

SUSTAINABILITY SNIPPETS



Helping councils towards sustainability

MAY 2017
EDITION 35

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Welcome to the 36th edition of Sustainability Snippets

Environment Awards – enter now

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Environment Awards which recognise outstanding achievements by local government in NSW in managing and protecting the environment.

This year we are celebrating 20 years of inspiration from NSW councils in programs, projects and people across 15 award categories, including the prestigious Local Sustainability Award for overall council performance and the Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability. **Entries close 31 May.**



Consultations

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

- [Review of climate change policies](#)
- [Draft NSW Koala Strategy](#)
- [Draft Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment Bill](#)
- [Draft District Plans & Towards Our Greater Sydney 2056](#)

Green Globes

Have you successfully integrated environmental management and sustainable practices into planning, operations, product and/or service delivery in your council?

Nominate now for the 2017 [Green Globe Awards](#) and shine a light on your hard work. Nominations are open until 5pm Tuesday **27 June**.

GREEN GLOBE
AWARDS 2017

Resilient Australia Awards

Now in their 18th year, the awards celebrate innovation and best practice in disaster resilience and are open to all Australians with an interest in emergency management and natural disasters.

By showcasing the work of volunteers, communities, businesses and others involved in making our communities safer, the awards can inspire others to think about how they can be more disaster resilient. Applications are [open](#) until **30 June**.

New climate change program for councils

The Climate Council's [Cities Power Partnership](#) (CPP) seeks to celebrate and accelerate the emission reduction and clean energy successes of Australian



towns and cities to date. Councils are being called upon to take the next step towards a sustainable, non-polluting energy future by joining the CPP.

Participating councils who join will have 6 months to select 5 key actions from the partnership pledge ranging from renewable energy, efficiency, transport and advocacy. Councils will receive access to a national knowledge hub to assist with the implementation of emissions reductions projects and will be buddied with other participating councils to knowledge share.

The clean energy successes of councils and their communities will be showcased in print and online media across Australia. The program will launch in July 2017.

NCCARF axed

The Australian Government has cut funding to the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility that provides information to decision-makers on how best to manage the risks of climate change and sea level rise. Most recently, NCCARF developed the Coast Adapt tool. For further analysis on the Federal Budget decision axing NCCARF, read the article in the [Fifth Estate](#).

Resources

Geoscape

Government-owned company PSMA has officially launched what it says is a world first in geospatial mapping technology, providing high-resolution built environment data that will soon cover the whole of Australia. [Geoscape](#) provides a digital representation of each building, comprising a two-dimensional roof outline, and for urban areas, 3D attributes such as eave height and maximum roof height. Additional building features such as zoning, solar panels, adjacent swimming pools and roof materials, and linkages with address, cadastre and other geospatial foundations enable rich analytical insights. Geoscape also contains a pixel representation of areas identified from source imagery as tree coverage, including a tree height value. Surface cover is classified into 11 different types, such as grass, trees, water, bare earth and road.

Australia SoE

The [State of the Environment](#) report states the main pressures facing the Australian environment are climate change, land-use change, habitat fragmentation and degradation, and invasive species.

In addition, the interactions between these and other pressures are resulting in cumulative impacts, amplifying the threats faced by the Australian environment.

Evidence shows that some individual pressures on the environment have decreased since 2011, such as those associated with air quality, poor agricultural practices, commercial fishing, and oil and gas exploration and production in Australia's marine environment.

During the same time, however, other pressures have increased—for example, those associated with coal mining and the coal-seam gas industry, habitat fragmentation and degradation, invasive species, litter in our coastal and marine environments, and greater traffic volumes in our capital cities.

Case study

Community Solar, Lismore City Council

Lismore City Council's [community solar project](#) is now up and running with the first solar farm installed and generating energy on the roof of the Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Centre.

Lismore Community Solar is a collaboration with Farming the Sun, a not-for-profit renewable energy facilitator, to build two 99kW solar farms in Lismore. The next solar farm project will be at the East Lismore Sewage Treatment Plant using innovative floating technology.

The community energy project uses a financial model which is the first of its kind in Australia. Two companies each with 20 local investors raised the funds which were loaned to Council to build the solar farms. The investors will see a return on investment slightly better than that of a bank.





Second Nature, Waverley Council

Second Nature is an integrated environmental awareness and engagement campaign. With an initial 'I'm in' Pledge campaign, Council invited locals to join the collective effort to look after the environment. By taking simple actions in their everyday life, people can make sustainability second nature.

Around 1040 locals have joined the campaign, building an active community with which Council communicates and engages with on a variety of behaviour change areas. Awareness of Council's sustainability work, sustainability actions for individuals, plus ways to get involved have all been promoted. Council also extended its reach in the broader community. The successful launch activation event, 'I'm in' Pledge Day, at Bondi Beach attracted over 350 people and received overwhelming positive feedback.



Funding

Rescuing our waterways program

This program is part of the NSW Coastal Dredging Strategy, which provides a coordinated approach to improve accessibility to our waterways. Rescuing our Waterways will deliver enhanced recreational boating access and continued viability for commercial vessel operators and their support industries, while providing flow on benefits for tourism and local economies.

Applications close 23 June 2017.

Events

The Nature Conservation Council is hosting the Fire, Fauna and Ferals: from backyards to bush Conference on 30- 31 May 2017.

LGNSW Water Management Conference, Dubbo 4-6 September, 2017.

26th Annual NSW Coastal Conference - "The Next Wave", 8-10 November 2017, Port Stephens

Call for papers and presentations from individuals or organisations to share their experience and ideas at the conference. Abstracts close Friday 23rd June 2017.

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