

# SCCG 2025 OPERATIONAL PLAN

Abbreviations: C&E Grant – Coastal & Estuary Grant, CMP – Coastal Management Program, MEMA – Marine Estate Management Authority, SIMS – Sydney Institute of Marine Science, SMWG - SCCG's Sand Management Working Group; TfNSW – Transport for NSW

Blue - new initiative

2019-2029 Objectives	2025 Initiative	Priority	Key Mechanisms for Delivery	Funding Source
<b>Goal 1: People and Places Adapt to Climate Change Future Shocks and Stressors</b>				
<b>a. Coastal management programs in our region are delivered effectively and efficiently</b>	i. Deliver the Outer Sydney Harbour CMP Stage 2-4	1	SCCG's CMP Leaders meetings	Subject to C&E grant funding Partner contributions
	ii. Continue to identify impediments to the CMP process and advocate for these to be addressed on behalf of members.	1	Advocacy submissions; CMP Leaders Meetings; Annual Coastal Council Survey	Membership fees
	iii. Investigate opportunities to apply for a C&E Grant to develop studies that assist multiple CMPs.	2	SCCG CMP Leaders meetings Grants Committee	Membership fees
<b>b. The resilience of our region to the effects of natural hazards and climate change is increased</b>	i. Facilitate Councils' involvement in a Sydney-wide Disaster Adaptation Plan, established by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, focusing on the state hazards of coastal erosion, inundation and tsunamis.	1	Advocacy Submissions	Membership fees
	ii. Initiate a project to prepare a coastal adaption planning framework for Sydney	1	CMP Leaders Meeting	Subject to Disaster Ready Fund Round 3 Grant Funding
	iii. Work with councils to facilitate, prioritise and implement works to address coastal hazards including beach nourishment	1	SCCG's Sand management Working Group	Membership fees
<b>Goal 2: Waterways and foreshore are protected and healthier</b>				
<b>a. Direct and indirect pollution loads are reduced in key hotspots in our region</b>	i. Monitor and identify actions to address pollution hotspots and other issues in consultation with Sydney Water	1	SCCG and Sydney Water meetings; SW Incident Status Reporting System	Membership fees
<b>a. Direct and indirect pollution loads are reduced in key hotspots in our region</b>	ii. Partner with Stormwater NSW and Stormwater 2030 on advocating for more sustainable stormwater funding starting with increasing the NSW stormwater levy.	1	Attendance at Stormwater NSW meetings; participation at seminars and workshops; input to a business case/white paper on sustainable funding	Membership fees
	iii. Facilitate the Get the Site Right program and encourage all member councils to participate in addressing sediment and erosion on construction sites.	1	Get the Site Right Planning Group meetings	Membership fees

	iv. Explore the potential use of protection of the environment policies as allowed for in Chapter 2 of the POEO Act 1997 as a regulatory driver for stormwater quality improvement and necessitating increased funding.	2	Consultation with and representations to NSW Government; Technical Committee; Stormwater NSW meetings	Membership fees
b. Improved water quality at beaches and estuaries in our region	i. Continue to advocate for the NSW Beachwatch program to remain a state funded and led program.	1	Representations to NSW Government; GM Forum	Membership fees
	ii. Explore opportunities to build member Councils' capacity to pursue WSUD drawing on current and previous National and State capacity building programs and in possible partnership with other organisations.	2	Technical Committee Grants Committee Advocacy submission	Membership fees Fee-for-service
b. Improved water quality at beaches and estuaries in our region	iii. Promote the development of a framework for integrated urban catchment and waterway management building on NSW Government initiatives	1	Advocacy submissions	Membership fees
<b>Goal 3: Marine biodiversity is protected and enhanced in the bioregion</b>				
a. Marine biodiversity in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion is maintained or improved	i. Advocate for the establishment of new marine protected areas in the marine bioregion that meet the internationally binding principles of Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR)	1	Technical Committee	Membership fees
			Advocacy submissions	
	ii. Continue to implement the Greater Sydney Harbour Regional Litter Prevention Strategy (SCCG, 2022) by supporting councils in litter prevention engagement and promotion of case studies through Litter Free Sydney website.	1	Litter Free Sydney website	Membership fees
	iii. Advocate for alternative bather protection measures to shark meshing to reduce impacts on non-target species.	1	Advocacy submissions	Membership fees
	iv. Support and promote activities that improve and protect marine biodiversity in our coasts and estuaries.	1	Advocacy submissions	Membership fees
a. Marine biodiversity in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion is maintained or improved	v. Promote adoption of SIMS' living seawall initiatives and seagrass and crayweed restoration projects across the SCCG region	2	Grants Committee	Membership Fees
	vi. Increase awareness of the threat of boat strike to the endangered population of Little Penguins at Manly and facilitate the distribution of information to Councils regarding avian flu	1	SCCG member on the NSW Recovery Team for the Little Penguin Population	Membership Fees
<b>Goal 4: The SCCG Region is comprised of sustainable, liveable and 'smart' cities</b>				

