

NRM UPDATE



For NSW Local Government

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PEST MANAGEMENT
REVIEW
PAGE 02

GRANTS
PAGE 02

EVENTS
PAGE 03

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

Roadside vegetation project announced as a finalist

The Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project (RVIP), funded by the NSW Environmental Trust provided grants totalling \$2.13 million to councils for on-ground roadside environmental projects. The achievement of these funded projects has been recognised, with the project named a finalist in NSW Government's [2015 Green Globes](#). Congratulations to all councils involved!

These seven BioBanking agreements provide for the ongoing management and protection of 345 hectares of native bushland and wetlands, more than a third of which contain vegetation communities listed as either endangered or critically endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The report includes [case studies](#) of the council projects.



Local Government

Ballina Shire Koala Habitat Restoration (NSW)

Ballina Shire Council with WetlandCare Australia are launching a [project](#) to trial a new species of Eucalypt, *Eucalyptus parramattensis*, as a farmer-friendly Koala food tree on the Alstonville Plateau. The compact nature of this species makes it an ideal long term windbreak tree for farms.

Biosecurity Bill

The NSW Biosecurity Bill returned to the NSW Parliament in August in largely the same form as the 2014 version without the package of amendments previously agreed between NSW Farmers, environment groups and the Coalition government. By the end of August, eight sets of amendments had been proposed in the upper house, including those previously accepted by the government in 2014. Debate on the Bill will continue in mid-September.

NSW Government

Establishing Biobank sites on public land

OEH has released a [report](#) with the learnings from their [Linking Landscapes](#) through Local Action Grant Program.

The program resulted in the establishment and funding of seven new BioBanking agreements on public land within existing corridors in the Sydney Basin bioregion. The new biobank sites are owned by the Shoalhaven, Lake Macquarie, Ku-ring-gai, Gosford, Wollongong, Hornsby and Bankstown councils.

Mining SEPP amended to include environmental and social impacts



The Baird government has amended its [mining policy process](#) to ensure that decision makers consider environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts in their assessment of development applications.

Australian Government

Using citizen science

The Office the Chief Scientist has released a new [paper on citizen science](#), celebrating the contributions that people are making to their communities through science.

The paper discusses how citizen science is strengthening Australia's research capacity, solving real world problems and enhancing our awareness of science.

Biodiversity

National Biodiversity Month

September is [Biodiversity Month](#) to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world.

Hollow-bearing trees in urban forest fragments

This [research](#) surveyed 45 natural forest remnants across the rapidly urbanising City of Gold Coast to quantify the distribution and abundance of hollow-bearing trees. The results highlight the value of urban forest remnants in maintaining the functional capacity of urban landscapes for biodiversity by protecting hollow-bearing trees as habitat resources.

Climate Change

Adaptation network calling for advisory group members

The [National Adaptation Network for Natural Ecosystems](#) is seeking people to participate in its stakeholder advisory group. Anyone interested in climate adaptation in Australia is invited to apply. The Network aims to support local decision-makers managing climate risks on Australia's natural environment. Participants would provide advice in their area of expertise and provide feedback on network activities.

Invasive Species

Pest Management Review

The NSW Government has announced the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will lead an [independent review](#) to deliver better management of pest animals in NSW. Currently, pest animals are managed across different tenures by private and

public land managers. There is a perception that the pest animal problem is getting worse despite efforts of landholders and governments, and that more coordinated approaches are needed.

Draft NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022

A review of the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-15 was recently undertaken to ensure invasive species in NSW continues to be managed by objective and successful programs.

An [updated NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-22](#) has been drafted by NSW Department of Primary Industries in collaboration with public land managers (Local Land Services, Crown Lands and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service), and is open for public consultation until 2 October 2015.

Landcare/Bushcare

Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative

The NSW Government has announced the NSW Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative on 2 September 2015.

The purpose of the program is to maintain and build community capacity, consistently across NSW. The key elements of the program are:

- a network of locally based coordinators who will work with local Landcare groups and other volunteer conservation groups
- a centralised support team to provide state-wide coordination
- transitioning the Landcare network towards becoming financially self-sustaining.

Grants

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 \$10,000 and \$100,000 are available. Applications close 9 October 2015.

Fish Habitat Action Grants

[Applications](#) are now open for the 2015-16 Habitat Action Grants program with more than half a million dollars up for grabs to improve fish habitats right across NSW. Previous funded projects include:

- Removing invasive weeds and re-establishing native vegetation on our riverbanks;
- Opening floodgates or improving road crossings to remove barriers to fish movement;
- Restoring eroded river banks;



- Re-snagging waterways;
- Bank stabilisation works.

Applications close at 5pm Friday, 16 October 2015.

Green Army Round Four

The call for projects for Round Four of the Green Army Programme is now open. Applications can be submitted until 2.00PM 16 September 2015. The Green Army Round Four Project Guidelines and application form are now available [online](#).

Saving our Species Partnership Grants

The [NSW Environmental Trust Saving our Species Partnership Grants Program](#) Round 2 will fund \$3.6 million worth of landscape species projects developed by consortia – applications close **28 September 2015**.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants

The NSW Environmental Trust is inviting applications to the 2015/16 round of its [Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program](#). Grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are available. Applications close **18 September 2015**.

A total of \$5.3 million is available for projects working to protect, conserve and restore our natural environment, including \$1.3 million for projects by owners and managers of NSW State Heritage Register-listed properties for environmental works and activities.

Events and Training

[Bushcare's Major Day Out](#), 13 September 2015

[18th NSW Weeds Conference](#), 12–15 October 2015, Cooma

[NSW Environmental Education Conference](#), 29-30 October 2015, Hunter Valley.

[24th NSW Coastal Conference, 2015](#) 10-13 November 2015, Forster, NSW. Hosted by Great Lakes Council. The theme of the conference is *Great Expectations - pathways for learning and delivery*

[56th Annual Floodplain Management Australia Conference](#), 17-20 May 2016, Nowra.

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