

### **I. Assessment and Decision Frameworks for Existing Seawalls**

In November 2013 the project received highly commended under the Innovation category of the Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards. The project aims to assist Local and State Government evaluate the robustness and condition of existing seawalls of unknown construction and quality by i) identifying/quantifying what exists (for certification if appropriate), ii) defining likely future changes to design conditions and outlining possible options for further upgrades, and iii) developing templates for assessing suitability, monitoring and maintenance, to determine investment strategies and business cases for sea defence structures through an asset register.

### **II. Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project**

This partnership project with Sydney Water and OEH developed information, guidance and capacity building activities to ensure that organisations responsible for managing water infrastructure are able to implement appropriate asset management systems in a changing climate. The Group is continuing to work with project partners to further pursue project outputs and outcomes and identifying opportunities to further trial and improve their utility.

### **III. Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government**

This partnership project was undertaken with the assistance of researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA) and the University of the Sunshine Coast. In addition, Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Bega Valley Shire Council joined as partners to expand the scope of the study to include three case study regions (Sydney, Bega and Sunshine Coast).

The project explores prioritisation of adaption options in response to coastal inundation and erosion. It brings 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 develops a broad range of criteria by which the performance of adaptation strategies can be evaluated.

On 27 March 2014, we launched the outcomes from the project. Fifty-two individuals attended the launch, representing 28 different organisations. The launch featured presentations from the principal researcher, Dr Ben Preston of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (USA), as well as the Coastal & Marine Unit of the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and the SCCG. Presentations examined three key elements to coastal adaptation – exposure assessments, decision-making tools and monitoring & evaluation. This was followed by a panel discussion and workshop, which provided an opportunity for participants to explore issues further.

During 2013 and 2014 the SCCG facilitated an additional workshop Series bringing together five councils (Bega, Leichhardt, Rockdale, Sunshine Coast and Sutherland) to evaluate and improve on the 3rd stage of the project, *A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Coastal Adaptation*.

The workshop Series aimed to:

1. Reinforce the concepts of adaptation planning, monitoring and evaluation in the context of climate change in coastal environments
2. Evaluate the use and utility of the Guide and the three templates therein

3. Identify opportunities to refine the Guide and templates based on Councils' experience
4. Secure Councils' participation in building a local and regional picture of adaptation planning and implementation (using the methodology contained in the Guide)
5. Determine requirements to support broader uptake of adaptation planning within Local Government.

The SCCG CPO has since been working on the original Guide making substantial improvements as identified as part of the above consultations. The final version of the Guide will be issued to Councils shortly.

### **5.3.3 Benchmarking Climate Change Adaptation and the SCCG (Activities 2005 – 2013)**

In July 2013 the SCCG completed a benchmarking report designed to benchmark SCCG activities over the last 8 year period. Key objectives of the internal report were to:

- inform Local Government of the ways Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) can be engaged across the full range of Council responsibilities, and
- strengthen the integration of CCA into Local Government business planning and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

The Report:

- provides a consolidation of work to date to assist the SCCG in developing appropriate and relevant programs to assist Member Councils
- benchmarks current CCA activities by the SCCG and Member Councils
- provides guidance on areas of need
- develops priorities for future capacity building and research needs
- provides guidance on the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of CCA activities and Councils' engagement in the process.

### **5.3.4 Adaptation Plan for Sydney: Towards a Resilient Sydney (OEH, Dept Planning and the Environment, SCCG and WSROC)**

A key target of the NSW Government's ten year plan, *NSW 2021*, is to 'minimise impacts of climate change in local communities'.

The *Towards a Resilient Sydney* project has been established by a partnership MOU between the SCCG, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and NSW Department of Planning and Environment. It aims to meet actions contained within the recently released Regional Action Plans. The project will:

- develop improved information of climate risks for Sydney
- assess cross sectoral vulnerability to these risks
- identify responses and opportunities that assist local communities to improve resilience and minimise impacts.

