

NRM UPDATE



For NSW Local Government

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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

Southern Sustainable Procurement Forum

This forum on 8 May at Wollongong City Council is an opportunity to discover ways to implement sustainable procurement effectively within your organisation; with a focus on energy efficiency and innovative sustainable materials that are available for use in civil construction. There will also be a number of suppliers brought directly to you, showcasing technology and innovation in sustainable products and purchasing. [Register now.](#)

Naturally Occurring Asbestos Forum

Local Government NSW, together with the NSW Government, is holding forums on naturally occurring asbestos for NSW councils.

- Thursday 23 April 2015 - Orange
- Thursday 30 April 2015 - Tamworth
- Wednesday 3 June 2015 - Bungendore

The forums will feature presentations by councils, State Government agencies and research scientists covering case studies, scientific information, and legal obligations for councils and communications materials.

The forums are free but places are limited. Please [register online.](#)

Local Government Case Studies

Stormwater Harvesting in the Burnt Bridge Creek Catchment

Manly Council is undertaking two [stormwater harvesting projects](#) in the Burnt Creek Catchment at Balgowlah Golf Course and LM Graham Reserve. The overall objective of the project is to integrate water savings with environmental improvement.

This project has constructed a large stormwater harvesting dam at Balgowlah Golf Course. Dam storage of 4ML allows for approximately 60ML per year of captured stormwater to be used for irrigation. The dam and the underground Gross Pollution Trap (GPT) treats 100% of the stormwater flowing through the golf course. A second stormwater harvesting system is currently being designed at LM Graham Reserve in Manly. This will supply an estimated 6.7ML of water per year for irrigation of playing fields.

NSW Government

New Ministers for NRM portfolios

Premier Mike Baird has announced changes to Cabinet with the appointment of Hon Mark Speakman, as the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage and Assistant Minister for Planning and Hon Niall Blair is the new Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Land and Water.

Consultation on National Parks establishment

Consultation has been undertaken by the Office of Environment and Heritage on the proposed directions, socio-economic considerations and community



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involvement in creating new national parks and reserves in NSW. LGNSW has prepared a submission on behalf of NSW councils. Copies are available from Kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au.

Flying Fox Policy released

The NSW Flying-fox Camp Management Policy 2015 is now available, along with the Submissions Report and a revised Camp Management Plan Template.

The Policy empowers land managers, primarily councils, to work with their communities to manage flying-fox camps effectively. It provides the framework within which OEH will make regulatory decisions. In particular, the policy strongly encourages councils and other land managers to prepare camp management plans for sites where the local community is affected.



Management of flying-foxes also requires recognition that, as native fauna, they are protected in NSW under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) and, in the case of the Grey-headed flying-fox, under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth).

The Flying-fox Camp Management Policy 2015 differs from the previous 2007 policy in its focus on minimising the impacts of camps on people; its longer-term approach to camp management and streamlining of licensing; and its acknowledgement that camp dispersal may be a successful way of removing impacts on local communities.

OEH have committed to the production of further resources to assist councils in the management of flying-fox camps and these will be promoted to councils in due course.

NSW WeedWise

NSW DPI have launched a new weed resource *NSW Weedwise* developed through the NSW Weeds Action program. NSW WeedWise is a smartphone App that combines three areas of previously separate information: weed profiles, legal requirements under the *Noxious Weed Management Act* and control information.

Visit the App Store to download NSW WeedWise for iPhone and iPad or visit Google play to download NSW WeedWise for Android.

Visit the NSW WeedWise web pages from your PC or laptop at: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

Consultation on the Wood Smoke Control Framework

Councils are invited to review the [proposed amendments to the wood heater regulatory framework](#) and submit their feedback.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is proposing an amendment to the current wood heater regulatory framework, giving power to NSW councils to introduce additional controls on wood heater installation.

The amendment:

- proposes a new schedule of additional controls councils can choose to implement, either in their entire Local Government area or designated areas such as high density neighbourhoods or new development precincts or localities affected by wood smoke because of their topography (this approach is similar to control of burning in the open in NSW)
- incorporates updated Australian/New Zealand Standards for wood heaters, setting more stringent emission limits and new efficiency limits.

The amendment also presents councils with the opportunity to consider listing their Local Government area on a new schedule, in accordance with the level of wood heater control desired by their community.

In order to be placed on the schedule, councils must advise the EPA in writing by Friday **15 May 2015**. Please provide comments to kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au by Monday 4 May for inclusion in LGNSW's submission. For more information on the proposed changes contact: Trevor Solomon, EPA on 9995 6087.



Australian Government

Inquiry into Stormwater Resources Management

The Senate has commenced an [inquiry into stormwater resources management](#) in Australia. Submissions are due by **24 April 2015** with a report due by 25 June 2015. The inquiry will consider the quantum of stormwater resource in Australia and the impact and potential of optimal management practices in areas of flooding, environmental impacts, waterway management and water resource planning.

The inquiry will also consider funding models and incentives to support strategic planning and investment in desirable stormwater management, including local prioritisation and asset management, and operations to encourage efficient investments and longevity of benefit.

Biodiversity

Study of biodiversity loss

Bush Heritage Australia, which manages over 5 million hectares for conservation management, has released its [10 year science plan](#). The plan involves 50 scientists from 15 universities and consists of:

- 55 active conservation research projects.
- Actions to double their science capacity by 2025 through collaborative research, science fellowships and citizen science.
- Support for young scientists with new post-graduate scholarships, internships and placements.
- Growth to support 120 collaborative research projects by 2025 aimed at halting biodiversity loss.

Landcare / Bushcare

2015 State & Territory Landcare Awards

Award categories include:

- Individual Landcarer
- Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator

- Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices
- Partnerships with Landcare
- Coastcare Award
- Junior Landcare Team
- Young Landcare Leader
- Indigenous Land Management
- Landcare Community Group

[Apply online.](#) Entries close 31 May.

Grants

Sydney Coastal Councils Group's Funding Guide

[The Guide](#) provides a comprehensive list of funding opportunities for councils and other stakeholders to support the management and protection of Sydney's coastal and estuarine environments. It includes over 60 funding opportunities, and also award programs for councils to demonstrate their environmental achievements.

Environmental Trust Eco Schools Program

The NSW Environmental Trust will award up to 100 schools grants of \$3,500 to deliver environmental management projects. Applications due by Friday 15 May 2015.

Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the [Trust's website](#).

Events and Training

[Hollows for Habitat Forum](#) - 20 May, Armory Theatre, Newington Armory.

[LGNSW Water Management Conference](#)

24 – 26 August, Peppers Craigieburn, Bowral.

[Nature Conservation Council of NSW 10th Biennial](#)

[Bushfire Conference](#)

26 – 27 May.

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MORE INFORMATION

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