

NRM UPDATE

For NSW Local Government



19 APRIL 2017
ISSUE 105

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

Council Roadside Reserves Project



Funding of \$1.46 million is being made available to councils as part of a three-year project to help councils manage roadside reserves. The project is managed by LGNSW, with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. The project aims to build the capacity of councils to embed the values of natural assets in roadside reserves into their integrated planning and reporting systems.

Council Roadside Environmental Management Framework (CREMF)

LGNSW has developed a Council Roadside Environmental Management Framework (CREMF) to assist councils in streamlining roadside environmental management. This new framework includes resources and tools to help councils assess and improve the value of roadside reserves. It includes innovative solutions to manage roadside reserves as part of councils' existing built assets and infrastructure processes. See factsheet Council Roadside Reserves Environmental Grants.

CRR Grant opportunities

Contestable grants are now available for councils to be part of the statewide pilot program to trial the framework concepts to improve the management and long-term environmental value of their roadside reserve assets.

Councils can apply for up to \$50,000. Newly amalgamated councils will be able to apply for up to \$80,000 (in recognition of the larger areas and the need to integrate systems). Grants of up to \$100,000 are available for projects involving two or more councils. Refer to the Guidelines for Applicants and submit an application online.

Applications due **9 May 2017**.

More information

LGNSW have held four information sessions to assist councils applying for CRR grants and to introduce councils to the framework. For those unable to attend a session, a recorded presentation outlining the framework is available. For more information contact: Kathy Godfrey at kathy.godfrey@lgnsw.org.au

LGNSW News

20 years of Environment Awards

Entries are now open to the Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards. The Awards celebrate 20 years of inspiration and culminate in a Finalists' Forum and ceremony on 11 October 2017 with Adam Spencer, Australian radio presenter, comedian, media personality, author and passionate advocate for sustainability the Master of Ceremonies.



While we celebrate the 'here and now' in the 2017 award categories, we will give a short overview of the journey from 1997 to 2017 at the forum held on the morning of the Awards lunch presentation. We look forward to celebrating councils achievements and encourage you to share the projects in your council. Entries are due on 31 May 2017.



NSW Flying-fox Forum

LGNSW and OEH through the NSW Flying-fox Grant Program are proposing to hold a free local government flying-fox forum in Sydney around October – November 2017.

The forum will provide an opportunity to share the experiences of council staff managing temporary or permanent flying-fox camps and also managing the impact of these camps on the community. The forum will also highlight any recent research and policy development on flying fox management issues and will include flying-fox experts and key OEH staff.

To assist in planning the event we are seeking councils input to the agenda and format of the Forum. Please provide your feedback [here](#). Contact Rod Hardwick rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au or 0439 098 172

Consultation

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

- Draft NSW Koala Strategy
- Draft Biosecurity Regulation
- Draft Education and Child Care SEPP
- Draft Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment Bill
- Draft Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (ePlanning) Regulations 2017
- Social impact assessment draft guidelines for State significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development

LGNSW Water Management Conference

The annual [LGNSW Water Management Conference](#) presents local government with a broad range of information on water policy, water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council-owned and operated local water utilities. The 2017 conference will be held in Dubbo, 4-6 September, 2017.

Local Government Case Studies

Orange City Council's Gosling Creek Reserve precinct floating island and hollows habitat

In a joint project between Orange City Council, Central Tablelands Local Land Services, and the Central West Environment and Waterways Alliance a floating island has been installed at an Orange reservoir to provide habitat for migratory birds. The island installation, along with nest boxes and hollow augmentation in remnant vegetation, provides a safe location for waterbirds, hollow-dependent birds and mammals.

The habitat island has been funded through the National Landcare Program.



City of Canterbury-Bankstown - Habitat box program

The Bankstown habitat box monitoring program assessed Council's 350 habitat boxes in bushland areas for their condition and precise location. With the assistance of two Macquarie University undergraduates, Council located 80% of the boxes which were assessed and recorded into an asset database and GIS program. Council also developed habitat box condition assessment indicators.

Although damaged boxes in poor condition can provide habitat and some boxes can last over 10 years, random boxes installed by residents can pose a risk of failure. Council now has a comprehensive maintenance and replacement plan to meet safety requirements.



June 2017. Other local government staff that wish to complete the online modules are welcome to undertake the training. Modules will also become available for the community during 2017.

Online learning modules are available now, and it is compulsory for all Authorised officers under the Act to successfully complete the online course before attending one of the face to face training workshops. The modules are also available for any staff that will be involved in administration of the Act, and can be accessed via self-enrolment through the EMtrain learning platform. For instructions, click [here](#).

NSW Government

Wild dog management strategy

The Department of Primary Industries has invited local communities, groups and individuals to have their say in developing the [NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2017-2021](#) to reduce the impacts of wild dogs. This version of the strategy is based on the inaugural strategy released in 2012. The updated document will guide specific actions to more effectively reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of government agencies, public and private land managers and other community members in managing wild dogs in NSW. Comments due by 5 May 2017.