a. Identification of best practice examples of sustainable, liveable, smart cities.	i. Explore opportunities for developing and/or implementing strategies regarding urban tree canopy and urban waterways across member council LGAs.	2	Technical Committee Grants Committee	Membership fees Grant funding Fee-for-service
	ii. Assist members in research and distribution of information/case study material on examples of actions to achieve liveable, smart cities.	2	Technical Committee and NSW Government's SMART and Local Feedback Forum	Membership fees
<b>Goal 5: There is a collaborative, effective and consistent approach to coastal and estuarine management</b>				
a. SCCG outputs are improving the capacity of its member Councils to protect and manage its coastal and marine environments	i. Advocate regionally and at a state and federal level on behalf of members on sustainable coastal management, consistent with the SCCG strategic goals and where there are common advocacy positions among member councils.	1	Advocacy Submissions	Membership fees
	ii. Identify expert members who can be engaged in policy development and communication processes and leverage connections and expertise	1	Technical Committee, Sand Management Working Group, GM Forum and Executive Committee	Membership fees
b. Members are actively engaged	i. Continue to enable members to participate in decision-making by providing a range of engagement opportunities at all levels.	1	Technical Committee, GM Forum and Executive Committee	Membership fees
	ii. Continue to provide information via communication channels (website, newsletter, materials, surveys).	1	Technical Committee, SCCG web-site, Litter Free Sydney web-site	Membership fees
c. Strong partnerships are built and maintained with key stakeholders	i. Deliver on commitments identified in MOUs with Sydney Institute of Marine Science and Sydney Water.	1	Grants Committee	Membership fees
			SCCG and Sydney Water meetings	
	ii. Continue to strengthen existing partnerships and explore options for other types of partnerships such as LGNSW, EPA, TfNSW and universities.	2	Development of Advocacy Submissions Grants Committee meetings with SIMS and UNSW TfNSW and SW meetings	Membership fees
<b>Goal 6: SCCG is trusted and respected to make representations that reflect the value of its members</b>				
a. Our strategic objectives align with the concerns, interests and needs of our members	i. Undertake the annual members survey.	1	Survey sent to all members in September each year	Membership fees
	ii. Meet with members regularly and consult at committee meetings.	1	See list of meetings with members in Table 2 below.	Membership fees

<b>b. Member Councils' values are reflected in the work of the SCCG</b>	i. Survey members to determine values.	1	Survey sent to all members in September each year	Membership fees
	ii. Alignment of values with the Operational Plan review.	1	Review of operational plan each year.	Membership fees
<b>c. Maintain a high standard and ensure relevance of SCCG outputs for members</b>	i. Ensure SCCG outputs meet the needs of members.	1	Survey sent to all members in September each year	Membership fees