

The Group congratulated Dr Kinsela on his recent PhD graduation from Sydney University. GW explained that the original project was part of the development of the 'Sydney Resilience Strategy' and that OEH had undertaken the sub-regional assessment of SCCG Councils at the request of the SCCG. The Group thanked Dr Kinsela and David Hanslow for this additional work and for now presenting it 3 times at SCCG events including: the SCCG Technical Committee, the launch of the SCCG Climate Change adaptation MCA project and now the Full Group.

Clr Saville: To what extent does Government (State and Local) have to act on the findings of this research?

- o Dr Kinsela was unable to comment on the political consequences of this information.
- o GW noted that when the SCCG originally released the hazard information to its member councils it engaged HWL Ebsworth lawyers to provide a briefing directly to the Full group and at the project launch event and subsequently provided all member councils written legal advice to all member council on how and what they are advised to do when provided with such hazard information.

Clr Saville: Will this information be used by insurance companies?

GW advised that the information was provided to Member Councils along with legal advice in 2012. It has not been given to insurance companies.

Clr Griffin noted that Councils should consider what they may need to do in response to this information.

Clr Betts noted that at-risk properties were all noted on Council's s149 Certificates and recommended that other Councils do the same.

Prof Thom: There are a number of assumptions and omissions from this modelling that must be considered, including wave run-up and morphodynamic impacts. If coincident events were included would the distribution of impacts change significantly? For example, Waverley and Woollahra would likely be less impacted by coincident catchment flooding, while Pittwater may be more exposed.

GW noted that the grants recently submitted for under the NDRP will address some of the limitations Prof Thom identified. Dr Kinsela acknowledged the limitations of the study.

Clr Griffin: How can/should this information be used by Councils?

- o Clr Norton: Council should provide the information to planning divisions within Council.
- o Clr Betts: Use the information to assess the worst-case scenario potentially faced by Councils to inform planning.
- o Clr Towell: Council is currently revising s149 Certificates.
- o Clr Levenston: Councils need to work together and encourage collaboration with the State Government. All Councillors need to be receptive to this information.
- o SS: Department of Planning are developing a Circular on s149 Certificates requiring Councils to distinguish between 'current' and 'future' hazards. There may be an opportunity for SCCG to disseminate some resources relating to these projects along with the Circular from Planning.
- o GW: SCCG is finalising the collation all Member Councils s149 notations so that Councils can see what other Councils are doing.
- o Clr Saville: Most Councils have recently revised or are in the process of revising LEPs. What impact might this information have and is there an opportunity to include this information in revised LEPs?
- o GW noted that Councils have had the hazard maps since 2012. This new information further quantifies what is at risk.

- *Clr Levenston: While it may be difficult to amend LEPs, this information could be incorporated into Council DCPs with relative ease.*
- *Clr Saville noted that there may be an opportunity to present this information at the upcoming Local Government Conference. Also consider distributing through ROCs.*

*Dr Lambert: Given the recent appointment of new Ministers for Planning and the Environment, we should consider presenting to them on this and related information.*

*GW – recommendation to this effect coming up in Item 9.1.*

*SS: In the context of the review of the SCCG Strategic Plan, this is an appropriate time for the FG to express its support for SCCG undertaking technical projects such as this.*

*Dr Kinsela noted that one of the outcomes from the project was development of a tool that can be run with new information, as it becomes available. Therefore the tool can continue to deliver more sophisticated results into the future.*

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The presentation be heard and considered at the meeting.
- 2) Dr Kinsela be thanked for his attendance and presentation.
- 3) The SCCG formally send the final report to Member Councils for their utilisation.
- 4) The SCCG consider additional distribution potentials for the report and its findings (including distribution to relevant state agencies and public release).
- 5) In the context of the review of the SCCG Strategic Plan, the FG express its support for SCCG undertaking such technical projects which provide immediate outputs for Member Councils as well as a foundation (research base) for future projects and activities.
- 6) The SCCG formally send project outcomes to relevant state agencies including: the Department of Planning and Environment, OEH, Transport for NSW, Emergency Services, Crown Lands and specifically to planning divisions within each Council.

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **8.1 SCCG Strategic Plan – review and redevelopment**

**Slides attached**

The existing SCCG Strategic Plan ends this year and the SCCG is embarking on the development of a new Strategic Plan to guide operations through to 2019. It is intended that a draft of this Plan will be ready for the consideration of the 13 September Full Group Annual General Meeting and then, following direct consultation with Member Councils, finalised for adoption at the 6 December meeting.

