

Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre Inc.

Annual Report
2008-09

*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 2008-09

Jenni Gormley (Chairperson)

John Nelson (Treasurer)

Phil Smith (Secretary)

Roger Bramble

Jonathan Doig

Tassia Kolesnikow

Michael McInerney

Ruth Zeibots

Development Officer

Graeme Booth

Chairman's Report

Twelve months ago, we sat through our first Annual General Meeting without the presence of our founder and Patron, Bob Walshe. What a fright his sudden illness gave us! And how happy we were to see him, over a period of mere months, rise like the Phoenix – prepared once again to do battle on behalf of the environment, on behalf of democracy, on behalf of the Sutherland Shire.

But Bob's setback was a reminder that community groups led by charismatic figures can easily lean too heavily on that leader. We need to nurture emerging activists and campaigners and ensure our objectives and activities keep in touch with current issues, current technology.

The 2008-09 Board has been a good blend of the old and the new. We welcomed a number of new faces. These people have provided new impetus to our decision making. This, together with the input from long standing directors who understand the history of SSEC, has I believe resulted in a year that Sutherland Shire Environment Centre can be proud of.

The Board has continued to recognise the importance of working towards financial sustainability. Our goal is to significantly reduce our mortgage when it comes up for renewal later next year. We were very pleased though to find that we were still in a position to be able to make generous contributions to a number of campaigns that affected our Shire. These are detailed elsewhere in this Report.

We have worked hard to ensure that Sutherland Shire Environment Centre is recognised as the peak environmental organisation in southern Sydney. With this in mind we have given careful consideration to the coalitions we became involved with: Rivers SOS, Climate Network, Parks & Native Animal Protection Coalition, all include member groups with strong environmental credibility.

And through all this we have endeavoured to empower a range of individuals. When people say to us "Why don't you...?", we respond "You are right! What can we do to help you to achieve that?"

The next few months will be busy. Copenhagen looms like a storm cloud. Is there any possibility that the governments of the world will make satisfactory decisions? It is likely that climate change will be a very high priority for us.

But there will be other campaigns. There are always other campaigns. A mix of local and wider ranging. There will be the (to some) smaller issues and there will be the grand campaigns.

And despite needing to take time out to care for his beloved bantams, I am sure that for many years to come Bob will be there in the background to advise us on our tactics.

Jenni Gormley
September 2009

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 Sutherland Shire Environment 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 Sutherland Shire Environment 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 2008-09

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.

- ❑ Natural Areas Campaigner – In March 2009 we welcomed David Burgess as our Natural Areas Campaigner. David also works with TEC in this capacity and we are very grateful for his assistance. His main focus at the moment is on the Rivers SOS campaign against damage caused by mining which includes threats to our own Woronora Reservoir. David is also helping to create on-line maps of the Kai’Mia Way as another tool we can use to highlight and preserve our natural areas.
- ❑ Parks and Native Animal Protection Coalition – This campaign has SSEC establishing itself as the Sutherland Shire representative in a coalition of major environmental groups. Other members are Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Invasive Species Council, Humane Society International, National Parks Association (NSW), WIRES, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, The Wilderness Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness and Total Environment Centre.
- ❑ Cabinet meetings – When State Cabinet Ministers visited the Shire in early December, representatives from Sutherland Shire Environment Centre made sure that they took advantage of this opportunity to speak up on behalf of our local environment. Meetings were arranged with Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally (mining proposal under Woronora), Deputy Premier and Minister for the Environment Carmel Tebbutt (proposal for bond on Part 3A developments, and climate change) and Minister for Roads David Campbell (Cronulla-Sutherland Rail Trail).
- ❑ NSW State Plan – In August, SSEC was invited to attend a review of the NSW State Plan. This invitation was passed on to our members, many of whom grasped this opportunity to speak to decision makers about a wide range of environmental concerns.
- ❑ Kurnell 2020 – Sutherland Shire Environment Centre continues to be involved in 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, NPWS, Lands Department, and Sydney Catchment Authority

- ❑ Pathway to the Sea – SSEC continued to liaise with state government and council over a shared path/cycleway along the Cronulla Sutherland rail link. Consultation has taken place to determine the most appropriate route for a shared path between Sutherland and Cronulla and we now look forward to the appearance of the consultants' report.
- ❑ New Office – The move into the new office in Durban Court was completed in February this year. Though small, it houses all the old campaign records, a large desk, two computers and office and other equipment for use by members of SSEC. The fact that the office is rarely used other than for storage while several large campaigns are being fought vindicates the Board's decision to move premises in order to progress towards a successful and sustainable environment centre .

