

## Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board

**Date:** Thursday 19 September, 2013

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8.30pm (supper served 6:00pm, meeting begins 6:30pm)

**Location:** Council Chambers, Macmahon St, Hurstville. (car park adjacent)

### ATTENDEES

Council		First Name	Last Name
Ashfield Council	Councillor	Lucille	McKenna
	Council Officer	APOLOGY: Janene Harris	
Bankstown City Council	Mayor	APOLOGY: Karl Asfour	
	Council Officer	Vila	Gupta
City of Canterbury	Mayor	Brian	Robson
	Council Officer	Nell	Graham
City of Sydney	Councillor	APOLOGY: Christine Forster	
	Council Officer	APOLOGY: Chris Derksema	
Hurstville City Council	Councillor	Philip	Sansom
	Council Officer	Kathy	Godfrey
Marrickville Council	Mayor	APOLOGY: Victor Macri	
	Council Officer	Jim	Fraser
Rockdale City Council	Deputy Mayor	Liz	Barlow
	Council Officer	David	Dekel
Strathfield Municipal Council	Councillor	Andrew	Soulos
	Council Officer	Cathy	Jones
Community Member	Ms	APOLOGY: Helen Hume	
Community Member	Mr	John	Butcher
Community Member	Mr	Paul	Thomas
Cooks River Alliance	Project Manager	Chris	Hudson
	Environmental Engineer	Shefali	Chakrabarty

Guest speakers: Councillor Ray Donald (Joint LGNSW President)  
Ms Claire Evans, River Health Coordinator, GRCCC

## Meeting of the Cooks River Alliance Board

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### Agenda

1. Welcome by meeting host, Cr Philip Sansom, Hurstville City Council
  2. Welcome by Chair, apologies, minutes of previous meeting
  3. Address and discussion on Local Land Services, Cr Ray Donald, Joint President, LGNSW
  4. River Health monitoring Report Card, Clare Evans, GRCCC
  5. Project Manager's report
  6. Climate Change Resilience Report – Environmental Engineer
  7. Caring for our Country – new grant funded project
  8. Dual Naming – Aboriginal Cultural Recognition
  9. Second Alliance Term
  10. Update on Container Deposit System
  11. Financial Report
  12. Date and Location of Next Meeting
  13. Other Business
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## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board accept the minutes of the 26 June Strathfield meeting.

## **Meeting Minutes**

Host: Strathfield Municipal Council  
Wednesday 26 June 2013, 6.30-8:00pm

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### **Attendance**

Board Members	
Cr Brian Robson	Mayor, City of Canterbury
Cr Christine Forster	City of Sydney
Cr Andrew Soulos	Deputy Mayor, Strathfield Council
Council Officers	
Sarah Kamaruddin	Ashfield Council
Vila Gupta	Bankstown City Council
Jean Brennan	Marrickville Council
David Dekel	Rockdale Council
Cathy Jones	Strathfield Council
Cooks River Alliance	
Chris Hudson	Cooks River Alliance
Shefali Chakrabarty	Cooks River Alliance

### **Apologies**

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Board Members	
Cr Lucille McKenna	Ashfield Council
Cr Khal Asfour	Mayor, Bankstown City Council
Cr Philip Sansom	Hurstville City Council
Cr Victor Macri	Mayor of Marrickville Council
Cr Shane O'Brien	Mayor of Rockdale City Council
Council Officers	
Chris Derksema	City of Sydney
Nell Graham	City of Canterbury
Hazel Storey	Ashfield Council

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## 1. Welcome by Chair and Apologies