An adaptation strategy for Sydney will be the longer-term risk management plan to increase Sydney's resilience to future climate change. The project will assess Sydney's climate change vulnerability and the expected impacts of climate change on key sectors. The Strategy is a collaborative effort between State and Local Governments and is being led by OEH's Impacts and Adaptation team.



In early 2014 an Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment (IRVA) of the Sydney Metropolitan Region was completed. It has engaged close to 300 local and state government decision-makers across a range of sectors (natural and cultural assets, human services, infrastructure and built environment, industry and economy, and emergency management) to assess the impacts of climate change on Sydney's social, economic and biophysical systems, and their capacity to adapt.

The core project outputs are now being finalised and include:

- a literature review of "best practice" principles and action for city scale adaptation planning
- a socio-economic profile of Sydney outlining economic and demographic trends and projections
- an analysis of emerging research on relevant city-scale adaptation, which collates research opportunities identified by leading researchers across the human health, emergency management, infrastructure, settlements and communities, buildings and neighbourhoods, cultural assets and natural assets sectors
- an IRVA of government service delivery to climate change, which has built a shared understanding of cross sectoral vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity, so as to inform coordinated adaptation planning and avoid maladaptation within individual sectors.

It is intended that the outputs of the project will soon be publically available to inform local scale and regional adaptation responses going forward.

### **5.3.5 Beach and Surf Tourism and Recreation in Australia: Vulnerability and Adaptation**

The SCCG was involved in this national project entitled Beach and Surf Tourism and Recreation in Australia: Vulnerability and Adaptation (BASTRA). This project, led by Bond and Griffith Universities, sought to estimate the economic value of coastal tourism and recreation and was funded under the Marine Biodiversity and Resources component of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.

Outcomes of the BASTRA project and results and learnings from the Sydney case studies were presented at the SCCG coastal economics forum entitled "Amenity, Benefits and Costs - The ABC of Coastal Economics" in late November 2013.

### **5.3.6 Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living**

The SCCG is a party to the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Low Carbon Living, a non-profit scientific institution researching mitigation strategies for carbon pollution associated with construction and activities within the built environment. There are 52 participants across research, industry and government sectors. The CRC is administering three research programs:

1. **Integrated building systems** – to develop low carbon lifecycle building construction materials and multipurpose solar products
2. **Low carbon precincts** – to develop tools that enable the design of and stimulate the market for low carbon infrastructure at precinct scale
3. **Engaged communities** – to understand and influence public behaviour and purchasing decisions of low carbon products

The CRC will operate for 7 years during which time the Commonwealth will contribute \$30.8M. The CRC's total budget (cash and in-kind contributions) exceeds \$100M. The CRC is end-user driven and overseen by a member-elected Board, chaired by the Hon. Robert Hill. Programs are being structured to encourage multi-disciplinary collaboration and to create, develop and

apply knowledge and skills. The SCCG is making non-cash contributions and expects to participate in various committees and projects determined by the Board.

As part of the SCCG involvement in the CRC, the SCCG is a project partner to ensure outcomes are relevant to local government and our Member Councils in the following projects:

- o Increasing Knowledge and Motivating Collaborative Action on Low Carbon Living Through Team-Based and Game-Based Mobile Learning
- o Education Scoping Study: Survey and gap analysis of existing low carbon education programs.

### **5.3.7 Reducing SCCG Carbon Footprint – Internal Policy**

The SCCG is continuing to implement its internal policy “Reducing SCCG Carbon Footprint”.

The aim of the policy document is to reduce the Group’s carbon footprint with a focus on avoidance strategies.

Activities undertaken this year to implement the policy have included:

- o providing opportunities for Member Councils to share ideas and progress towards their own carbon reduction initiatives, e.g. via the Technical Committee
- o continuing hosting by the City of Sydney who ensure office space and associated facilities are carbon neutral
- o reducing car use where possible and facilitating car pooling to SCCG for the Secretariat and Member Council delegates
- o holding meetings in locations serviced by public transport where possible and appropriate
- o offsetting all SCCG air travel.

