

NRM UPDATE



For NSW Local Government

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The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Update provides council staff and elected representatives with information across the broad spectrum of Natural Resource Management policy and programs.

LGNSW news

Call for papers - 2015 LGNSW Water Management Conference

LGNSW invites proposals for presentations at the 2015 conference co-hosted by LGNSW and Wingecarribee Shire Council and held at Peppers Craigieburn in Bowral 24-26 August 2015. Some of the topics papers are invited on are:

- **Innovative practice** – discussion of innovative operational practice and strategic capability.
- **Water catchment protection** - a look at councils' interactions with Water NSW (former Sydney Catchment Authority) and impacts and challenges related to water catchment protection requirements.
- **Challenges of water transfer schemes** – delve into the Shoalhaven Water Scheme and the Goulburn Water Supply Pipeline and other similar schemes.
- Review of **institutional arrangements** for local water utilities in regional NSW, including discussion on proposals to reform local water utilities in regional NSW in the context of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future initiative.

Papers are due by Friday 10 April 2015. More information available at: lgnsw.org.au/waterconference

Local Government: Case Studies

Kogarah City Council - Dover Park East Environmentally Friendly Seawall

Dover Park East foreshore, Kogarah Bay, was a major Council habitat enhancement project involving the

removal of an existing low habitat concrete seawall, and the construction of an environmentally friendly seawall focused on emulating the habitat variation present on a natural rocky foreshore. This foreshore includes constructed rockpools at varying intertidal levels to develop a habitat range for all intertidal organisms present on natural foreshores. Since its completion, over 25 species of marine organisms have utilised the provided habitats.

Bathurst Regional Council – Racing to Save the Mount Panorama Woodlands

This project is a partnership between Council and Boundary Road Reserve Landcare Group to improve the condition and linkages of more than 117ha of Box-Gum Grassy Woodland. This vegetation community exists in fragments within the Mount Panorama precinct and is listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) woodland under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and listed as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Eurobodalla Shire Council - Broulee Biocertification Project

The Broulee Biodiversity Certification project has been developed as a strategic solution to ongoing planning, development and biodiversity issues in Broulee. The approach proposes to resolve long-standing land use conflict and development uncertainty being experienced in a remaining undeveloped area of urban land in the coastal village of Broulee on the south coast of NSW.



Biodiversity Certification (or biocertification) is an alternate assessment pathway given effect through an amendment to the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act). Biocertification allows local government in areas with high development pressure to provide for the protection of biodiversity at the strategic planning stage.

Red Guide Posts – Riverina and Central Western NSW

The [Red Guide Posts](#) are a simple system to assist in reducing the spread of high risk weeds along roadsides. The concept has been developed through a collaboration of five regional Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups, Riverina & Central West Local Control Authorities (LCAs), Local Land Services (LLS) and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

The scheme involves the installation of red guide posts at the 'start' and 'end' of each weed infestation. The red guide posts identify the site and an extensive awareness campaign will advise that works are not to be undertaken between the posts without the local weed officer's permission. A [TV commercial](#) has been produced to promote the system to the wider community.



NSW Government

Biodiversity Legislation Review – Final Report released

In June 2014, the Minister for the Environment appointed an independent panel to conduct a review of the legislative and policy framework for the management of native vegetation, threatened species and other protected native animals and plants in NSW.

The panel has now completed their [final report](#) for the Minister recommending the repeal of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and parts of the *National Parks*

and *Wildlife Act 1974* and introduction of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act, aimed at landscape scale conservation and productivity through a connected network of public and private land. The Government is considering the panel's findings and recommendations and will release a response to the review.

LGNSW has written to the Minister welcoming the report and seeking further consultation with Local Government on any proposed change to biodiversity legislation which will impact on councils.

Council input into biodiversity information management systems

OEH is developing a 5 year strategy to improve the products and services delivered via OEH's Biodiversity Information Systems. To inform this strategy they have developed a user satisfaction survey. There are 10 questions covering all modules of the BioNet Atlas of NSW Wildlife and Vegetation Information System (VIS). The results of the survey will assist OEH in identifying areas for improvement in meeting Local Government's biodiversity information needs.

Councils are encouraged to participate in the [survey](#) to ensure Local Government's perspectives are included.

Survey closes on 27 February. For further information contact:
James.Bibby@environment.nsw.gov.au

10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice Update

The 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice (the 10/50 Code) commenced on 1 August 2014. The Code allows eligible properties to clear trees 10 metres from a home, as well as understorey vegetation within 50 metres of a home without seeking approval.

Rural Fire Service (RFS) commenced a review of the 10/50 Code in October 2014. LGNSW made a submission to the review seeking an immediate suspension of the 10/50 Code and recommended that a thorough scientific review be undertaken to inform any further amendments before the Code is re-introduced. Copies of [LGNSW submissions](#) on the 10/50 Code (draft and review stages) are available.

On 26 November 2014 the 10/50 Code eligibility area was reduced to 100 metres for category one vegetation and 30 metres for category two vegetation (originally 350 metres for category one and two).

We are currently awaiting the completion of the review, with the RFS anticipating its completion in the first half of 2015.



