

SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP

Marine Administration Workshop

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- About the SCCG
- Needs for Information
- Responsibilities
- Uses, Users, Categories, Limitations, Issues and Outcomes



About the SCCG

BACKGROUND

- A Regional Organisation of Councils
- Established in 1989 as 7 'ocean' councils addressing beach sewage pollution (pre ocean outfalls)
- Expanded to include estuarine councils
- SCCG consists of 15 councils adjacent to Sydney's marine and estuarine environments

MEMBERSHIP

- BOTANY
- HORNSBY
- LEICHHARDT
- MANLY
- MOSMAN
- PITTWATER
- RANDWICK
- ROCKDALE
- SUTHERLAND
- SYDNEY
- NORTH SYDNEY
- WARRINGAH
- WAVERLEY
- WILLOUGHBY
- WOOLLAHRA

SCCG represents over 1.3 million Sydney siders



Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

SCCG Secretariat

Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.

(Policy and Focus Role)



Executive Committee

(Policy and Management Role)



Technical Committee

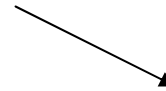
(Technical and Implementation)



Working Groups

(Strategy Development Role)

**Directional
Advisory Committees**
(Campaign / Policy Role)



SCCG Aim & Objectives

AIM

To promote cooperation between, and coordination of actions by member councils in consultation with the broader community on issues of regional significance concerning the sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

SCCG OUTCOME STATEMENTS

The SCCG (will soon) operate under 5 key Outcome Statements

- The exchange of information on urban coastal management to member councils is coordinated and facilitated,
- Community awareness on matters related to the urban coastal management is enhanced,
- The role and capacity of member councils to manage the coastal environment is improved,
- Member Council interests are represented on issues in relation to regional and national coastal management
- Sustainable and Integrated Coastal Zone Planning and Management is facilitated



Identifying Local Government needs for information layers

SCCG Activities

- Surveyed Member Councils on GIS needs and capacity (03/04)
- GIS Working Group.
- Facilitated provision of data layers for seagrass and groundwater information
- Workshopped Technical Committee considerations of marine cadastre (Oct)

Key findings to date

- Sydney Coastal Council's Member Councils see the benefit of a marine cadastre to assist in dealing with day to day management issues faced by Councils as well as emerging issues such as Climate Change.
- Council resources, budget and capacity are the greatest limiting factors for the application of GIS information across Sydney Coastal Councils
- Suggested that any marine cadastre should be accompanied by technical assistance and promotion to Councils.



Council responsibility for the marine environment

Under the Local Government Act 1993

Councils are responsible for managing lands and considering the environmental impacts for their activities down to the low-water mark.

Councils are also responsible to implement ESD.



Council Influence on the Marine Environment

Council activities and decisions have the potential to have a significant influence / impact on the Marine Environment

Such activities include:

- Stormwater management
- Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Development Assessment
- Asset Management and protection
- Beach / foreshore management
- Visitor management
- Education



Local Government uses of a marine cadastre

Static information

(Information that does not generally change over time)

- Ownership Boundaries
- Legislative Controls

Dynamic information

(Information that is constantly changing)

- Catchment/ Coastal process
- Ecosystems (and functions)
- Marine Modelling
- Climate Change models

“Local Government requires the development of regional scenarios to assist in predicting the impacts of increased storm events, rainfall variability, sea level rise, flooding and drought, based on sound science, to assist in managing the potential impacts of Climate Change” (SCCG Climate Change Forum 2005)



Marine Cadastre Applications

- **Identifying available information:** ownership, management boundaries, assets, infrastructure, management / maintenance requirements.
- **Modelling:** ecosystems, biodiversity values, coastal processes, climate patterns, impacts of alternative management actions, impacts of future development and infrastructure
- **Predicting scenarios:** various management strategies, or the potential impacts of Climate Change and storm surges etc.



Key Uses

- The provision of information on the spatial impact of legislation;
- Ownership boundaries and responsibilities;
- Compliance and building information and limits;
- Ecosystem resources;
- Foreshore building lines;
- Defining Local Government management boundaries;
- Predicting and mapping the impacts of climate change; and;
- Providing an education tool.



Categories

- Coastal processes (Tides, currents, winds & waves);
- Estuary, intertidal and marine ecosystems;
- Storm surges / Coastal Flooding assessments;
- Sediment movement,
- Bathymetry; and
- Ownerships / Responsibilities.



Limitations

- Cost;
- Availability;
- Accuracy;
- Standardised meta data collection;
- Age and maintenance of information;
- Number of information sources and providers;
- Updating information and then distribution;
- Information promotion / awareness;
- Interpretation ability of user(s)



Possible users

- Elected representatives / Decision makers;
- Professional staff;
 - Demonstrating benefits and impacts of various management strategies and actions
 - Modelling scenarios, assessing impacts and values
- Community
 - Environment Groups, Students, Individuals
 - Recreational Groups,
 - Divers,
 - Surfers,
 - Fisherman,
 - Boaters



Key issues

- General applicability to the Sydney Coastal Region;
- Applicability of National & regional information to local scales (and visa versa);
- Cost;
- Sharing Information (promotion/ access to information);
- Data user rights, restrictions and responsibilities;
- Variable capacity of Local Government (technical / interpretation);
- Models and modelling;
- Needs for centralised system for information delivery;
- Regular awareness / promotion of information availability
- Needs for ongoing capacity building and training.



Outcomes

- Education tool for decision makers and the community
- A decision support tool
- Performance monitoring tool
- Information that can be applied at local and regional scales.
- A tool that assists in the development of local and regional strategies
- A tool to integrate science and management practice
- A tool to assist addressing uncertainty
- Information to assist Councils manage their natural and built assets.



Questions?

Contact

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