

Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre Inc.

Annual Report
2007-08

*The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre works with others
in the community – including business, council, government
and residents – to achieve a sustainable environment
in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions.*



Patron

R.D. (Bob) Walshe, OAM

Board Members 2007-08

Bob Walshe (Chairperson)

John Nelson (Treasurer)

Phil Smith (Secretary)

Roger Bramble

Michael McInerney

Neil DeNett

Development Officer

Graeme Booth

Chairman's Report

"The only issue that really matters"

If I were asked to sum up the current situation, it would be "congested": 6.5 billion people and their plunder of the earth have brought us to a point where a third of the world's species could be gone by 2100. If greenhouse gas emissions aren't greatly reduced by 2020, humanity will suffer catastrophic climate change.

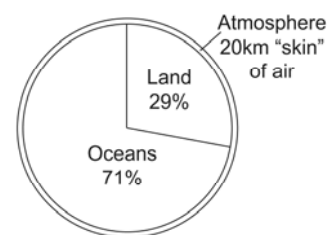
"It is no longer a case of how much more we can 'safely' emit, but whether we can stop emissions and produce a deliberate cooling before the Earth's climate system reaches a point beyond any hope of human restoration" *Climate Code Red*, David Spratt & Philip Sutton

Can humanity be persuaded to declare **A Global Warming Emergency?**

While the main action to turn around this bleak outlook has to be taken by government, what can we, as individuals and as an Environment Centre, do?

1. *How to cope with the complexity?* The Global Warming phenomenon is immensely complex. How do we ourselves get a grip on it? How can we then simplify/popularise our response to it?
2. *Dimension of the danger.* Our species' growth has already seriously upset the natural balance of Earth's life-friendly biosphere and the damage is accelerating in all three great regions:

- oceans, warming, acidification, pollution, declining O₂ production.
- land, warming, deforestation, desertification, declining O₂ production.
- air, warming, CO₂ increasing, pollution, proportion of O₂ declining.



3. *Fundamental enemy of remedial action.* The worldwide capitalist economy is a profit-and-growth economy. (Alternatives such as socialism/cooperatives/anarchism have no chance of getting up.) It is dedicated to resource exploitation, technology improvement, population expansion. Though individual entrepreneurs may be enlightened, most are terrified by the prospect of serious change.

4. *Who can change the present course?* The mass of humanity can't be informed/alerted to the danger in time to be effective. As deterioration sets

in – as it certainly will – only governments can enforce action. But will they? Most are attentive to the big profit-hungry corporations, while most politicians are career-oriented and so lack incentive, let alone courage, to check the growth economy.

“Addressing climate change is *one of the key economic and environmental challenges facing Australia and the rest of the world... An effective global and domestic response to climate change is one of the highest priorities of the Australian Government.*” *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper, July 2008 (emphasis added).*

5. Immediate prospect is bleak. Several of the major nations won't cooperate in timely carbon-limiting cuts. Our federal Opposition will seize on this to attack whatever restrictions Rudd attempts, and Rudd will anyway attempt a good deal less than Garnaut suggests... (and Garnaut's 10% by 2020 is way below what many scientists and environmentalists say we require). Where do we go?

6. A rough road ahead for environmentalists. We have endured four decades of abuse as greenies/extremists (since Rachel Carson's 1962 *Silent Spring* aroused a green movement) – and it isn't going to get better. But there will be differences.

7. Speculation on the next dozen years. Australia's two-party system will prove to be inadequate to meet the global warming emergency. Existing trends towards Lib-Lab convergence will increase, but at the same time a genuine opposition will strengthen and will especially gather strength as evidence of climate change/global warming accumulates. (It is likely at first to be a “rainbow coalition” of forces that range right across the old Left-Right or radical-conservative spectrum.) While all this is rather quickly becoming evident, environmentalists will have to endure the abuse of the business-as-usual people and the rabid climate change deniers.

