

Sutherland Shire
Environment Centre Inc.

Annual Report
2010-11



*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 2010-11

Jenni Gormley (Chairperson)

John Nelson (Treasurer)

Phil Smith (Secretary)

Roger Bramble

Jonathan Doig

Tassia Kolesnikow

Michael McInerney

Ruth Zeibots

Development Officer

Graeme Booth

Natural Areas Campaigner

Dave Burgess

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.

Chairman's Report

As we celebrate the end of our 20th year as New South Wales' ONLY fully independent Environment Centre, we can look back on a year full of new (and old) campaigns, forums, public meetings – a lot of worthwhile activity that has assisted the Sutherland Shire residents in their efforts to protect their local environment.

Prior to the State Election, SSEC worked with the local branch of NPA to hold a well-attended **Environmental Q&A** session for all local candidates. This was also the local launch of "Natural Advantage", an election agenda prepared to safeguard the benefits of nature. This document was compiled by Nature Conservation Council on behalf of its member groups.

We held a screening of the movie *Gasland*, and from this has grown a new sub-committee: **Stop CSG! Sutherland**, a group calling for a moratorium on all coal seam gas mining until the effects of this process are fully understood.

Our **First National Park** campaign has engaged Dr Geoff Mosley, recognised for his expertise in regard to national parks and the World Heritage Listing process, to prepare a comprehensive report which will form the basis of our submission for World Heritage Listing of Royal National Park. Dr Mosley's report will be an invaluable tool for the centre in years to come.

Undoubtedly, our busiest affiliated group is **Sutherland Climate Action Network** who continue to work tirelessly to increase awareness of this very important issue both within Sutherland Shire and further afield. This group is to be congratulated for their ongoing efforts and imagination.

Of course, none of these things would be possible without the continued commitment of you, our members, and our generous donors without whose financial support we would not be able to maintain that independence we value so highly.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the current board, who have continued to share the vision of an environment centre that is financially self-sufficient into the future. To this end we have carefully considered all major expenditure and ensured that our debts are substantially reduced.

A life of 20 years is long for any community organisation – and SSEC is as strong as ever and ready to confront damaging development proposals and other environmental threats pushed by governments and cashed-up developers.

With your support we will continue... hopefully for another 20 years!

Jenni Gormley, September 2011

Achieving our Purpose in 2010-11

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.*

- **Coal Mining and Coal Seam Gas** – David Burgess, our Natural Areas Campaigner, is focussed on the campaign against damage caused by mining which includes threats to our own Woronora Reservoir, O’Hares Creek area and the upper Georges River Catchment. SSEC contributed \$1000 to Nature Conservation Council’s state-wide campaign against Coal Seam Gas mining.
- **“Meet the Local Candidates”**. In February 2011, a Question & Answer style forum with an environmental theme to put local candidates in the spotlight. Labor, Liberal, Green and Independent Candidates from the electorates of Cronulla, Miranda, Heathcote and Menai answered questions from the audience. Catherine Cusack, then Liberal environmental spokesperson was present. The event was organised by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and the NPA.
- **Kurnell 2020** – In May 2011, SSEC hosted the launch of *Kurnell Peninsula, a guide to the plants, animals, ecology and landscapes*. This book is recognised by experts as provided an essential background information for the Kurnell 2020 project task as well as being a useful resource for all bush regeneration on the peninsula.

Kurnell 2020 is a unique venture which seeks to repair and protect the remaining natural heritage of the peninsula. There is a deep realisation here in the Sutherland Shire that the Kurnell Peninsula’s natural environment needs repair and the Kurnell 2020 project works towards restoration of the remarkable biodiversity that fascinated the first European botanists who arrived almost 250 years ago with Lieutenant James Cook.

The event was well attended, standing room only, with all local MPs and Councillors invited, as well as many other important decision makes in the Sutherland Shire.

- **Shared Pathways** – Together with local cycling group SharkBike, SSEC has continued its push for shared paths and cycleway across the Shire. However, like so many worthwhile infrastructure projects the paths await funding from Council and/or State Government.

