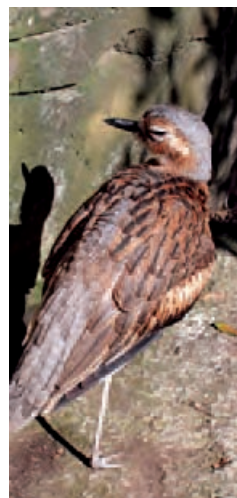
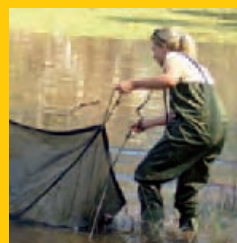


NSW Environmental Trust

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09



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In July 2009 the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) became the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW).

All references to the Department and its staff have been updated to reflect the new name of the Department.

**For more information contact the NSW Environmental Trust**

Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street

PO Box 644

Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: (02) 8837 6093

Fax: (02) 8837 6099

Email: [info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au)

Website: [www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au)

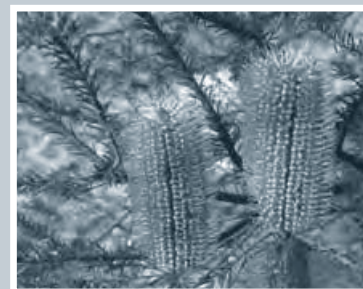
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The Honourable John Robertson MLC  
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 2008-09 annual report for the NSW Environmental Trust.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*.

The Trust funded a total of \$85.9 million of new environmental programs and initiatives for community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations and state and local government agencies in 2008-09.

Great progress has been made in the third year of programs funded under the City and Country Environment Restoration Program. More than 82,000 units of water have been purchased for the environment through the NSW RiverBank program, with two wetlands benefiting directly from NSW RiverBank water this year. After three rounds of funding the Urban Sustainability Program has now allocated a total of \$78.1 million to 102 projects to improve local government and community sustainability.

Successful biodiversity outcomes have been achieved this year through the acquisition of eleven new properties under the Land Acquisition Program, the purchase of four high conservation properties through Native Vegetation Farmer Exit Assistance, and continued progress of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. A new Growth Centres Program also commenced in 2008-09 that will conserve biodiversity on public and private land to offset major urban development in Sydney.

This year has been another busy and successful year for the Trust which has continued to deliver a wide range of environmental outcomes from its diverse program of initiatives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa Corbyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L'.

**LISA CORBYN**  
**Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust**  
**October 2009**

# About the NSW Environmental Trust



The NSW Environmental Trust (Trust) is an independent statutory body, established by the NSW Government to support innovative environmental projects. In order to provide this support the Trust receives an annual appropriation and other funding from the NSW Government, which totalled \$86.8 million in 2008-09. This amount funded projects under the Government's City and Country Environment Restoration Program (which will total \$301.5 million over five years) as well as a range of permanent and other grant programs managed by the Trust.

The Trust is empowered under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. The objectives of the Trust are:

1. To encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects in both the public and private sectors that will or are likely to prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation, of any kind, within any part of NSW.
2. To promote research in both the public and private sectors into environmental problems of any kind and, in particular, to encourage and support:
  - research into and development of local solutions to environmental problems
  - discovery of new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment
  - research into general environmental problems assessment of environmental degradation.
3. To promote environmental education and, in particular, to encourage the development of educational programs in both the public and private sectors that will increase public awareness of environmental issues of any kind.
4. To fund the acquisition of land for national parks and other categories of dedicated and reserved land for the national parks estate.
5. To fund the declaration of areas for marine parks and related areas.
6. To promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management (including funding enforcement and regulation and local government programs).
7. To fund environmental community groups.
8. To fund the purchase of water entitlements for the purposes of increasing environmental flows for the State's rivers, and restoring or rehabilitating major wetlands.

The *Environmental Trust Act* is subject to the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*. Payments under the Brigalow – Nandewar forestry restructuring and development program will continue until 2009-10.

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. Members of the Trust are the Director General of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) and representatives from the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and NSW Treasury. The Trust is administered by DECCW. Further information on administration of the Trust and its membership may be found in the appendices of this report.

The Trust's staff adheres to the employment principles and practices of DECCW. For the purposes of this report, all issues of compliance (such as disability plans, NSW Government action plan for women, freedom of information, occupational health and safety etc.) should be referred to DECCW's annual report.



## Highlights of 2008-09

This year has been another busy and successful year for the Trust. A number of the Trust's major projects were completed this year, and great progress has been made on programs funded through the City and Country Environment Restoration Program. 2008-09 also saw the introduction of a new initiative for the Trust, the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program.

Key highlights for the year are listed below.