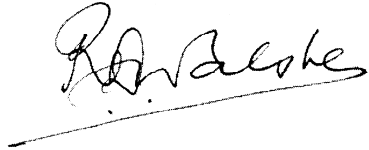
8. Individual and Group Actions. When faced with imminent catastrophe, it is easy to become depressed or overwhelmed. But by acting through Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, our community can become empowered.

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre's primary vehicle to fight the war on climate change is SCAN, the Sutherland Climate Action Network, led by Jonathan Doig. SCAN members include all types of people, seasoned campaigners as well as people with young families. SCAN offers a wide range of actions to suit all tastes – email lists, regular meetings, letter writing projects... to the excitement of old-style campaigning with plenty of placards and even the threat of arrest!

Prior to the local government elections last week, SCAN surveyed all Shire candidates and has been pleased to announce that 10 of the 15 councillors

are “climate friendly”. We are sure that these councillors will enjoy being reminded of their responses to the SCAN survey over the next four years!

I strongly encourage all members of the Centre, indeed all residents of Sutherland Shire, to become actively involved with SCAN... in 2008, climate change is “the only issue that really matters”.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.D. Walshe', written over a horizontal line.

R.D. Walshe, Chairman
16 September 2008

Statement of Purpose

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre will work with others in the community – including business, council, government and residents – to achieve a sustainable environment in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions.

Statement of Functions

The Board agrees that the following list comprises the priority functions of the SSEC:

1. Establish the SSEC as the Peak Environment Group in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions, one that supports low-impact lifestyles, practices and behaviours in the community.
2. Establish efficient communication processes with the community.
3. Develop and conduct education initiatives.
4. Campaign publicly for protecting and improving the quality of the environment in Sutherland and its bio-regions.
5. Support members and local community organisations in their efforts to protect their local areas.
6. Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for the Centre.
7. Strengthen relationships with Sutherland Shire Council, other councils and other community and environmental organisations.
8. Raise funds to carry out the functions of the Centre.

For all of the above, the principles of working in partnership with others and in concert with other initiatives apply. Consultation and collaboration are vital elements of effective partnerships.

The overall aim is to create an environment centre! One that is welcoming and useful for the community. And one that models and demonstrates environmental and sustainability values in its decisions, practices and actions.

Achieving our Purpose in 2007-08

The “Statement of Purpose and Functions” (upon which this report is based), is the statement that guides all our actions and the implementation of our strategic initiatives.

1. *Establish the SSEC as the Peak Environment Group in the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions, one that supports low-impact lifestyles, practices and behaviours in the community.*

- ❑ Sutherland Shire Environment Centre was included in the preliminary meetings of stakeholders for consideration of the “Kurnell 2020” project which will rehabilitate and create biodiversity corridors in the Kurnell Peninsula over the next decade. 2020 will be the 250th anniversary of the arrival of Cook at Kurnell and the project aims to restore (at least some) of the natural environment to its pre-European state. Other stakeholders included Council, state and federal government, indigenous community, bushcare workers, NP&WS, Lands Department, and Sydney Catchment Authority. It was refreshing to hear many stakeholders using terms such as “whole of government approach is needed”, “Kurnell is an iconic place”, “of great historical, cultural and environmental importance”. Hopefully the Kurnell 2020 project will see this rhetoric become reality.
- ❑ SSEC continues to liaise with state government over a shared path/cycleway along the Cronulla Sutherland rail link. Mixed messages from different community groups involved have caused some confusion as to what the community actually wants. The recent retirement from state parliament of transport minister John Watkins (supporter of the concept) combined with changes to the ministry and a shortage of funds could also lead to this project having reduced priority.

2. *Establish efficient communication processes with the community*

- ❑ The SSEC website generates a steady number of enquiries. Types of enquiries are being monitored and the website regularly updated in an attempt to stop misplaced enquiries, while at the same time increasing interest and enquiries on issues that fall within the objects of the Centre. The site is updated on a continual basis to reflect the progress of campaigns and activities of the Centre and its members.
- ❑ *Your Local Voice* has proven very popular as the Centre’s e-news. It endeavours to keep members and subscribers up to date with environmental benefits and challenges to the Sutherland Shire and

its bio-regions. *Your Local Voice* is also sent to directors and managers of Sutherland Council departments, Mayor and councillors, and to all local MPs.