- **A Sustainable SSEC** – A very important achievement again this year is the management of the mortgage over the Merton Street property. This re-financing sees SSEC well on the way to long term financial sustainability, hopefully seeing the Centre debt free in 2-3 years. The office in Durban Court has been re-arranged to cater for small meetings (4-5 people) and unnecessary expenses have been cut. Storage space is used for relevant records and equipment only. Minimisation of expenses has made more funds available for environmental projects and additional mortgage repayments. (See financial report for more detail.)

2. *Establish efficient communication processes with the community*

- New **websites** for individual campaigns have been created where members of campaigning groups can communicate with each other. **Facebook** has become one of our major communication tools where a rapid interchange of ideas is possible. The **main SSEC website** has recently been recreated and provides the opportunity for online membership renewals, donations and other purchases (e.g. books, t-shirts, etc.) by credit card and PayPal.
- Our **e-news** *Your Local Voice* is distributed electronically as required to all members of the Centre, 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** continue to be 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. We have recently been making use of Mail Chimp, a more secure form of mail network.
- **Public meetings** held by SSEC and SCAN have had an excellent response from attendees and the media highlighting the fact that SSEC has the ability to respond quickly and effectively to threats to the local environment.
- **Media.** Our local papers frequently seek out our comments on environmental issues in Sutherland Shire. This input from Sutherland Shire Environment Centre is reinforced by the regular appearance of letters from members. The frequent mentioning of the Centre's name in this way helps to increase awareness amongst the local Shire community and gives us greater credibility.

3. Develop and conduct education initiatives

- **Candidates Q&A** (in conjunction with NPA Southern Sydney) and a screening of *Gasland*, as well as providing support for Woronora Precinct Committee for a presentation by Sydney Catchment Authority on Environmental Flows all contributed to fulfilling our environment education goals.
- At its last meeting the Board determined to investigate the establishment of an **annual University scholarship** which would support the Purpose of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre. This initiative will not only increase the body of knowledge available for future campaigns, but will ensure that Sutherland Shire Environment Centre increases it's "brand" awareness.

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

a) Your Local Voice

Our campaigning toolbox includes our website, Facebook for SSEC and campaigns, our e-newsletter *Your Local Voice*, letter writing, and media releases. To subscribe, or contribute, to *Your Local Voice* email yourlocalvoice@ssec.org.au

b) Natural Areas *report by Dave Burgess*

The natural areas focus has mainly concentrated on the Heathcote Ridge (West Menai), the Kirrawee Brick Pit and the Sharks developments along with the ongoing issues of mining and proposed CSG exploration in the Woronora catchment.

After being rejected once and lying dormant for a number of years the West Menai development has raised its head again proposing 3,000 homes and a commercial estate on the ridge tops between Menai and the Holsworthy military area. It also proposes major roadworks including a bridge. We have met with Gandangara Aboriginal Land Council but at this stage there are major concerns over the location of threatened species, fragmentation of bushland and increased traffic. Meanwhile the future of Kirrawee Brick Pit is currently in the hands of the Department of Planning.

What all these developments have in common is that they are operating contrary to existing planning and growth strategies.

Peabody Energy is currently mining the last longwall panel that will pass directly under the Waratah Rivulet. Future longwalls will be subject to significant setbacks from the Rivulet and hopefully the damage to the riverbed will not continue. Mining under the stored waters of Woronora Reservoir is still planned to occur but not for a number of years. Another inspection of the area is planned for early 2012.

c) Sutherland Climate Action Network (SCAN) report by Jonathan Doig

In last year's report we asked you to "stay tuned for a year of unprecedented progress, especially on renewable energy!" Well, working with Greens and Independents, the Australian Labor minority government has prepared a clean energy package which is an exciting first step in responding to the climate crisis. Among the highlights are:

- \$5 billion dedicated to renewable energy with a further \$5 billion contestable from a "clean energy" fund;
- establishment of independent authorities to help de-politicise the issue, managing funding at arms length and recommending targets using a science-based carbon budget approach;
- tightening the 2050 emission reduction target from 60% to 80%; and
- modelling a 100% renewable grid.