## **5.4 SCCG Community Engagement Activities**

### **5.4.1 SCCG Summer Activities Program “Summerama”**

The SCCG again coordinated the **SCCG Summer Activities Program “Summerama”** during January 2014. Summerama aims to encourage the community to enjoy our coast and become involved in the protection, management and rehabilitation of our coastal and marine environments. 2014 was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the SCCG has continued this initiative in the Sydney region.

The 2014 program was a great success, with over 1,900 participants attending 64 events held across 13 participating Member Councils (Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby & Woollahra).

Activities ranged from rock pool rambles, snorkelling tours and beach safety talks to craft workshops, film screenings and guided bushwalks. Participants included children and adults from across participating Councils’ local government areas. Key highlights included:

- o Social media campaign maintained throughout December and January, with regular Facebook & Twitter updates
- o Over 1,900 participants attending 64 activities undertaken across 13 participating
- o Photo competition conducted via Facebook, with prizes for the top 3 entries
- o Event surveys developed and distributed to Champions & participants
- o Evaluation Survey developed and distributed to Champions
- o Final Outcomes Report



Sponsorship was again sought via the long-time supporter Landcare who provided \$5000 to assist the SCCG with production and promotion.

The SCCG engaged Nicola Billens, a marketing and communications specialist, to assist running and promoting the program.

#### **5.4.2 Walking Coastal Sydney**

The development of the network has been a partnership between SCCG, its Member Councils, the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure and The Walking Volunteers, in association with councils, government agencies, community groups and the private sector.

The Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walk was developed to promote public access to and appreciation and recreational enjoyment of Sydney's coastline, harbour and estuaries for the people of Sydney and visitors to the city. The Coastal Walk encourages participation in recreational activities, showcases significant natural and cultural places, advances healthy lifestyles, delivers on tourism, and produces real benefits for the community, economy and the environment.

The Walking Coastal Sydney project enhances public access to and recreational enjoyment of Sydney's beautiful and diverse coastline and estuaries. A series of brochures and an integrated smart phone application map coastal walks from Pittwater to Sutherland. The network integrates with other coastal walks such as the Great North Walk and the Royal National Park. The SCCG utilised a \$10,000 small Grant from the Metropolitan Greenspace Program to develop the smart phone 'App'.

The Group also participated in assisting the Walking Volunteers with the "Inaugural Sydney Harbour and Coastal Walk", occurring 16 August - 14 September. The aim of the Inaugural Walk is to promote the benefits of walking, publicise the foreshore route and its significance, stimulate awareness of our environment and history, improve community health both physical and mental, encourage tourism and the use of public transport, and promote two upcoming international conferences – the IUCN World Parks Congress and Walk21.

#### **5.4.3 Underwater Sydney – Education Program (web site)**

The SCCG and Underwater Australia partnered with leading marine experts to develop 'Underwater Sydney'. The web site and associated facebook page remain popular with the Sydney community.

The Underwater Earth team have been primarily focusing this year on the Catlin seaview survey. See [www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com](http://www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com). The seaview program will soon be coming to Sydney. See the web page at: [www.underwatersydney.org.au](http://www.underwatersydney.org.au)

The SCCG is continuing to assess the potentials to develop various Underwater Sydney Guides that have been identified as part of the project, including but not limited to, a Sydney Snorkelling Guide and Beach Combing Guide.

### **5.5 SCCG Consultations and Communications (internal and external)**

#### **5.5.1 SCCG Annual Member Council Survey**

In December 2013, the SCCG conducted its annual survey of Full Group delegates and Technical Committee ('TC') representatives to glean information and insight into its performance and the continuing and future needs of Member Councils. Results assist the SCCG

identify avenues and actions to enhance its support and activities. The survey employed a self-administered coded questionnaire divided into six key parts:

- i) SCCG's performance against its (2010-2014) Strategic Plan
- ii) Communications
- iii) SCCG Project and Capacity Building activities
- iv) SCCG Full Group and Technical Committee meetings
- v) Benefits of Membership
- vi) General comments and provision of information in relation to matters in Parts 1-5.

