

## **Sustainable estuaries and coasts? It is going to take a lot of new ideas!!**



**The saying is “if you keep doing the same old things, in the same old ways, you will always get the same old results”.**

Whilst an increasing amount of resource and new ideas are being directed into rural sustainability, this is not the case with our marine environments. At the same time our coasts are the focus for urbanization, and this is increasing the pressures exponentially. There are new ecosystem challenges emerging at the same time, such as the problem of storm surge and coastal erosion, and invasive species like *Caulerpa taxifolia*.

Will we get sufficient funds to effectively tackle these challenges using traditional regulatory or other strategies? Budgetary signals are not encouraging, with the bulk of funds being targeted at hot issues like salinity, land-based biodiversity and urban stormwater. Coastal projects are not high political priorities. One has only to look at the recent history of Coastcare, or the allocation of federal and state funds to catchment management issues, to see the pattern.

Traditional regulatory approaches, even when funded, have not been that effective. One has only to look at the state of some of our submarine or coastal foreshore environments to see this. Urban encroachment, seagrass loss, gradual loss of biodiversity, and the loss of opportunities for non-harmful recreation, are endemic.

**It will take radical strategies to secure radically better results on the coast.**

The Southern Catchment Management Board, and Sutherland Shire Council, working with the Port Hacking Protection Society and the Sutherland Environment Centre, want to explore how we can create that new paradigm.

- Can we get regulatory approaches that will work, but without demanding resources that are just not available?
- Is it possible to apply different market and ownership rights ideas to get markedly better outcomes for sustainability?
- Can we find different funding and resourcing approaches to work better?
- There are ideas that can work, but we need to become focused on how to do it better, to get better results with less resource.

If you want to be part of shaping this new approach, then participate in this event.

**The COASTAL SOLUTIONS FORUM on 15 November 2003 at Cronulla, NSW**

If you participate you will come away with:

- One. A clear and concise suite of strategies, outlined by experts, and supported by specific illustrations of their application in one threatened estuary (Port Hacking);
- Two. Your own ideas far better developed, through practical engagement in shaping a strategy using a host of the most up to date ideas for natural resource strategy; and
- Three. A great network of experts and contacts on whom you can draw to shape your own strategies for your own coastal or estuarine area.

***We are past the time for complaining or worrying – it is time to create the future we want for the estuaries and oceans we love***

Please pass this message on to everyone you can think of who may have an interest.

- 4 Those who love oceans or estuaries
- 4 Those who study them, or the management of them
- 4 Those who have an interest in strategies for sustainability
- 4 Regulators, economists, bureaucrats
- 4 Anyone who is keen on creating a better future by using better ideas.

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**Forum Web Site from 1 Oct 2003:**  
<http://ssec.org.au/coastsf2003/index.htm>

Enrollment, speaker and other details on the website.

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