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23rd October 2015

Ms Svetlana Kotevska
Program Manager
GRCCC and River Keeper

Re: *Sydney's Salty Communities* newsletter and *Sydney's Salty Communities Literature, Data and Practice Review*

Dear Ms Kotevska,

I am delighted to provide you with *Sydney's Salty Communities* October Newsletter and the factsheet for our *Literature Data and Practice Review*. The Review in full can be viewed at <http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/Sydney%20Salty%20Communities%20Literature%20Data%20and%20Practice%20Review.pdf>

Sydney's Salty Communities is SCCG's biodiversity initiative and brings together key experts with leading practitioners in Sydney's coastal region. Working together on biodiversity management activities and planning *Sydney's Salty Communities* supports effective responses to the pressures of urbanisation and climate change.

Local Government is at the forefront of adaptation to climate change. As Councils continue to develop biodiversity strategies and related plans of management, there is a need for collaboration to promote consistency and best practice across the sector. Through projects such as *Sydney's Salty Communities* we aim to deliver the tools and relationships needed to achieve that.

Overview

The October newsletter brings you up to date with what has been happening with *Sydney's Salty Communities*. Main round grant projects are well underway and the Supplementary round has just closed. *The Climate Ready* project with the CSIRO is nearing completion and of course, the *Review* is now complete.

The Literature, Data and Practice Review focuses on the assessment of knowledge and practice in coastal zone biodiversity management. It provides a snapshot of biodiversity planning in the Sydney Region concentrating on Local Government. All fifteen member Councils contributed to the review.

The *Review* is designed to provide a better understanding of baseline data in the study area, and to increase current knowledge of biodiversity and existing management practices. It can also be used to evaluate priority areas for projects and evaluate strategic plans, research projects and other proposals. As such, we encourage you to distribute it widely amongst your colleagues and peers.

Background

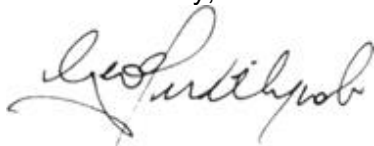
The *Review* was developed as part of the *Sydney's Salty Communities* project through funding from the Commonwealth Government. Through the review of Local Government biodiversity strategies

and broad management plans as well as State and Federal Government information the review identifies knowledge and practice gaps and opportunities.

The core groups providing information for this project are SCCG member councils, *Sydney's Salty Communities* Expert Reference Group and its Working Group. Other stakeholders contacted include: other Councils in the Study Area, community and NGOs, Federal and State Government agencies, authorities and corporations as well as researchers.

We welcome any feedback on elements of the program including the *Literature, Data and Practice Review* and will continue to work collaboratively with Councils towards successful adaptation and management of biodiversity in a changing coastal environment. If you have any questions about the *Sydney's Salty Communities* program, please do not hesitate to contact our Biodiversity Resilience Project Manager, Fiona Shadbolt, on 9246 5974 or at fiona@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Withycombe
Executive Officer