Response rates this year were strong with completed surveys received from all Councils represented. Almost 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposition '[o]verall, I am satisfied with the SCCG's performance'. Summating results for all 49 rating-style questions across respondents (1,655 separate responses) revealed an overwhelmingly positive attitude towards the SCCG's activities. 88% percent of questions received a positive response, 11% received a neutral response and only 1% disagreed with the proposition.

Climate change, integrated coastal management, law & policy and ecologically sustainably development ranked as the top four most important topics for capacity building and/or projects for 2014.

#### **5.5.2 Formal Member Council Consultations**

The SCCG writes to each Member Council at the beginning of the year to invite a meeting with the SCCG Executive Committee and Executive Officer. This process aims to: i) provide timely opportunities to review the functions and benefits of the SCCG and ii) assess Member Council needs and priorities to ensure that the SCCG objectives, strategies, programs and services remain applicable, appropriate and of value. During the financial year direct consultations were made with City of Sydney, Manly and Warringah Councils.

#### **5.5.3 SCCG Web Sites**

The current SCCG web site was launched at the beginning of 2011 [www.sydneycostalcounties.com.au](http://www.sydneycostalcounties.com.au).

The SCCG site received 12,142 visits for the 2013-2014 financial year with 68% of these being new visitors.

The SCCG "Walking Coastal Sydney" web site [www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au) received more 483 visits for the 2013-2014 financial year, with 94% of these being new visitors.

The SCCG web site [www.monitor2manage.com.au](http://www.monitor2manage.com.au), developed by Dr Ian Armstrong, has also been maintained. This site promotes sustainable environment management through an improved understanding of monitoring and good decision-making.

The SCCG will review and redevelop its web site in the next financial year.

#### **5.5.4 SCCG Promotion and External Communications**

To ensure that representatives, stakeholders and the community are kept informed of the Group's activities, achievements, outcomes and priorities, the Group continues to maintain and



increase SCCG's profile. Key information, activities, outcomes and policy positions have been provided via direct and indirect consultations and a variety of media including:

- State, National and International Conferences
- Quarterly Newsletter "Coastal Currents"
- Monthly enews "Making Waves" (*front page web site updates*)
- Information / fact sheets
- Press releases / direct liaison and interviews with journalists
- SCCG Web Site
- Stakeholder surveys, interviews, direct and indirect consultations
- Attending numerous meetings, workshops and seminars
- Internal SCCG events
- Widely distributing general information including direct inquiries.

## 6. SCCG GRANT APPLICATIONS 2013 - 2014

- The Group prepared 6 grant applications
- The Group and project partners have:
  - sought \$3,791,000 worth of funding through seven applications
  - secured an additional \$1,905,000 in grant funds for projects
  - utilised \$329,000 in grant funds
  - completed projects worth over \$710,830 in grant funds
  - pending grant applications worth \$444,000
  - secured \$5000 in sponsorship for Summerama
  - utilised \$375,000 in membership contributions

### Successful Applications in 2013 – 2014

- **Caring for Country** – Sydney's Salty Communities – Turning the Tide on Blue-Green Carbon (\$1.905M)

**TOTAL \$1,905,000**

### Completed Projects 2013– 2014

- **Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways:** Prioritising Coastal Adaptation Development Options for Local Government (\$450,000)
- **State Emergency Management Projects** – NDRP Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources program (CoverMar) \$260,830

**TOTAL \$710,830**

### Utilisation of Grant funds 2013 - 2014

- **NSW Estuary Management Program:** Sydney Harbour Coastal Zone Management Plan Stage 1: Scoping Study (\$60,000)
- **Natural Disaster Resilience Program:** Emergency Management Planning: Piloting a Health Check for Local Government (\$195,000)
- **Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program:** iWalk (\$10,000)
- **NSW Environmental Trust:** Becoming Social (\$64,000)