Yes, the phrase "100% renewable" has now entered the government's vocabulary! The frenzied backlash from fossil fuel companies and the



right-wing media is further testament to the fact that we are finally starting to make some real progress.

Sutherland Climate Action Network now has over 300 supporters across the Shire. Over the last 12 months we have organised or participated in a range of events:

- Ongoing: Dozens of articles and letters in the Leader on climate science, renewable energy and the clean energy package.
- Ongoing: Col Ryan coordinated many days of leafleting at local ANZ branches as part of a Greenpeace campaign to pressure the banks to pull out of financing new coal power plants.
- Oct 2010-May 2011: SCAN continued our renewable energy surveys across the Shire, with doorknocking days in Cronulla, Gymea, Oyster Bay and Kurnell. Of the 320 people we surveyed, 88% want the Australian Government to plan for 100% renewable energy and 63% would welcome a price on pollution to fund the switch to renewables. This news has been spread throughout the Shire in articles and letters to *The Leader*.
- Dec 2010: Col and Bill Ryan attended the Climate Camp organised by Rising Tide at Bayswater power station. This was the largest non-violent direct action on climate change so far in Australia. Some 130 protesters occupied the railway track and 63 were arrested. Col and Bill were fined \$250 each, but their charges were dismissed on appeal in June 2011. The magistrate acknowledged that all of the appellants were “impressive and remarkable individuals” motivated by the desire to protect the community.
- Mar/Aug 2011: Jonathan Doig gave presentations on renewable energy and climate science to the Liberal candidates for Miranda and Heathcote (now MPs) and to Sylvania Waters Probus Club.



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- 20th March 2011: Members attended the “Can’t Eat Coal - Can’t Drink Gas” rally and march from Martin Place to Farrer Pl Sydney.
 - 2nd April 2011: Members attended climate rally in Belmore Park to support a price on carbon.
 - May 2011: Members attended the Austinmer Beach STOP COAL SEAM GAS human sign.
 - May 7th 2011: Col and Bill Ryan were featured in *The Good Weekend* supplement, talking about how their shared experience of climate direct actions has brought them closer together.
 - 5th June 2011: Members attended the Say Yes! climate rally in Prince Alfred Park to support a price on carbon.
 - Aug 2011: Supporting the formation of Stop CSG Sutherland.
 - Aug 2011: Peter Turner coordinated a joint submission to call for coal seam gas exclusion zones in the Sydney Catchment Authority Special Areas and their adjacent reserves.
 - Aug 2011: Members took part in a coal seam gas protest outside the NSW Mineral Exploration & Investment Conference at Wentworth Hotel, Sydney.
 - 1st Sept 2011: Members attended rally at Anthony Albanese’s office to support “renewable energy NOT negative energy,” countering the Alan Jones nay-sayers.

Over the next 12 months Sutherland CAN will continue to work with the Australian grassroots climate movement to build community awareness and political support for the shift from fossil fuels to 100% renewable energy.

The convenor of SCAN is Jonathan Doig 0409 049185

SutherlandCAN.org.au

 facebook

d) Stop Coal Seam Gas! Sutherland Sets Up *report by Phil Smith*

In August, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre established a sub-committee of local residents to oppose the exploration and mining of coal seam gas in the Woronora and Nepean catchments, in the SCA's Special Areas, and, indeed, in other areas in Australia.

"Everywhere, Australians are standing up to protect their regional environments from the devastating impacts of coal seam gas mining," said Phil Smith, Convenor.

"These include pollution of waterways and aquifers, impacts on health, bushfire risks and fugitive leaks of methane – a gas with a global warming effect many times that of carbon dioxide."

"The impacts don't discriminate, and this issue is already bringing together people from across the whole spectrum of society, including environmentalists, office workers and farmers. On CSG, city and country concerns coincide."

"This will be one of the country's biggest environmental battles and now Sutherland is ready to play its part. Local residents need to know that Dart has CSG exploration leases under the Sutherland Shire."

Stop CSG Sutherland is affiliated with the Lock the Gate Alliance and it supports calls for a moratorium on CSG, a thorough investigation into the impacts of exploration and mining, and a complete ban on the process of fracking.

