

NRM UPDATE



For NSW Local Government

JUNE 2018
ISSUE 108

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Update provides council elected representatives and staff with information across the broad spectrum of natural resource management policy and program

Nominate now for the excellence in the environment awards

Nominations are now open for the 21st LGNSW Environment Awards which recognise outstanding achievements by local government in managing and protecting the environment. A new category, the Sustainable Infrastructure Award, is available this year. The Awards culminate in two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance, and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected councillor in the field of sustainability.

The awards are for projects undertaken during the period from January 2017 to May 2018. All NSW local government organisations are encouraged to put forward an entry. Entries close 30 July 2018.



LGNSW EXCELLENCE IN
THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Wildlife Licensing Changes

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) seeks feedback on proposed changes to wildlife licensing as part of the new Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Proposed changes include a shift to a new risk-based approach where:

- low-risk activities will be exempt from regulation
- moderate-risk activities will be regulated by enforceable codes of practice
- high-risk activities will continue to be licensed
- activities not permitted under exemptions, codes or licensing will remain prohibited.

In addition, draft codes of practice for native animal-keeping have also been issued for lower-risk native birds, frogs and reptiles. A draft revised animal keepers species list is also issued for consultation. Submissions close 24 July 2018.

More information and discussion papers available on the [OEH website](#). Email [Kirsty McIntyre](#), LGNSW with any comments or provide these directly to OEH.

Councils integrating natural assets into asset management

LGNSW's Council Roadside Reserves Project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust is undertaking a project to investigate the opportunity to value natural assets in roadside reserves and embed them into the asset management systems of councils. If your council has some experience in natural asset management and would be interested in sharing please contact [Kathy Godfrey](#). This could include the challenges and opportunities faced and include experience across all natural assets not specific to roadside areas.

Office of Open Space and Parklands

Forming in October last year, [The Office of Open Space and Parklands](#) is committed to improving and creating open space in NSW. As part of the Department of Planning and Environment, the Office is



working with local government to champion more and better outdoor spaces through programs including the Everyone Can Play initiative to encourage inclusive playspace design, and the Five Million Tree program which aims to increase Greater Sydney's tree canopy to 40% by 2030.

To get in touch with the Office and discuss open space in your area contact [Aaron Mullins](#).

Draft Tree Stock Standard AS 2303 is open for public comment

Standards Australia has developed a draft standard to ensure quality trees are grown, selected and replanted in the landscape and is inviting council input.

The Tree Stock for Landscape Use Standard AS 2303 has been developed in partnership with stakeholders, including local government. It provides technical information to evaluate the quality of tree material grown by production nurseries.

The draft standard is open for comment until 6 August 2018 and is available via the [Standards Australia Hub](#). (You will need to register and create an account). For further information contact Standards Australia on 1800 035 822 or by email.

Local Government Case Studies

Ku-ring-gai Council's 'Wild Things' is a hive placement program for *Tetragonula carbonaria*, a stingless native bee. The program is leading to increasing bee populations and enhanced urban biodiversity; the pollination of local plants and food crops; a more positive relationship between people and the natural environment; and building social capital. To date, over 1000 bee hives have been delivered with support from volunteers. More detail in the [case study](#).



Green Cities Fund

Local councils and developers increasingly recognise the importance of green space in a community. Research being generated through a strategic co-investment partnership, the Green Cities Fund, is helping to inform government policy and urban development decision-making for green space.

Developed by Hort Innovation using a co-investment model, it brings together a range of partners, alongside the nursery and turf industry, to deliver research that builds the case for urban greening. Current research projects include 'Which Plant Where' and 'Greener Cities, healthier lives'.

Final research reports are available upon request via the [Hort Innovation](#) website. Recently completed projects include:

- Expanding the living architecture industry in Australia
- Investigating the performance of green roofs and walls on temporary buildings
- Measuring Australia's green space asset

Hort Innovation seeks new concepts and investment opportunities, which can be submitted at any time on their website through the [concept form](#). More information on their website.

Seeking partners for planting trials

The [Which Plant Where \(WPW\)](#) project is seeking organisations to take part in a national Living Lab program.

The WPW Living Labs will form a network of urban planting sites throughout Australia to monitor plant performance across a wide range of environmental conditions. Living labs will help identify what sorts of plant species will thrive in our future cities, as well as measure the co-benefits, such as attracting biodiversity they provide to urban populations.

Results will be shared across the horticultural industry, state and local government, industry practitioners and other interested stakeholders. For more information contact [Leigh Staas](#).

Council's urban tree datasets sought

Also related to this project, students and researchers at Macquarie University and Western Sydney University have started a new research project aimed at modelling the effects of urban heat islands on urban tree species across Australia. They need councils' help to collate all urban tree inventories / significant trees surveys / heritage tree listings across Australian cities and towns (where available in a GIS format).

To submit your datasets or for more info please contact [Dr Alessandro Ossola](#).

