

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

15 JULY 2014
EDITION 23

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Welcome to the 23rd edition of Sustainability Snippets. The Local Government NSW helping councils towards environmental sustainability.

Your council's chance to WIN \$10,000 study tour!

The NSW Excellence in Environment Awards are open to all councils in NSW. With 15 award categories including climate change action; communication, education and empowerment and waste avoidance there's no excuse not to enter. The Awards culminate with two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance (the prize is \$10,000 for the winning council to put towards professional development) and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected councillor in the field of sustainability. [Enter online](#) entries close 5pm Monday 4 August.

NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT
**EXCELLENCE IN THE
ENVIRONMENT**
AWARDS



Climate Change Class Action

In an interesting development in the US, an insurance company is bringing a class action against a number of Local Governments for not adequately planning for climate change and failing to prepare for severe rains and flooding. They argue that Local Governments should have known rising global temperatures would lead to heavier rains and did not do enough to fortify their sewers and stormwater drains. [Read more.](#)

Cigarette Waste Brigade

Over one million cigarette butts have been collected by consumers, anti-litter groups and businesses since the launch of TerraCycle's [Cigarette Waste Brigade](#) on Clean Up Australia Day in March this year, making Australia's second most littered item recyclable for the first time. The waste collected through the Cigarette Waste Brigade will be recycled into a variety of useful products, such as park benches and rubbish bins.



2014 Government Sustainability Conference

A core theme of this year's event will be how to pursue effective sustainability and resource efficiency strategies on tighter budgets. Presentations and discussion will include analysis of how to develop a business case for sustainability projects, and analysis of the implications of national environment reforms and funding cuts. The conference will take place on August 12 and 13. Register [online](#).



Case Studies

Building Futures Partnership

Waverley Council is committed to reinvigorating the Bondi Junction centre into a vibrant urban showcase of efficient buildings, low carbon energy, recycled water and a high quality public domain with integrated waste and recycling systems. The [Building Futures Partnership](#) will deliver energy, water and waste efficiencies to building owners and tenants as well as help to shape Bondi Junction into an attractive world class sustainable centre.

Cool Roads trial in Chippendale

[City of Sydney](#) is currently trialling an innovative project to explore the potential for light-coloured pavement to reduce temperatures in surrounding areas. The 'urban heat island effect' means cities are often a few degrees warmer than regional areas due to surfaces such as roads, footpaths and buildings absorbing heat from the sun. Lighter-coloured pavements may be one solution to reduce this effect.

The trial will record temperatures across different locations in Chippendale. Over the coming months, monitoring equipment will determine whether or not there is a reduction in ambient temperature along the paler pavement.



Our Place – Aboriginal Stories

Hornsby Shire Council has teamed up with the Australian Research Institute for Environment and Sustainability (ARIES) to produce 3 short films. The "Our Place" project showcases some of the Aboriginal stories associated with the Local Government Area, as told by descendants of the Darug and Guringai peoples and other trusted Aboriginal community leaders.

Resources

Communication Guidelines for Coastal Hazard Adaptation

The Local Government Association of Queensland has prepared the [Communication Guidelines for Coastal Hazard Adaptation](#) to provide a practical resource to

assist both elected members and council officers develop fit-for-purpose communication strategies about coastal hazards and council's decision-making processes to respond and adapt to such hazards.



Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) issued report says the effects of climate change are already occurring on all continents and across the oceans. The world, in many cases, is ill-prepared for risks from a changing climate. The report also concludes that there are opportunities to respond to such risks, though the risks will be difficult to manage with high levels of warming.

Responding to climate change involves making choices about risks in a changing world. The nature of the risks of climate change is increasingly clear, though climate change will also continue to produce surprises. The report identifies vulnerable people, industries, and ecosystems around the world. It finds that risk from a changing climate comes from vulnerability (lack of preparedness) and exposure (people or assets in harm's way) overlapping with hazards (triggering climate events or trends). Each of these three components can be a target for smart actions to decrease risk.

Resilience to Climate Change Manual

The Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government has produced [Climate Adaptation Manual for Local Government: Embedding Resilience to Climate Change](#). The Manual highlights leading case studies and practical resources from Australian municipalities and overseas, and includes a step-by-step framework for effectively embedding climate risk into council operations.

Years of Living Dangerously

Hollywood takes on the climate change deniers in a well-produced 9-episode series on climate change. Some big Hollywood names including James Cameron, Harrison Ford, Jessica Alba, Matt Damon



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and Arnold Schwarzenegger have worked on the series, which is supported by a group of climate science advisors. The episodes tell the stories of real people from across the planet affected by climate change. The first 1 hour episode is available to [watch](#) free.



The DVD release of Years of Living Dangerously is planned for September 2014.

Upcoming Events

- [Asbestos Management Training Workshop](#), Bungendore 24 July 2014.
- [The Rising Power of Local Sustainability](#), a Green Capital event, 24 July (6pm-9pm), UTS Aerial Function Centre.
- [IPWEA's Sustainability in Public Works Conference, Tweed Heads, 27 – 29 July 2014](#).
- [Strategies for Sustainable Funding](#), 1 August, 9:30am – 1pm.
- [The Brains Trust Method](#), Sydney, 19 August.
- [Changeology and Facilitation Skills Workshops Sydney 9 – 11 September 2014](#).
- [Climate Adaptation Future Challenges Conference](#), 30 September – 2 October 2014, Gold Coast, QLD.

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