

NRM UPDATE

For NSW Local Government



MAY 2019
ISSUE 110

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

Local Government Environment Awards – opening June

Start planning your entries for the [2019 Excellence in the Environment Awards](#) for local government.

Key dates:

- Awards open – 5 June
- Awards entries close – 5pm 29 July
- Presentation day – 3 December, Waterview, Olympic Park.

Visit [Awards website](#) for further information and updates.

Consultation

Recent LGNSW [submissions](#) include:

- [Private Native Forestry Review](#)
- [Travelling Stock Reserves Plan of Management](#)

Flying-fox Grant Program 2019

Nineteen applications were received from 15 councils under the Communications, Planning and Implementation Streams to help councils work with flying-foxes and local communities. Assessment is complete and announcements are pending. One application has been received under the [Emergency Stream](#), which remains open to councils until 13 September 2019.

Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program

Program design is currently being finalised, including reports which will be useful for councils and others. For example, Peggy Eby is producing new state-wide mapping of foraging habitat for Grey-headed, Black and Little Red flying-foxes, to which councils are currently contributing information.

Contact: Chris Hudson, Flying-fox Project Manager, 02 9242 4039 chris.hudson@lgnsw.org.au

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

EcoRoadside and RAM training opportunity

LGNSW through the Council Roadside Reserve project held two successful sessions in 2018 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](#).

A training session is planned in Parkes on 18 June.

The session includes an in-field component with participants 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.

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.



Local Government Case Studies

Wagga Wagga City Council - Weed hygiene station

Wagga Wagga City Council's weed hygiene station is different from other boot scrubbers as it has a duster to clean down footwear, clothing, pet fur, bike parts and a walkway metal grate that the boot scrubber is attached to. The most important part is the sump that sits underneath the grate for catching vegetation and soil thus minimising the spread or movement of debris once cleaned from the user and enabling propagation of collected seeds, contributing to weed monitoring.



Liverpool City Council - Amalfi Park Basin: Brickmakers Creek flood mitigation project

Brickmakers Creek was a primary cause of major flooding of the northern Liverpool CBD, a major highway and over-floor flooding of residential properties. Creek enhancement works achieved the primary objective of flood mitigation and also delivered multiple community benefits including provision of wetland, gross pollutant trap and bush regeneration to improve water quality and ecological health and establish active and passive recreation facilities.

Resilience Strategy for Sydney

'Resilient Sydney: a strategy for city resilience' outlines how Sydney will cope with major challenges including extreme weather events, cyber and terror attacks, housing affordability, inequality and congestion.

The Strategy was developed with collaboration across 33 metropolitan Sydney councils, 100 business and government organisations and more than 1000 residents. It was developed after the City of Sydney won a place in the 100 Resilient Cities initiative pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation providing technical support and resources for cities to develop and implement strategies to help them survive, adapt and thrive in the face of 21st century challenges.

NSW Government changes to Department

The New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has been established and will take effect from 1 July 2019. The new Department assumes most functions of the former Department of Planning and Environment and the former Department of Industry. The Office of Local Government and the Office of Environment and Heritage are also to be merged into the newly-formed department led by Secretary, Jim Betts. The following ministers are responsible for the administration of the department and its agencies:

- Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, The Hon. John Barilaro MP
- Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
- Minister for Water, Property and Housing, The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP
- Minister for Energy and Environment, The Hon. Matt Kean MP
- Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
- Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP

Green Globe Awards nominations open



The 2019 Green Globe Awards seek nominations from sustainability leaders and environmental champions including local government. There are 12 categories celebrating people and projects and creating a sustainable future for NSW. Councils may be particularly interested in: Built Environment Award, Climate Change Leadership Award, Community Leadership Award, Natural Environment Award, Public Sector Leadership Award and Sustainability Champion Award. Nominations close 10 July.

Marine Estate Management

The Marine Estate Management Authority is responsible for the implementation of the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS).

Councils are invited to sign up to receive updates on the programs and implementation of the strategy. Updates will include the Marine Estate Newsletter and notifications of public exhibition of key documents.

To register complete this online form. Further information available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.



Biodiversity Conservation Act implementation

The Local Government Biodiversity Support Officers network is available to all councils to assist in implementing the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The following LG Support Network Bulletins have been developed to assist councils:

- No.1 – Threatened Species Test of Significance Guidelines 25 September 2018
- No.2 – When Should Council notify OEH? 9 October 2018
- No.3 – Biodiversity Values Map Update, 8 November 2018
- No.4 – Determining Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII), 28 November 2018
- No.5 – Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44) and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, 12 December 2018
- No. 6 – Biodiversity data and resources, 9 January 2019
- No. 7 – Concept Development Applications and the Biodiversity Offset Scheme, 22 January 2019
- No. 8 – Biodiversity Values Map Update Version 5
- No. 9 – Development Assessment decision making and BDARs 14 May 2019

For copies of the bulletins or more information contact:

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 Nth Far West	Anne Coote acoote@gwydir.nsw.gov.au
Riverina and Murray and southern Far West	Marcus Wright mwright@reroc.com.au
Metro Sydney North	Shaun Hunt shunt@thehills.nsw.gov.au
Metro Sydney South	Kirsten McWhirter kirsten.mcwhirter@cbcny.nsw.gov.au
Central West, Orana and Northern Far West:	Gene Mason emason@cowra.nsw.gov.au
South East and Tablelands and Illawarra Shoalhaven	Angela Jenkins Angela.jenkins@crjo.nsw.gov.au
Office of Local Government	Leesa Swan leesa.swan@olg.nsw.gov.au
Office of Environment and Heritage	Anne Montgomery Anne.montgomery@environment.nsw.gov.au

Survey on community education program for wildlife

The Office of Environment and Heritage has engaged First Person Consulting to undertake a process of stakeholder consultation to inform the development of a community education program to supplement the reforms to the Biodiversity Conservation Act in relation

to changes to wildlife licensing and wildlife interaction. Please complete a brief [survey](#) to provide input from local government. All responses are anonymous, but feedback will assist in developing a community education program. Input sought by 9 June 2019.