NSW Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy

NSW DPI Fisheries has released the [draft for comment](#). The strategy applies to the NSW coast between the shoreline out to the three nautical mile state jurisdictional limit. It does not include estuarine environments to which the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy applies. It aims to outline a regulatory and industry best practice framework for aquaculture in the marine environment. It complements the Land Based and Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategies which take effect under Sustainable Aquaculture SEPP 62. Comments by **3 August 2018**.



UNSW City Planning Program seeking work placements for students

UNSW City Planning (Hons) Program works closely with a broad range of partners, linking students to both the public and private planning industry, providing access to the high-skilled and talented young planners pool.

Third-year students of the program undertake a one-year full time mandatory work placement, embedding the practical experience back into their learning. UNSW are seeking more industry partners to provide these placements, due to a significant increase in the number of students in the program.

Councils interested in providing a work experience opportunity in late 2018 and early 2019 can find out more about the Planning Practicum Year by contacting the Program Director h.han@unsw.edu.au or the Placement Officer l.hardiman@unsw.edu.au.

Biodiversity training for council staff

Training opportunities are still on offer for council staff who will be involved in assessing or reviewing applications which include biodiversity assessment reports. The following have been scheduled: 14-15 August, Sydney. Each council in NSW is entitled to three free training places. Register through [GreenCap](#).

Biodiversity Support Officers for Local Government contacts

Hunter and Central Coast: Carlie McClung
carliem@huntercouncils.com.au

North Coast: Jane Eales
jane.eales@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

New England North West and northern Far West: Anne Coote
acoote@gwydir.nsw.gov.au

Riverina and Murray and southern Far West: Marcus Wright
mwright@eroc.com.au

Metro Sydney North: Shaun Hunt
shunt@thehills.nsw.gov.au

Metro Sydney South: Kirsten McWirtter
kirsten.mcwirtter@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au

Central West, Orana and Northern Far West: Gene Mason
emason@cowra.nsw.gov.au

South East and Tablelands and Illawarra Shoalhaven (TBC)

Resources and information

NSW Government launches updated Invasive Species Plan

The NSW Government has launched its plan to manage the impact of invasive animals and weeds on the environment, agriculture, infrastructure and human health, with the release of the [NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021](#).

NSW Koala Strategy

The [NSW Koala Strategy](#) has been announced by the NSW Government. It includes a commitment of \$44.7 million over 3 years to deliver actions under the following 4 pillars: koala habitat conservation, conservation through community action, safety and health of koala populations and building knowledge and education.

Threatened and significant flora of roadsides in the Windellama district

This project considers the location and conservation significance of 3 threatened plant species found on roadside sites in this district. These are:

- few-seeded bossiaea (*Bossiaea oligosperma*)
- Michelago parrot-pea (*Dillwynia glauca*)
- matted bush-pea (*Pultenaea pedunculata*).

The [document](#) assists land managers including council to ensure their activities are sympathetic to these species.



Threatened Species Day – 7 Sept

National Threatened Species Day is on 7 September to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction. The day also celebrates the work that is being done to save them by passionate conservationists, researchers, volunteers, and community experts. Be inspired by some of the [TSD 2017 events and activities](#). Councils seeking support or resources from OEH contact: Jakki.trenbath@environment.nsw.gov.au



Grants

Saving our Species contestable grants

The NSW Environmental Trust is inviting applications for long term projects that will secure threatened landscape managed species and threatened ecological communities in the wild, in line with the objectives of the NSW Government's Saving our Species (SoS) program. Grants of up to \$350,000 available. More information [available](#). Applications close 13 August 2018.

Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC)

ANPC is exclusively focussed on the conservation of Australia's native plant and vegetation heritage. A non-government not-for-profit organisation founded in 1992, membership is open to individuals and supportive organisations. They facilitate effective native plant conservation through training, encourage linkages and information flow across boundaries between science, community conservation, and conservation policy and management. More information, including membership options available on their [website](#).



**Australian Network for
Plant Conservation Inc**

LGNSW submissions

LGNSW's recent [submissions](#) to government initiatives are available:

- [Draft Submission on the Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox camp management actions 2018](#)
- [Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2018](#)
- [Proposed Remediation of Land SEPP](#)
- [Australia's Strategy for Nature 2018 - 2030](#)
- [Greener-Places Policy](#)
- [SEPP \(Environment\): Explanation of Intended Effect](#)

SUBSCRIPTION

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Events and Training

[International Erosion Control Association Conference](#)
28-31 August, Christchurch, New Zealand

[LGNSW Water Management Conference](#), 3-5
September 2018, Armidale 2018

21st [Australasian Weeds Conference](#), 9 - 12
September, Manly, NSW

[NSW Coastal Conference](#), 7-9 November 2018,
Merimbula

[12th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference](#) in
Canberra in November 2018.

[Excellence in the Environment Awards forum and ceremony](#), 3 December 2018 at Waterview,
Bicentennial Drive, Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic
Park.

[National Sustainability Conference](#), 1 - 2 April 2019,
Brisbane QLD

MORE INFORMATION

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