2. *Establish efficient communication processes with the community*

- ❑ The SSEC and Great Kai'Mia Way websites continue to generate 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 SSEC.
The SSEC site is updated on a continual basis to reflect the progress of campaigns and activities of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and its members. There are now new fact sheets on the website that have been prepared by Phil Smith and Jenni Gormley.
The Great Kai'Mia Way site will be updated with proper digital maps as they become available.
- ❑ *Your Local Voice* has proven very popular as Sutherland Shire Environment 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, as well as a number of other environmentally focussed individuals.
- ❑ Email networks have become the most important and effective method of communication with our members and associates. Our mailing lists are growing with each campaign we are involved in and are continually being monitored and updated to ensure SSEC is exchanging current and useful information with like minded community and environmental organizations.

- ❑ Public meetings held by SSEC and SCAN have had an excellent response from attendees and the media enabling SSEC to get its message to the wider community.

3. *Develop and conduct education initiatives*

- ❑ The Norman Doidge event at Sutherland Entertainment Centre shows we are capable of partnering council in organising a major event. Initiated by our Patron, Bob Walshe, this event informed the ageing population of the Shire that the human brain has the ability to change after damage from stroke or similar causes. This event achieved a record level of attendance at the Entertainment Centre.
- ❑ Exploring Solutions to the Global Climate and Economic Crises – A public forum conducted by SCAN at the Sutherland United Services Club with speakers Richard Denniss (Executive Director, The Australian Institute), Frank Stilwell (Professor of Political Economy, Sydney University), John Kaye (Greens NSW MP and renewable energy expert).
- ❑ Parks Under Attack – A public meeting held at the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery Theatre about the Shooters Party's plans for hunting in national parks and the Government plans for private luxury development within our parks. Speakers were Keith Muir (Colong Foundation for Wilderness), Michael Wright (director of protected areas, policy and programs at the National Parks and Wildlife Group of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water), Brian Everingham (president of NPA Southern Sydney Branch) and John Kaye (NSW Greens MP)
- ❑ Politics in the Park – Movie shown on the first Friday of the month at the Woronora Life Saving Club. The movies have either a political or environmental theme leaving the viewers with plenty to think about. Attendance is increasing with each movie.

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

❑ **Parks Under Attack ...**

In November 2008 we were informed that tourism industry lobbyists and key elements in government were pushing for our national parks to pay their way through increased visitor numbers and tourism expenditure. The Government believes there are many benefits for NSW in doing this, both to the people and the economy; but this could be a dangerous combination for our parks, especially for one already so over-used as Royal. This sparked a massive campaign by the NPA and Colong Foundation for Wilderness.

In June the Shooters Party put up legislation for hunting in national parks and hunting wildlife with dogs, guns and bows and arrows.

There have now been six public meetings held: the first at Gymea in early August, followed by Blue Mountains, Pymble, Lismore, Parliament House and South West Rocks, as well as two rallies outside Parliament House. All the meetings called unanimously for the rejection of current political moves (a) to develop commercial facilities in national parks, (b) to allow private hunters to shoot animals (feral) in national parks.

The Shooters Party however still maintains its important strategic position in the NSW Upper House and will remain a threat.

The release of the consultant report of the Tourism Strategic Plan for national parks is now due. This will need to be strongly opposed. However, not only the Government but also the Coalition will need to be convinced of our position if any victory is not to be short-lived.

❑ **Sutherland Climate Action Network (SCAN) Report for 2008-09**

Over the past year, the message from climate scientists has become ever more stark and urgent. Australia has suffered our first climate catastrophe, with the loss of over 500 lives in Victoria from climate-change-related extreme weather and resulting firestorms, just a small fraction of the 300,000 lives already lost worldwide each year from climate change disasters, according to the UN.

Due to our reliance on coal, Australians are the biggest polluters on the planet. However we also have fantastic renewable resources and sufficient wealth to undertake a rapid shift to renewables that could serve as a model to others while building a robust, sustainable economy.