Rediscovering Southern Highlands koalas

A satellite tracking project involving 20 koalas is shedding light on this free-ranging population and its habitat. Twenty koalas have been fitted with satellite tracking tags and set free to provide information on where koalas live, what they eat and how they move about. Hundreds of spotlighting sites have been created to help build maps of habitat and corridors for use in conservation and development planning – to ensure that the Highlands koalas never again suffer a population crash and that they can continue to live, breed and move about as they have done for millennia. More details [here](#).

Biosecurity Update

The Biosecurity Act 2015 is to commence in on 30 June 2017 and subordinate legislation is in the final stages of development. The timeline to the right provides an overview of the key milestones, and what will be completed as Department of Primary Industries (DPI) works towards commencement of the Act.

Authorised officers from across Local Government, DPI and Local Control Authorities will have both online and face to face training before the Act commences in

Key Milestones	
✓	2015 Biosecurity Legislation 2015 passed
✓	2015 Biosecurity Advisory Committee established
✓	Dec 2015 Consultation on draft regulations begins
✓	Dec 2015 Discussion papers released
✓	2015 Development of draft of regulations, biosecurity manual, policies and procedures
✓	Nov 2016 - Jan 2017 Public consultation on proposed Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement
✓	March 2017 Biosecurity Amendment Bill 2017 passed
	Early 2017 Finalise Regulation, BOPA & policies and procedures
	April - May 2017 Commence training for Authorised Officers
	Mid 2017 Commencement of Act

The face to face workshops across NSW - 14 in total - will start on 2 May and run through to the end of June. Registration for the face to face sessions and on-line learning is through the NSW DPI [EMtrain System](#)



Biosecurity Act Newsletter

To keep stakeholders up to date on what's happening around the legislation reform process, DPI produces a regular Biosecurity Act newsletter. [Past issues](#) are available. If you'd like to subscribe click the link with any past issue or email submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Grants

Floodplain management grants open

[Grant funding](#) to assist councils in carrying out floodplain management projects to help manage flood risk are now open. Funding is available to assist local government with flood studies, flood risk management studies and plans and major projects such as flood levees, gates, warning systems and house raising and purchase in high risk areas, under the [2017-18 Floodplain Management Program](#). Applications close on 27 April 2017.

Rescuing our waterways program

This program is part of the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy, which provides a coordinated approach to improve accessibility to our waterways. [Rescuing our Waterways](#) will deliver enhanced recreational boating access and continued viability for commercial vessel operators and their support industries, while providing flow on benefits for tourism and local economies.

Coastal Councils can apply and will be required to make a financial contribution of at least 50% of project costs and be responsible to develop and manage their projects. Eligible projects are expected to enable navigational benefits and promote economic growth and productivity. Dredging projects that may be subsidised under this program include:

- navigation for a range of vessels (recreational, tourism and commercial)
- access to public waterway infrastructure such as boat ramps and wharves
- dredging strategies and/or their supporting studies (e.g. sediment hydrodynamics)
- pre-dredge activities for projects which are eligible and likely to proceed to dredging for vessel navigation.

Applications close 23 June 2017.

SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe to this e-mail update, send a message to: nrm_localgovt-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au

Members can unsubscribe at any stage via nrm_localgovt-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.au

Council Roadside Reserve grants

[Apply](#) by 9 May 2017.

SUEZ community grants

[Individual grants](#) of between \$1,000 and \$15,000 each to community groups, funding social and environmental projects that contribute to a stronger community and healthier environment. Applications close May 5 2017.

Flying-fox management grants

This \$1 million program is funded through the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and is administered by Local Government NSW. A third round of funding under Stream 3 (Implementing approved actions in flying-fox camp management plans) will be open 1 May 2017. Applications for this competitive grant round close on 28 May 2017. Maximum grant size: \$50,000.

Applications to Stream 1 (Implementing emergency flying-fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts) and Stream 2 (Preparing flying-fox camp management plans) close on the 30 April 2017. To apply, visit the [flying-fox website](#).

Events and Training

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

The Nature Conservation Council is hosting the [Fire, Fauna and Ferals: from backyards to bush Conference](#) on 30- 31 May 2017.

[LGNSW Water Management Conference](#), Dubbo 4-6 September, 2017.

[26th Annual NSW Coastal Conference](#) - "The Next Wave", 8-10 November 2017, Port Stephens

Call for [papers and presentations](#) from individuals or organisations to share their experience and ideas at the conference. Abstracts close Friday 23rd June 2017.

MORE INFORMATION

Kirsty McIntyre
Senior Policy Officer – NRM
Local Government NSW
E kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au
P 9242 4055