To assist in this important planning process, the SCCG has contracted Dr Judy Lambert to facilitate the strategic planning process. A Directional Committee has now been established comprising Councillors and staff and will participate in two key workshops on Thursday 5 June and Thursday 17 July (hosted by Willoughby City Council).

Dr Lambert and the EO reported on outcomes of the first workshop. Delegates subsequently workshoped key issues to inform the next DC workshop.

*Clr Griffin asked delegates to identify what are the pertinent issues in their LGAs (Member Council round table issues and needs):*

- *Clr Levenston: Who determined that the SCCG is a 'peak' organisation?*

*Clr Griffin explained that this title is self-proclaimed, however a legitimate reflection on the growth and reputation of the Group over its 25 year history. GW also advised that several third parties had referred to the Group as a peak body in this regard.*



- *Clr Levenston: Noting the lack of action in relation to inundation information distributed in 2012, the Group should consider a more systematic process for following up on information provided to Councils (eg, on a six-monthly or yearly basis).*

*GW agreed this is an ongoing issue and requires attention.*

- *Clr Betts: Waverley has been focusing on Bondi Junction and distributed energy. They are also reforming an environmental sustainability committee that is being chaired by Clr Goltsman.*
- *Clr Betts recommended SCCG circulate information on the grants successfully expended by the Group, as evidence of the value of the Group.*
- *Clr Griffin noted the need for Councils to provide information to the JRPP to ensure environmental and social impacts are appropriately considered, particularly in relation to maritime infrastructure.*
- *Clr Betts noted the inundation information may provide an opportunity for Councils to seek State Government funding to heighten seawalls.*

*GW referred delegates to the outcomes from the SCCG project on [Seawalls](#), completed in 2012, which provides Councils with guidance on assessing the vulnerability and integrity of seawalls now and into the future.*

- *Clr Griffin noted that a number of ocean pools were being replaced and in the process a lot of heritage was being lost and replacement materials were often less environmentally-friendly than existing materials.*

*Clr Norton noted that the restoration of ocean pools is extremely expensive, and this was prohibitive for Council. Clr Saville also noted controversies around restoration / maintenance of ocean pools in the Willoughby LGA.*

- *Clr Shurey noted that as population density continues to increase, coastal Councils face increasing pressures for the use of coastal areas.*
- *Clr Levenston: Noting earlier remarks about the SCCG stretching itself too thinly, Clr Levenston questioned whether the broad discussion of issues at the meeting was contributing to that. Clr Levenston suggested the Group should focus specifically on scientific and policy issues.*
- *GW noted that a number of issues had been identified in the SCCG's current project on developing a Scoping Study for a Sydney Harbour CZMP. GW also noted current submissions the SCCG is preparing relating to the Crown Lands Review and the Moorings Review.*
- *Clr Stevenson: Coastal walkways are a major source of recreation and Randwick has one of the highest rates of rock fishing deaths. Safe access to the coastline and coordination with emergency services is a challenging area for Council.*
- *Clr Troy: More detailed analysis of inundation and coincident flooding would be valuable.*
- *Clr Towell: Major issues for Council include inundation, erosion, marinas, moorings, population growth, distribution of funding (taking account of the visitor populations that recreate along the coast) and stormwater management.*

- Ms Melanie Thomas – Pittwater Council is currently looking at overland flow, coastal storm education strategies, climate change issues and the Marine Estate Management Strategy currently being developed by MEMA.
- GW noted that the SCCG had recently written to the MEMA addressing the issues raised at the last FG meeting.
- Clr Towell recommended that the Group consider undertaking a research project examining the burden on ratepayers of coastal Councils from use by visitor groups.

*Clr Norton and Clr Saville expressed concern that this would be very difficult to do fairly as many Councils face different pressures (eg, the City of Sydney has huge visitor populations and Councils in the Sydney basin bear the burden of food production for the region).*

- Clr Doutney: Seawalls and biodiversity conservation are key issues for the Council, particularly marine life in the Harbour taking account of the impacts of harbour-front development such as the Opera House precinct and Barrangaroo.
- Clr Betts: Stormwater harvesting is a big focus for Council. They are about to commence a project at Tamarama and others are already operational in other Bronte and Bondi.

GW drew delegates attention to the letter received from Minister Stokes MP. GW recommended the Group seek a meeting with the Minister and nominations for the potential delegation.

- Clr Griffin, Clr Betts, Clr Levenston, Clr Stevenson and Clr Towell nominated.

