

NRM UPDATE



For NSW Local Government

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The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Update provides council elected representatives and staff with information across the broad spectrum of natural resource management policy and programs

LGNSW News

2017 Environment Awards Finalists announced

Finalists have been announced for this year's 20th Anniversary of the Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards. Awards will be presented on 11 October 2017 at a ceremony to be held at Aerial Function Centre, UTS, Sydney. Adam Spencer will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Tickets are available to attend the Finalists Forum and / or the presentation lunch. More information visit the website.



Council Roadside Reserves grants awarded

Twenty one grants to local government projects totalling \$1,205,206 have been announced.

The CRR project, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, will assist local councils to further embed management of roadside reserves into planning, reporting and asset management systems. It is designed to streamline council's management of roadside environments across council divisions, protecting significant biodiversity, connecting vegetation across the landscape and providing valuable wildlife habitats.

Grants have been awarded to assist councils in this process. A number of projects are also focussed on trialling a new rapid assessment methodology to assess the environmental values and using this information to manage, monitor and protect roadside reserves. A full list of funded projects is available. Contact: kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au or visit CRR website.

NSW Local Government Flying-fox Forum and the National Flying-fox Forum

Save the Date: The National Flying-fox Forum, Sydney on Wednesday 25 October and the NSW Local Government Flying-fox Forum the following day, Thursday 26 October.

Council officers working on flying-fox management issues are encouraged to attend the national event and the NSW Local Government forum the following day.. The LG Forum will be a chance for councils to share experiences and identify further opportunities for managing Flying-foxes. Registration to the Local Government Flying-fox Forum is open here, which is a free event for councils. We are also keen to hear from councils who would like to give a short presentation about their experiences and/or projects under the Flying-fox Grants Program. Further details of both events will be available soon on the EIANZ and LGNSW websites.

Contact: Rod Hardwick, Flying-fox Project Officer
rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au



Land and conservation management legislation

On 25 August the NSW Government's changes to the land clearing and biodiversity management legislation commenced.

The Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation (LMBC) reforms introduce a new biodiversity offset scheme, an expanded biodiversity certification program and a new Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

What does this mean for Council? Development assessment

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, together with the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017, outlines the framework for assessment and approval of biodiversity impacts associated with developments that require consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Act introduces a Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS). A development to which the Biodiversity Offset Scheme applies will be required to prepare a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report to accompany a development application.

SEPP (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017 will regulate clearing not covered by the *Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016*. It regulates clearing of vegetation in urban LGAs, as well as urban and environmental zones across the State, where clearing does not otherwise require development consent under the EP&A Act.

A full list of the Sydney metropolitan local government areas and urban and environmental conservation/management zones to which the SEPP applies is available.

Frequently asked questions will assist local government in understanding how the SEPP works and transitional arrangements in place.

The *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act) regulates the management of vegetation on rural land. More detail on when LLS Act applies and detail on the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map is available.

Transitional arrangements

A number of transitional arrangements for the biodiversity offset scheme will apply to development applications in some or all areas of NSW.

- **3-month transitional arrangement:** All local developments will have three months to submit a

development application under the existing legislation.

- **12-months:** Local development in seven local government areas in Western Sydney (Camden, City of Campbelltown, City of Fairfield, City of Hawkesbury, City of Liverpool, City of Penrith and Wollondilly) will have 12-months to submit a development application under existing legislation.
- **18-months:** For most major projects an outstanding development application can be considered under the existing legislation if assessment requirements have been issued or substantial environmental assessment was undertaken before the Act commenced. These development applications must be submitted within 18 months of 25 August 2017.

A transitional arrangements FAQ is available.

Biodiversity certification

Biodiversity certification is another key tool under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Councils may be applicants for biodiversity certification which would enable planning authorities to better integrate biodiversity planning with planning for land use change.

Support to councils in implementing biodiversity reforms

A capacity building program including training for council staff and the creation of a network of regional support officer positions based across NSW has been developed and includes 500 training places for local government employees involved in development assessment and approvals. The following courses have been developed:

A **Standard Approvers** course introduces approvers to new concepts, tools and roles introduced by the land management and biodiversity conservation reforms.

An **Extended Approvers** course includes the Standard Approvers course (Day 1) and more in-depth training on biodiversity assessment processes and the operation of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (Day 2).

Up to three people from each NSW council can attend the course at no charge and additional training is available for a fee. Councils must register their interest to participate through a registration portal.

OEH has established a **Support desk** (available between 8.30am and 5.30pm daily)

Contact: 1800 931 717

Email: lmbc.support@environment.nsw.gov.au



Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board

As part of the land and conservation management reforms, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust will be established to manage the \$240 million private land conservation program. A Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board has been appointed, with its members bringing experience in conservation of biodiversity, rural and regional land and resource management, financial management, and law and governance. Members are:

- The Hon Robert Hill AC (Chairman)
- Virginia Malley (Deputy Chair)
- The Hon Gary Nairn AO
- Renata Brooks
- Russell Taylor AM
- Duncan McGregor.
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Green Globe Awards

The NSW Government's [Green Globe Awards](#) recognise commitment, leadership and innovation and celebrate excellence in environmental sustainability. Nominations have now closed for the 2017 Green Globe Awards. Nominations have now closed with finalists to be announced on 12 September 2017. Winners will be announced at the gala event on 19 October 2017 at the NSW Art Gallery.