## 2. Short Marrickville Video – *A sign of the tides: King Tide on the Cooks River*

### 3. Minutes of previous Board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Decision: The minutes were adopted.

## 5. New Community Board Members

## Project Manager

## Steering Committee

<p><b>6. Project Manager report</b></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>The Project Manager gave a verbal report augmenting the paper one.</p> <p>Marrickville Council questioned the agreement between the Alliance and Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (CMA), limiting Alliance councils' eligibility for devolved funding from the CMA. The Project Manager confirmed the agreement was reached to make both the CMA and Alliance grant applications to the Caring for our Country program attractive to the Australian Government, and that it can be opened for re-negotiation, should Caring for our Country grant funding be received.</p> <p>The Project Manager provided updates on meetings with member councils' Aboriginal advisory committees.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Cr Robson recommended that the Project Manager seek a meeting with the Hon. Linda Burney to brief her on Alliance activities with Aboriginal communities.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>A verbal report on the progress on the campaign for a Container Deposit System (CDS) was given. The Boomerang Alliance recently conducted a poll in Victoria, Queensland and NSW, finding 84% of in favour of a CDS.</p> <p>The Project Manager thanked the Executive and Steering Committee for their support during his starting period.</p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Project Manager's report was accepted.</p>	<p><b>Project Manager</b></p>
<p><b>7. River Health Monitoring program: Alliance Contribution (Action Plan Program 2: Catchment Wide Monitoring)</b></p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board approve expenditure of \$70,000 to be paid to the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee, for continuation of River Health monitoring in the Cooks River for one year. Payment to be subject to agreement with GRCCC, on the undertaking of an independent review covering current and past monitoring programs</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Strathfield reinforced the importance of water quality monitoring, to measure the success of efforts to improve the health of the River.</p> <p>The City of Sydney questioning the source of funds for monitoring in following years. The Project Manager foreshadowed funding from councils, resulting from a future Cooks River Alliance agreement, with the current one expiring mid 2014.</p> <p>The potential for sponsorship of the River Health monitoring program was discussed, with Strathfield advising a sponsorship policy would be needed for the Alliance, as Strathfield, the host council for the Alliance, does not have one.</p>	

<p><b>8. Agreement with Sydney Water (Action Plan program 6: Communications)</b></p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board approve continuance of discussions with Sydney Water, Georges River Combined Councils' Committee and Parramatta River Catchment Group, to explore the idea of formal agreement with the Alliance, to work together.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion &amp; Action</u> The meeting discussed potential benefits of a formal agreement with Sydney Water, with the City of Sydney recommending a central first point of contact for councils in Sydney Water, be sought by the Alliance.</p>	<p><b>Project Manager</b></p>
<p><b>9. Regional Rivers Event (Action Plan program 6: Communications)</b></p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board approve continuance of discussions with the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Georges River Combined Councils' Committee, Parramatta River Catchment Group and Greenway regarding a regional event celebrating Sydney's rivers, as well as active living and active transport.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion</u> Cr Robson informed the meeting that at the last SSROC Board meeting, discussions were oriented towards city focused events, rather than towards a rivers theme.</p>	
<p><b>10. Financial report</b></p> <p><u>Decision:</u> The Board accepted the Recommendation:</p> <p><i>That the Board accept the statements of income and expenditure and the revised operational budget.</i></p>	
<p><b>11. Date and Location of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Hurstville Council.</p> <p><u>Action</u> PRCG might have their Board meeting on the same day, Project Manager to check.</p>	<p><b>Project Manager</b></p>
<p><b>12. Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8:00pm.</p>	

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board discuss with Councillor Ray Donald the implications of the dissolution of Catchment Management Authorities, and the formation of Local Land Services: for the Cooks River and other urban rivers.

That the Board consider appropriate advocacy actions for the Alliance, potentially with other regional bodies of councils.

### **BACKGROUND**

NSW Parliament passed the Local Land Services Bill 2013 on 27 June, for 11 regional Local Land Services organisations to be operational in January 2014. Catchment Management Authorities, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and the advisory service of the Department of Primary Industries, will be dissolved.

Councillor Ray Donald, Joint LGNSW President, is representing Local Government interests in the formation of Local Land Services.

The former Sydney Catchment Management Authority provided significant planning and advocacy for Sydney's urban rivers, and already important work such as the Sydney Metropolitan CMA, Catchment Action Plan 2012: *A Plan for Sydney's Liveability*, has been lost.

With a focus on reforms for rural NSW, there appears an urgent need to ensure that the new Greater Sydney Local Land Service delivers outcomes for Sydney's urban rivers.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board accept the Project Manager's Report.

**REPORT**

**Recruitment**

The Alliance has advertised and interviewed candidates for the full time Community Engagement and Education Coordinator and the part-time Communications Assistant roles. Appointments are imminent.