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The Report be received and noted.
- 2) Delegates workshop specific issues requiring attention.
- 3) The Draft SCCG Strategic Plan be tabled at the SCCG AGM (13 Sept) for consideration prior to going to Member Councils for formal consultation.
- 4) The SCCG seek a meeting with the new Environment Minister, the Hon Rob Stokes MP.  
(Delegation to include Clr Griffin, Clr Betts, Clr Levenston, Clr Stevenson and Clr Towell.

## 9. REPORTS

### Reports 9.1 – 9.4 FOR CONSIDERATION

#### 9.1 Reforms to Coastal Management in NSW

Prof Thom provided delegates with an update on developments in coastal policy and reforms at both the State and Federal levels of Government:

Federal reforms:

- Climate change *adaptation* is a focus for the (Federal) Department of the Environment
- NCARRF has been directed by Minister Hunt to engage as a 'knowledge broker' with Local Government, particularly on coastal issues
- The 'Green Army' initiative presents an opportunity for Councils to advance environmental issues (including seawalls and dredging)
- The Productivity Commission is currently holding a Public Enquiry into Natural Disaster Funding, particularly funding spent on disaster relief vs disaster preparedness



(<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disaster-funding>). However the forward estimates reveal a reduced budget for disaster funding in the future.

State reforms:

- The new Premier has indicated a strong interest in marine biodiversity and the new Environment Minister (and Assistant Minister for Planning) is very well-informed.
- It is understood that Minister Stokes will be responsible for the marine estate.
- The Coastal Management Review Panel has recently assessed a number of grants. Of interest, some of these have proposed lowering dunes to enhance amenity (supposedly this is common practice in the US). Other applications have focused on seawall maintenance and restoration.
- Minister Stokes is in the process of re-appointing the NSW Coastal Expert Panel with new terms of reference. Prof Thom confirmed he will be on the new Panel.
  - *GW questioned whether this was a transitional step towards the establishment of a broader more inclusive Coastal Council. Prof Thom recommended GW raise this at a meeting with the Minister.*
  - *GW noted that there was only six months before election preparations commence, therefore there is a short window of opportunity to engage with the new Government.*
  - *Dr Lambert asked what the relationship was between the Minister for Planning (Minister Goward) and the Minister for Environment / Assistant Minister for Planning (Minister Stokes).*

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and noted.
- 2) Prof Bruce Thom AM provide the Group with an update of activities from the Coastal Expert Panel (where possible).
- 3) Through discussion, the SCCG determine additional actions to address Member Council issues and concerns.

## 9.2 SCCG Capacity Building Program Report

The CPO provided delegates with an update on proposed capacity building activities for 2014, including:

- SCCG 25 Year Conference & Gala Evening (**29 August**)
- Integrated Water Management Forum (~ October)
- Insurance forum and / or coastal biodiversity series (if time / resources allow)

The following projects will also be launched in 2014:

- Becoming Social (**24 July**)
- Sydney Harbour CZMP Scoping Study (~ August)
- Emergency Management Health Check (~ Sept)

**Recommended that** the report be received and considered.

## 9.3 SCCG 25 Year Anniversary Update

SCCG is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014. Key activities have now been defined. The CPO reviewed activities to date including promotional materials, the 25 year Conference and the Gala Evening.

*Delegates discussed the suitability of dates for the Conference and Gala Evening, noting a number of conflicts with existing Council appointments / meetings. It was tentatively agreed that Fridays were preferable. The Secretariat will check availability of venues and key speakers for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August and advise delegates of the outcome as soon as possible.*

**29 AUGUST - NOW CONFIRMED FOR 25 YEAR CONFERENCE AND GALA EVENING**

**Initial notifications to go out soon !**

*GW also sought recommendations from delegates for speakers at the Gala Evening and potential artists to commission for a series of sculpted Awards to present to Member Councils on the night. Initial suggestions include: (Wendy Harmer, Tim Winton, John Clarke, John Deer). Due to limited time, it was agreed that GW should email delegates seeking recommendations.*

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The CPO's report be received and considered.
- 2) The SCCG again write to Member Councils inviting relevant representatives to the 25 year conference and the gala evening.
- 3) The SCCG email delegates seeking nominations for speakers, venues and other contributors to the 25 Year celebrations.