"The announcement of the new Stop CSG Sutherland group includes a standing invitation to the Member for Heathcote, Lee Evans, to attend every public event we hold. We'd also like him to present evidence that backs his support for CSG mining in our drinking water catchment."

Stop CSG Sutherland will participate in the Sydney rally in Newtown on Sunday 18 September, and it will hold a number of events before the end of this year.

The convenor of Stop CSG! Sutherland! is Phil Smith,
ph 0412 338 687 info@stop-csg-sutherland.org

STOP CSG!
Sutherland

e) First National Park *report by Bob Crombie*

The First National Park campaign for world heritage listing of Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area is progressing well.

Bob Walshe and Bob Crombie have been achieving much publicity for our cause through newspaper articles, a radio interview and talks.

The services of Dr Geoff Mosley have been hired to research and write our report for the NSW state government and he is progressing well in his work. Hopefully it will be ready around March 2012.

He has recommended that we proceed with our campaign mainly on the intrinsic values of the three reserves and less on the value of their being a representative, reserved sample of the Sydney Basin. More work needs to be done on the Greater Blue Mountains world heritage values before we can ride on its achievements.

At least our campaign has accelerated this process and raised greater awareness of world conservation values of the Sydney Basin especially its sandstone ecosystems.

Dr Mosely is also working on these issues separately. Once they are achieved the way will be open to expand on the values of the three reserves Royal, Heathcote and Garawarra and begin similar campaigns for other reserves in the Sydney Basin such as Dharawal, Ku-ring Gai Chase, Yengo, Marra Marra National Parks and many others.

Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon has adopted our campaign for world heritage listing of the three reserves as part of her program of issues for the Greens Party.

The convenor of First National Park is Bob Walshe ph 9528 0444.

f) Ridge Action (West Menai) *report by David Duffy*

[The development proposal launched by Gandangara Land Council for 3000 homes in the area west of Menai saw the establishment of "Ridge Action".]

The inaugural meeting of Ridge Action delivered to the residents of Menai a clear voice. Until this meeting the developers behind the massive Heathcote Ridge project had sucked up much of the available oxygen in "spin". Ridge Action has already begun to "clear the air" of developer spin.

Amongst many notable facts revealed in the meeting was one that “rankled” residents most, as it had been used as part of the “spin” the developers had used to legitimise the project. The meeting revealed that the site of the tyre dump the developers had used to substantiate their claim that the site was seriously degraded was in fact part of a Clean Up Australia initiative that a local 4x4 club had conducted in concert with the Land Council. The only issue with this community based action was that the Gandangara had failed to complete their side of the project, the removal of said stock pile.

The developer’s use of the pile of tyres’ to promote and facilitate the destruction of hundreds of acres of high value native habitat drives at the central issue of this massive development. The use of spin to justify the extraordinary environmental and social cost to the existing local community with no benefit being passed to the community that shoulders the environmental and social costs of such rampant development.

Broad figures of the costs to the local community in traffic delays resulting from the development were calculated at some hundreds of thousands per week. Once again, the local community is being asked to provide a massive “subsidy” through traffic delays in order to facilitate a huge financial return (in this case estimated at around \$1 billion) to a developer.

The meeting didn’t oppose all development on the site however the point that was made loud and clear by the residents was the failure of the developer to demonstrate environmental sensibility. All ready the sites developed by the Gandangara have returned to the developer (estimated) \$18,000,000, yet even simple tasks such as the cleanup of the tyre dump are still to be conducted.

The developers desire to push forward with East-West development over the site demonstrates clearly that their primary concern the extraction of the maximum number of dollars from the site in the shortest possible time. Their failure to address remediation issue on the western side of the site shows clearly the community is being asked to “trust the developer”.

In summary, the meeting called on the developers’ to begin making a positive contribution to the lands they control before being gifted the go ahead for the destruction of some hundreds of hectares of pristine native habitat.

Actions speak more loudly than words. Why can’t the developers demonstrate to the community their concerns for OUR local environment and at least rehabilitate the tyre dump? Given that the community itself provided the volunteer labour to begin the clean-up?