**ACTION PLAN PROGRAMS**

**Program 1: Capacity Building**

- Training for council engineers in MUSIC (Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualisation) is being arranged, firstly with Bankstown City Council
- "Cooks River - Adapting through Uncertainty" Presentation by Arup, 11.00am, 18/11/2013, Strathfield, all welcome, RSVP to [shefali.chakrabarty@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:shefali.chakrabarty@strathfield.nsw.gov.au) by 31 October

**Program 2: Catchment-wide Monitoring**

- Agreement with Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC) on a joint review of the River Health and River Science programs and continuation of River Health monitoring for 2013-2014 is pending
- Request for quotations for a contractor to assist GRCCC conduct monitoring completed, and Carl Tippler of CT Environmental is ready to be engaged, for \$29,000
- Scoping of a brief for an independent consultant to review the River Health and River Science monitoring programs commenced
- 2013 River Health Report Card released

**Program 3: Development of an Information Portal**

The Alliance is working with the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Shopfront program, and has engaged two teams of five students from their Integrated Communications class. A comprehensive brief was developed with the Ethnic Communities Council. Students are developing ideas and recommendations for how to design and develop an inspiring and interactive digital platform to produce care for - and connection to - the Cooks River. Their work will provide a starting point for the commissioning of the new Portal, next year.

**Program 4: Implementation of subcatchment management plans and other priority works**

- Functional design for the raingarden at Emery Ave (Bankstown Council) and Butler Res (Hurstville Council) is currently underway
- Location of water main at Madeline St (Strathfield Council) has been completed and Council is organising for locating the stormwater pipe. The next step is to obtain quotes for contamination management.
- The Alliance is organising survey for the proposed raingarden at Scouller St (Marrickville Council)
- Grant project inception meetings with Councils
- \$2M Funding for implementation gained under Australian Government Caring for our Country initiative



**Program 5: Intensive Correction Order Program**

The Department of Corrective Services has undergone a major restructure, and the Alliance contact has departed, apparently without providing any handover or leaving documentation. Since then, two meetings have been held with the Department and members, to begin re-establishment of the Program.

**Program 6: Communications Strategy**

The Alliance is partnering with the Ethnic Communities Council Sustainable Living Project (ECC), considered to be the local experts in sustainability education to diverse communities. ECC experience has shown their bi-lingual educators work most effectively with a pictorial resource, and the ECC and the Alliance are working to develop one for the Cooks River catchment. The ECC and the Alliance are working with a team of design students under the UTS Shopfront program. The publication will include a map of the river, current and future raingardens, how to recycle, reduce waste and make a water sensitive home.

In August the Alliance convened a 'Catchment Stakeholders Meeting' with the Steering Committee and state government agencies, to discuss the problem of the lack of agency responsibility for the lower Cooks River waterway. Representatives came from: the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Environment and Heritage, Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Health, Primary Industries, RailCorp and Sydney Water. Sydney Water advised the meeting that they look after the River, upstream of Boat Harbour. The EPA told the meeting that EPA policy, and their advice to the public and other agencies, is that councils are responsible for lower reach of the Cooks River. The Alliance and councils disagreed, and the EPA undertook to gain a determination.

Discussions with Sydney Water, on areas for collaboration and a potential formal agreement, are continuing.

The Project Manager has scheduled a meeting with the Hon. Linda Burney, MP, to discuss Aboriginal engagement.

As recommended by the City of Sydney, the Project Manager met with Ben Peacock from the Republic of Everyone agency. The agency may be engaged on a per-hour basis for assistance in the future.

The Project Manager convened a meeting with the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Program Manager and the Parramatta River Catchment Group Coordinator to discuss opportunities for joint advocacy and collaboration.

Hosting for the [www.cooksriver.org.au](http://www.cooksriver.org.au) website expired and a new host was engaged, and a move of the site was completed.

**Program 7: Change Resilience**

Reported on under agenda item 6.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Alliance Chair writes to member councils recommending that:

Councils assess the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and increase in rainfall intensity;

Councils adopt the sea level rise benchmark of 40cm increase by 2050 and 90cm increase by 2100, from the 1990 mean sea levels, as a default position;

Councils adopt a 30% increase level in rainfall intensity as a default benchmark;

Member councils advise the Alliance staff upon commencement of flood related studies, and utilize Alliance expertise

## **BACKGROUND**

As guided by Alliance Action Plan Program 7: *Development of a Climate Change Resilience program*, a review of member council's available flood studies has been undertaken to assess climate change scenarios. In addition, relevant studies by Sydney Water, Georges Rivers Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC), Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) and Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) have been reviewed.