**MEETING BREAK**

**DELEGATE WORKSHOP  
(40 minutes)**

**"MEMBER COUNCILS ROUND TABLE UPDATES & ISSUES DISCUSSION"**

A facilitated session was held following Item 8.1 to provide Member Councils via their elected delegates an opportunity to update delegates on Councils' activities and discuss outstanding issues that are in line with the SCCG Strategic Plan, ie issues under the Group's Six Strategic Outcome statements:

See: <http://sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/strategicplan2010-2014.pdf>

*Refer to Item 8.1 for a summary of the discussion.*

**Resolved that:**

- 1) Delegates be provided with 5 minutes each to address relevant updates and issues.
- 2) SCCG action in response be determined or referred to the SCCG Executive Committee for further consideration.

**9.4 Launch of *Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government***

The SCCG has now formally launched the last of its Coastal Adaptation Pathway projects entitled **Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government**.

The project explored prioritisation of adaption options in response to coastal inundation and erosion. It brought together information on exposure and risk, feasible adaptation strategies and the multiple values that influence Local Government decision-making, including governance, economic, social and environmental. It also developed a broad range of criteria by which the performance of adaptation strategies can be evaluated.



The project final report can be downloaded at [A Multi-Criteria Analysis of Coastal Adaptation Options for Local Government \(Final Report\)](#). The project fact sheet can be downloaded [here](#).

**Resolved that** the report be received and considered.

#### 9.5 Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue+Green Carbon

The SCCG has secured \$1.9M from the national "Caring for Country – Biodiversity Program to undertake "Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue+Green Carbon".

The Sydney's Salty Communities project will allow SCCG and partners to support on-ground projects at local and sub-regional scales on public and private land to address pressures from pollution, weeds, feral animals, degradation, neglect, inundation and erosion. Coastal land managers (especially Councils and their local communities) will use strategic assessment and conservation management activities to physically assess, restore, enhance and maintain biodiversity values and functions in these critical areas.

Michael Dean (Project Officer – Biodiversity) reviewed the project, working group and other activities to date and outlined the activities scheduled through the end of this financial year (project stage 2) and previewed those anticipated through calendar year 2014 (project stage 3).

**Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) SCCG delegates:
  - a) continue to champion the project within their council
  - b) advise of possible biodiversity capacity-building needs and opportunities for their local communities.

#### 9.6 SCCG Grants Programs Update Report

The report included in the business papers includes details of a) recently submitted grant applications (2013-2014) and b) unsuccessful grant applications.

The MPP briefly reviewed recently submitted SCCG grant applications.

**Resolved that** the report be received and noted.

#### 9.7 Walking Coastal Sydney

##### INAUGURAL SYDNEY HARBOUR & COASTAL WALK 16 AUGUST TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2014

Phil Jenkyn OAM attended the meeting to briefly review progress on the "Inaugural Sydney Harbour & Coastal Walk" (August – September 2014). The Minister for the Environment and Member for Pittwater, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, has agreed to officially launch the walk on Sunday 16 August.

A Steering Committee has been established to oversee preparations for the Walk comprising representatives from the Walking Volunteers, the National Parks Association of NSW, SCCG, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Planning and Environment, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, NPWS, Walk 21 Conference, Destination NSW and the Heart Foundation.

Mr Jenkyn advised delegates of opportunities for Councils to engage in the Walk, by, for example, showcasing Council projects / significant places along the route. It is anticipated that there will be media coverage of the event.

Mr Jenkyn also advised that the Walking Volunteers and SCCG had been successful in submitting a paper for the international Walk21 Conference, being hosted in Sydney on 21-23 October 2014. The paper reviews the development of the Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walking Network, emphasising the value and possible outcomes of local and state governments and, most importantly, volunteers working together, with the shared purpose of promoting recreation and engagement with our natural environment.

*Clr Saville: Suggested the Premier's Council for Active Living (PCAL) be engaged.*

*PJ noted that the Group is communicating with PCAL and the Heart Foundation.*

*Clr Stevenson: Are Councils encouraged to coordinate large groups of people to participate in the walk?*

*PJ: It is not designed to be a mass event, as this will create additional logistical and risk burdens, however Councils are welcome to coordinate community involvement in the Walk.*

**Resolved that** the verbal report from Phil Jenkyn OAM be received and considered.

## **9.8 Presentation to the Third International Climate Change Adaptation Conference and Local Government in Latin America**

From 12-16 May, 2014, Geoff Withycombe and Stephen Summerhayes represented the SCCG at the Third International Climate Change Adaptation Conference which was held in Fortaleza, Brazil. At the Conference a presentation was delivered by them entitled *Adaptation in a global coastal city – The contributions of regional collaboration in Sydney, Australia – the steps from vision to implementation.*

Whilst overseas, Geoff and Stephen availed themselves of the opportunities to unite with Australian and other international researchers as well as to meet with local government climate change representatives in Rio and Buenos Aires, to explore synergies and knowledge sharing.