- Eleven new properties were purchased under the Trust's Land Acquisition Program. Key acquisitions include land at Coolangatta Mountain near Nowra which is a site of great Aboriginal significance, and an addition to South East Forest National Park to conserve habitat for endangered long-nosed potoroos. Two other new properties – Wyninebah in the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion and Pillicawarrina in the Macquarie Marshes – support a wide variety of wetland and riverine vegetation communities which are under-reserved in NSW, and provide habitat for several threatened fauna species.
- The Trust approved \$36 million for a diverse range of new environmental projects for community groups, schools and universities, councils and NSW government agencies. In all, 184 projects were approved. This includes 52 environmental restoration projects, 78 education and schools projects, 13 research projects, 17 projects under the Trust's Aboriginal program, and 24 council projects to improve urban sustainability.
- Two major restoration projects funded under the Integrated Environmental Project were completed this year. The Snowy River Rehabilitation Project has restored 186 kilometres of riverbanks and enhanced native fish populations in the Snowy River downstream of Jindabyne Dam in preparation for increasing environmental flows. The Hot Spots 2 project provided advice and support to 100 landholders who, between them, are managing 80,000 hectares of high conservation land under Voluntary Conservation Agreements.
- Great progress has been made in the second year of projects funded under the Trust's Major Environmental Grants Program. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative established new priority areas in the Southern Highlands, Hunter Valley and Border Ranges for the conservation of biodiversity along this significant natural corridor. The Clean Air Healthy Communities Program undertook more than 70 diesel retrofits and completed a pilot project involving over 1,000 fleet vehicles that achieved an 11.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The Land Alive project funded five management plans for Local Aboriginal Land Councils and trained 30 Aboriginal trainees in Conservation and Land Management.
- The Trust's Waste Program has continued to find new and innovative ways to reduce waste and increase opportunities for the reuse and recycling of materials. The success of the 'CleanOut' program continues to grow, with 24,598 households disposing of 819,718 kilograms of hazardous household waste this year. The Waste Program also completed a comprehensive waste survey that has provided valuable information on the composition and generation of waste from various industry sectors.
- The Trust contributed \$1.5 million to the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund to improve energy efficiency in schools and to fund water and energy savings in public facilities. This was the second year of a \$4.5 million program for the Trust. Lighting upgrades were completed for 16 schools in 2008-09 and four new projects were funded under the Public Facilities program.
- The Private Native Forestry Program entered its second year, with 805 property vegetation plans being approved in 2008-09 representing 249,296 hectares. An industry assistance package was announced to support businesses and landholders in areas where conservation outcomes preclude logging. In partnership with TAFE NSW, an accredited course in Sustainable Private Native Forestry is being delivered in the Riverina and North Coast and a range of educational resources have been developed to support the training.
- This was the first year of the new Growth Centres Program which supports the establishment of biobanking agreements and new reserves to offset the effects of urban development within the Sydney Growth Centres. A business plan has been completed for the first four years of the program that will eventually provide \$397.5 million over the next 30-40 years for biodiversity offsets.
- The NSW Government's City and Country Environment Restoration Program entered its third year. This year funds were allocated to three key areas – Urban Sustainability, NSW RiverBank and the Native Vegetation Assistance Package.
- Round 3 of the Urban Sustainability Program saw the approval of 14 new major projects worth \$20.4 million and 10 new Urban Waterway projects worth \$8.7 million. A total of 122 councils and eight Regional Organisations of Councils are now participating in projects funded under the program.



- Substantial progress has been made this year in the NSW RiverBank program, with \$23.5 million spent on purchasing water entitlements from the Gwydir, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, and Macquarie valleys. Over 22,000 unit shares of general security water (equivalent to 18,983 megalitres) were purchased for the environment this year taking the total acquisitions since 2006 to more than 82,000 units. NSW RiverBank water was used to deliver environmental flows to two targeted wetlands in the Gwydir and Murrumbidgee valleys this year.
- The Native Vegetation Farmer Exit Assistance Package has been a highly successful component of the Native Vegetation Program. Two further properties were purchased this year bringing the total number of properties purchased to four. Conservation covenants have been placed on the four properties which together will protect 13,350 hectares of high conservation habitat.
- The Trust's Dissemination Program joined with eight project partners to deliver a variety of dissemination outcomes. Workshops were held on managing off-shore islands, rainforest rehabilitation, bird habitat, wetlands and sustainable market gardening. Educational products produced during the year include factsheets, signs and a book on sustainability.

## Performance Audit

The Trust's programs were subject to a review by the Audit Office of NSW which looked at the administration of environmental grants. The audit looked at seven of the Trust's grant programs for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07. The audit examined whether grant programs were aligned to government priorities, how grants were allocated, and whether grants were achieving results.

The results of the audit were very positive for the Trust, and reflected the robust administration processes used by the Trust in allocating and managing its grants. In the opinion of the Auditor-General:

*"We found many aspects of good grants management, particularly in the Trust."*

Auditor-General's Report: 'Environmental Grants Administration' August 2009

Some of the key conclusions of the Auditor-General's report in relation to Trust programs are:

- All grant programs are clearly aligned to NSW Government objectives to improve environmental outcomes.
- The Trust promotes available funding well to potential recipients through the web, newspapers and workshops.
- The timing of the Trust's program decisions is appropriate, by staggering programs throughout the year and using multi-year funding agreements for larger projects.
- The Trust has good practices for allocating grants. It assesses grant applications appropriately using objective criteria and independent expert advice to

rank proposals. Decisions are made and documented in accordance with its guidelines.

The Trust clearly separates the grant assessment and approval processes (with Trust committees recommending projects and Trust members deciding which proposals to fund).

In recent years the Trust has made some initial steps in streamlining its application process via the internet. The audit recommended that the Trust continue to explore web-based technology to improve interactions with grant applicants and recipients.

It also recommended that the Trust build on its system to review grant performance and monitor grant outcomes in a timely way. Introduction of a better monitoring and evaluation system (which was developed subsequent to the audit period) will help to improve the quality and completeness of the Trust's reporting on environmental outcomes and improve evaluation of the Trust's efficiency.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The Trust reviewed and began to roll out enhancements to its monitoring and evaluation system in 2008. The system was updated to be consistent with the new national Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework and to assist the Trust in tracking progress towards achievement of NSW State Plan objectives.

All new grantees are now required to undertake more rigorous monitoring and evaluation as part of their funded projects. This enables the Trust to better identify funding priorities and meet its reporting requirements on environmental objectives. Information from Trust projects is aggregated to provide a state-wide picture of the achievements from Trust funded projects and to confirm that programs are contributing to the goals of the NSW Government and reflecting the needs of community groups or organisations funded through the Trust.



Monitoring the progress of rainforest rehabilitation

For grantees, this more rigorous monitoring of the progress and outcomes throughout the life of a project will help in determining whether project objectives are being met. It also encourages an adaptive management approach so that methods can be altered if something is not working as expected.

Reports and aggregated data can also be made available to Catchment Management Authorities, local councils and agencies to assist them in prioritising their activities.