## **CONTEXT**

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report 2007 concludes:

*"Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level"*

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has been observing and reporting on weather for over 100 years, and CSIRO has been conducting atmospheric and marine research for over 60 years. Their analysis reveals the climate in Australia is changing.

Climatic changes that have long term implications for flood behaviour within the Cooks River catchment include:

- ❖ Increase in sea level rise - from 1870 to 2007, the global average sea level rose by close to 20cm. Sea levels rose at an average of 0.17cm per year during the 20th century and about 0.3cm per year from 1993-2009. The sea level is likely to keep rising.
- ❖ Changes in rainfall patterns - the distribution of rainfall has changed significantly over the past 50 years. In northern and central Australia total rainfall has increased, whereas in southern and eastern

Australia total rainfall has decreased. The number of days with no precipitation is expected to increase in the future, corresponding to a decrease in mean rainfall across Australia. However, analysis of the evidence concludes there will be an increase in intense rainfall events.

## **CURRENT ADVICE**

The 2005 NSW Floodplain Development Manual requires that Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies consider the impacts of climate change on flood behaviour. In 2007, the (then) NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water provided guidelines on how to incorporate impacts of climate change into floodplain management.

The following sensitivity analyses were recommended:

- ❖ By 2100, for sea level rise:
  - 18cm increase (low level ocean impacts)
  - 55cm increase (mid range ocean impacts)
  - 91cm increase (high level ocean impacts)
- ❖ Rainfall Intensities. Increases of:
  - 10% in peak rainfall and storm volume
  - 20% in peak rainfall and storm volume
  - 30% in peak rainfall and storm volume

In October 2009 the NSW Government issued its Policy Statement on Sea Level Rise which stated:

*“Over the period 1870–2001, global sea levels rose by 20 cm, with a current global average rate of increase approximately twice the historical average. Sea levels are expected to continue rising throughout the twenty-first century and there is no scientific evidence to suggest that sea levels will stop rising beyond 2100 or that the current trends will be reversed.*

*Sea level rise is an incremental process and will have medium- to long-term impacts. The best national and international projections of sea level rise along the NSW coast are for a rise relative to 1990 mean sea levels of 40 cm by 2050 and 90 cm by 2100. However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 also acknowledged that higher rates of sea level rise are possible.”*

In September 2012, the NSW Government announced that the 2009 NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement is no longer NSW Government policy and encouraged councils to give local sea level rise projections due and proper consideration.

Therefore, the recommendations in this report are consistent with NSW Government advice.

## **FINDINGS**

### Climate change assessment

Findings show the majority of member council's flood and other studies have incorporated climate change assessments and have kept up-to-date with best practice.

### Sea Level Rise

Findings show the majority of member council's studies have incorporated the 2009 NSW Government Sea Level Rise Policy Statement, which indicates a 40cm sea level rise by 2050 and 90cm sea level rise by 2100.

### Rainfall Intensity

Findings show the majority of member council's studies have incorporated a 30% increase in rainfall intensity, applying the "precautionary principle".

Based on these findings, the Cooks River Alliance recommends to member councils that all future flood studies to be undertaken within the Cooks River Catchment incorporate:

- Climate change assessment
- The 2009 NSW Sea Level Rise Policy Statement benchmark data
- A 30% increase in rainfall intensity

To give this effect, it is recommended that the Alliance Chair write to councils requesting they notify the Alliance upon commencement of flood related studies and to determine how the Alliance may best assist. The Alliance Engineer can play an important and beneficial role in the floodplain management process by:

- Providing technical expertise in the development of flood studies
- Knowledge sharing of flood related studies across the catchment
- Promoting a consistent approach across the Cooks River Catchment
- Participating in Floodplain Risk Management Committees.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board accept the report.

**BACKGROUND**

As reported last meeting, the Alliance Project Manager has invested considerable time and energy undertaking a series of grant applications to the Australian Government under their Caring for our Country initiative. The Alliance is pleased to report that the final and largest of those applications has been approved, with \$1,999,291 granted over four years for the *We Are All Cooks River People: Realising Community Waterway Visions* project (a shorter name is being developed).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Cooks River Alliance will collaboratively implement community visions from OurRiver subcatchment planning and will overcome barriers to water sensitive communities, identified in the Alliance Management and Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Plans. Bio-retention systems (raingardens) will reduce pollutants at seven priority sites, and Landing Lights Wetlands will be remediated. A place-based water sensitive homes program will change household behaviour.

