

NRM UPDATE

For NSW Local Government



DECEMBER 2016
ISSUE 103

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

2016 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

Recognising outstanding achievements by local government in managing and protecting the environment.

Local Government continues to demonstrate innovation in environmental management and sustainability. This year the Awards attracted over 80 entries from a range of councils across NSW. The Awards were presented on 29 November 2016 at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf Sydney.



All of the finalists and award winners along with project summaries can be found on the [Awards website](#).



All of the 2016 winners.



Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability winner Brendan Govers. Image Eventpix.

2017 will mark the **Twentieth Anniversary of the Excellence in the Environment Awards**. Start preparing your submissions now! The awards are a great opportunity for member councils and individuals to be recognised for their leadership and expertise on many environmental fronts whilst sharing such knowledge with, and for the benefit of, other councils.

Details of the winners in each category and links to project summaries can be found in the following table.



Award	Asbestos Management
Winner	Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
Project Title	Western Sydney Asbestos Answers Facebook campaign
Award	Climate Change Action
Joint Winner	Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, The Hills Shire, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith Councils and the former Holroyd Council
Project Title	Light years ahead
Joint Winner	Blacktown City Council
Project Title	Cool streets
Award	Communication, Education and Empowerment
Winner	MIDWASTE
Project Title	Frugal Forest
Award	Community Sharps Management
Winner	City of Ryde Council
Project Title	Sharps disposal
Award	Invasive Species Management
Winner	Palerang Council (now Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council)
Project Title	Weed identification and mapping from high resolution aerial photography
Award	Natural Environment Policies, Planning and Decision Making
Winner	Sydney Peri Urban Network of Councils
Project Title	Sydney Food Futures
Award	National Environment Protection and Enhancement: On-Ground Works
Winner	Wagga Wagga City Council
Project Title	Marrambidya Wetland
Award	Resource Recovery
Winner	Broken Hill City Council
Project Title	Increasing resource recovery for Broken Hill
Award	Roadside Environmental Management
Winner	Moree Plains Shire Council
Project Title	Roadside environmental management plan
Award	Sustainable Procurement
Winner	Marrickville Council (now Inner West Council)
Project Title	Embedding sustainability into 'value for money'
Award	Waste Avoidance and Reuse
Winner	Parramatta City Council
Project Title	R3 program: resource, rescue and reuse
Award	Waste Education and Communication
Winner	Lachlan Shire Council
Project Title	Lachlan Shire waste services rationalisation
Award	Water Conservation
Winner	Ballina Shire Council
Project Title	Pressure and leakage management plan
Award	Local Sustainability
Winner	Ballina Shire Council
Project Title	Sustainability - Serving the community of today whilst preparing for the challenges of tomorrow
Award	Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability
Winner	Brendan Govers

Asbestos Awareness Month

November was Asbestos Awareness Month, a national campaign to raise awareness of asbestos risks. This year 100% of NSW councils participated. Councils got involved by holding information sessions for staff and communities, printing and displaying the posters and brochures provided and promoting Asbestos Awareness Month on blogs, Facebook and Twitter and council websites. LGNSW supported Asbestos Awareness Month by an awareness raising afternoon tea for staff, lamingtons at the CouncilSafe Advisory Network's November meeting and the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards, among other initiatives. LGNSW also launched the [Naturally Occurring Asbestos You Tube video](#) produced by the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities at a forum in Gundagai.

Applications open for Flying-fox grants

Applications are still open 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. To date eight councils and one regional organisation has had their funding applications approved.

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 for Stream 1 and 2 can be made until 30 April 2017 (subject to funding availability). An additional round for Stream 3 may be announced soon (subject to funding availability). To apply, visit the [flying-fox website](#). Further information contact: [Rod Hardwick](#), Flying-fox Project Officer LGNSW.

Review of urban flying-fox camp management strategies

The University of Melbourne is seeking your participation in an important study being conducted on the management of urban flying-fox camps (roosts).

The objective of this project is to review all management approaches across the east-coast distribution of Australia's four mainland flying-fox species to determine the relative cost and effectiveness of those strategies, as well as the issues/constraints surrounding decision-making and implementation of management strategies. The findings will be made available to you next year in the form of a report and/or academic paper.



To participate, click on this [link](#). For further information contact [Kaye Currey](#), from the University of Melbourne.

Feedback on the Explanation of Intended Effect can be made until **16 December 2016**. Visit the [website](#) for more detail.

Council Roadside Reserves

The [Council Roadside Reserves](#) (CRR) Project is funded through the NSW Environmental Trust over 3 years to assist councils to:

- Assess their roadside reserve areas using a simple rapid assessment tool developed by the project
- Embed roadside reserve management into council's internal planning and management systems
- Build capacity of councils to manage the environmental values in their roadside reserves.

In early 2017, grants of up to \$50,000 will be available to NSW councils to apply the framework developed for assessing and managing roadside reserves and integrating this data into council management and planning processes.

Contact: [Kathy Godfrey](#), CRR Project Officer.



NSW Government

Review of State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection

The Department of Planning and Environment are seeking feedback on the Explanation of Intended Effect: State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection.

The Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) outlines the intent of the proposed amendment of State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44). The EIE describes how the various parts of the proposed amendment will work and what we are seeking to achieve. The key changes in the proposed amended SEPP relate to the:

- definitions of koala habitat;
- list of tree species;
- list of councils; and
- development assessment process.

LGNSW will prepare a submission to the review. Please forward any comments to [Kirsty McIntyre](#), Senior Policy Officer, LGNSW.

\$10 Million to Protect Koala Habitat

The NSW Government has announced the investment of \$10 million over five years to acquire vital koala habitat and embark on a whole-of-government koala strategy to secure NSW koala populations. More information is available on the [OEH website](#).