Despite this crisis and this opportunity, in the last year we have seen only cynical token action from the Australian Government and expansion of polluting coal from the NSW Government, while our own Sutherland Council has been asleep at the wheel.

Like many other climate action groups, Sutherland Climate Action Network has stepped up our response, trying to mobilise the community to demand an emergency transition to 100% renewable energy and zero emissions as fast as possible, to save our civilisation and our world while we still have a chance.

Our membership has grown 27% (from 187 to 237) over the last year, and we organised or participated in eight events:

- September 2008: Surveyed council candidates on climate change and reported results in local paper, online and in how-to-vote cards
- December 2008: Twenty-five join Caringbah protest asking MP Scott Morrison to “Speak up on climate change”
- January 2009: Attended National Grassroots Climate Summit
- February 2009: Encircled Parliament House Canberra and met with Senator Forshaw
- March 2009: Joint presentation with Sutherland Shire Citizens for Native Title and Reconciliation
- March 2009: We staged street theatre outside Senator Michael Forshaw’s office in Sutherland to ask him to “Permit me to make a difference. Fix the CPRSI!”
- June 2009: Over twenty participants in the National Climate Emergency Rally
- July 2009: Exploring Solutions to the global climate & economic crises. Public forum in Sutherland

However we must do much, much more. In the crucial months to the Copenhagen climate conference, and into next year, we need to reach out to the community to multiply our numbers and build an irresistible force of people power to overcome the power of the big polluters and force real change from our governments.

Please join us at Climate Camp in Helensburgh October 9th-11th and again on October 24th at the Sydney Opera House for the International Day of Climate Action. More details on the web: climatecamp.org.au and 350.org/Australia

❑ **Mining under catchments**

The mining application by Metropolitan Coal was approved on 22nd June by Minister Keneally. The approval included a number of environmental restrictions which were imposed to protect the environmental values and integrity of drinking water supplies contained within Sydney’s Drinking Water Catchment Area. While the amount of coal to be extracted has been reduced, and the undamaged parts of the Waratah Rivulet and its eastern tributary will not be undermined, the mining operation still poses a serious

threat to the environmental values and water supplies of the Sutherland Shire.

The Rivers SOS team will keep examining options to minimise damage in all our catchments and all the member groups should be congratulated for their efforts in opposing this and many other potentially damaging mining applications across NSW.

Sutherland Shire Council deserves a special mention for their continued support in this campaign since early 2007 and their excellent submissions first to the Expert Panel, and then to the mining application and the Commission of Enquiry.

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 between Sutherland and Cronulla.
- ❑ 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, screen and support staff.
- ❑ SSEC has supported local groups and wider coalitions with funds to help them achieve their goals. \$10,000 was budgeted for environmental projects in 2009 and as well as funding our own activities, this money has been used to support action by EcoTransit (newsletter production) \$1000, SCAN (Climate Camp, Helensburgh) \$750 and National Parks coalition \$250 (flyer).
- ❑ SSEC supported the NPA by joining them on CleanUp Australia Day in and around some of the pools in Heathcote NP. Ongoing support has been provided to NPA (Southern Sydney) by attending and promoting slide shows. Details are provided in *Your Local Voice*.

6. Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for Sutherland Shire Environment 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 SSEC phones are diverted when the office is not manned and are therefore able to be responded to on a 24/7 basis.

- ❑ The monthly SSEC e-newsletter, *Your Local Voice* is a speedy and 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. Contributions to *Your Local Voice* are welcomed.

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. Michael McInerney is our representative on the Port Hacking Management Panel and is working extremely hard to ensure the Hacking River receives the necessary attention.
- ❑ 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 recently resigned from BBACA and scaled back his activities but will remain active in SWEC and their wonderful contribution to the health of the Cooks River with the construction and development of the Freshwater wetlands at Chullora.
- ❑ The resignation of Gary Blaschke from BBACA left SSEC with no contact point with the alliance. Jim Towart has now been appointed as SSEC's representative on BBACA.
- ❑ SSEC has worked with other environmental organisations to form effective coalitions to secure positive environmental outcomes. An example – With Rivers SOS, we organised a fringe film festival in Dungog in opposition to the Dungog Film Festival which was sponsored this year by the Minerals Council. The aim was to show the amount of serious damage that is caused by mining and to undermine any goodwill the mining industry achieved through sponsorship of the film festival. SSEC's projector and screen were provided for screening the films, and flyers and posters were produced by SSEC.
- ❑ Parks under Attack – SSEC was asked to support this campaign by holding a public meeting in the Sutherland Shire. We provided funding for brochures and designed the brochures for the campaign.
- ❑ EcoTransit – Contribution (\$1000) to cost of newsletter production which SSEC volunteers will hand out at Shire stations on Monday 21 September.