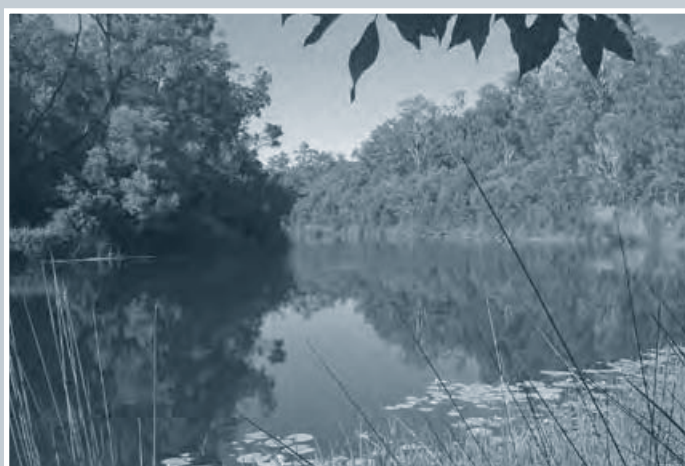
The level of detail required depends on the amount of funding received. All projects are required to include some basic performance measures relating to measurable environmental outcomes. For grants over \$35,000, the monitoring and evaluation plan also includes some qualitative performance measures and must demonstrate the use of appropriate scientific monitoring techniques. Grants over \$100,000 require a detailed plan including all of the above and reflecting adaptive project management in progress reports.

A list of measures and units has been developed so the Trust can report on a common set of indicators. For example, the area of land revegetated, volume of stormwater harvested, quantity of materials recycled, number of people engaged in the project or the number of volunteer hours.

A variety of resources have been developed to help grantees with the introduction of the new reporting requirements and these are available on the Trust's website.



# Trust Programs and Achievements





## Land Acquisition

*This was the second year of a four year program of land acquisition. The Trust provided DECCW with \$5.35 million to purchase 11 properties. The acquisitions targeted four important issues: protecting Aboriginal cultural values; improving park boundaries; building foundations for the reserve system in Western NSW; and preserving coastal lowlands and wetlands.*

### Coolangatta Mountain

Coolangatta Mountain is a prominent landscape feature that is visible from many vantage points in the Shoalhaven region. The 67 hectare property is located west of Shoalhaven Heads on the northern slopes of the mountain, about 300 metres above sea level. A new Aboriginal Area will be created to re-establish cultural access to the mountain and this will be of immense value to the Aboriginal community of the Shoalhaven.

The local Aboriginal clan, Cullengutti Manji, have a close affiliation and share their identity with the mountain they know as 'Cullengutti'. The mountain holds great Aboriginal cultural significance as it is associated with dreaming stories, is an important link to the after-life for local Aboriginal people and is the origin of many spiritual stories in the region.

The acquisition of this land provides a rare opportunity to protect part of a culturally and naturally significant landform on the coastal plain, with ecosystems on fertile lands that are currently under-represented in the reserve system, including the South Coast grassy woodland, an endangered ecological community.



*Coolangatta Mountain viewed from Gerroa*

### Wyninebah

Wyninebah is a 6,238-hectare property situated near Carinda in the Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. It adjoins the Macquarie River, lying between Narran Lake Nature Reserve to the north and Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve to the south. It will establish the foundation of a new nature reserve in this bioregion, which is the most under-represented and highly modified bioregion in NSW.

The property contains a wide variety of vegetation communities including marshlands of lignum – river cooba and riparian galleries of river red gum along the Macquarie River. These give way to coolabah – black box woodlands on the floodplain and bumble box woodlands on the more elevated alluvial plains. The western part of the property supports a dense mosaic of open grassland/herbland and

a bumble box – cypress – budda community that is poorly represented in reserves. It also includes the coolabah – black box woodland which is an endangered ecological community in NSW. Wyninebah importantly provides habitat for several threatened species including the barking owl, brown treecreeper, hooded robin and Major Mitchell cockatoo.

### Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve

The property Pillicawarrina comprises 2,387 hectares and lies within the Macquarie Marshes, a nationally important wetland. It adjoins the northern portion of Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve and contains the confluences of Monkeygar and Bulgeraga creeks with the Macquarie River. The property has been purchased over a two-year period with the Trust contributing \$1,058,877 in total.

Pillicawarrina lies at a critical location with regard to the functioning and dynamics of the floodplain and watercourses of the Macquarie Marshes. With a change of land use to conservation and cessation of water diversions and floodplain harvesting, the property has the capacity to recover some important ecological communities and facilitate the regeneration of wetlands along the Monkeygar and Bulgeraga creeks and Macquarie River. There is also the opportunity to enhance the viability of two endangered ecological communities found on the property: coolabah – black box woodland and Myall woodland.

The vegetated riverine areas within Pillicawarrina are high conservation value habitat for waterbirds. There is a straw-necked ibis, white ibis, and royal spoonbill breeding colony in lignum where the creeks join, and breeding habitat along the Macquarie River for white ibis, Pacific and white-faced heron, night heron, yellow-billed spoonbill, darter and black, little black and little pied cormorants. Barking owls have been observed along the Macquarie River. The variety of landscapes on Pillicawarrina (marshes, channels, floodplains and alluvial plains) provide a mosaic of habitats for many other waterbirds, woodland birds and other fauna.

### South East Forest National Park

This 35-hectare property is located in the Gnoa – Waalimma section of the South East Forest National Park, south-east of Bombala, and forms part of the only known habitat for the long-footed potoroo in NSW. This species is one of the rarest mammals in Australia and is listed as endangered both within NSW and nationally. This addition to the South East Forest National Park will increase the chance of survival for the long-footed potoroo.

# Restoration and Rehabilitation

*The Trust funds a diverse range of restoration and rehabilitation projects that enhance and restore natural environments. Activities include regenerating native bushland, rehabilitating riparian zones, restoring Aboriginal sites and cleaning up contaminated land and illegally dumped hazardous materials.*



## Achievements

More than 100 restoration and rehabilitation projects were completed this year. Achievements include:

- enhancing biodiversity by restoring degraded coastal dunes, seabird habitat, riparian zones and wetlands, and creating new wildlife corridors
- restoring endangered ecological communities including littoral rainforest, saltmarsh, swamp oak forest, Sydney turpentine ironbark forest and Sydney blue gum forest
- improving soil and vegetation quality through salinity remediation.