Urban heat data on SEED

The following datasets are available to councils and support the preparation of Local Strategic Planning Statements. See: [NSW SEED Open Data Portal](#).

- NSW urban vegetation cover to modified Mesh Block 2016 (for significant urban areas of Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Greater Sydney and Illawarra)
- Greater Sydney Region urban vegetation cover to modified Mesh Block 2016 (for the Local Government Areas of the Greater Sydney Region)
- NSW urban heat island to modified Mesh Block 2016 (for significant urban areas of Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Greater Sydney and Illawarra)
- NSW heat vulnerability index to ABS Statistical Area Level 1 2016 (for significant urban areas of Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Greater Sydney and Illawarra)

The data can be found through this [link](#). Each SEED record includes metadata, data quality statement, user guide, ArcGIS layer files (symbolology) and download package of data (zip format).

OEH Biodiversity Information Systems Survey 2019

Are OEH's Biodiversity Information Systems meeting your needs? The [OEH Biodiversity Information Systems Customer Satisfaction Survey](#) is available for input until 31 May 2019.

The Biodiversity Information Systems team of OEH manages several systems and products under the BioNet umbrella. These systems are important for determining plant community types at a site, capturing species distributions and providing information on threatened biodiversity. This information also supports the Biodiversity Assessment Method.



Dog Owner Behaviour Workshop – Expressions of Interest

Are domestic dogs a problem for native wildlife in your LGA? Does your council need help managing the behaviour of dogs and dog owners?

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is proposing a workshop for council staff to address domestic dog interactions with wildlife.

Led by a human behaviour expert, this one-day workshop will seek practical solutions for councils.

Complete this poll to indicate your interest in attending. OEH will finalise workshop location based on location of attendees.

For more information, please contact Billie Roberts, billie.roberts@environment.nsw.gov.au, 02 6640 2511.

2018 State of the Environment Report

The NSW report looks at 21 environmental topics across six broad themes covering *Drivers, Human Settlement, Climate and Air, Land, Biodiversity and Water and Marine*. The report shows population growth and human activity have influenced air and water quality, ecosystems and threatened species.

Many of the challenges reported in previous SoE reports remain and include:

- The growing population of NSW continues to exert pressure on the environment. Innovative ways to use our natural resources more sustainably and to protect fragile ecosystems must continue to be found.
- The effects of climate change are already evident but these will become broader and intensify in the future.
- The number of species listed as threatened in NSW continues to rise. These species are at the greatest risk from threats including vegetation clearing, the spread of invasive species and the mounting impacts of climate change.
- NSW is still heavily dependent on non-renewable sources of energy such as coal for power generation. Transport has become the largest (and fastest growing) sector for energy use.
- The condition of most native vegetation is deteriorating.
- Our love of the coast continues to put pressure on the condition of coastal estuaries and lakes.

Greening buildings improve indoor air quality



Research indicates that planting trees and plants on the roofs of apartments and office buildings not only improves air quality outside the building – recent research shows that it can also reduce the level of ozone within the building.

This study demonstrated that establishing a green roof near building ventilation air supply can reduce the ambient ozone level by up to 1.3%.

Credit: 2020 Vision

Greater Sydney Regional Bushcare/Landcare Awards

Awards are now open for nominations. The forum and awards are an excellent opportunity to celebrate the work of all volunteers in the region and reward some outstanding contributors.

Details on how to enter and selection criteria are now available. All category winners will be nominated to the NSW Landcare Conference & Awards held in Broken Hill.

Events and Training

Sustainable Development Goals and Local Government, Sydney, 28 May 2019.

2019 Australian Biosecurity Symposium, 12-13 June, Gold Coast, QLD.

2020 Vision Growing Together Tour, 8 August, 2019, Sydney.

NSW Roadside Environment Committee Forum, 21 August 2019, UTS, Sydney.

20th NSW Weeds Conference, 26-29 August, Newcastle.

Bushcare's Big Day Out - join in now!, 15 September, Australia-wide. 2019 NRM Knowledge Conference, 18-20 November, Wodonga, Victoria – call for abstracts by 14 June.

LGNSW Water Management Conference, 2 - 4 September 2019, Albury.

22nd International River Symposium, 20-24 October, Brisbane.



Local government networks

For timely notifications and access to the local government brains trust, join LGNSW's discussion forums. These yahoo groups have been around since the early 2000s. A login is not required if you subscribe through email.

Sustainablenet is a LGNSW initiative to promote sustainability in councils through-out NSW

Subscribe: sustainablenet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Post Message: sustainablenet@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: sustainablenet-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

NRM_localgovt is a network for NSW council staff and councillors to communicate on NRM issues. All members receive the NRM Update directly.

Subscribe: [nrm_localgovt-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au](mailto:nrm_localgovt-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Post Message: [nrm_localgovt@yahoogroups.com.au](mailto:nrm_localgovt@yahoogroups.com)

Unsubscribe: [nrm_localgovt-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.au](mailto:nrm_localgovt-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe to this e-mail update, send a message to: [nrm_localgovt-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.au](mailto:nrm_localgovt-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Members can unsubscribe at any stage via [nrm_localgovt-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.au](mailto:nrm_localgovt-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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

MORE INFORMATION

Kirsty McIntyre
Senior Policy Officer –
Environment
Local Government NSW
E kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au
P 9242 4055