

Newsletter No. 4 June 2008

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the fourth Botany Bay Coastal Catchments Initiative (BCCCI) Newsletter.

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

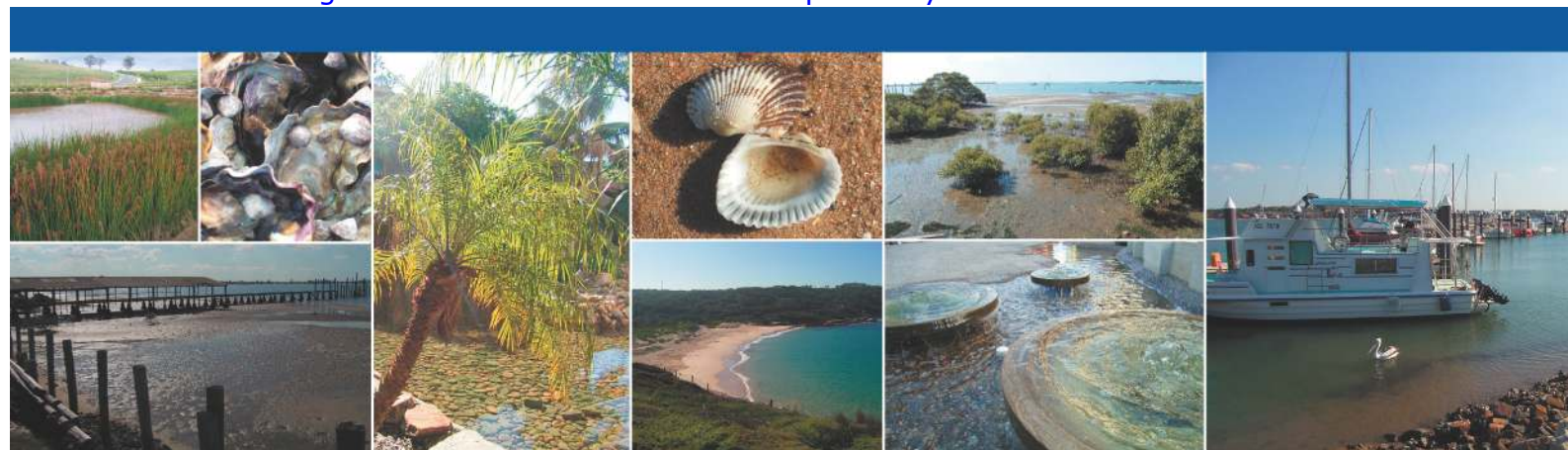
If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future BCCCI newsletters (about every 3 months) please send an email to bbcci@cma.nsw.gov.au with join in the subject line. Likewise if you're not interested in receiving future newsletters please reply to this email and let me know and I will take you off the email list.

Update on Progress

The major activities being undertaken in this stage of the BCCCI are listed below in the approximate order they were 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,	Completed
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,	Completed
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,	Being Finalised
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,	Being Finalised
Develop a water sensitive urban design (WSUD) adoption strategy and support councils and other government agencies including WSUD in their planning processes.	Completed

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





Environmental Values Questionnaire Results

I conducted 18 workshops over a 6 month period seeking your input into "resetting" or agreeing on some interim environmental values and levels of protection for the estuaries and freshwater waterways of Botany Bay and its catchment. I would like to say thank you to all those people who gave up their time and participated in the workshops.

The responses to the questionnaire have been put into a short report.

Interestingly, the responses from local government and the community were very similar and the raw data for each of the questions is contained in an appendix to the report. As an example, question 4 asked "what do you see as the key threats to water quality in our waterways?" and the top 4 responses were: inadequate sewage systems/sewer overflows; litter/rubbish dumping; industry run-off/pollution; and urban development runoff.

To download the environmental values questionnaire report go to:

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

or from the publications page of the BCCCI website

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

Modelling Impacts of Future Landuse Changes in 2030 and 2070 on Water Quality

This modelling was done to examine the impacts of expected landuse changes in the catchment in 2030 and 2070 as well as several other scenarios. The 2030 landuse changes are based on the Department of Planning's Metropolitan Strategy and the 2070 landuses were derived by extrapolating out growth predictions and upscaling urban centres. The results show increases in pollutant exports of between 11% and 22% for 2030 scenarios and 24% - 46% for 2070 scenarios above current conditions. An additional scenario was also modelled to explore what the impacts would be of reducing the pollutants from all 2070 urban landuses by 80% for TSS and 45% for TP and TN (using WSUD). It showed pollutants would be reduced to below current levels, but still be above predevelopment conditions.

The full report can be downloaded by from:

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

or from the publications page of the BCCCI website

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

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Australian Government



Environmental Assessment of Botany Bay

As part of the BBCCI we engaged A/Prof Alberto Albani (UNSW) to complete an environmental assessment of Botany Bay that looked at sediments, sediment geochemistry as well as foraminifera distribution and diversity (as ecological monitoring indicators). The first phase (sediments and sediment geochemistry) of the assessment was funded by UNSW with the second phase (foraminifera) funded through the BBCCI. The methodology used was the same as that used for an assessment done on the Cooks River. The results provide a great understanding of the impacts urbanisation has had on these two waterways. The report is concise and the results are easily interpreted because they are generally laid out on thematic maps.