The following case studies detail four successful projects that were completed in 2008-09.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Greening up the Gully

Remarkable improvements in soil salinity and watertable levels have been achieved through a Trust funded project in Green Gully near Deniliquin. The gully was once the bed of the Murray River and had developed into a massive discharge zone with a watertable at the soil surface and very high salinity levels. With their grant of \$100,000 the Green Gully Landcare Association has dramatically improved the soil condition in a short period of time, giving great encouragement to local farmers who have struggled with salinity for many years.

Before starting the project, geophysical investigations were carried out along the entire length of the 40-kilometre gully to better understand the hydrology and soils, and maximise the effectiveness of the project.

Rehabilitation of the gully was achieved by installing 50 hectares of tile drains and constructing an evaporation basin. Within months of the tile drains being completed there was a significant reduction in watertable depths, and by completion of the project the watertable was reduced to a depth not seen for 20 years.

A salt-tolerant cereal crop was successfully grown on the floor of the gully in 2007. This crop was ploughed back into the soil to replenish the humus and vegetable matter that had been degraded through long periods of waterlogging and salinity. The ongoing planting of salt-tolerant pastures and native vegetation by landholders will further improve soil structure and salinity.

After many years of local debate on how best to address the problem of salinity, this project has been an inspiring example of what can be achieved in a relatively short space of time. The success of the project has given a new focus and incentive to landholders to continue investing in on-farm works and rebuilding areas of native vegetation that have been lost.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Integrated Catchment Restoration of Rocky Creek

Ku-ring-gai Council transformed a degraded sports field and its surrounding bushland into a quality sports facility with greatly improved bushland habitat with the help of an \$86,000 grant from the Trust. The bushland supports Sydney turpentine ironbark forest which is an endangered ecological community.

Through implementing an innovative stormwater harvesting project, Council has delivered the dual benefit of preventing sediment, nutrients, pollutants and weed material from entering the forest while at the same time providing water for irrigation of the sports fields. Previously stormwater had entered the bushland without treatment, and over years of urban development the forest had become degraded with weeds. Stormwater is now directed through a rock-lined channel to a gross pollutant trap and a retention pond. Excavation of the channel revealed a series of natural sandstone benches. These were used to advantage by creating a natural cascade that aerates the water and provides a visual feature. Two 500 kilolitre underground holding tanks retain the harvested water for use on the sports fields.

One third of the 3.6-hectare reserve was infested by weeds. A three-year program of bush regeneration was completed with activities ranging from maintenance weeding in the least-affected areas to weed control and new plantings in the more heavily infested areas of the forest. All new plants were grown from seed collected from the reserve and propagated in Council's nursery. The local Scout group assisted with the planting.

Art students from St Ives High School were involved in the project through the design and painting of a mural on the dissipation wall of the retention pond. The mural reflects the theme of water recycling and the final design was chosen by students and staff through a competition.

The redirection and recycling of water combined with bush regeneration has enhanced the quality of a threatened forest community and ensured a more sustainable future for the sports field and its surrounding habitat.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Restoration of Vegetation Corridors in Armidale

Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale has been working with landholders in the New England area since 1991 to link native vegetation remnants and create wildlife corridors to address declining biodiversity on the highly cleared tablelands. A grant from the Trust of \$27,580 has resulted in the establishment of six kilometres of new vegetation in the Armidale district.

Significant in-kind contributions from landholders allowed the project to expand the number of sites to 13 properties from the five that were originally proposed. Almost 4 kilometres of stock-proof fencing was installed with an additional 3.6 kilometres completed through landholders' own contributions.

The project worked one-on-one with property owners through site visits and phone calls to provide support and information. A strategic approach was encouraged, with neighbours cooperating to enhance corridors along property boundaries, and other property owners working together to achieve the best planting results for their area.

A total of 26 hectares of wildlife habitat has been fenced and protected and most of this area planted with local native species. This includes 15 hectares of riparian land that runs into the World Heritage Area of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. More than 8,200 indigenous seedlings were planted with almost all of these being endemic to New England and propagated from local seed.

Many landholders in the Northern Tablelands have seen widespread dieback of trees across the tablelands and have been reluctant to plant new native trees for fear of losing them. This project, along with previous work by the group, has contributed to a gradual change in attitudes, with the success of established corridors and windbreaks encouraging other landholders to join in the rehabilitation process. The funding of this project enabled Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale to encourage some landholders to plant natives for the first time while others were able to extend existing habitat corridors.



*New riparian plantings on Saumarez Creek near Armidale.*

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Nymboida River Riparian Rehabilitation

In 2005 the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Clarence Landcare Incorporated developed a riparian management plan for the Nymboida River and began work on the protection and rehabilitation of 17 hectares of riparian vegetation along 8 kilometres of the river. A grant of \$87,499 from the Trust allowed the completion of Stage 2 of the plan which helped 20 landholders to rehabilitate a further 18 hectares of vegetation along 8.8 kilometres of riverbanks.

The project strategically focused on protecting the vegetation in the best condition first, targeted the eradication of new and emerging weeds and maximised landholder participation throughout the project. Landholders worked alongside contract bush regenerators allowing them to observe and learn various best management practices in riparian rehabilitation.

All 20 landholders involved in the project have signed voluntary Landholder Management Agreements with Northern Rivers CMA. These agreements provide formal documentation of the rehabilitation sites, riparian management activities, landholder commitments and responsibilities.

Some sites focused on eradicating weeds including cat's claw creeper and camphor laurel to minimise dispersal through the river system. This has significantly reduced the population of cat's claw and drawn community attention to the importance of maintaining efforts to eradicate this vine weed. The project also made significant progress in reducing the camphor laurel population along the river.

A close relationship between the project officer and landholders was integral to the success of the project. Baseline vegetation condition maps were prepared for each site to establish rehabilitation requirements and condition prior to works. The maps helped to facilitate discussions with landholders about what they wanted to achieve and provided a simple basis against which the success of the project could be assessed.



*View over the Nymboida River rehabilitation site*



# Restoration and Rehabilitation Major Projects



## Achievements

All of the Trust's Major Restoration and Rehabilitation projects awarded between 2004 and 2006 have now been completed. The achievements of the two final projects that concluded this year are provided below. Through these major restoration projects the Trust has contributed to significant conservation and restoration outcomes that will sustain long-term improvements to terrestrial and riparian biodiversity.