- ❑ Email networks are continually being monitored and updated to ensure the Centre is exchanging current and useful information with like minded community and environmental organizations.
- ❑ A recent SCAN event allowed us to engage in a “live” discussion with David Spratt, one of the authors of *Climate Code Red*, using Skype and webcams. This was an eye-opening experience highlighting the far reaching benefits of technology for community groups. At virtually no expense we were able to see and talk to people sitting at their home computer in Melbourne. This event made use of the Centre’s recently purchased digital projector and screen, which allowed David to run his presentation from Melbourne directly to our meeting in Gymea Bay. The implications of this technology are exciting, enabling grass roots NGOs like ours to communicate with similar groups around Australia, and even in other countries.
- ❑ New means need to be examined constantly to enable the Centre to educate and inform Shire residents more effectively about the challenges to our environment.

3. *Develop and conduct education initiatives*

- ❑ The SSEC Writing About the Environment Competition was held this year with six local Shire schools participating. Ruth Zeibots, who has ably coordinated the competition since its inception a number of years ago, said: “It was encouraging to see the interest from the youth of our Shire for the Writing About the Environment Competition. A total of 460 students took part.” Schools represented were: Engadine North Primary, Yowie Bay Primary, Kurnell Public School, Oyster Bay Primary, Illawong Primary, Gymea Bay Primary. Book prizes were awarded at school assemblies and happily received by all.

SSEC veteran Ruth Turner did the judging this year and was impressed by the number and quality of entries. “They were quite remarkable”, she said. “There was a special interest in preservation of native animals and flora”.

- ❑ A workshop by the Environmental Defenders Office was held in the Rainbow Room at Sutherland Entertainment Centre in August. There was a good turn-out of active environmentalists to hear the facts about the new Part 3a of the EP&A Act.

The Mayor David Redmond, Councillor Magdi Mikhail and state member for Cronulla, Malcolm Kerr, attended the workshop along

with members of community. We would like to thank the Mayor for contributing his knowledge of local planning processes to the workshop.

- ❑ Again this year SSEC has provided guest speakers for local community groups. The Centre hopes to make the availability of speakers better known to our local community groups. The Centre has purchased a data projector and screen to support this program and other initiatives.

4. Campaign publicly for protecting and improving the quality of the environment in Sutherland and its bioregions

❑ **Your Local Voice**

Our campaigning toolbox includes our website, our e-newsletter *Your Local Voice*, letter writing, and media releases.

To subscribe, or contribute, to *Your Local Voice* email yourlocalvoice@ssec.org.au

❑ **Sutherland Climate Action Network (SCAN)**

SCAN is the SSEC-affiliated climate action group. SCAN formed in February 2007 and has grown to nearly 200 supporters across the Shire. In that time, like many local climate groups, SCAN members have been shocked by the evidence of accelerating climate change and now advocate *emergency action* to eliminate greenhouse emissions as soon as possible and actively cool the Earth to return to a safe climate.

SCAN has received regular publicity in *The Leader* and *Shire Life* with a number of active members regularly contributing letters and articles.

Highlights of the year's activities include:

- October 2007: IN THE HOT SEAT – Federal election candidates' forum attracted a full house at Hazelhurst;
- February 2008: THE POWER OF COMMUNITY: How Cuba survived peak oil, inspirational DVD showing at Woronora;
- August 2008: distribution of 37 copies of *Climate Code Red: the case for emergency action* to members and local politicians; and
- September 2008: Council Candidates Questionnaire, demonstrating wide support for strong local action among candidates.

SCAN meets on the first Tuesday of every odd month at 6:45pm in the Sutherland Library meeting room. Visit sutherlandcan.org.au or call Jonathan Doig on 0409 049185.

