

# 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

### 2018 Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

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



This year the Excellence in the Environment Awards celebrated twenty-one years of inspiration from NSW councils in programs, projects and people. The [Awards](#) attracted 79 entries from councils across NSW and were presented on 3 December 2018 at Waterview, Bicentennial Park, Olympic Park.

The prestigious Local Sustainability Award, which recognises the outstanding achievement by a NSW council to implement Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) and strive for a sustainable future for their local community, was won by City of Parramatta Council for their [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#). The prize includes \$10,000 to contribute to a professional development program, or overseas study tour for council staff.



Environment Awards 2018 winners

Winners and links to case studies below:

<b>Award</b>	<b>Asbestos Management</b>
Winner	Ballina Shire Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Integrated asbestos waste management program</a>

<b>Award</b>	<b>Climate Change Action</b>
Winner	Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils
Project Title	<a href="#">Solar my School</a>

<b>Award</b>	<b>Communication, Education and Empowerment</b>
Winner	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Sustainable Futures Program</a>

<b>Award</b>	<b>Community Sharps Management</b>
Winner	Wagga Wagga City Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Be sharps smart</a>

<b>Award</b>	<b>Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision Making</b>
Winner	Northern Beaches Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Protecting public and private assets at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach</a>

<b>Award</b>	<b>Invasive Species Management</b>
Winner	Wagga Wagga City Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Weed hygiene station</a>



<b>Award</b>	<b>National Environment Protection and Enhancement: On-Ground Works</b>
Winner	Kempsey Shire Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Boyers Lane Wetland rehabilitation project</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Roadside Environmental Management</b>
Winner	Bathurst Shire Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Bathurst Roadside Environmental Management Plan</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Resource Recovery</b>
Winner	Cessnock City Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Game changer: the development of a transfer station at Cessnock Waste Management Centre</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Community Waste Services</b>
Winner	Inner West Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Rethinking Food Organics: one size doesn't fit all</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Behaviour Change in Waste</b>
Winner	City of Parramatta
Project Title	<a href="#">To bin or not to bin, that is the question: The Riverside Theatres' waste campaign</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Water Management</b>
Winner	Liverpool City Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Amalfi Park Basin: Brickmakers Creek flood mitigation project</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Sustainable Infrastructure</b>
Winner	Penrith City Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Jordan Springs Community Hub</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Local Sustainability</b>
Winner	City of Parramatta Council
Project Title	<a href="#">Environmental sustainability strategy</a>
<b>Award</b>	<b>Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability</b>
Winner	Peter Maganov, Randwick City Council

## Local Government Case Studies

### Kempsey Shire Council - Boyers Lane Wetland rehabilitation project

Kempsey Shire Council purchased a 25ha degraded dairy farm property within the lower Macleay River estuary for the purpose of developing 6 hectares for community development.



The site contains small pockets of important aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and is recognised as a locally important wading and migratory bird roosting and foraging site. To date over 15,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted, 8ha of mangrove and saltmarsh protected and improved, 2kms of walkways, a bird hide and information hut have been constructed.

### Northern Beaches Council - Protecting public and private assets at Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach

Collaroy-Narrabeen Beach suffered significant erosion during the June 2016 East Coast Low resulting in a number of properties being evacuated and deemed unsuitable for occupation, and a large number of other properties being at imminent risk of damage from any subsequent storms. Council was required to make immediate decisions on the long-term management of the area and adjust its whole planning framework to implement those decisions. A revised policy and planning framework was developed and implemented within 6 months of the event.



## Biodiversity Values Map

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has updated the Biodiversity Values Map, which identifies land with high biodiversity value that is particularly sensitive to impacts from development and clearing.

The map forms part of the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme threshold, one of the triggers for determining whether offsets must apply to a clearing or development proposal.

Updates to the map include coastal management mapping and addition of core koala habitat in some local government areas.

Find out more and download a fact sheet outlining the changes from the OEH website.

OEH is preparing guidelines for councils on contributing land to the map, which are expected by mid-2019. Contact: OEH's map review team by email or call 02 6360 9000.



## Private Native Forestry Review

The NSW Government is seeking feedback on terms of reference for a review of private native forestry by 31 January 2019.

The review seeks to balance sustainable development of the private native timber and agricultural industries with the environmental value of native forestry.

The review is seeking views on: codes of practice, rules and regulations, authorisation processes, training and advisory services.

For more information and to make a submission visit the [NSW Local Land Services website](#).

To provide input into LGNSW's submission email [Kirsty McIntyre](#) by 9 January 2019.

opportunities to value natural assets in roadside reserves.

### Survey of councils

A survey of NSW councils has been undertaken to determine how councils currently manage their natural assets. A report outlining the findings from the 44 councils completing the survey is [available](#).

### Research report

A report to investigate and assess the current tools and approaches being used to manage natural assets as a component of broader local government asset management systems has been prepared.

The report combined with survey responses, will inform the development of practical advice to guide councils in integrating natural assets into existing council systems.

Further information contact [Kathy Godfrey](#) at LGNSW.

## Five million trees funding



### 5 MILLION TREES for Greater Sydney

Councils in Greater Sydney are encouraged to apply for a [Five Million Trees](#) grant to support tree-planting projects in streets, parks, bushland areas and yards.

Five Million Trees aims to increase Greater Sydney's overall tree canopy to 40 per cent by 2030.