This project builds on existing community partnerships, and combines environmental interpretation with community cultural development. Connections for Cooks River People will grow, with each other, ecosystem processes, waterways and with traditional knowledge surrounding catchment history and significance.

**PROJECT OUTCOMES**

Maintenance of ecosystem services is achieved by mitigating impacts of urban land use with seven vegetated bio-retention systems, two swales, wetland remediation at Landing Lights, facilitating household adoption of water sensitive practices and building community connection with the Cooks River through information, interpretation and experience.

(a) Restoration of wetland; enhancing migratory species and Green and Gold Bell Frog habitat; protection of one of the last remaining saline wetlands on the Cooks River.

(b) Restoring Cooks River resilience by constructing vegetated bio-retention systems to reduce pollutant loads below Botany Bay WQIP target levels at 7 sites of 18.94 ha catchment.

(c) Contributes to protecting Towra Point through reduction of pollutants entering Botany Bay and the consequent improvement of water quality.

(d) Enhances capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect natural resources by providing opportunities (with resources and skills development) for council Aboriginal advisory committees and traditional knowledge-holders to communicate traditional knowledge to council staff, councillors and communities

(e) Builds natural resource management skills, knowledge and engagement of our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) peoples, by partnering with local groups in planning and maintenance for bio-retention systems and engagement in a Water Sensitive Homes program. An integrated program of information, experiential events and capacity building includes skills development for CALD peoples to

enable them to further engage and inform their communities in culturally appropriate ways, as well as provision for active environmental groups to engage other communities of interest

Engagement of Council staff in ecosystem understanding, Indigenous perspectives and community engagement skills will ensure current and future on-ground works are holistic and deliver environmental, social and economic outcomes.

## **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

The activities emerged from the collaboration and detailed social-ecological profiling in the OurRiver project, which led to six sub-catchment plans and the co-governance framework of the Cooks River Alliance Management Plan. Bio-retention systems were selected from sub-catchment plans using MUSIC and quadruple bottom line analysis to ensure pollutant removal effectiveness, cost/benefit, institutional capacity and local community support for implementation and maintenance.

The Water Sensitive Homes program will establish community champions and demonstration sites, and develop "how to" resources to support household adoption. This was chosen as it addresses the need for household participation identified in research (eg Brown et al, 2011) and the Botany Bay WQIP, builds on a legacy of community involvement, and uses an engagement model proven to be successful in Marrickville.

The project will help connect the culturally diverse Cooks River community with their waterway, its ecosystem processes, and the Traditional Knowledge surrounding its history and significance through culturally appropriate presentations, tours and events. These activities were chosen because the OurRiver project found that community understanding of local history, ecosystem processes and household impacts was limiting their engagement with the river and their adoption of water sensitive behaviours.

## **CONCLUSION**

Gaining this grant is a significant win for the Alliance, and is a strong validation of the Alliance model and the work undertaken by organisations preceding the Alliance. The grant is one of only three made under the Target Area category in NSW. The monies will provide for achieving and exceeding the Alliance Action Plan Program 4: Priority Works, as well as contributing substantially to Program 1: Capacity Building.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve the Alliance seeking adoption of second, traditional Aboriginal name, for the Cooks River and other suitable geographic features of the catchment; according to the processes defined by the Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB).

### **BACKGROUND**

The NSW Government has supported a dual naming policy since 2001, and in March of this year a Fact Sheet was released, which sets out the policy and processes for gaining a second Aboriginal traditional name.

### **KEY POINTS**

- Anyone can submit a dual naming proposal to the GNB
- Applies to already named geographical features, especially those of significance to the local Aboriginal community
- Strong written or oral tradition evidence of a pre-existing Aboriginal name required
- Following acceptance, signposts, maps and directories can use both names (the update could be made upon scheduled replacement)
- The name in most common use appears first in the written sequence
- Names are written in the same size, font and colour
- Support of relevant local council required (for the River, this would include the 13 councils in the catchment)
- Support of Metropolitan Land Council required
- Support of any relevant tribal elders group required
- Resident and community consultation strongly recommended
- Written proposal made to the GNB, who make a determination
- The traditional name for Cooks River may be 'Goolay'yari'
- The Dictionary of Sydney records that the River's traditional name is lost

### **PROPOSED PROCESS**

The Alliance would incorporate seeking a traditional Aboriginal name for the Cooks River, and any other relevant geographic features (such as caves and tributaries), into existing project activities.

