

NRM support, tools & resources for Local Government



Photo courtesy of Dubbo City Council

It's important to know that your council doesn't have to tackle the big NRM challenges alone!

There is support and a significant number of tools and resources available to local government for the ongoing delivery of effective Natural Resource Management (NRM). This includes:

Professional staff support

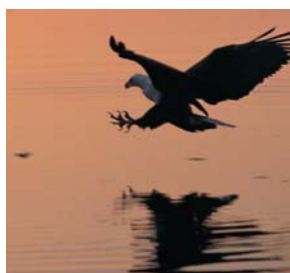
The best NRM decisions are multi-disciplinary, crossing many areas of technical expertise. A number of councils, state government agencies (www.decc.nsw.gov.au; www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, www.dwe.nsw.gov.au), Catchment Management Authorities (www.cma.nsw.gov.au), and the LGSA (www.lgsa.org.au/nrm) have skilled, motivated and professional staff available to assist councils in managing their natural resources.



Photo courtesy of Dubbo City Council

Networks

Most natural resource issues are not unique to one council, for example weeds. Being involved in networks can allow a council to tap into specialist expertise, share experiences and resources. The LGSA convenes a Natural Resources Officers' electronic network "nrm_localgovt" which both staff and councillors are welcome to join. The network receives a regular electronic newsletter on NRM issues, "NRM Update". For more information on subscribing visit: www.lgsa.org.au/nrm



NSW Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs)

The CMAs (www.cma.nsw.gov.au), established under the *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*, were developed in recognition that natural systems do not align with local government and other administrative boundaries. Effective NRM requires a regional approach. Each CMA has a Catchment Action Plan, a strategic framework designed to ensure the effective delivery of NRM across a catchment. The CMA provides assistance in developing regional partnerships, and provides funding opportunities and resources to local government in accordance with this Plan.

Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC)

Every Council is a part of a Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC), or alternatively a Shires Division. A "group of councils" can encourage a more coordinated, strategic approach to NRM in a region and provide opportunities for councils to maximise benefits, or NRM outcomes, of resources invested. A listing of all ROCs in NSW is available at: www.dlg.nsw.gov.au / Local Government Directory.



Community partnerships

Many successful partnerships exist between community groups and councils. Councils supporting their local community groups such as Landcare, Bushcare and/or Coastcare can provide significant multiplier benefits for relatively small levels of Council investment. For example, \$500 to support a community nursery project could produce thousands of plants for use across a Local Government Area. For more information visit: www.landcare.nsw.gov.au or www.landcareonline.com.

Councillor / staff training and conferences

CMAs and State government agencies can all provide council staff with technical training in NRM. The LGSA has also developed a Councillor training course on NRM which can be delivered in your region by arrangement with the LGSA. Contact the NRM Team at LGSA to discuss this opportunity on: (02) 9242 4111.

Funded by

Meeting the NRM Challenges – Recommended Resources

The following table provides information on websites, case studies, guidelines and other resources that may be helpful to councils when facing the many challenges in managing their natural resources. Please note this list is not extensive. The listed resources are those that have been identified by the LGSA NRM team as being particularly useful and will be updated as new resources become available.

Prepared in March 2009

Acid Sulphate Soils

Website: NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/soils/ass

Acid Sulphate Soils Hotspots Remediation Program: NSW Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC)
www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/soils/hotspots.shtml

Acid Sulphate Soil Manual: NSW Department of Planning (DoP)
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/programservices/infoservices.asp

Salinity

Website: DPI
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/soils/salinity

Local Government Salinity Initiative: DECC
www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/salinity/solutions/solutions_urban.htm

Example of Council Urban Salinity Projects
Dubbo City Council: www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/public/content/default.asp?xcid=4912
Albury City Council: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/www/html/404-urban-salinity-program.asp

Contaminated Land

Website: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/clm

Draft Managing Land Contamination Guidelines: DoP and DECC
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/drafts.asp (The Guidelines are currently under review until early 2009)

Erosion & Sediment Control

A Resource Guide For Local Councils – Erosion And Sediment Control: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/stormwater/index.htm

Education and Training: NSW Department of Lands
www.lands.nsw.gov.au/soil_conservation/education_and_training

Land Capability

Urban Land Capability Assessment: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/stormwater/usp/sculca.pdf