Due to the success of the Fire Regime Hot Spots project the Trust has agreed to grant the Nature Conservation Council of NSW \$600,000 to fund a further three years of the project which commenced in 2008-09.

## Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory Stage 2

### Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

This project concluded in 2008 following two and a half years of work and a grant of \$350,000. It supported landholders with properties of high conservation value who have committed to managing their land for conservation to complement the State's reserve system. The project visited 100 wildlife refuges covering 80,000 hectares and provided property reports to all landholders who put their property under Voluntary Conservation Agreements. The properties visited were in the South Western Slopes and South Eastern Highlands bioregions, which between them have 150,000 hectares of land proclaimed as wildlife refuges. In all, 160 landholders were contacted with 107 participating in the project.

The Department's community biodiversity project officers helped landholders with five key stages of conservation management:

- Biodiversity surveys and assessments to inform property management and to develop an inventory of species, populations and communities on private land
- Updating property management plans with landholders
- Providing support for landholders' operational activities including education, materials and labour
- Developing an ongoing monitoring program to assist in adaptive conservation management
- Assessing the project's achievements.

The property vegetation plan (PVP) biometric assessment tool was used to assess 93 of the 100 wildlife refuges visited (the remaining seven had insignificant remnant vegetation). This information was included in individual

property reports which contain current practices and new management recommendations. Together these reports build a comprehensive picture of conservation values on wildlife refuges and conservation agreements in the State's high priority bioregions.

## Snowy River Rehabilitation Project

### Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

This project has completed restoration and habitat improvement works along 186 kilometres of the Snowy River between Jindabyne and the Victorian border. Through a \$1,098,105 grant from the Trust, the project has significantly enhanced riparian and aquatic habitats along the river, creating the foundations for implementing environmental flows in the near future.

The project built upon initial willow control and revegetation work to deliver a comprehensive program encompassing river rehabilitation, community engagement, restoration of native fish populations, and Aboriginal cultural studies. The project allowed a more focused approach to the previous rehabilitation efforts and provided opportunities for riverside landholders, Aboriginal people and river communities to become directly involved in the ongoing rehabilitation of the river.



*Releasing baby Bass to the Snowy River at Dalgety*



A highly successful breeding program was completed for Australian bass which had previously disappeared from large areas of the Snowy River. Over a two-year period 190,000 young bass were introduced to the river through targeted releases in remote areas, and community events. The success of these releases, which are being monitored by Industry and Investment NSW, has encouraged the stocking of Australian bass into the Victorian section of the river.

Voluntary landholder agreements for the management of riparian land have been negotiated with 26 property owners, protecting 32 kilometres of river banks. These agreements were supported by on-ground works including willow and blackberry control, revegetation, erosion control, and the construction of in-stream timber groynes to assist in channel reshaping under increased flows. These works will restore native riparian habitat to large sections of the river and provide enhanced fish habitat within the river.

A mentoring program is now in place for riparian landholders, which is supported by the Upper Snowy Landcare Committee. Many landholders along the river are part-time residents or work outside the property. Mentoring has increased landholders skills and capacity in fence construction, weed control and the installation of watering systems.

A cultural study confirmed that although many Aboriginal people have dispersed from the area, they maintain a strong spiritual connection with the Snowy River and its tributaries. Ngarigo people return periodically to the river for the collection of plants and other traditional activities. Information gathered through the study on traditional values, knowledge and sites associated with the Snowy River will help to inform future management and assist the process of reconnecting Aboriginal people to the river.

## Hot Spots 2

### Nature Conservation Council of NSW

The first stage of this project (completed in 2007-08) developed an effective framework for fostering science-based awareness of the effects of fire in regional vegetation classes. This has been achieved through developing various educational materials conveying information on fire ecology, management and planning, and through running practical workshops.

Following the success of the Hot Spots project the Trust agreed to grant the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) \$600,000 for a further three years, beginning in 2008-09, to promote appropriate fire regimes for natural resource management. During this period the NCC will finish running workshops in the pilot CMA regions and set up and run new workshops in other CMA regions. Each series consists of three workshops which take land managers through the process of mapping, planning and implementing fire regimes for the different vegetation types they manage. The NCC will work in collaboration with CMAs, the Rural Fire Service and the Nature Conservation Trust to develop and produce these workshops.

In the first year of the new project booklets and literature reviews were distributed to landholders in each region who attended the first two workshops in the series. The third workshop has been developed by the Rural Fire Service and will be held in 2009-10.

The NCC has been successful in attracting funding of \$180,000 from other sources to expand the project. An advisory committee has been established and discussions are taking place with DECCW's BioBanking team and other natural resource organisations to integrate the Hotspots methodology into property vegetation plans.



A range of materials produced in the Hot Spots project

# Contaminated Land Management Program



The Contaminated Land Management Program is managed by the Contaminated Sites Unit of DECCW. It provides funds to 'innocent owners' who unwittingly find themselves responsible for the remediation of serious land contamination because the polluter cannot be found or no longer exists. In these cases the Trust can grant monies for remediation work to ensure that prolonged delays and potential risks are kept to a minimum.

The program also helps local councils, through seed funding, with the often expensive investigation and remediation of former gasworks sites. The operation of gas manufacturing plants throughout NSW has left a legacy of contamination in soil and groundwater at these and adjoining sites. Trust funds help councils to remove the serious risk of harm to the community and the environment.

The Contaminated Land Management Program is overseen by a Trust subcommittee with representation from industry,

non-government organisations and local and state government. A total of \$6 million is available to fund investigation and remediation works until 2011. Twelve grants were awarded in 2008-09 for a total of \$1,191,230. Nine grants were offered to councils for former gasworks sites and three were to innocent owners of contaminated sites (Table 1).

In line with the Trust's holistic approach managing remediation grants, the City of Wagga Wagga was awarded a grant of \$181,626 in 2007-08 towards the costs of first-stage investigations into a contaminated former gasworks. This has led to two further grant awards this year: a small grant of \$18,375 to complete the investigation and a further grant of \$500,000 – the maximum amount the Trust can contribute towards the costs of remediating the site; council is contributing the much larger part of this cost. The council anticipates that the remediation will be complete in 2012.