**TOTAL \$329,000**

### Sponsorships 2013 - 2014

- **Landcare Australia** – SCCG Summrama

**TOTAL \$5,000**

#### **Pending Grant Applications 2013 – 2014**

- **State Emergency Management Projects** – NDRP Emergency Management Planning - Implementing and Embedding a Health Check for Local Government (\$165,000)
- **State Emergency Management Projects** – NDRP - An Improved and Comprehensive Approach to Assess the Risk of Storm Surges and Wave Run-Up in Sydney (\$279,200)

**TOTAL \$444,200**

#### **Unsuccessful Grant Applications 2013 -2014**

- **NSW Environmental Trust – Environmental Research**– Sydney 2100 – addressing perceptions of changing coastal environments (\$150,000)
- **NSW Environmental Trust – Environmental Research**– Environmental Research– Reducing plastic pollution through behaviour change interventions (\$150,000)
- **NSW Environmental Trust – Environmental Research**– Managing dynamics of coastal aquifers in Sydney (\$150,000)
- **Caring for Country Grants** - The Coastal Plastic Pollution Solution (\$992,000.00)

**TOTAL \$1,442,000**

### **7. SCCG FINANCIAL POSITION**

**The Group has maintained a good financial position. Figures outlined below (these are subject to audit):**

○ <b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 829,115</b>
○ <b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 595,753</b>
○ <b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>\$ 756,324</b>
○ <b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$ 204,818</b>
○ <b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 390,925</b>

### **8. CONCLUSIONS**

I would like to thank all those who have assisted ensure the continued professional operation and successful outcomes of the Group during the last financial year.

I would like to thank all delegates of the Full Group who have attended meetings and participated in SCCG activities and to the Executive Committee for their contributions over the last 12 months.

The Technical Committee and its various working groups have again proved to be the cornerstone of the Group, demonstrating significant support and enthusiasm throughout the year. My appreciation and thanks to all representatives for their efforts and contributions.

A particular thanks to our permanent staff, Manager of Projects and Programs, Stephen Summerhayes and the Coastal Projects Office Emma Norrie, who both have made significant contributions to all facets of the SCCG and ensured the continuous improvements to the service provided to our Member Councils. Thanks also to our part time Support Officer, Rachael Buzio.

A specific thanks to Dr Ian Armstrong, Special Projects Officer, for his substantial efforts and success of the SCCG CAPs projects and this year managing the "SCCG Emergency Management Planning: Piloting a Health Check for Local Government" project. Ian has worked



from time to time for the SCCG in various contract roles for more than a decade. After completing the current project Ian has indicated that he will be taken a well earned rest. We wish Ian all the very best for the future.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the SCCG host Council, City of Sydney Council. A special thanks to the Lord Mayor Clover Moore, the CEO Monica Barone, the City's Executive Officer, Leander Klohs and the many other staff who assisted with the operations of the Secretariat. This critical and long term support is greatly appreciated.

The year ahead will be another exciting year. It will be a year of change to local government and potentially the NSW coastal management program. The SCCG is indeed well placed to meet these challenges and we look forward to the opportunity these reforms bring.

With a new 4 year Strategic Plan to be finalised with our Member Councils by the end of the year, we will continue to meet these challenges and have the right vision, principles, objectives and defined pathways and support to ensure we continue to provide appropriate and effective service to all our councils. The Secretariat will continue to focus on continuous improvement, implementation of our grant programs and taking time for some consolidation of recent years program outcomes and outputs, while seeking to improve communication and engagement with members, stakeholder and supporters and look to redeveloping its web site and other digital communication mediums.

Thanks to those who have ensured the continued growth and success of the SCCG over the last 12 months.