Why are we as a community being asked to give so much so that a developer can profit? This project makes no sense in its current format (East West development) and utterly fails the local community.

The convenor of Ridge Action is Alan Green ridge@ssec.org.au

g) Electric vehicle network *report by Roger Bramble.*

SSEC has during the year made contact with a global organisation for collaboration for an electric vehicle network for the Sutherland Shire.

Electric and hybrid vehicles are actually not new ideas but until recently market and consumer demand plus knowledge has not been at the level where such vehicles have been preferred by consumers. In the last few years this has changed especially in the developed economies of USA, Europe and in parts of Asia. Hybrid and electric vehicles have a environmental foundation in the use of cleaner fuels beyond fossil fuel (oil) burning.

The electric car network for the Sutherland Shire was devised by the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and considerable efforts are being made to collaborate with a specialist company rolling out EV car networks in the US and in Australia. EV networks provide public infrastructure and electric car battery recharging centres for EV car support.

The networks also include collaborations with cleaner fuel providers in the production of the energy such as natural gas and preferably where possible renewable energy.

This is an interesting project for SSEC and will ultimately also include collaboration with the local Sutherland Shire Council and Government plus user/consumer support.

SSEC will continue this project in the 2011-12 year as a development of your organisation.

h) Helensburgh rezoning bid *report by Graeme Booth*

This proposed rezoning bid is by no means settled. Wollongong City Council has forwarded rezoning proposals to the Planning Department of the State government for assessment.

Residents have been assured that the new Wollongong Council will discuss the proposed rezoning before any final decisions are made.

i) Opposition to Deception on Desalination *report by Bob Walshe*

The Environment Centre has long been a leading opponent of State Government's imposition of a major desalination Plant on the Shire's Kurnell Peninsula. Every public meeting has condemned moves for its establishment, as have all of Australia's peak environment organisation and water scientists. Def to this opposition, the Government in 2007 orders its construction at the outrageous cost of some \$2 billion. Sydney's eleven dams had a years-long reserve of water at the time, and this volume has doubled since. The plant has justly been terms a "white elephant" and its unneeded water is sheer waste. We call on the O'Farrell Government to "mothball" the Plant and launch an audit of all its related costs, which we believe will exceed the 2007 costing. This Centre stands ready to debate the merits/demerits of the Plant in any public forum.

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

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre currently supports the following local groups: Sutherland Climate Action Network (climate change), First National Park (world heritage classification of Royal National Park), WaterFirst (mining within catchment areas), SharkBike (local bicycle user group), Ridge Action (West Menai), Stop-CSG-Sutherland (Coal Seam Gas) and from time to time informal groups of residents. Our support includes financial sponsorship of events, provision of equipment, setting up/hosting of websites, networking, wording of petitions, artwork for brochures, etc. Access to banking facilities (including PayPal and credit card), incorporation and our Public Gift Fund (charitable) status are all valuable assets for the local community to draw upon when needed.

We were pleased to be able to extend a grant to Grays Point Progress Association for the printing of their local history book. The book was so successful that it required a second printing and all funds were repaid to the Centre.

6. *Establish efficient information, operation and management systems for Sutherland Shire Environment Centre*

- Our website now incorporates the opportunity for online membership payments and donations utilising PayPal.
- Email is 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 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*

- Sutherland Shire Environment Centre took advantage of the NSW Government Community Cabinet meeting in July. Unfortunately, we were only granted an interview with one minister, Chris Hartcher, Minister Resources and Energy. We spoke to Minister Hartcher about mining, especially under the catchment areas and Dharawal, about our concerns about coal seam gas and our desire to see renewable energy given a higher priority.
- SSEC continues to work well and often closely with the Sutherland Shire Council. Michael McInerney remains our representative on the Port Hacking Management Panel and continues to work extremely hard to ensure the Hacking River receives the necessary attention. Council are supportive of the First National Park campaign to achieve World Heritage Listing of Royal National Park.
- Gary Blaschke is no longer a regular guest at our board meetings having moved to the north coast, but is still very much involved in environment and his other interest, the Disabled Surfers Association. Gary has been busy setting up another environment centre near his new home near Newcastle and two more branches of the Disabled Surfers Association.
- Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has close links with NPA, Rivers SOS, Otford Protection Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Total Environment Centre, Oatley Flora and Fauna Society, Lock The Gate Alliance, Stop CSG! Illawarra, Save Dharawal, and Bicycle NSW. We remain a member of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

8. *Raise funds to carry out the functions of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.*

As mentioned earlier in this report, a primary focus this year has been continuing to reduce the mortgage on the property in Merton Street, Sutherland with a view to ensuring the long term financial sustainability of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.