Table 1

## Contaminated Land Management Program Grants Awarded in 2008-09 Innocent Owners

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Blue Mountains City Council	Former Katoomba/Leura Gasworks – Stage 1 Remediation	Blue Mountains	\$150,000
Mr Matthew Pilarcik	Former Shale Oil Refinery – Hartley Vale – Stage 2 Remediation	Lithgow	\$24,703
Mr Matthew Pilarcik	Former Shale Oil Refinery – Hartley Vale – Stage 3 Remediation	Lithgow	\$21,400
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$196,103</b>

## Council Gasworks

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bathurst Regional Council	Former Bathurst Gasworks – Stage 2 Investigation	Bathurst	\$82,230
Cabonne Council	Former Molong Gasworks – Stage 2 Investigation	Cabonne	\$88,710
Cootamundra Shire Council	Former Cootamundra Gasworks – Stage 2 Investigation	Cootamundra	\$7,094
Cootamundra Shire Council	Former Cootamundra Gasworks – Stage 3 Investigation	Cootamundra	\$82,821
Lithgow City Council	Former Lithgow Gasworks – Stage 1 Investigation	Lithgow	\$70,931
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Muswellbrook Gasworks – Stage 1 Investigation	Muswellbrook	\$72,976
Wagga Wagga City Council	Former Wagga Wagga Gasworks – Stage 2 Investigation	Wagga Wagga	\$18,375
Wagga Wagga City Council	Former Wagga Wagga Gasworks – Stage 1 Remediation	Wagga Wagga	\$500,000
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Former Bowral Gasworks – Stage 1 Investigation	Wingecarribee	\$71,990
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$995,127</b>



# Restoration and Rehabilitation Grant Programs 2008-09

## Community and State and Local Government Grants

The Restoration and Rehabilitation Program provides funds to community organisations (total of \$1.5 million) and state and local government organisations (total of \$1.5 million). Grants between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are available.

The program's objectives are to:

- restore degraded environmental resources, including rare and endangered ecosystems
- protect important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna

- prevent or minimise future environmental damage
- enhance the quality of specific environmental resources
- improve the capacity of eligible organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

The Community Grants Program received 55 applications and funded 26 projects to the total value of \$1,981,534. The State and Local Government Grants Program received 67 applications and funded 26 projects to the total value of \$1,981,218. The successful projects are listed in Tables 2 and 3.

## Table 2

### Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Awarded in 2008-09 Community Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bankstown Bushland Society	Conservation of Threatened Dry Rainforest Flora in Southern Sydney	Bankstown	\$77,800
Bellambi Dune Bushcare Group	Bellambi Foredune Restoration, Wollongong NSW	Wollongong	\$60,000
Bellingen Urban Landcare Group Incorporated	Bellingen Island and Cemetery Creek Bushland Corridor Project	Bellingen	\$80,260
Brunswick Valley Landcare Incorporated	Restoring Endangered Swamp Sclerophyll in the Brunswick Catchment	Byron	\$12,624
Burra Creek Landcare Group	Riparian Revegetation, Burra Creek, to create Major Biolink	Tumbarumba	\$61,600
Cabramatta Creek Flying Fox Committee	Rail to Reserve; Restoration of Cabramatta Creek's Habitat Corridor	Fairfield	\$100,000
Community Environment Network Incorporated	Regeneration of Wildlife Corridors through Land for Wildlife	Gosford	\$94,516
Corowa and District Landcare	Restore and Rehabilitation Priority 'Paper Laneways' in the Corowa Shire	Corowa	\$98,030
Ebor Progress Association Incorporated	Ebor Villagelink Community Development Project 3	Armidale Dumaresq	\$88,275
Environmental Training & Employment Incorporated	Huonbrook Bush Regeneration to Enhance Wildlife Corridors and Biodiversity	Byron	\$99,800
Environmental Training & Employment Incorporated	Maclean Lookout Restoration and Rehabilitation	Clarence Valley	\$98,318

## Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Awarded in 2008-09

### Community Grants Program continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Friends of Colo Incorporated	Willow and Weed Control and Monitoring, Colo River and Catchment	Hawkesbury	\$28,588
Friends of Mangerton Park	Restoration of Mangerton Subtropical Rainforest Community Wollongong	Wollongong	\$40,000
Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council	Restoration of Jali Heath and Wetland at Seven Mile Beach	Ballina	\$100,000
Macleay Landcare Network Incorporated	Riverine Floodplain Rainforest Revegetation Project	Kempsey	\$99,995
Nambucca Valley Landcare Incorporated	Indian Myna Control Project	Gosford	\$100,000
National Parks Association of NSW Incorporated	Crowdy Bay National Park – Dunbogan Habitat Corridor Restoration	Hastings	\$82,523
Nature Conservation Working Group	Supplementing Bush Stone-curlew Populations in the Western Murray	Wakool	\$98,022
Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project Incorporated	Improving the Sustainability of Pambula Wetlands Management	Bega Valley	\$94,520
Shearwater the Mullumbimby Steiner School	Shearwater Wetlands Restoration	Byron	\$20,070
Silver Beach Dunecare Group	Rehabilitation and Restoration of Bonna Point, Kurnell	Sutherland	\$7,500
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare Incorporated	Mallanganee Stepping Stones Connecting Regional Ecosystems	Kyogle	\$99,990
Waterfall Springs Conservation Association Incorporated	Endangered Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Breeding Program	Gosford	\$98,570
Wetland Care Australia Pty Ltd	Northern Rivers Upper Tributaries Rehabilitation Project	Byron	\$99,710
Wetland Care Australia Pty Ltd	Wetland Protection within High Productive Forestry Land Holdings	Richmond Valley	\$99,410
Wolli Creek Preservation Society Incorporated	Wolli Creek Bush Restoration, Western Section Stage 2	Canterbury	\$41,413
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,981,534</b>