Yours sincerely,

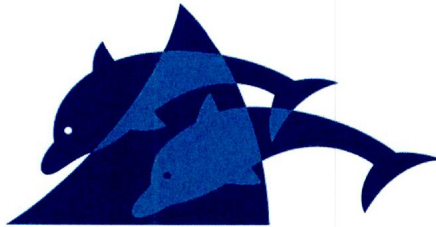


Geoff Withycombe  
**Executive Officer**  
**Regional Coastal Environment Officer**  
**Public Officer**

## Appendix 1: SCCG Secretariat attendance at professional development events

- Bill McKibben presentation at Seymour Centre
- Drupal information / Training Session
- OEH Community Educators Tour
- Leadership Coaching (The Leader Factor)
- Assessment of damages for breach of contract
- NCCARF National Conference
- Australia's Environmental Challenges Discussion Panel
- Deep Ecology and the Conservation of Nature with John Seed
- Repudiation, breach and termination of contracts
- Leadership Coaching (The Leader Factor)
- Leadership Coaching (The Leader Factor)
- DSEWPC – DAFF MERI Planning workshop
- AFAC 13 Conference Shaping Tomorrow Together (Melbourne)
- Coastal Engineering Short Course
- Australasian Coast and Port Conference
- UTS Science In Focus public lecture featuring UTS Professor William Gladstone / Barry Bruce CSIRO
- City of Sydney – Cycling training Course
- City Talk: Over the Horizon - next steps for sustainable cities and the world - David Suzuki
- City of Sydney Training course (Policy and Procedure writing)
- UTS Science In Focus: Ethics of Sustainability
- City of Sydney Training course (COACHING)
- Workshop - Tapping into local knowledge: better community engagement in coastal planning
- NSW Coastal Conference
- Technology One Procurement (CoS Training)
- Towards a Resilient Sydney (Emergency Management)
- Towards a Resilient Sydney (Built Environment workshop)
- Project Management Course
- Marine Estate Management Authority – Sydney Harbour meeting
- Emotional Intelligence and the Transformational Leader
- Dept of Premier & Cabinet - Sydney East Regional Leadership Network
- Emotional Intelligence and the Transformational Leader
- UTSpeaks: Deluding Doubters & Double Dealings
- Is the media keeping us ignorant and aloof from the urgent warnings of science?
- LGNSW Climate change workshop
- Behaviour Change for Sustainability Talk @HUB Sydney
- Train the trainer day 1 of 2
- Forum 2014 IPPC Fifth Assessment Report
- Celebrating the transition to water sensitive cities
- Train the trainer day 2 of 2
- WSUD conference
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Climate Change Adaptation Conference (Brazil)
- SOPA training course (Wetlands Blue - Green Carbon)





## SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP

[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)



**25** 1989-2014  
**SYDNEY COASTAL  
COUNCILS GROUP**  
**YEARS**  
*Caring for the Coast*

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<b>C10.6</b>	<b>Minutes of the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2014</b>
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**Meeting:** Natural Environment Committee Meeting

**Date:** 3 November 2014

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**STRATEGY:** Disaster, Emergency & Risk Management Strategy

**ACTION:** To work effectively with all emergency and utility agencies to improve emergency response

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## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report to Council the minutes of the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee meeting held on 3 June 2014. The minutes are given in **Attachment 1**.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) coordinates bushfire management in the Pittwater and Warringah local government areas. The BFMC comprises representatives from; Warringah Pittwater District Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire and Rescue, Pittwater Council, Warringah Council, Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Nature Conservation Council, Land and Property Management Authority, Roads and Maritime Service and Ausgrid. The BFMC is responsible for preparing, implementing and reviewing the Warringah Pittwater Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP).
- 1.2 The Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee meets quarterly to plan for and discuss issues such as; the progress of annual hazard reduction programs, APZ and fire trail maintenance, fire mitigation funding etc.

### **2.0 ISSUES**

Issues relevant to the Pittwater LGA;

#### **2.1 Final update on the 2013-14 Hazard Reduction Program**

20 hazard reduction burns were completed covering 267.9 of the planned 839 hectares across the Warringah Pittwater district. 7 hazard reduction burns occurred in Pittwater's bushland reserves including; Deep Creek Reserve, Attunga Reserve, McKay Reserve, Annie Wyatt Reserve, Sunrise Reserve, Woodlands Reserve and Stapleton Park.

