

# NRM UPDATE



## For NSW Local Government

AUGUST 2016  
ISSUE 102

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

#### Applications open for 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 available under three streams:

- **Stream 1** – Implementing emergency flying-fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts. Maximum grant size: \$50,000.
- **Stream 2** – Preparing flying-fox camp management plans. Maximum grant size: \$15,000.
- **Stream 3** – Implementing approved actions in flying-fox camp management plans. Maximum grant size: \$50,000. **Applications due by 26 August 2016.** Additional funding rounds may be available (subject to funding availability).

Applications for Stream 1 and 2 can be made until 30 April 2017 (subject to funding availability). To apply, visit [website](#). Further information contact: Rod Hardwick, Flying-fox Project Officer [rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au)

#### Flying-fox resources

The Office of Environment and Heritage has revised the [Flying-fox Camp Management Plan Template 2016](#) which provides a detailed approach for councils to use in developing their management plans.

The [Flying-fox camp management policy 2015](#) also has an updated link.

For more information, or to join the Flying-fox Land Managers' Network, an online forum for those land managers dealing with flying-fox camps, contact: [mike.roache@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mike.roache@environment.nsw.gov.au)

#### Environment Awards

Judging has commenced to determine the winners of the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards. A competitive field of over 80 entries was received. Finalists will be notified prior to the announcement of winners at a presentation ceremony on 29 November at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf, Sydney.

The presentation event will include presentations from finalist councils and culminates in the presentation of the Local Sustainability Award and the \$10,000 prize for an overseas study tour or a professional development program for council staff. More details on the [Awards website](#).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW  
EXCELLENCE IN THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
AWARDS





## Council Roadside Reserves Survey

Councils are asked to complete a short survey seeking their input into the development of the Council Roadside Reserves Project. The purpose of the survey is to identify councils interested in being involved in the project and contributing to the development of tools and support for councils to manage their roadside environmental areas.

Respondents to the [survey](#) will be added to a network for ongoing communication on the project and on grant funding opportunities (when available). Responses are needed by Friday 19 August, 2016.

Contact: Kathy Godfrey, CRR Project Officer at [Kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:Kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au)



## NSW Government

### Biodiversity Reform

LGNSW has provided a [submission](#) to the Conservation and Land Management Reforms, known as the Biodiversity Reforms. Submissions closed in June 2016.

Thank you to all councils who attended one of the technical workshops, participated in the webinar, or provided copies of their council's submissions to assist in the development of the LGNSW submission.

Further consultation with local government is expected on the development of the proposed Urban SEPP, and the drafting of associated regulations. Councils will be updated as more information becomes available.

### NSW Native Vegetation Report 2013-2014

The NSW Government has released the [NSW Report on Native Vegetation 2013-14](#) which provides the latest information on the conservation, restoration, management and approvals for clearing native vegetation across NSW. The report includes data on rates of woody vegetation change by Local Government Area (ha/year) for Spot 5 analysis over

the four years from 2009-10. This [data](#) will be of interest to councils.

The report combines the following:

- Native Vegetation Report Card
- Private Native Forest Report
- NSW Woody Vegetation Change Report 2011–2013
- Compliance and Enforcement Report Card.

Over 200,000 hectares of native vegetation were conserved or improved across the State in 2013–14. In contrast, around 900 hectares were approved to be legally cleared where environmental values were maintained or improved through mechanisms such as the use of offsets. Illegal clearing is also reported.

### Saving Our Species Partnership projects announced

Minister Speakman announced the successful applicants to the NSW Government's Saving Our Species Partnership Grants Program aimed to help stop the decline of biodiversity and protect the state's threatened species into the future. The projects will invest \$3.7 million into the conservation and management of threatened species.

Details of funded projects available: [Saving Our Species Partnership Program](#).

### Biosecurity Information System

Councils play a key role in collecting of weed management information used for regional, state and national planning.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is working closely with councils to upload local weed information to the NSW Biosecurity Information System (BIS).

A key part of this process is the NSW Weeds Metadata Standard, an agreed standard for the collection of weed data across NSW. It includes technical requirements and specifications which are available on the [DPI Weeds Extranet](#) portal.

Data using this standard is used to prepare a variety of reports. These reports ensure stakeholders have access to coordinated mapping information for weed management undertaken across NSW and align to biosecurity activities such as inspections, compliance, extension and control activities.

Councils were required under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* and NSW Weeds Action Program to submit compliant data by 5 August.



## Australian Government

### National Feral Cat Survey

The Threatened Species Commissioner has released a survey on feral cat management. The purpose of the survey is to identify the national effort on feral cat management and assist in determining how Australia is tracking against the targets in Australia's Threatened Species Strategy. The survey is for any land manager, community member, or others involved in feral cat management and will form a national picture of community action on this issue.

## Climate Change

### EDO Report on Planning for Climate Change

The Environmental Defenders Officer (EDO) have prepared a report: Planning for climate change: how the NSW planning system can better tackle greenhouse gas emissions.

The report includes a table which summarises Australian State, Territory and Federal government climate mitigation laws and targets.

### Sydney Weeds App



An Environmental Weeds of Sydney Region App has been developed to provide a free field guide available on your mobile phone.

The app will help to identify some of the common environmental weeds found

in the Sydney region. It includes more than fifty weed species. Colour photographs and detailed identification notes to assist in identifying a plant. Native look-a-likes likely to be found in the region are also included. Recommended control methods are described.

The app is a useful resource for bushcare volunteers, gardeners, bush regenerators, landscapers, farmers, horticultural students and

land managers. It's available for Android phones and tablets and for iPhones and iPads.

## Local Government Case Study

### Adapting roads to climate change

The AdaptRoads pilot project builds resilience to road infrastructure by developing a business case for adaptation. The tool uses road asset data and hazard geospatial data both from Manly Council and national and international climate change sources to analyse current and future risks associated with different climate change scenarios. This analysis shows that extreme weather events such as bushfire, riverine flooding and coastal inundation are likely to increase in severity and frequency, which will result in greater risks to road assets. Through the pilot, adaptation pathways were developed and analysed to plan cost-effective adaptation options.

## Grants

### Flying-fox grants

Applications open. Stream 3 applications relating to implementing camp management plan actions close 26 August.

### Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

The NSW Environmental Trust is seeking applications for projects working to protect, conserve and restore our natural environment.

### Building Resilience to Climate Change

Grants available for projects that address climate change risks and vulnerabilities facing NSW councils.

## Events and Training

2016 LGNSW Water Management Conference  
28-30 August, Broken Hill, NSW

Accredited training for Erosion & Sediment Control Plans book now: Orange- 23 August, Dubbo-24 August, Tamworth-25 August.

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### MORE INFORMATION

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