EO meet to discuss ideas for community based ecological benchmarking research.

9.4 SCCG Capacity Building Program & Engagements Report

Proceedings in Brief

The CPO provided delegates with a review of recent activities under the SCCG Capacity Building Program.

This included:

- SCCG / NSW ACS Forum – "Tapping into Local Knowledge: better community engagement in coastal planning" (12 November)
- "Amenity, Benefits and Costs: The ABC of Coastal Economics" (28 November 2013)
- Review of SCCG Summerama Program (January 2014)

Resolved that:

- 1) This report be received and considered.
- 2) Delegates identify and recommend any additional capacity building activities/forum topics for 2014 in their responses to the SCCG Annual Survey.
- 3) Delegates support the promotion of Summerama.

**Reports 9.5 – 9.9
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

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

- 9.5 **Beachwatch & Harbourwatch Programs Update (August – October)**
- 9.6 **Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority’s Update** (tabled at meeting)
- 9.7 **NSW Department of Primary Industries Aquatic Pest and Health Quarterly Update**
- 9.8 **SCCG In the Press**
- 9.9 **Key Activities Report for September – November 2013**

10. TREASURER’S REPORT

10.1 Finance Statements for period 30 June 2013 to 31 September 2013

Resolved that the financial statements for the period 30 June – 31 September 2012 be received and adopted.

10.2 Final SCCG Annual Financial Audit 2012 – 2013

Proceedings in Brief

The EO noted that Spencer Steer provided the final draft audit to the SCCG only yesterday. As a result the details have not been assessed to an extent that the EO feels is appropriate to table at the meeting for finalisation.

Resolved that the final SCCG Audit report be referred to the SCCG Executive Committee for finalisation on behalf of the committee.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Discussion Items**

Cr. Levenston raised the issues of the potential for the SCCG to expand to include other NSW coastal Councils. Cr. Townsend also noted ideas to potentially transform SCCG into a service provider model for all things coastal – bring staff out of councils into a single agency – a shared services model. The EO noted that at the request of the NSW Coastal Conference in 2007, he prepared a scoping paper to establish the NSW Coastal Councils Group. At this time Councils north of Sydney were in support while south coast councils were not. The idea here was to expand the SCCG to include 3 regional branches, the existing SCCG and the Northern and Southern regions. The EO noted some concerns and hesitancy in preparing this document and the need to ensure any moves does not threaten the SCCG nor ‘step on toes’ of any other ROCs.

It was agreed that the issues of shared service and possible expansion of the SCCG be referred to the SCCG Executive Committee and other interested delegates* for further consideration and scoping of ideas through a situation analysis to move forward. This might also be incorporated into the review of the SCCG Strategic Plan in 2014.

* SCCG Executive Committee and Clr Tom Sherlock (Mosman), Clr John Mant (City of Sydney), Clr Greg Levenston (Woollahra).

Other issues

Paul Hardie inquired if the SCCG has had any involvement in the Sydney regional Local Land Service recalling that they had spoken of consultations with local councils and working with ROCs. No contact has been made to date.

Cr. Townsend noted that a meeting yesterday, LGNSW spoke of a funding model for LLS has been proposed which involves a levy being collected by Councils.

Resolved that:

- 1) The SCCG seek a meeting with the LLS to discuss the SCCG Salty Communities Project and seek information on how the SCCG could nominate a representative to the LLS board.
- 2) The issues of shared service model(s) and possible expansion of the SCCG be referred to the SCCG Executive Committee and other interested delegates* for further consideration and scoping of ideas through a situation analysis to move forward. (this also be considered for incorporation as part of the redevelopment of the SCCG Strategic Plan in 2014.
- 3) The SCCG invite OEH to present on Stage 2 Coastal Reforms.
- 4) The EO distribute the co-authored paper on funding coastal management (Doug Lord).
- 5) The EO send PDF of COVERMAR poster to delegates.
- 6) Publish John Corkill's Law paper on website.

11.1 2014 Meeting dates / Next Meeting

Confirmed Dates

- Saturday 15 March 2014 at 12 noon
- Saturday 14 June 2014 at 12 noon
- Saturday 13 September (**AGM**) 2014 at 12 noon
- Saturday 6 December 2014 at 12 noon

Proposed Location

(Pittwater Council)
(City of Sydney)
(Member Council)
(City of Sydney)

11.2 Items for Press Release

Recommended that items for press release be considered.

11.3 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting

Resolved that delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for 15 March 2014 starting at 12 noon.

11.4 Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting of the Group be held on 15 March 2014 at Pittwater Council – Coastal Environment Centre (pending confirmation).

Cr Griffin closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their attendance and contributions and wished them all a happy and safe Christmas and new year .

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.