❑ **Desalination**

The construction of a huge \$1.76 billion desalination plant at Kurnell is continuing in spite of the community opposition against the plant. Protests and Public Meetings at Kurnell have failed to sway the government but SSEC and BBACA are maintaining pressure on the government to minimize the local and environmental impacts of the development.

❑ **Botany Bay**

With BBACA, we facilitated the production of a brochure "Treasures of Botany Bay. Who is going to save them?". A grant from LEAF helped with the initial print run, Scott Morrison, Federal Member for Cook provided the money to print sufficient for distribution in the Sutherland Shire. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre covered the cost of letterboxing the Shire's homes.

❑ **Mining under catchments**

Despite longwall mining's devastating impacts to the Waratah Rivulet, Metropolitan Colliery has submitted plans to undermine the watercourse that provides 29% of water to the Sutherland Shire for a further 25 years.

Put before the Department of Planning (DoP) in late July, the proposal presents the first real test of how the NSW Government responds to the findings of the recently released Southern Coalfield Inquiry.

Member groups of the *Waterfirst* coalition believe the new mining proposal is outrageous and that in light of the destruction that has already taken place Peabody Energy (owner of Metropolitan Colliery) is treating the general public and agencies such as the SCA with contempt.

Despite widespread calls for one kilometre protection zones around rivers and swamps, the Southern Coalfield Inquiry only found that these areas should be identified as Risk Management Zones (RMZs) where mining may still take place. The Inquiry has also suggested it be left to mining companies themselves to identify RMZs within their own mining leases.

At the release of the Southern Coalfield Inquiry, Planning Minister Frank Sartor promised to hold a further Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel inquiry into the latest proposal to undermine Waratah Rivulet. Environment groups believe this Panel should be made up of experts free of the mining industry connections of those who comprised the Southern Coalfield Inquiry.

With nearly a third of the direct water supply at stake, the Sutherland community should be concerned... very concerned.

5. Support members and local community organisations in their efforts to protect their local areas

- ❑ SSEC has worked with local cycling group SharkBike and council to facilitate the construction of a cycleway/shared path in Woodlands Road Taren Point.
- ❑ SSEC continues to work with council and local community groups to minimize the environmental damage that will be caused by the construction of the Desalination Plant at Kurnell.
- ❑ SSEC supports the local climate action network SCAN. SCAN has SSEC members as active participants and makes good use of our projector and screen.
- ❑ SSEC provided meeting facilities and support for CRoSS (Combined Residents of Sutherland Shire) where representatives of local precinct committees meet.
- ❑ Sutherland Shire Environment Centre provided Hazelhurst Theatre as a venue for a presentation on electro-magnetic radiation; the event was organised by Lyn Ward of EMR Australia.
- ❑ Support NPA (Southern Sydney) by attending and promoting slide shows. Details will be provided in future editions of *Your Local Voice*.
- ❑ SSEC continues to support the Bundeena-Maianbar Heritage Trail by providing the website for the trail.

6. Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for the Centre

- ❑ Email is now handled remotely and the information forwarded on a need to know basis. Some campaigners have their email diverted through an SSEC email address to an address they nominate. The Centre's phones are diverted when the Centre is not manned and are therefore able to be responded to on a 24/7 basis.
- ❑ The Centre quarterly newsletter has become a monthly e-newsletter, *Your Local Voice* – a speedier and far more cost-efficient method of reaching the members. Those without email can request a hard copy of the newsletter. For those with internet access there are many links provided to the subject matter in the newsletter.