#### **2.2 2014-15 Hazard Reduction Program**

At this meeting the final 2014-15 Hazard Reduction Plan was tabled for adoption.

15 hazard reduction burns are proposed to occur in Pittwater's bushland reserves and will be undertaken by the Rural Fire Service or Fire and Rescue NSW.



All proposed hazard reduction works have been entered into BRIMS (Bushfire Risk Information Management System). A systematic approach will be taken to undertake environmental assessment in preparation for burning. Hazard reduction Certificates (HRCs) will be issued for reserves with ongoing manual hazard reduction works. These certificates will be valid for 3 years. HRCs issued for hazard reduction burns will be issued for 12 months.

Update 14 October 2014:

*Two of the proposed hazard reduction burns have been completed. An area burn was undertaken at Rocky Point on 9 August 2014 and approximately 30 ecological pile burns were undertaken in the south-western part of Ingleside Chase Reserve on 27 September 2014. The ecological piles burns were undertaken to reduce fuel in the Asset Protection Zone as well as promote habitat regeneration for the endangered Eastern Pygmy-possum while retaining stands of mature heath vegetation.*

### **2.3 Mitigation Funding 2014-15**

An application for Fire Mitigation and Resilience Grant funding was submitted to the RFS to undertake manual Asset Protection works behind properties at South Mackerel Beach. Burning is not possible due to geotechnical issues.

### **2.4 Risk Management Plan**

All hazard reduction works and inspections are to be entered into BRIMS on a regular basis for reporting purposes.

### **2.5 10/50 Legislation**

The Minutes record that as at the 3 June meeting, the 10/50 "legislation had not been passed as yet". Since this meeting:

- the legislation has been gazette by the NSW Government,
- subsequently the legislation has been partially modified for Category 2 Bushfire Prone Reserves, and
- a re-assessment of Category 1 Bushfire Prone Reserves is currently being carried out.

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## **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

Sustainability Assessment is not required

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## **4.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 4.1 The BFMC met on the 3 June 2014. The above issues relevant to Pittwater LGA were discussed. The minutes are given in **Attachment 1**.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Minutes of the Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2014 be noted.
2. That Pittwater Council continue to seek appropriate changes to the 10/50 legislation and regularly update Council on any such changes.

Report prepared by  
Kim Macqueen - Biodiversity Officer – Natural Environment & Education

Mark Beharrell  
**MANAGER – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & EDUCATION**



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WARRINGAH PITTWATER BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2014 AT TERREY HILLS**

Meeting start: 10:10

<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Rosa Pangallo – Dept Planning & Environment		X	
Warren Cree – RFS		X	
Tim Heslop – Crown Lands	X		
Nihal Balasuriya – Sydney Water	X		
Sue Heins – Warringah Council	X		
Ian White – Pittwater Council - Chairperson	X		
James Brisebois – Warringah Council	X		
Nicole McVicar – Warringah Council		X	
Robert Strauch – FRNSW	X		
Kel McNamara – FRNSW		X	
Jonathan Mallin – Ausgrid	X		
Ray Duguid – RFS	X		
Scott Molenaar – RFS	X		
Craig Geddes – RFS	X		
George Sheppard – RFS	X		
<b>Observers/Guests/Alternate:</b>			
Jodi Cree – RFS (Minutes)	X		