The BBCCI has also engaged A/Prof Albani to undertake the first phase of an environmental assessment of the Georges River (using the same methodology). When completed, the three combined environmental assessments will give us an excellent baseline data set for the whole Botany Bay catchment to compare the impacts of any water quality improvement targets that are implemented.

The Botany Bay Environmental Assessment can be downloaded from <http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/StormwaterPol.html>

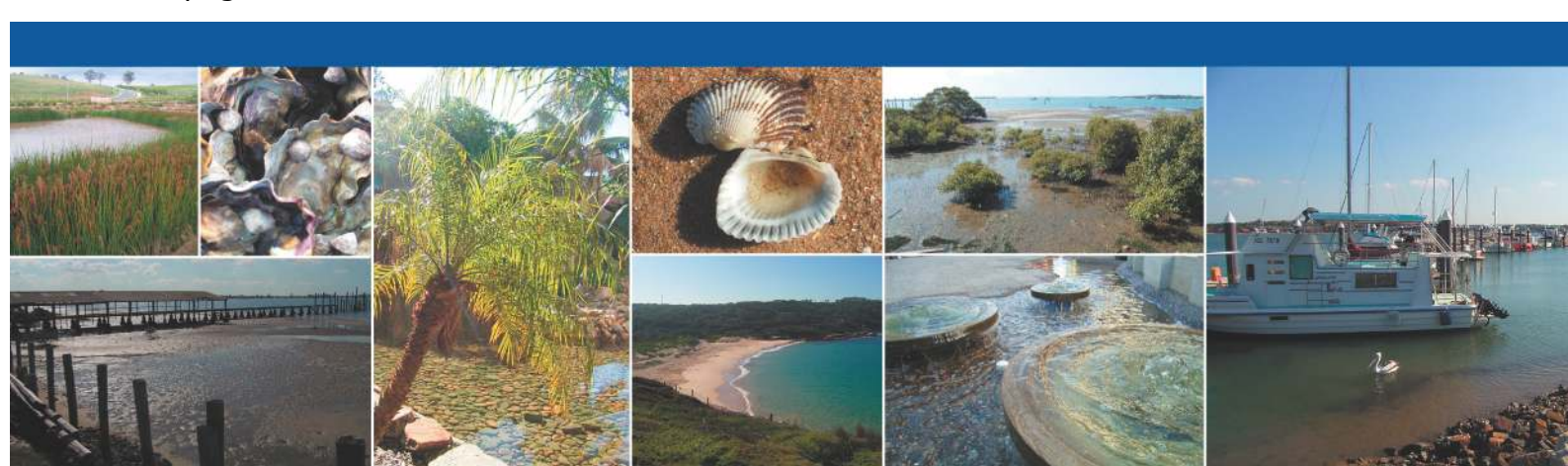
or from the publications page of the BBCCI website <http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/Publications.html>

Council WSUD/Stormwater LEP Clause

During the research into the barriers and opportunities to WSUD adoption in the Botany Bay catchment one of the highest rated opportunities was to provide councils with a model WSUD/Stormwater clause that could be included in their LEPs. In response to this finding the BBCCI has developed a model clause based on DECC's recent advice to councils, which local councils can consider during the development of their LEP's. The document is very short (2 pages) and includes a one page introduction sheet.

The Model WSUD/Stormwater LEP Clause can be downloaded from: <http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/bbcci/WaterSensDesign.html>

The other opportunity highlighted in the research on WSUD barriers was the need for a model WSUD DCP that could be used as part of a consolidated Council DCP. I'm happy to say this is being finalised now and will likely be released next month. When completed it will be available for download from the same web page as the LEP Clause.





2008 NSW Sustainable Water Challenge

On the topic of WSUD: I am happy that the NSW Sustainable Water Challenge will be held again this year (thanks to the WSUD in Sydney Program). It is a great chance for councils who have been doing great work in the area of improving water sustainability to share their knowledge with others as well as find out what other councils have been doing.

There should be some great projects entered this year as it wasn't held last year because the 5th International Conference on WSUD was held in Sydney.

A simple template for entering your project can be downloaded from:

<http://www.wsud.org/swc.htm>

While at the site have a look at the past projects that have been entered into earlier SWC's.

Future of the BBCCI

As you are probably aware this stage of the BBCCI is due to be completed by mid 2008 (now!). I'm happy to say we are just in the process on finalising two reports that require some iterative modelling (and one model takes 12 days to run so it isn't a quick process) before they are completed.

We are in the process of applying for funding to complete the final stage of the BBCCI; which is essentially to prepare a decision support tool and develop a water quality improvement plan based on the research findings from stage 1. I will put out another newsletter when all the reports are completed for stage 1 and give you an update on our progress at securing further funding.

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

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 or

a two page summary of stage 1 of the BBCCI can be downloaded from:

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

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