Treasurer's Report

The 2010/2011 Financial Year saw a modest rise in net income to \$50,352 as a result of slight increases in income and decreases in expenditure for the Centre when compared to the previous year. The increase in income to \$128,640 resulted from slight increases in Donations and Rent Received, while the reduction in expenditure to \$78,288 largely resulted from decreases in Interest Payments, Borrowing Expenses (associated with new Mortgage last year) and expenditure on Environmental projects. This is a sound result achieved on the back of continued generous donations from individuals and organisations coupled with what is now a net inflow of funds associated with the Office premises owned by the Environment Centre.

Of note in this year's Financial Statements are the movements in the Balance Sheet as a result of a further reduction in the mortgage that the Environment Centre holds. This was achieved through an additional lump sum payment off the loan which, on top of the reduction achieved last year, is yet another step forward in moving towards ensuring Financial self sufficiency for the Centre.

Attached you will find further commentary and analysis of Year End Financial Statements.

SUMMARY

The Centre continues to work towards generating "sustainable, long term" income with a key aspect of this strategy being the ongoing net income stream associated with the rental of the property. This net income stream is increasing as the interest charges associated with the mortgage decreases (the decreasing interest expense being the direct result of the mortgage being paid down).

However, there is still a way to go to ensure full self sufficiency Centre and until this is achieved we continue to appreciate the generosity of a key donor.

SPECIAL MENTION

I would like to make special mention and extend my thanks to Jenni Gormley for her commitment and effort in completing and tracking financial details on a weekly basis. Jenni is ably supported by Graeme Booth who is always on hand to assist in dealing with the banks, estate agents, etc.

Also, thanks are again extended Bruce Spaul and Melina Lidis from the accounting firm Munro Spaul for their and their staff's time in auditing the accounts of the Centre.

OPERATING SURPLUS

At 30 June 2011 the accounts of the Centre showed an operating surplus of \$50,352 compared to an operating surplus in the previous year of \$42,690.

INCOME

Total Income for the year was \$128,640, a very small increase when compared to the previous years amount of \$128,291.

Items of note within Income of the Centre included:

- a small increase in Subscription Income;
- an increase in Donations and Rent received; and,
- a decrease in income generated from Fund Raising Activities and Sundry Sources of Income

Again, as in past years, we continue to operate financially with the generous donations of individuals and organisations and the time devoted by a solid management team. It goes without saying that without such support the Centre could not afford to continue to operate as effectively as it does.

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure for the year of \$78,288 represents a decrease over the previous financial year of \$85,601.

Major areas of variation in expenditure over last year are seen in:

- Audit Fees – nil this year (prior year expense being associated with the audit of a Return (report) associated with a previously obtained Government Grant);
- Borrowing Expenses – nil this year (prior year expense associated with the establishment of the new mortgage with the Commonwealth Bank)
- Environmental Projects & Fund Raising Events - which show an decrease in expenditure over prior year reflecting lower expenditure associated with major activities such as SCAN, First National Park, etc)
- Interest – reduction due to lower balance outstanding on the mortgage (despite rising interest rates).

BALANCE SHEET

Turning to the Balance Sheet, the property purchased in 2002 and its associated mortgage continue to dominate the Balance Sheet of the Centre.

The Centre has again taken the opportunity to apply money it was holding in bank accounts to pay down a portion of the total loan amount to be refinanced. This saw a reduction in the size of the loan from \$153,000 to slightly more than \$105,000 with a corresponding reduction in our overall bank balances.

Our Bank balances remain healthy providing sound footings for any Campaign support or other activities.