Item		Action
	<p>38/2014 – Haigh Avenue - NPWS have requested this HR be postponed to 2017. They will increase asset protection in the area and propose the Heath HR instead. This will assist with mosaic plans as the Haigh HR adjoins the larger Heath HR which has a higher priority.</p> <p>27/2014 – Bluff HR – NPWS have requested this be postponed to 2016/17. We will still look at a small burn along Wakehurst Parkway. This will allow for an environmental study on the affects of the new Bike Trail to be completed.</p> <p>47/2014 – Ballyshannon – NPWS concerned with the impact on Warringah Road due to the instability of the rock face. Suggest increase APZ behind homes instead. Will need to revisit HR plans in 2015/16</p> <p>2014-15 Hazard Reduction Plan was tabled for adoption. HR's can be added or removed in future meetings.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Sue Heins      <b>Seconded:</b> Chris      <b>Carried</b></p> <p><b>7.3 Mitigation Funding 2014-15</b></p> <p>Fire Mitigation Works Funding Report was distributed. HR Priorities were set at the Sub-committee meeting. Our priority 1 Hr was classed as 1B so could not apply for priority 1 funding. All other HR's are set with funding amounts. Final page is the Brigade Mitigation Funding.</p> <p>Motion to endorse the funding priorities</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Tim Heslop      <b>Seconded:</b> Ian White      <b>Carried</b></p> <p>Sydney Water would like to prioritise Hydrant works based on the HR Program.</p> <p><b>7.4 Risk Management Plan</b></p> <p>Reminder to land managers to complete inspections and enter into BRIMS.</p>	



Item	7.5 Update on the Section 52 Operations Plan	Action
	<p>Agencies please ensure you have updated your contacts prior to the start of the Fire Season.</p> <p><b>7.6 Update on the Upgrade of the EOC and FCC</b></p> <p>\$100k in the State Government Budget to get the project started. Currently negotiation with council.</p> <p>Master plan for the entire site – looking at the requirements for the next 25-30 years – is due to commence 1 July 2014.</p> <p>Upgrade is in the Warringah Council Capex plan for next year.</p>	
8. General Business	<p><b>Newcastle University</b></p> <p>Newcastle University is conducting a Study into Risk Management Planning in the RFS. They would like to meet with RFS personnel, land managers and BFMC representatives to complete a 2 hour survey into Risk Management in the next month.</p> <p>Interested parties are happy to have their details passed on – Rob Strauch - FRNSW, Tim Heslop - Lands, Nicole McVicar – Warringah Council.</p> <p><b>Wakehurst Parkway HR</b></p> <p>Query regarding the fence along the Parkway. Believe it is an RMS fence. We need to be aware during fire fighting activities a part of the fence may be impacted/damaged/removed.</p> <p><b>Fire Trail Works</b></p> <p>Gilwinga has been completed. Larool Trail is almost finished – 5 piers have been installed under the rock shelf, concrete is being poured this week. Will be open to Cat1 access once completed.</p> <p>Cromer north and Red Hill Trail – Starting in the next 4-6 weeks and will take approximately 4 weeks to complete. No response from the Aboriginal Land Council as yet. Some concern regarding an area of land in the middle - at the end of the trail. Believe the land is being surveyed. New gate to be installed and locked near the Aboriginal carvings. We are doing fire trail work only. This is not a road to the land. Hoping to increase passive traffic and discourage trail bikes. There will be a number of compliance and surveillance signs installed.</p>	

Item		Action
	<p><b>HR Program</b> Thank you to Land Managers for all your work, especially in the interface areas. There is lots of pressure to complete the program with hot and dry weather and an el nino predicted. We need to ensure everything is ready to go. Fuel moisture levels will be taken each week. Scott is reviewing burn plans to ensure they are up to date.</p> <p><b>Hazard Reduction Certificates (HRC)</b> HRC's are now available for 3 years for repetitive works – not HR's.</p> <p><b>10/50 Legislation</b> This legislation has not been passed as yet. Residents will be able to remove trees within 10 metres of their homes and scrub within 50 metres of their home provided they own the land the tree is on and their property is in bushfire prone land. More information to follow as it is released.</p> <p><b>Council Rangers</b> Warringah Council Rangers have no authority to issue infringement notices under the Rural Fires Act. Currently only 1 person in the NSWRFs has the authority other than NSW Police. Authority can be delegated from General Managers – eg: Lighting a fire without a permit. A meeting will be arranged with both Councils to see if they wish to be involved.</p> <p><b>Catalyst</b> ABC – 8.30pm – Mega fires.</p>	
Date of next meeting	Tuesday, 2 September 2014, commencing at 10:00 hours	
Meeting finish:	10:50	

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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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