There are a number of [community information](#) sessions planned in 2017 as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • Lismore | Tuesday 7 February |
| • Coffs Harbour | Wednesday 8 February |
| • Port Macquarie | Thursday 9 February |
| • Port Stephens | Monday 13 February |
| • Bega | Tuesday 14 February |
| • Gunnedah | Thursday 16 February |
| • Campbelltown | Monday 20 February |

The NSW Government is also inviting community feedback on the [draft Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project](#) that sets out a framework for koala conservation for 2016-21.

The closing date for written submissions on the NSW Koala Strategy and the draft Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project is **3 March 2017**.

Biodiversity Reform

On 17 November 2016, the NSW Parliament passed the Biodiversity Conservation Bill and Local Land Services Amendment Bill. The Bills will be supported by regulations and other detailed products. The government will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community as these are prepared over the coming months. The new scheme will be able to commence from mid-2017.

Work will continue as the enabling Regulation, tools and products to support the legislation are developed during 2017. Further consultation on more detailed components of the package will take place before the proposed legislation commences, including:

- Exhibiting the supporting Regulation.
- Consulting on the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map.
- Exhibiting a draft State Environmental Planning Policy for urban vegetation in early 2017.
- Exhibiting draft instruments such as the Biodiversity Assessment Method, wildlife management codes of practice and the land



management codes of practice from early 2017.

- Engaging with wildlife rehabilitation providers to design a new accreditation program for wildlife rehabilitation and rescue services to start in early 2018.

More detail available on the reform [website](#).

Biosecurity Act 2015

Public Consultation on the *Biosecurity Act 2015* proposed Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement commenced on the **14 November 2016 and ends 29 January 2017**. A series of information sessions were held across NSW during November 2016.

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* introduces the principle of shared responsibility to reduce the impact of invasive species, pests and diseases on the State's natural areas by using a combination of prevention, eradication or minimisation through containment and protection. This includes the use of guidelines, codes of practice and practical measures to reduce the risks from pests, weeds and diseases. More details visit the DPI [website](#).

Coastal Reforms

The NSW Government is working to deliver a new legislative and regulatory framework to better equip coastal communities to respond to existing and emerging coastal challenges and opportunities.

The elements of the reform are new legislation - the *Coastal Management Act 2016* (NSW) – a draft coastal management manual and a draft Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) with related maps. The NSW Government will provide \$83.6 million for coastal management over the next five years.

The full draft of the Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) and related maps of the coastal management areas are now [available](#) for public comment.

The public consultation period for the draft SEPP and maps is open until **23 December 2016**. LGNSW is preparing a submission to the review, please forward any comments to consider and/or incorporate to [Denise Anderson](#) Senior Policy Officer, LGNSW.

NSW Climate Change Policy Framework

For the first time in 11 years, the NSW Government has released a comprehensive [Climate Change Policy Framework](#). The Framework outlines two aspirational objectives:

- Achieving net zero emissions by 2050; and
- NSW being more resilient to a changing climate.

The Framework will be implemented through the Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan, the draft of which is now open for comment. The Climate Change Fund will provide \$500 million over 5 years. Only a small proportion of this will be directed to local government through targeted grants to accelerate replacement of inefficient public lighting, supporting pilot projects that demonstrate best practice adaptation and green cover demonstration projects. If there are other types of projects councils would like funded or other information and tools required, please include details in a submission. Don't forget the [local government adaptation survey report](#) to provide evidence for your submission.

Submissions close **16 December 2016**. LGNSW is preparing a submission. To contribute contact [Denise Anderson](#) Senior Policy Officer, LGNSW.

Clean Air for NSW Consultation Paper

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is seeking community and stakeholder feedback on whether you think NSW is proposing the right actions to improve air quality. The [Clean Air for NSW Consultation Paper](#) presents a proposed approach and actions for government to meet its goal of improving average air quality results across NSW. Submissions close **20 January 2017**.

Review of the load-based licensing scheme

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is currently reviewing the [load-based licensing](#) (LBL) scheme. The scheme has been in operation since 1999 and this review of its effectiveness and efficiency aims to ensure it is fulfilling its potential. The EPA has prepared an issues paper for the LBL review and is currently seeking public feedback.

Submissions close **23 December 2016**. To contribute to the LGNSW submission contact [Susy Cenedese](#) Strategy Manager, LGNSW.

Australian Government

Inquiry into flying fox management in the eastern states

Following a referral on 4 November 2016 from the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, the Committee will conduct a short inquiry into and report on the management of nationally protected flying-foxes in the eastern states of Australia. The committee is examining the status of the flying foxes in eastern Australia, the manner in which species are listed, whether the listing is scientifically robust and the circumstances in which they may be delisted.

The Committee accepted written submissions by the 18 November 2016 (LGNSW provided a submission) and conducted one roundtable public hearing to gather



evidence from experts, government bodies and non-government organisations on the 24 November 2016.

For more details, including submissions made to the Inquiry, please visit the [website](#).

Local Government Case Study

Adapting to urban heat events by mapping vulnerability hot spots

An [urban heat study](#) was conducted for the Penrith and Leichhardt local government areas analysing surface temperature, vegetation and social vulnerability. It served to determine opportunities to adapt local hot spots in terms of infrastructure provision and behavioural change. Subsequently, strategies addressing urban heat were developed and adopted for both councils specific to the different requirements in the Inner West and Greater Western Sydney.

Grants

NSW Flying-fox grants [applications open](#).

Events and Training

2017 Floodplain Management Australia National [Conference](#) 16-19 May 2017, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

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Happy Christmas

Wishing all a relaxing Christmas break and see you back in 2017!



MORE INFORMATION

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