

Newsletter No. 3 January 2008

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the third Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative (BCCCI) Newsletter and to 2008!

The aim of the newsletter is to keep you, councils, state agencies and the community informed on progress being made on the BCCCI.

If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future BCCCI newsletters (every 3 months) please send an email to

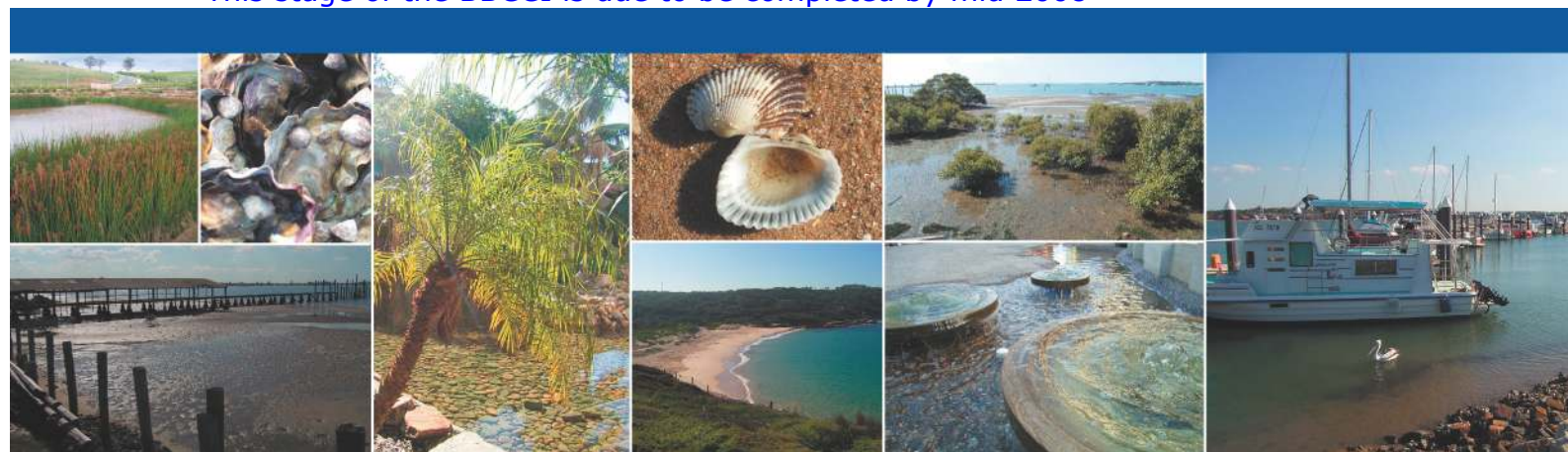
bbcci@cma.nsw.gov.au with join in the subject line. Likewise if you're not interested in receiving future newsletters please reply to this email and let me know and I will take you off the email list.

Update on Progress

The major activities being undertaken in the BCCCI are listed below in the approximate order they are planned to occur*:

Activity	Status
Prepare a Scoping Study,	Completed
Map the Botany Bay Catchment and sub-catchments,	Completed
Prepare a Consultation Strategy,	Completed
Set draft levels of protection for the environmental values of Botany Bay and its catchments waterways,	Completed
Model the current contributions of nutrients and sediments pollution in the catchment,	Completed
Conduct an ecological character assessment of the Towra Point Ramsar listed wetland,	Underway
Develop a hydrodynamic model for Botany Bay and catchment watercourses,	Completed
Establish an ecological response model of Botany Bay and its estuaries, which will be used to determine how much of several key pollutants that Botany Bay and its major tributaries can receive each year before irreversible ecological damage occurs,	Underway
Identify opportunities and barriers to the adoption of water sensitive urban design in the catchment,	Completed
Develop draft water quality objectives and load targets needed to protect the draft environmental objectives,	Underway
Develop management options to meet the water quality objectives and load targets and assess the cost and effectiveness various options and select most appropriate options to achieve targets,	Underway
Develop a water sensitive urban design (WSUD) adoption strategy and support councils and other government agencies including WSUD in their planning processes.	Underway

*This stage of the BCCCI is due to be completed by mid 2008





How important are Botany Bay and its waterways to you?

I have been conducting workshops over the last 4 months seeking your input into "resetting" or agreeing on some interim environmental values and levels of protection for the estuaries and freshwater waterways of the Botany Bay and its catchment. More than a dozen workshops have now been held and the data collected has been put into a database and is now being analysed.

However if you couldn't make it to one of the workshops, you still have a chance to put forward your views on how you value the waterways of Botany Bay and its catchment. Just download a questionnaire from the BBCCI website, complete it and send it in to me (it will only take about 10 minutes to complete).

This is to allow those of you who were unable to attend one of the workshops to still contribute your views. *Just be quick as I will not be able to add new data to the database after the end of February 2008!*

To download an environmental values questionnaire go to:

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/ValuesObjectives.html>

Barriers and Opportunities for WSUD Adoption in the Botany Bay Catchment

This research involved structured interviews with councils and other key stake holders in the catchment. There are some interesting findings and recommendations in the final report and it's a concise 30 pages! You can download a copy from

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/WaterSensDesign.html>

or from the publications page of the BBCCI website

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/Publications.html>

Additional Pollutant Load Modelling for Botany Bay

The pollutant loads being generated throughout the catchment have previously been modelled and were described in the last newsletter. Further modelling has now been done on pollutant loads using E2 with the results being broken down into council areas. This will allow each council to determine their fraction of the total pollutant loads and know what proportion of the different pollutants are coming from their residential, commercial, industrial, parks etc.

The results are contained in a short report that can be downloaded from

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/StormwaterPol.html>

or from the publications page of the BBCCI website

<http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/Publications.html>

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Australian Government



Ecological Character Description of Towra Point Ramsar Site

DECC are now having the Ecological Character Description (ECD) of the Towra Point Ramsar site peer reviewed. Once this process is completed and it has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts it will be released.

This is an internationally significant wetland and is a Ramsar listed site. The ECD is a requirement under the Ramsar Convention and is a report on the ecological condition of the wetland at the time it was listed in 1984. The report enables future assessment of the condition of the wetland against this baseline and to recognise how much change has occurred. Any change outside the natural variation to beyond a defined limit could have a degrading effect on the wetland. The report defines the limits of acceptable change outside the natural variations for the components and processes of the wetland (such as the levels of nutrients in the water column) in order for better management and monitoring of the ecosystem as a whole.

What is a Coastal Catchments Initiative and who is funding it?

- This Initiative is seeking to achieve long-term protection of the surface waters of Botany Bay, its estuaries and its catchment.
- To produce a scientifically derived ecological response model of Botany Bay and its estuaries that can be used to model the impacts that changes in the catchment will have on the Bay's ecological communities.
- It will primarily be focused on the pollutants washing off the hard surfaces in the catchment (suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorus).
- It will also engage with councils, key stakeholders and the community in the Botany Bay Catchment so they can participate in finding and implementing innovative solutions to improve water quality in the Bay and catchment.

The BBCCI is majority funded by the Australian Government and being project managed and part funded by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Please contact John Dahlenburg on (02) 9895 6244 if you would like further information on the BBCCI.