Climate change

Identifying climate refugia for NSW biodiversity

Identifying species at risk of extinction across future landscapes is a complex challenge. Using habitat suitability models to forecast species' responses to climate change, Biodiversity Node researchers Dr Linda Beaumont, John Baumgartner and Manuel Esperon (Macquarie University) are building tools to help identify species at risk; potential refugia; and guide priority measures in conservation and protection.

In April 2017, the researchers presented a preview of their refugia website (currently in development) to participants from the OEH, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Taronga Zoo and local government. The website will provide users with an interactive tool to access data on species range shifts and climate velocity for NSW regions. When finalised, users can access from the [Biodiversity Node website](#). For more information on the project, contact victoria.graham@mq.edu.au

Climate-ready revegetation guide

A new publication [Climate-ready revegetation: A guide for natural resource managers](#) has been developed and is available to councils.



Simplified Hazard Exposure Map

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has recently released the [Simplified Hazard Exposure Map](#) (built using ArcGIS Online) to highlight natural hazard risks data across Australia. This includes cyclones, floods and bushfire operational layers.

Local Government Case Studies

Rehabilitating PAC Park Waterway

Parkes Shire Council has used water sensitive urban design principles to create a functional wetland at PAC Park with a sediment basin to collect large sediments, water plant zones to filter out harmful nutrients and open water zones, providing a natural way to treat and remove pollutants before it enters Goobang Creek. Volunteers have helped with revegetation and rehabilitation of the riparian zone, with numerous local community, business and school groups volunteering their time to assist on the [project](#).



Australian Government

National Landcare Program Review Report

In 2016 the Australian Government undertook a review of the National Landcare Program. A [final report](#) on the Review is now available.

Recent Ecological Change in Australia Survey

The CSIRO Land and Water and the Department of the Environment and Energy are undertaking a project



to collect stories and anecdotes that will help build a national picture of ecological change that has been observed in the past 10-20 years or more. To participate, you would need to be able to select a natural area (your local region or farm, a Nature Reserve, urban bushland) that you have been familiar with for at least 10 years. Complete the survey [here](#).

Threatened Species Day – 7 Sept

National Threatened Species Day is commemorated across the country on 7 September to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction. The day also celebrates the work that is being done to save them by passionate conservationists, researchers, volunteers, and community experts.

Find out what's [happening in your region](#). A [guide](#) has also been produced which provides advice and resources on running a successful Threatened Species Day event in your community.

Grants

New funding round for NSW Flying-fox grants

Applications are invited for grants to assist councils to manage flying-fox camps in their area. This \$1 million program is funded through the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and is administered by Local Government NSW.

Funding is now available under all three streams:

- **Stream 1** – Implementing emergency flying-fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts. Maximum grant size: \$50,000. Applications close 30 April 2018.
- **Stream 2** – Preparing flying-fox camp management plans. Maximum grant size: \$15,000. Applications close 2 March 2018.
- **Stream 3** – Implementing approved actions in flying-fox camp management plans. Maximum grant size: \$50,000. Applications close 3 November 2017.

To apply, visit the [website](#). For further information contact rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au

SUBSCRIPTION

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Metropolitan Greenspace Program 2016/17 grants announced

This program, managed by the Greater Sydney Commission supports local councils in Greater Sydney and the Central Coast to improve regional open space by co-funding projects that enhance open spaces, parks, bushland, natural areas, waterway corridors and tree-lined streetscapes. [Successful grants](#) for 2016/17 have been announced with \$4 million in NSW Government funding for 19 projects to enhance parks, waterways and public spaces across Sydney and in Terrigal. Applications for the next round of funding under the Program will be open in August 2017.

LGNSW submissions

LGNSW has been busy in recent months preparing [submissions](#) to a number of government initiatives including:

[Planning for Bushfire Protection: A Guide for Councils, Planners, Fire Authorities and Developers](#), July 2017

[Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code and draft Bush Fire Protection for Existing Developments Guideline](#). Submission to NSW Rural Fire Service, July 2017

[NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Review Submission](#) to Department of Industry - Lands and Local Land Services, June 2017

[Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Submission](#) June 2017

Events and Training

[19th Biennial Weeds Conference](#) 17-19 October 2017, Armidale, NSW

[NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference](#) 25-27 October 2017, Albury, NSW.

[EIANZ Annual Conference](#) 29 October-1 November, Wellington, NZ.

[20th International Riversymposium](#) 18-20 September, Brisbane.

[NSW Coastal Conference](#) 8-10 November 2017, Port Stephens, NSW.

[National Private Land Conservation Conference](#), 18-20 October, Hobart, Tasmania.

MORE INFORMATION

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