8. Raise funds to carry out the functions of Sutherland Shire Environment 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. Consideration is being given to reinstigation of the substantial annual raffle project.
- ❑ Other activities such as our monthly film nights and self funded public meetings are relatively cost free through donations at the door.
- ❑ 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**

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**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 2009**

2008

NOTE

<u>INCOME</u>		
1,583	Subscriptions	767
61,475	Donations	60,229
2,389	Grants	-
243	Interest Received	385
	Fund Raising Events &	
158	Sundry Income	143
53,551	Rents Received	60,657
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119,399	TOTAL INCOME	122,181
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
646	Bank Charges	454
25,000	Consultants Fees	25,153
1,974	Depreciation	1,806
384	Electricity	338
-	Education and Seminars	296
10,503	Environmental Projects	2,618
-	General Expenses	477
1,250	Honorarium	1,250
2,190	Insurance	1,779
21,719	Interest	18,094
	Loss on Sale of	
-	Non Current Assets	6,992
1,160	Meeting Expenses	721
66	Postage	68
77	Printing & Stationery	-
14,084	Rates & Strata Fees	17,263
13,833	Rent	12,067
45	Repairs & Maintenance	255
7	Staff Amenities	-
132	Subscriptions & Licences	145
2,073	Telephone & Internet	1,905
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95,143	TOTAL EXPENSES	91,681
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24,256	OPERATING SURPLUS	30,500
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**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 2009**

2008		NOTE	
24,256	Operating Surplus		30,500
<u>-</u>			<u>-</u>
24,256	OPERATING SURPLUS AND EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS		30,500
283,202	Retained Surplus Brought Forward		307,459
<u>307,458</u>			<u>337,959</u>
307,458	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		337,959

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30th June 2009**

2008

NOTE

SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES

	<u>Reserves</u>	
307,458	Accumulated Surplus	<u>337,959</u>

REPRESENTED BY

PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

506,353	Buildings - at Cost		506,353
48,454	Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	23,606	
34,054	Less Prov'n for Depreciation	<u>18,004</u>	
<u>14,400</u>			<u>5,602</u>
520,753			511,955

CURRENT ASSETS

6,114	Cash at Bank	25,591	
46,965	Public Gift Fund	28,888	
-	No. 2 Account	23,975	
1,260	PHPS Cash Management Account	-	
5,657	ANZ SSEC Projects Account	5,670	
3,304	Security Deposit	1,778	
929	Prepayments	-	
2,115	GST on acquisitions	<u>1,322</u>	
<u>66,344</u>			<u>87,224</u>

587,097	TOTAL ASSETS		599,179
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

	Loan - Literary Productions		
19,000	Pty Limited	-	
1,168	GST on supplies	1,539	
4,574	Grants Received in Advance	4,574	
4,897	Rents Received in Advance	<u>5,107</u>	
29,639			11,220

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

250,000	Loan - Colonial First State		
	Investments Limited		<u>250,000</u>

<u>307,458</u>	NET ASSETS		<u>337,959</u>
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**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th June 2009**

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 Act 2001. 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 Act 2001, 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 organisation. 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 50-5 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 2009

SCOPE

We have audited the Financial Statements of the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated for the year ended 30th June, 2009 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 2009 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 2009

MUNRO SPAUL Accountants



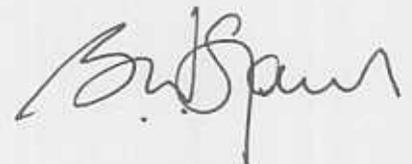
B.W. SPAUL (Principal)

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 2009 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**
Principal

HURSTVILLE, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2009.

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 2009.
- (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 2009, 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



Jenni Gormley
Chairman
For and on behalf of the Board.