## Table 3

### Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Awarded in 2008-09

#### State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bathurst Regional Council	Restoring Corridor Connectivity of Box-Gum Woodland, White Rock Road	Bathurst	\$30,487
Blue Mountains City Council	Blue Mountains Bush Backyards	Blue Mountains	\$99,192
Byron Shire Council	Simpsons Creek Bank Stabilisation and Rehabilitation Project	Byron	\$100,000
Clarence Valley Council	Lake Wooloweyah – Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat Improvement	Clarence Valley	\$79,883
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	Rehabilitation of Yarrahapinni Wetlands National Park	Kempsey	\$99,000
Department of Lands	Protection of Endangered Orchid Habitat at Oaklands	Urana	\$29,360
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Fencing Cattle Out of the Only Known Locations of <i>Zieria tuberculata</i>	Eurobodalla	\$41,020
Gosford City Council	Riparian Rehabilitation of Upper Mangrove Creek Floodplain and Slopes	Gosford	\$68,236
Hawkesbury City Council	Chain of Ponds Reserve Rehabilitation Project	Hawkesbury	\$34,500
Hornsby Shire Council	Promoting Habitat Connectivity Through Partnership in Hornsby Shire	Hornsby	\$100,000
Hunter Councils Incorporated	Protecting Ecological Sensitive Sites in Roadside Environments	Various	\$69,070
Hunter – Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Upper Allyn River Protection and Improvement Program	Dungog	\$100,000
Hunters Hill Municipal Council	Riverglade Reserve – Restore Threatened Saltmarsh and Riparian Habitat	Hunters Hill	\$94,510
Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	Boorowa River Recovery – Better Water to Boorowa	Boorowa	\$100,000
Lord Howe Island Board	Lord Howe Ground Asparagus Action – The Battle for Transit Hill – NE	Hastings	\$99,012
Lord Howe Island Board	Planning a Rodent Eradication on Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island	\$98,931
Murray Catchment Management Authority	Habitat Restoration for the Booroolong Frog in the Upper Murray	Tumbarumba	\$38,000
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Evans River Catchment to Coast Corridors	Richmond Valley	\$98,600
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Remediation of Acid Sulfate Soils in Tilligerry Creek Catchment	Port Stephens	\$95,400
Queanbeyan City Council	Jumping Creek Hillside Erosion Remediation Project	Queanbeyan	\$90,000
Shellharbour City Council	Mount Warrigal Restoration and Rehabilitation Program	Shellharbour	\$20,000
Shoalhaven City Council	SCC Biodiversity Protection and Rehabilitation Project	Shoalhaven	\$97,000
Shoalhaven City Council	Strategic Lantana Extension in Wandandian, Burrier and Berry	Shoalhaven	\$95,875
Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Sweeping the Broom in the Upper Shoalhaven Catchment	Palerang	\$99,950
Tweed Shire Council	Expansion of Byrrill Creek Riparian Restoration Project	Tweed	\$80,000
Wagga Wagga City Council	Rehabilitation of Habitat of the Vulnerable Glossy Black cockatoo	Wagga Wagga	\$23,192
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,981,218</b>



## Protecting Our Places Program

The Trust awarded 17 grants totalling \$497,372 under its Protecting Our Places (POP) Program (Table 4). This program is available only to Aboriginal organisations, and projects must meet one or both of the program's objectives:

- restoring or rehabilitating Aboriginal land or land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people
- educating Aboriginal and other communities about the local environment and the value Aboriginal communities place on their natural environment.

The Trust conducted eleven workshops across NSW in March and April 2009 prior to the opening of the 2009 grants program. These workshops attracted 84 participants, providing them with information on how to submit an application and highlighting some of the outcomes from previous successful POP grants.

Achievements from some of the POP grants completed in 2008-09 include:

- rehabilitation of a section of the Bogan River and the protection of associated heritage sites
- creation of an Aboriginal Bushcare Group near Ballina
- protection of sand dunes and middens near Batemans Bay
- revegetation of a community reserve at Armidale and development of an interpretive centre
- identification and protection of Aboriginal sites on the far north coast
- construction of an interpretive walking track through an Aboriginal reserve
- bank stabilisation and protection of a canoe tree.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Restoration of Narwan Village Reserve

A dedicated group of residents from Narwan Village at Armidale have used a \$35,000 grant from the Trust to restore a recreation reserve that has a long history of Aboriginal settlement. The Galbaan Healing Our Environment Group cleaned the site of tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish, planted over 4,000 trees, and transformed the area into a source of community pride. Over 7.7 tonnes of rubbish and 5.5 tonnes of scrap metal were removed before fencing was installed to control vehicle access to the reserve.

The group were supported in their efforts by Armidale TAFE who ran a Conservation and Land Management Course for the group during the project. Students propagated all of the native trees and shrubs in the TAFE greenhouse from locally collected seed, and received training in chemical use and chainsaw operations to assist with weeding and the removal of exotic trees.

As the project progressed the group began to research the history of the reserve and an old water tank on the site was converted into an Interpretive Centre to record this historical information. The outside of the tank was decorated with traditional paintings by a local artist, while local residents and school children were invited to leave their handprints on the walls inside the centre to encourage ownership of the site.

The project has resulted in a dramatic transformation of the reserve. The previously denuded site is now planted out with native trees and shrubs, and a path made from crushed recycled concrete guides visitors on an interpretive walk through the reserve. In addition to the restoration of the site, there have been many positive benefits for the community who have enjoyed working on the project and learning new skills. The project has instilled confidence in the community to begin other projects and develop their own vision for the development of the village and its environment.