John Nelson

Treasurer

September 2011

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2011**

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

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**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011**

2010 \$	Note	2011 \$
	INCOME	
	OTHER INCOME	
645.39	Subscriptions	918.09
62,351.00	Donations	65,249.80
45.49	Interest Received	338.60
3,344.41	Fund Raising Events & Sundry Income	23.55
61,904.80	Gross profit from rental operations	62,110.22
<u>128,291.09</u>		<u>128,640.26</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
200.00	Auditors Remuneration - Fees	-
555.24	Bank Charges	517.04
3,191.48	Borrowing Expenses	-
24,999.96	Consultants Fees	24,999.97
1,217.00	Depreciation	1,186.00
-	Donations	1,000.00
269.98	Electricity	300.10
727.27	Education and Seminars	382.81
9,354.77	Environmental Projects	7,083.68
73.37	General Expenses	48.00
5,000.04	Honorarium	5,000.04
1,402.90	Insurance	1,444.14
14,741.92	Interest	12,873.90
721.12	Meeting Expenses	677.64
249.54	Postage	402.30
248.40	Printing & Stationery	143.55
15,982.03	Rates & Strata Fees	15,805.26
4,789.09	Rent	4,939.31
310.19	Repairs & Maintenance	-
81.82	Subscriptions & Licences	383.86
1,484.59	Telephone & Internet	1,100.86
<u>85,600.71</u>		<u>78,288.46</u>
<u>42,690.38</u>	Profit before income tax	<u>50,351.80</u>
42,690.38	Profit for the year	50,351.80
337,958.55	Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	380,648.93
<u>380,648.93</u>	Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>431,000.73</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2011**

2010 \$	Note	2011 \$
	MEMBERS' FUNDS	
380,648.93	Retained earnings	431,000.73
<u>380,648.93</u>	TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>431,000.73</u>
	Represented by:	
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ASSETS	
-	Cash on Hand	285.04
1,417.29	Cash at Bank	-
5,722.02	Public Gift Fund	8,042.30
15,145.41	No. 2 Account	19,025.70
367.89	ANZ SSEC Projects Account	-
1,778.00	Security Deposit	1,778.00
-	Other Debtors	1,074.66
2,718.02	Prepayments	2,547.00
1,174.73	GST on acquisitions	928.64
<u>28,323.36</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>33,681.34</u>
	NON CURRENT ASSETS	
	Fixed Assets	
506,353.33	Buildings - at Cost	506,353.33
23,696.13	Furniture & Fittings - at Cost	23,696.13
(19,221.00)	Less Prov'n for Depreciation	(20,407.00)
<u>4,475.13</u>		<u>3,289.13</u>
<u>510,828.46</u>	Total Fixed Assets	<u>509,642.46</u>
<u>510,828.46</u>	TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>509,642.46</u>
<u>539,151.82</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>543,323.80</u>
	LIABILITIES	
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
314.12	GST on supplies	1,875.82
5,227.27	Grants Received in Advance	-
-	Rents Received in Advance	5,175.85
<u>5,541.39</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>7,051.67</u>
	NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	
152,961.50	Loan - Commonwealth Bank	105,271.40
<u>152,961.50</u>	TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>105,271.40</u>
<u>158,502.89</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>112,323.07</u>
<u>380,648.93</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>431,000.73</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011**

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act New South Wales. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax

Exemption from income tax has been obtained by virtue of Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at cost.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia holds a mortgage over the property at Suite 4, 2-4 Merton Street, Sutherland.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011**

Revenue and Other Income

Investment property revenue is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease term so as to reflect a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment.

Interest revenue is recognised when received.

Revenue from the provision of membership subscriptions is recognised on a straight line basis over the financial year.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2011, profit and loss statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act New South Wales 2009 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SUTHERLAND SHIRE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 96 127 431 611**

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act New South Wales 2009 disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Incorporated as of 30 June 2011 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act New South Wales 2009.

Name of Firm: Munro Spaul
Chartered Accountants

Name of Principal:



Bruce W Spaul

Address: Level 1, 33 MacMahon Street, Hurstville

Dated this 5 day of September 2011