The NSW Government has allocated \$6 million in 2018/19 to fund upcoming tree-planting projects. Grants will be awarded on a matched dollar-for-dollar basis.

[Find out more and apply online](#) by 3pm, **21 December 2018**.

## Natural asset management and roadside reserves

LGNSW is currently undertaking a natural assets project to provide direction and resources for councils to assist them in integrating natural assets into their existing management systems. The first stage of the project involved investigating the current activities undertaken by councils as well as identifying

## EcoRoadside and RAM training opportunity

LGNSW through the Council Roadside Reserve project will hold two further training workshops for councils to learn more about undertaking conservation value assessments of roadside areas. The training uses a [Rapid Assessment Methodology \(RAM\)](#) and captures data using the [EcoRoadside App](#).

Participants will also be provided with assistance in understanding the types of vegetation communities in their area and the dominant species they might encounter when assessing their roadside reserves. The session includes an in-field component.

Expressions of interest to participate in the training, or host a workshop are sought by **31 January 2019**.

For more information contact CRR Project Officer – [Kathy Godfrey](#) or (02) 9242 4053



*This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.*



## Travelling Stock Reserves

The NSW Government is seeking feedback on a draft, [statewide plan](#) to enable consistent management of travelling stock reserves across NSW by **21 December 2018**.

Travelling stock reserves are parcels of Crown land reserved under legislation for use by travelling stock.

NSW Local Land Services (LLS) is responsible for the care, control and maintenance of more than 500,000 hectares of these reserves in NSW.

Each LLS board will adopt an annual operational plan to drive activities and spending on travelling stock reserves. Visit the LLS website for more information.

LGNSW is keen to hear councils' views on this issue. Please email these to [Kirsty McIntyre](#).



Photo: Local Land Services

## Kosciuszko Wild Horse Panels

Applications are open for membership of a [Kosciuszko Wild Horse Community Advisory Panel](#) and a [Kosciuszko Wild Horse Scientific Advisory Panel](#) until **21 December**.

The community panel is being established under the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* to provide advice to the Environment Minister on the heritage value and management of sustainable wild horse populations in parts of Kosciuszko National Park and provide input to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) draft wild horse heritage management plan.

The scientific panel will provide scientific and technical advice on the development of the draft plan.

For further information and to apply visit the [OEH website](#).

## Flying-fox camp management template

OEH is currently reviewing the Flying-fox [Camp Management Plan Template 2016](#), which aims to streamline plan preparation and processing, reducing the level of resource input required by land managers, and time between development and implementation.

Council feedback is sought, particularly from councils that have used the template, or have engaged a contractor to undertake the plan.

Send feedback to [flying.fox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:flying.fox@environment.nsw.gov.au) by **28 December 2018**. LGNSW is also interested in councils' comments. Please copy these to [Chris Hudson](#).

## Flying-fox code of practice

The NSW Government has delivered the Flying-fox Camp Management Code of Practice, which is available on the [NSW Legislation website](#).

The code of practice has been established to define the standards required for effective and humane management of flying-fox camps. Actions required to manage a flying-fox camp that are consistent with the terms of the code of practice will not require a licence.

The code of practice will help local councils and other public land managers to act quickly to manage flying-fox camps causing concern on public land while ensuring the welfare of flying-foxes.

[Guidance notes](#) provide flying-fox camp managers with additional information to assist them when undertaking camp management actions covered by the code of practice.

The government invited input on the draft code from April to June 2018. Submissions and a [public consultation report](#) is available on the [Office of Environment and Heritage website](#).

For further information or questions email: [flying.fox@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:flying.fox@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## WIDX – Weed risk management system

The WIDX website and its Weed Risk Management System is available for weed professionals who carry out weed risk assessments. It can be used to create, share, review, search and store weed risk assessments and provides access to the NSW DPI Weeds Information Database. Visit [widx.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://widx.dpi.nsw.gov.au) to apply for a user account or contact: [weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



## Drought communication pack for councils

The Federal Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) has developed a communication pack to highlight the broad range of support available to individuals and families, farms and communities in areas impacted by drought across Australia.

The material in the communication pack can be used by drought-affected councils to help connect the people in their communities and regions with the support on offer.

The communication pack includes:

- A shell media release
- Message from the Mayor/newsletter article
- Social media content

Drought assistance information pack can be accessed on-line under 'Find a service'. The information included in the pack can be used in councils' own newsletters, websites, letters and social media channels to get the right information to the communities who need it.

To share local drought support initiatives and engagement activities contact:  
[drought.taskforce@pmc.gov.au](mailto:drought.taskforce@pmc.gov.au).

### SUBSCRIPTION

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If you experience any problems viewing this email, pdf versions are available on the LGNSW website.

## Climate change grants

Councils can apply for grants of up to \$300,000 under the Increasing Resilience to Climate Change grants program, a partnership between LGNSW and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to address climate change risks and vulnerabilities facing NSW councils.

Grants totalling \$1,100,000 are available over the next two years as follows:

\$30,000 to \$120,000 for individual councils

\$50,000 to \$300,000 for regional adaptation projects across several councils.

[Apply online](#) by **Friday 1 March 2019**.

## Events and Training

Papers from the National Flying-fox Forum held in Cairns, November 2018 are now available.

[22nd International Riversymposium](#), Abstracts Open.

[2019 Floodplain Management Australia Conference](#), Canberra, 14-17 May 2019.

### MORE INFORMATION

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