### **Resolved that:**

- 1) The report be received and considered.
- 2) The Secretariat continue to pursue International collaborations and knowledge sharing, reporting back to the Group when appropriate.
- 3) Delegates thank GW and SS for their representation of the Group in Latin America.

## **Reports 9.9 – 9.12 FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Resolved that** reports for 'information only' be received and noted (pending inquiry).

- 9.9 Beachwatch Program Report (February-April 2014)**
- 9.10 Greater Sydney Local Land Services Update - May 2014**
- 9.11 NSW Department of Primary Industries Aquatic Pest and Health Update**
- 9.12 SCCG Key Activities Report for February – May 2014**



## 10. SCCG SUBMISSIONS

- **Crown Lands Management Review Report and White Paper**

The NSW Government has completed a review into the management of Crown land. The review examined the overall management of Crown land including legislation, financial management, governance, and business structures. The review was overseen by a high level-interagency steering committee independently chaired by Mr Michael Carapiet.

The Government's response to the report is now available. The Government has also released a Crown Lands Legislation White Paper for comment.

The Government plans to develop consolidated, streamlined legislation to underpin the management of Crown land. The White Paper contains proposals to develop one new piece of legislation that will replace eight existing Acts and simplify the management of Crown reserves.

The SCCG surveyed Member Councils in relation to the review and is preparing a Submission based on responses received. Submissions are invited until **Friday 20 June 2014**.

Links [Government's Response](#) / [Review Report](#) / [White Paper](#) / [Have your say](#)

- **Moorings Review Issues Paper**

The Maritime Management Centre (MMC) in Transport for NSW is undertaking a review of the policy and regulatory framework governing the administration of moorings in NSW. MMC has produced an *Issues Paper* to assist scope the range of issues and potential reform options to be considered as part of the Review.

The SCCG surveyed Member Councils in relation to the review and is preparing a Submission based on responses received. Submissions are invited until **Friday 20 June 2014**.

Link: [Mooring Issues Review Paper](#)

**Resolved that** the SCCG incorporate final Member Councils' issues and concerns relating to Crown Lands Management Review Report and White Paper and the Moorings Review Issues Paper to finalise and distribute SCCG submissions.

## 11. TREASURER'S REPORT

### 11.1 Finance Statements for period 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014

**Resolved that** the financial statements for the period 1 July 2013 – 30 April 2014 be received and adopted.

## 12. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Discussion Items** (Please note all General Business items must be submitted prior to the meeting).
- **2014 National General Assembly of Local Government**

Delegates noted that a number of SCCG's proposals were endorsed at the [2014 National General Assembly of Local Government](#)

At the last meeting it was resolved to send member councils the pre election submission for their consideration when developing their "Call for Motions" to the General Assembly

#### **Background:**

In the lead up to the 2013 Federal Election, the SCCG resolved to request all relevant political parties contesting the election to outline their policy positions on the following seven key coastal management issues:

- A National Coastal Council or Commission for Australia
- Implementing priority recommendations from the "Managing our Coastal Zone in a Changing Climate – The Time to Act is Now" report
- A consistent and coordinated approach to natural hazards management and climate change adaptation in the Australian coastal zone
- Funding for Local Government and community coastal program
- A National Coastal Information System for Australian
- Maintaining public ownership of and access to and along the coastal zone
- A National Marine Management Strategy

ALL policy position were tabled at the National Assembly. Thanks to member councils for their support.

#### **12.1 Remaining 2014 Meeting dates / Next Meeting**

##### **Confirmed Dates**

- Saturday 13 September (AGM) 2014 at 12 noon
- Saturday 6 December 2014 at 12 noon

##### **Proposed Location**

(Randwick Council – pending)  
(City of Sydney)

#### **12.2 Items for Press Release**

**Resolved that** items for press release be considered.

#### **12.3 Agenda items for the next SCCG meeting**

**Resolved that** delegates suggest additional agenda items including presentations for the next SCCG meeting proposed for 13 September 2014 starting at 12 noon.

#### **12.4 Next Meeting**

**Resolved that** the next meeting of the Group be held on 13 September 2014 at Randwick City Council (pending confirmation).

Cr Griffin closed the meeting and thanked delegates for their attendance and contributions

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Confirmation of Minutes: .....

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## **Council Meeting**

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### **11.0      Adoption of Connecting Communities Committee Recommendations**

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### **12.0      Adoption of Natural Environment Committee Recommendations**

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