7. Strengthen relationships with Sutherland Shire Council, other councils and other community and environmental organizations

- ❑ SSEC has continued to work well and often closely with the Sutherland Shire Council. For many years, Brian Venn has been our representative on the Port Hacking Management Panel and the Draft Management Plan for Port Hacking has just been released. Brian has been forced to resign from this committee due to work commitments and it is hoped that Michael McInerney can become our representative on the Panel when Council resumes after the election.
 - ❑ A regular guest at our board meetings this year has been Gary Blaschke from South West Environment Centre and BBACA (Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance). Gary has worked closely with Bob Walshe and Phil Smith on the anti-desalination campaign, expansion of Port Botany and the running of electrical cables under Botany Bay.
 - ❑ Through Graeme Booth and Jenni Gormley, SSEC has worked with other environmental organisations to form effective coalitions to secure positive environmental outcomes. At a meeting of Rivers SOS earlier this year there were over 50 attendees from peak groups including Total Environment Centre and Colong Foundation for Wilderness, NPA and many smaller community action groups from southern and western Sydney, the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and the Southern Highlands.
 - ❑ The anti-desalination campaign led by SSEC is being conducted in conjunction with the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Total Environment Centre, BBACA (Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance), Kurnell Progress Association and many smaller local environment action groups. As the plant is currently under construction the main emphasis has shifted to the minimization of construction impacts on the local community and the minimization of environmental impacts on the Bay and surrounds.
- 8. *Raise funds to carry out the functions of the Centre***
- ❑ SSEC's future coordination and participation in community environmental projects will continue to have the potential to attract funding from local business through corporate/community/government partnerships.
 - ❑ During this financial year the Centre has further strengthened its financial position (see financial report). Continued sound financial management and planning will secure the Centre's future ability to pursue its stated goals.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

CONTENTS

Income & Expenditure Statement

Balance Sheet

Notes to the Accounts

Auditors' Report

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 2008**

2007		NOTE	
	<u>INCOME</u>		
1,667	Subscriptions	1,583	
71,988	Donations	61,475	
1,967	Sales	-	
10,390	Grants	2,389	
119	Interest Received	243	
	Fund Raising Events &		
1,905	Sundry Income	158	
14,431	Rents Received	53,551	
<u>102,467</u>	TOTAL INCOME		<u>119,399</u>
	<u>EXPENSES</u>		
668	Advertising	-	
865	Bank Charges	646	
	Computer Software &		
117	Maintenance	-	
25,001	Consultants Fees	25,000	
3,371	Depreciation	1,974	
621	Electricity	384	
9,317	Environmental Projects	10,503	
41	Fund Raising Activities	-	
5,000	Honorarium	1,250	
2,247	Insurance	2,190	
19,444	Interest	21,719	
329	Meeting Expenses	1,160	
280	Postage	66	
410	Printing & Stationery	77	
14,269	Rates & Strata Fees	14,084	
13,145	Rent	13,833	
246	Repairs & Maintenance	45	
91	Staff Amenities	7	
591	Subscriptions & Licences	132	
2,714	Telephone & Internet	2,073	
<u>98,767</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>95,143</u>
<u>3,700</u>	OPERATING SURPLUS		<u>24,256</u>

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 2008**

2007

NOTE

3,700	Operating Surplus	24,256
<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
3,700	OPERATING SURPLUS AND EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	24,256
279,502	Retained Surplus	
	Brought Forward	283,202
<u>283,202</u>		<u>307,458</u>
283,202	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	307,458

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30th June 2008**

2007

NOTE

SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES

	<u>Reserves</u>	
283,202	Accumulated Surplus	307,458

REPRESENTED BY

PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

506,353	Buildings - at Cost		506,353
46,690	Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	48,454	
32,080	Less Prov'n for Depreciation	34,054	
			<u>14,400</u>
520,963			520,753

CURRENT ASSETS

2,814	Cash at Bank	6,114	
20,125	Public Gift Fund	46,965	
1,291	PHPS Cash Management Account	1,260	
5,628	ANZ SSEC Projects Account	5,657	
3,304	Security Deposit	3,304	
250	Prepayments	929	
3,665	GST on acquisitions	2,115	
			<u>66,344</u>
558,040	TOTAL ASSETS		587,097

CURRENT LIABILITIES

19,000	Loan - Literary Productions Pty Limited	19,000	
1,264	GST on supplies	1,168	
4,574	Grants Received in Advance	4,574	
-	Rents Received in Advance	4,897	
			<u>29,639</u>