For example, when working with councils and communities on the Caring for our Country project, the Alliance would consult on the dual naming proposal. The Alliance is working with council Aboriginal advisory committees and groups, to whom the proposal would be taken first.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Chair write to member councils requesting they favourably consider membership of a second term of the Cooks River Alliance.

**BACKGROUND**

The Alliance is constituted under a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by council general managers and concluding 30 June 2014.

The Alliance has grown from a long-standing tradition of Cooks River councils working successfully together for the health of the River. Effective preceding organisations include the Cooks River Foreshores Working Group and the OurRiver project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

The successful alliance model of Local Government collaboration for efficient and effective natural resource management, is reflected in sister organisations such as: the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee; the Parramatta River Catchment Group and the Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

**SECOND TERM OF THE ALLIANCE**

The Alliance Steering Committee and staff are currently considering options for a second term. Areas being examined include existing member councils operations, that may be able to be better coordinated or delivered by the Alliance.

The potential for new members, such as the five Cooks River catchment councils currently not in the Alliance, is also under discussion.

In any scenario, a continuation of the Alliance is recommended to member councils, especially given the Caring for our Country grant project, which runs until 2017.

To assist with member council budgeting, it is recommend the Alliance Chair write to councils asking them to favourably consider continuation of their membership of the Alliance, including financial contributions at the current levels, plus CPI.

A further report will be bought to the Board with details on options for a second term, following Steering Committee deliberations and agreement.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board accept the report.

**BACKGROUND**

Advocacy in NSW for a Container Deposit System (CDS) is being led by the Boomerang Alliance, comprising 27 organisations supporting recycling, and including Local Government NSW. The Cooks River Alliance joined the Boomerang Alliance in 2012. The Boomerang Alliance is managed by the Total Environment Centre, and in March this year the Board determined the Cooks River Alliance make them a \$5,000 donation.

**UPDATE**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is currently considering a Decision Regulation Impact Statement, examining 10 options for packaging and drink containers including a CDS. It is expected this process will be completed in October. Ministers may then meet out of session or wait till their currently planned date of early December.

There is increasing evidence that all states except Queensland are looking to support a Container Deposit System. The Boomerang Alliance advises there is big majority of the NSW government backbenchers supporting a CDS, and that the Victorian government is 'very keen' for a CDS. Strong opposition to a CDS continues to come from the Australian Food and Grocery Council and Coca-Cola Amatil.

It is believed that the federal Liberal National Party have an open mind on CDS nationally and would not object to individual states taking action to introduce a CDS.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board accept the financial report.

Cooks River Alliance								
For the Project Year 2 - 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 as at 30/06/2013								
Income							Actual YTD	
Grant Income received from various Councils							(349,000.00)	
1081500000	Hurstville City Council			(38,000.00)	Paid			
994600000	ASHFIELD COUNCIL			(7,000.00)	Paid			
1055700000	Bankstown City Council			(13,000.00)	Paid			
927200000	CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL			(45,000.00)	Paid			
956800000	MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL			(55,000.00)	Paid			
957000000	ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL			(63,000.00)	Paid			
974100000	City of Canterbury Council			(73,000.00)	Paid			
Internal Transfer	STRATHFIELD COUNCIL			(40,000.00)	Paid			
956800000	MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL			(5,000.00)	Paid			
957000000	ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL			(5,000.00)	Paid			
974100000	City of Canterbury Council			(5,000.00)	Paid			
Total Service Income							(349,000.00)	
Expenses							GST Exclusive	
Salaries and Wages		40672-029					112,580.14	
Oncosts		40672-100					45,644.31	
Insurance		40672-013					11.67	
Catering		40672-022					56.69	
Travel		40672-039					95.96	
Materials		40672-122					4,534.84	
Contactors		40672-123					6,980.00	
Transfer from Previous Year		40672-118					(152,528.00)	
Total Service Expenditure							\$17,375.61	GST exc
Budget remaining as at 30/06/2013							(331,624.39)	GST exc
Additional reserve from Cooks River Foreshores Working Group: \$72,958								