Website: DPI
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/land

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Toolbox: DEWHA
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/toolbox/index.html

NSW Biodiversity Planning Guide for Local Government: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (now DECC)
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/toolbox/templates/nsw-bio-plan-guide.html

Website (Biodiversity Resources): DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/BiodiversityResources.htm

Fish Habitat Management – Council and Developer Toolkit: DPI
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/protecting-habitats/toolkit

Threatened Species

Threatened Species Website: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies

A Guide For Managing Community Involvement In Threatened Species Recovery: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/tscominvmanint.htm

Threatened Species Priority Action Statement – outlines the broad strategies and actions to be undertaken in NSW to promote the recovery of threatened species and manage key threatening processes: DECC
www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/home_PAS_new.aspx

Native Vegetation

Native Vegetation Website: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/nvmanagement.htm

Native Vegetation Information Sheets (No. 17 & 20): DECC (Note: Native Vegetation Act 2003 to be reviewed in 2009)
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/publications.htm

Pests and Weeds

Pest & Weed Legislation, Policy, Strategies, Resources And Training: DPI
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds

Pests & Weeds Website: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds

Fire

Hotspots Fire Program: Nature Conservation Council of NSW
www.nccnsw.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=317&Itemid=642

Bushfire Risk Management Planning Guidelines: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?cat_id=1030

Bushfire Environmental Assessment Code, Conditions of Hazard Reduction and Aboriginal Heritage: NSW Rural Fire Service
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?CAT_ID=536

Climate Change

Climate Change Action Pack: Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA)
www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/1903-climate-change-action-pack.asp

Water Quality & Quantity

Best Practice Guidelines for the Management of Water Supply and Sewerage; Integrated Water Management Guidelines; and Drought Relief For Country Towns

NSW Department of Water and Energy (DWE)
www.deus.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications.asp

Local Planning For Healthy Waterways – Using NSW Water Quality Objectives: DECC
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/planningusingwqos.htm

On-site Sewage Management Risk Assessment System – Septic Safe Program: NSW Department of Local Government
www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_osras.asp

Groundwater Management Handbook For Local Government: Sydney Coastal Councils Group
www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

Coasts and Marine

Coastal Protection & Planning: DOP
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plansforaction/coastalprotection.asp

Cultural Heritage Management, Indigenous Australians & NRM

Protecting Local Heritage Places – A Guide for Communities; & other publications:

Australian Government Heritage Council

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/index.html

Indigenous Heritage Website: DEWHA

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/indigenous/index.html

Aboriginal Natural Resources Kit: Natural Resources Advisory Council

www.nrac.nsw.gov.au/projects/projects.html

NRM & Local Government

NSW Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) Website

(See Guidelines on how to integrate NRM into local government operations)

www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/284-natural-resource-management.asp

Local Government Association of Queensland Website

(See NRM/Publications on integrating NRM into land use and corporate planning)

www.lgaq.asn.au/lgaq/general/environment/NRM

NRM and Local Government Fact sheets: Western Australian Local Government Association

www.walga.asn.au/news-publications/publications/nrm/lg_nrm_factsheets

Community Environmental Education

Rural Landholder's Guide To Environmental Law In New South Wales, 2nd Edition:

NSW Environmental Defender's Office

www.edo.org.au/edonsw/site/publications.php#landholder

Education for Sustainability Hub

www.efsllearninghub.net.au

Our Environment It's a Living Thing Program

www.livingthing.net.au/index

Professional Development including: training, conferences, professional learning networks

Website – Events and Conferences: Australian Local Government Association

www.alga.asn.au

Website – Local Government Learning Solutions & LGSA (NRM to sustainability) resources & training

www.lgsa.org.au/learning

www.lgsa.org.au/environment

Website – Education & Training in Weed & Pest Management: DPI

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/education

Protection of the Environment, Authorised Officers Environmental Assessment, and Cleaner Production training for local councils: DECC

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/mao/Resources.htm

Biodiversity Training Course for Councils: DECC / TAFE/ Ecological

biodiversitytraining@ecoaus.com.au

Water Education Network: Australian Water Association

www.awa.asn.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=WEN&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11379

Conservation & Land Management Courses: TAFE NSW

www.wit.tafensw.edu.au/course-information/search-for-a-course

Website – conferences, courses, training, jobs: NRMjobs

www.nrmjobs.com.au