Online tools for assessment of native vegetation
OEH has developed a series of [information tools](#) to help landholders work their way through the Native Vegetation Act and Regulations. The information tools are easy to use.

Australian Government

Threatened Special Maps Released

The Australian Department of the Environment has recently released more than 1,700 new maps and datasets that local communities can use to find threatened species in their area. The [maps](#) show known and predicted distribution of listed species including areas of potential habitat. Maps are available online now from the Department of the Environment. Members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback through the website so that the maps can be kept up to date.

Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review

The Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review is underway with submissions closing on **31 March 2015**. Consultations are planned for the East Region from 16-19 February at Ulladulla, Sydney and Port Stephens. More information on the [Review](#) and these sessions is available.

Biodiversity

Wollemi Pine video

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the discovery of the ancient Wollemi Pine by National Parks & Wildlife Service ranger, David Noble, in a remote canyon in the Wollemi National Park. Thought to be extinct, the species belong to a 200 million year old plant family, making them one of the oldest and rarest tree species on the planet. Check out a [new video](#) on the Saving Our Species web pages about the species and people involved in its discovery.

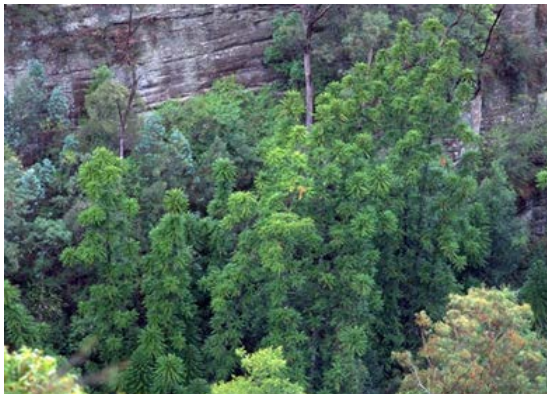


Photo courtesy: www.wollemipine.com

Climate Change

Risk assessment for exotic plants under future climates

The interactive website, [Weed Futures](#), provides information to assess weed risk and prioritise exotic species for monitoring and management. It has been updated to allow more than 600 weeds to be searched by name or boundary to find out how they are likely to respond to future climate scenarios.

Scientists map critical koala food areas for conservation

A [study](#) has found that areas where koalas are likely to exist will shift considerably, mostly eastwards towards coastal regions where clashes with development, traffic and domestic animals pose a threat. The study demonstrated that conservation efforts should include areas in which suitable habitat and food trees might thrive under a changing climate, and these areas should be protected or rehabilitated with suitable tree species. In NSW, the focus should be on areas within about 150 km of the coast, such as the Richmond Range National Park.

Invasive Species

Biosecurity Information System (BIS) launched

The NSW Government, through the Department of Primary Industries has invested \$9.8 million to develop an information management system to improve the State's capacity to deal with biosecurity threats, known as the Biosecurity Information Management System. An [information video](#) has been produced.

Red imported fire ants in Sydney

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is continuing to closely monitor [red imported fire ants](#) at a port facility at Port Botany, Sydney. It appears the ants are localised to the initial detection site, but NSW DPI will continue extensive surveillance.

Landcare/Bushcare

Guidelines for volunteer tree planting projects in rural areas

The [Guidelines for rural and urban partners to carry out volunteer tree planting projects in rural areas](#) have been produced as an outcome of the successful "Building Bridges to Boorowa" program. North Sydney Council's Building Bridges to Boorowa program is a tree planting partnership lasting for 15 years involving urban volunteers travelling to the Boorowa Shire to assist with vegetation restoration projects.



Photo: courtesy of Landcare in Focus, November 2014, planting at Hawk Hill, Boorowa.

Water

Water Data Online

The Bureau of Meteorology has released a new service, [Water Data Online](#), to provide a single access point to nationally consistent, timely data from thousands of water monitoring stations across Australia. You can now find standardised watercourse level and watercourse discharge data from approximately 3500 water monitoring stations around Australia. Over time, more stations and parameters will become available.

SUBSCRIPTION

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Grants

Green Army project round now open

Applications are now open for Round 3 of the Green Army Programme. Councils are eligible to apply for projects. Applications close 17 March 2015 at 2pm.

Coastal and Estuary Management Grants

The next round of funding is now open. Applications close on 12 March 2015 for the [Coastal Management Program](#) and the [Estuary Management Program](#).

Salty Communities

Funding is available to Sydney metropolitan councils through [Sydney Coastal Councils](#) to support on-ground projects to build the resilience of coastal habitats, foreshore and intertidal areas in response to urbanisation and climate change. Funds of between \$5,000 and \$150,000 are available. Applications close 30 March 2015.

Events and Training

NCC Bushfire Conference [Fire and Restoration: working with fire for healthy lands](#), 26-27 May 2015 in Sydney.

[Successful engagement for smarter decision making Forum](#) 25 - 26 March 2015, Rydges Sydney includes case studies and strategies by City of Ryde, Lake Macquarie Council and Sutherland Shire Council.

[Clean Up Australia Day](#), Sunday 1 March

MORE INFORMATION

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