

# SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



## Helping councils towards sustainability

16 MARCH 2016  
EDITION 32

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Welcome to the 32nd edition of Sustainability Snippets:  
Local Government NSW helping councils towards sustainability.

### Climate Adapted People Shelters

This uninspiring bus shelter is like many across Western Sydney - poorly designed and offering little shelter from extreme heat. However these spaces are used by our most vulnerable - the aged, school children and others who rely on public transport. Western Sydney is projected to get hit with another 7 days per year of days above 35°C by 2030. How can we rethink the way bus shelters are designed to cope with a hotter climate?



If you've got ideas, enter UTS's Climate Adapted People Shelters (CAPS) [design competition](#). CAPS wants to develop new concepts for urban infrastructure that are innovative, low cost and climate adapted. A prototype of the winning entry will be built and installed in Western Sydney funded by a Building Resilience to Climate Change Round (BRCC) Round 2 grant. It is hoped the successful designs might provide a blueprint for application across Sydney's wider transport system.

### Sydney Food Futures

Local food production in the Sydney basin provides many benefits and underpins the resilience of the city. Yet competing priorities for Sydney's fertile farmland could threaten future supplies of fresh, local food.

The [Sydney Food Futures](#) project, funded by the Building Resilience to Climate Change program, has developed mapping to indicate where Sydney's current and potential food producing areas are located. A range of scenarios were modelled and mapped to indicate how different situations – climate shocks, changes in diet and population growth, for example – will affect Sydney's food security. This creates an evidence base to support effective policies and innovations, so that Sydney can be a thriving and resilient city that provides a future for food producers as well as its growing population. The project produced a quirky [animation](#) to explain the pressures on Sydney's food system.

### Adaptation grants announced

Congratulations to the Round Two winners of the [Building Resilience to Climate Change](#) grants. Eight successful projects were selected from 33 applications. Round 2 focused on the building resilience of water supply and/or quality management, or adapting priority infrastructure. The projects covered:

- Adaptation of water supply infrastructure to manage algae blooms
- Water sensitive urban design capacity building



- Construction of wetlands to improve water quality and alleviate flooding
- Design of a black water treatment system to adapt sewerage infrastructure and park lands to provide heat wave refuges, shading and water
- Investigating gross pollutant traps to improve their effectiveness, to improve water quality and ecological health in local and neighbouring waterways
- Installing, monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of tidal flaps to reduce inundation of stormwater infrastructure in an estuary
- Construction, monitoring and evaluation of the winning design from an open innovation design competition, encouraging a reimagining of current bus shelters that are adaptable to increasing urban heat and extreme weather conditions.

The BRCC program is funded through the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the NSW Environmental Trust and is administered by LGNSW.

### New emissions data released

The [Clean Energy Regulator](#) has released the 2014-15 National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting data.

This year corporations reported 322 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, created as a direct result of an activity undertaken by one of their facilities. Australia's top 10 emitters account for almost half of all reported emissions, with the electricity generation industry remaining as the top contributor of scope 1 emissions.

The [data](#) shows that Australia's annual emissions have risen for the first time in 10 years, and the electricity generation sector has become even more reliant on coal power.

### Carbon Neutral Certification expanded

The Government's [National Carbon Offset Standard](#) certification system, which recognises carbon neutral businesses, products, services and events will be expanded to include cities, precincts and buildings.

The expansion will enable cities, precincts and buildings to be certified as carbon neutral, with an expert committee established with aim of having the first officially certified and operating carbon neutral precinct or city by January 2017. The committee will also work towards a carbon neutral certification of Australia's buildings.

The first meeting of the Expert Committee is planned for April 2016 and members will include representatives from big cities, Barangaroo Delivery Authority, the Green Building Council of Australia, the National Australian Built Environment Rating System and the CRC for Low Carbon Living.

### Urban Canopy

An interesting article on how councils and their community can work together to increase urban tree cover appeared in [The Conversation](#). There is an example of strategic thinking from one council officer who planted along the mayor's and other councillors' main routes to secure funding for more street tree planting.

Another article in [The Conversation](#) explores some of the reasons urban green cover is not adopted more broadly through land use planning even though planners understand the benefits of green infrastructure.

### Coastal management reform

LGNSW has made a [submission](#) on the [coastal management reforms](#) that is broadly supportive of the reforms (at a high level). However we have raised a number of issues relating to the need for the draft legislation to demonstrate a true partnership and consistent allocation of responsibility between state and local government. All coastal land managers must be compelled to work with councils and follow the same framework.

Of utmost concern to local government is the higher threshold being set to meet the statutory defenses to liability by the proposed changes to the Local Government Act, as well as the potential creation of enforceable obligations to implement coastal management programs.

The NSW Government has confirmed the draft Coastal Management SEPP and the maps of the coastal management areas will be publicly exhibited later in the year.





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## Case studies

### A year of strategy and sustainability

The City of Canada Bay built on existing environmental strategies, action plans and programs to set the direction and expand their environmental program for the next 4 years. Council's new Environment Strategy links to the community strategic plan, introduces 17 environmental targets and assigns actions across council. View the full [case study](#).

### Marks Point and Belmont South Climate Change Adaptation Plan

When Lake Macquarie City Council first started working with the Marks Point and Belmont South communities, residents believed Council was causing rising insurance costs and decreasing property values.

To develop a productive relationship with the community, Council asked people how they wanted to be involved in the project. The community developed a joint working group of residents and Council staff working side-by-side. After working with many of the people who previously responded to the topic of sea level rise with fear and anger, the community presented their proposed adaptation plan to a council meeting. Read the full [case study](#).

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## Resources

### Climate-ready biodiversity management tool

The [tool](#) was developed by CSIRO and the Sydney Coastal Councils Group. It has been refined and tested through a series of workshops for use by local government officers undertaking biodiversity conservation initiatives that might need to consider climate change, such as onground projects and strategies. It is applicable to many in the natural resources management sphere, particularly agencies who are seeking to incorporate long-term adaptation into their programs.

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The tool is designed to facilitate the process of assessing conservation initiatives and revising them so they better incorporate climate adaptation. It can be applied to existing and proposed initiatives, and to on-ground projects as well as plans and strategies.

The focus of the tool is helping biodiversity planners and managers understand the nature of long term adaptation and the implication for near term initiatives. The tool introduces key adaptation concepts and provides opportunities for people to work with them to build their capacity to use the concepts in planning biodiversity management.

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## Funding

### Funding Guide

The 2016 Sydney Coastal Councils Group [Funding Guide](#) provides details of funding offered under a variety of grant programs available for councils, communities, businesses and individuals.

The Guide includes information on funding programs supporting conservation, education, natural resource management, heritage protection, community capacity building initiatives and more.

**NSW Environmental Trust [environmental education grants](#)** close closing date is Friday, 8 April 2016.

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## Upcoming events

OEH [Local Government Energy Management Training](#), 7 April 2016, Raymond Terrace. Register [online](#).

[NCCARF Climate Change Adaptation 2016 Conference](#), 5-7 July 2016, Adelaide.

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### PROGRAM CONTACTS

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