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

250,000	Loan - Colonial First State Investments Limited		250,000
283,202	NET ASSETS		<u>307,458</u>

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 2008**

NOTE 1 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the accounts preparation requirements of the Corporations Law. The Committee have determined that the incorporated entity is not a reporting entity as defined in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1: Definition of the Reporting Entity, and therefore application of approved accounting standards is not mandatory in the preparation and presentation of these statements.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Law, and the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date
AASB 1031: Materiality

No other Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The statements are prepared on an accruals basis from the records of the club. They are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these statements:

(a) **PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant and equipment are included at cost or at independent or Members valuation. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including capitalised leased assets, but excluding freehold land and buildings, are depreciated over their useful lives or at depreciation rates set by the Commissioner of Taxation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Properties held for investment purposes are not subject to a depreciation charge.

(b) **INVESTMENTS**

Investments are valued either at cost less amounts written off for permanent diminution in the value of the investments, or at Members' valuation. Dividends and interest are brought to account when received.

(c) **INCOME TAX**

Exemption from Income Tax has been obtained by virtue of Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

1st Floor, 33 MacMahon Street, Hurstville NSW 2220
Tel (02) 9570 8999 Fax (02) 9570 8011
PO Box 617 Hurstville NSW 1481
email spaully@munrospaul.com.au
www.munrospaul.com.au
ABN 70 959 486 153

SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

SCOPE

We have audited the Financial Statements of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated for the year ended 30th June, 2008 comprising Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statement and Statement of Retained Funds. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Financial Statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of these Financial Statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Financial Statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects the Financial Statements are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view of the Organisation which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 are appropriate for the needs of the members. While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Receipts from donations and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated. The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations and other fundraising activity revenue prior to entry in its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from these sources was limited, our audit procedures with respect to donations and other fundraising activity revenue had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore are unable to express an opinion on whether donations and other fundraising activity revenue obtained by the Sutherland Shire environment Centre Incorporated are complete.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the Financial Statements of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated present fairly the assets and liabilities as at 30th June 2008 and the income and expenditure of the Organisation for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of the accounting described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements.

Dated this 17th day of September 2008

MUNRO SPAUL – Accountants


.....
B.W. SPAUL (Principal)

1st Floor, 33 MacMahon Street, Hurstville NSW 2220
Tel (02) 9570 8999 Fax (02) 9570 8011
PO Box 617 Hurstville NSW 1481
email spaully@munrospaul.com.au
www.munrospaul.com.au
ABN 70 959 486 153

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C
OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief , during the year ended 30th June 2008 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor's independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- no contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**MUNRO
SPAUL**
Partner

HURSTVILLE, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2008.

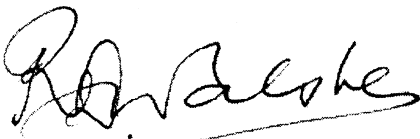
SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE Inc

STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 26(6) OF THE ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1984

In accordance with a Resolution of the Board:

- (a) The attached Income and Expenditure Statement of SSEC is not misleading and gives a true and fair view of the association during its last financial year.
- (b) The attached Balance Sheet of SSEC is not misleading and gives a true and fair view of the association as at 30 June 2008.
- (c) The association has a mortgage of \$250,000 over the association's property at Unit 4, 2-4 Merton Street, Sutherland. As at 30 June 2008, the mortgage balance was \$250,000 which is secured by first mortgage over the property.
- (d) The association received a grant in 2001 from Local Environments of Australia Fund (LEAF) for an amount of \$250,000. This amount is repayable under the following condition:
Rule 26d: The \$250,000 grant from LEAF (Local Environments of Australia Fund) to purchase the property described in 26(b) was made with the understanding that the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated would continue as a local environmental action group, but if this ceases to be the case then the property described in 26(b) or the assets acquired in 26(b)(ii) are to be liquidated and the funds realized subject to 26(b)(i) are to be given to LEAF.

Signed by



Bob Walshe
Chairman
For and on behalf of the Board.