*Opening of the interpretive centre at Narwan Village*

## Table 4

## Protecting Our Places Grants Awarded in 2008-09

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Banbai Business Enterprises	Mother of Ducks Nature Reserve Environmental Project	Guyra	\$18,797
Barra:Way Wa:jad Traditional Owners Group Incorporated	Shannon Creek Environmental Message and Walking Track Implementation	Clarence Valley	\$34,977
Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre	Blue Mountains Indigenous Gardens – Revegetation Project	Blue Mountains	\$35,000
Djigay Centre of Excellence, Kempsey Campus, North Coast Institute of TAFE	Dunghutti Elders/Pandanus People Protecting Our Places Partnership	Kempsey	\$25,810
Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council	Burnum Burnum and Mill Creek Regeneration	Sutherland	\$35,000
Githabul Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Bush Regeneration at Bean Creek Falls, a Declared Aboriginal Place	Kyogle	\$30,690
Guyra Local Aboriginal Land Council	To Restore Our Land with Plant Species, Label them and Erect Totems	Guyra	\$35,000
Lachlan Aboriginal Natural Resource Management Corporation	Natural Resource Management – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Canoe Trip	Central West NSW	\$29,493
Little Yuin Aboriginal Preschool Corporation	Little Yuin Environmental Education Project	Bega Valley	\$9,872
Merana Aboriginal Community Association for the Hawkesbury Incorporated	Yellomundee Regional Park Aboriginal Bushcare Group	Penrith	\$31,200
Minimbah and District Aboriginal Elders Incorporated	Elder Cultural Re-Education and Bush Tucker Talks/Signage/Planting	Great Lakes	\$7,920
Murray and Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations	Murray Country – Sharing Indigenous Environmental Values	Various	\$35,000
Muru Mittigar Limited	Cumberland Plains Woodland: Country and Culture Education	Penrith	\$29,670
Warada Aboriginal Landcare Group	Restoring Land, Restoring Country, Restoring Culture	Gosford	\$35,000
Warren/Macquarie Local Aboriginal Land Council	Rehabilitate/Revegetate Beemunnel Aboriginal Land	Warren	\$35,000
Yabur Yulgun CDEP Aboriginal Corporation	Cubawee Bank Stabilisation on Leycester Creek	Lismore	\$34,194
Yaegl Local Aboriginal Land Council	Thorny Island – Yaegl bush Regeneration – Project Stage 2	Clarence Valley	\$34,749
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$497,372</b>

## Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program

The objective of this program is to avoid significant risk to the environment or public health by contributing funds towards:

- removing, dispersing or mitigating serious pollution, when measures need to be taken immediately (i.e. emergency pollution)
- removing and managing materials that have been placed or disposed of unlawfully that may have the potential to pose a risk to the environment or public health (i.e. orphan waste)

Nominated officers of DECCW have delegated authority to approve the spending of Trust funds under this program, with a maximum expenditure of \$500,000 in any one financial year.

The program is intended to be used where the party responsible for the pollution cannot be identified, or where there is uncertainty about the prospect of clean-up costs being paid by the responsible party. The program allows

action to be taken quickly to avoid or minimise environmental harm and public health impacts that may result from delays in cleaning up.

In August 2008 all NSW local councils received a copy of the new guidelines for applying for Environmental Trust funds towards clean-up costs, replacing the previous guidelines issued in 1999. Prepared with input from the Local Government and Shires Associations, the guidelines explain the types of situations that are eligible for funding and clearly set out the application process and the conditions of funding. The guidelines are available on the Trust's website.

A total of 50 grants were awarded in 2008-09 to address emergency or orphan waste pollution incidents (Table 5).

Table 5

### Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Grants Awarded in 2008-09

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Dunsmore Street, Rooty Hill	30 Apr 08	\$692.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Rouse Road and Macquarie Road, Rouse Hill	1 May 08	\$1,450.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of mixed building waste including asbestos at Yallock Place, Prospect	3 Jun 08	\$1,190.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Coventry Place, Mount Druitt	11 Feb 08	\$1,000.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Gosling Road, Kings Park	11 Jun 08	\$1,930.00
Blacktown City Council	Waste from home renovation at Park Road, Seven Hills	4 Jul 08	\$1,970.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos and debris at Reservoir Road, Prospect	9 Jul 08	\$2,236.00
Blacktown City Council	Container of unknown chemical from Council depot	20 Jun 08	\$889.73
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Augusta Road, Prospect	20 May 08	\$1,195.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Park Road, Marsden Park	18 Aug 08	\$5,718.00
Blacktown City Council	12" fibro water pipe in builders rubble at Macquarie Road, Rouse Hill	17 Oct 08	\$950.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Tucks Road, Seven Hills	22 Jul 08	\$2,030.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos dumped at Garfield Road West, Riverstone	7 Aug 09	\$1,170.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos dumped at Otago Road, Vineyard	22 Jul 08	\$1,615.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at three sites: Reen Road, Prospect; Shane Park Road, Shane's Park; and Honeman Circuit, Huntingwood	9 Sep 08	\$7,257.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Meadow Road, Schofields	8 Oct 08	\$975.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Perth Street, Riverstone	23 Nov 07	\$870.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Durham Street, Mt Druitt	20 Jan 09	\$2,955.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Eddie Avenue, Minchinbury	13 Jan 09	\$2,219.82

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Belmore Road, Eastern Creek	10 Jan 09	\$6,522.00
DECCW	Clean-up of asbestos in Bowens Creek Catchment	7 Apr 09	\$900.00
DECCW	Clean-up of asbestos at Mt Charles, Blue Mountains National Park	19 Jan 09	\$900.00
Dungog Shire Council	15 x 205-litre drums dumped outside council depot	2 Sep 08	\$4,535.48
Dungog Shire Council	15 x 205-litre drums dumped outside council depot	2 Sep 08	\$600.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Villiers Road, Cecil Park	15 Oct 08	\$1,276.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Gipps Road, Fairfield	29 Sep 08	\$946.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Elizabeth Drive, Cecil Park	26 Jun 08	\$1,202.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Bindaree Street, Lansvale	23 Jul 08	\$1,202.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos dumped at Wolsley Street, Canley Vale	26 Jun 08	\$500.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos dumped at The Promenade, Yennora	25 Aug 08	\$909.50
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos dumped at Toohey Road, Wetherill Park	26 Nov 08	\$1,008.00
Forests NSW	Clean-up of asbestos at Jocks Crossing, Collambatti	30 Mar 09	\$863.64
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Racecourse Road, Clarendon	4 Aug 07	\$1,590.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Anderson Avenue, Liverpool and Cantello Reserve, Hammondville	25 Jan 08	\$2,492.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Scottsdale Circuit, West Hoxton	12 Dec 08	\$3,997.87
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Arthur Street, Chipping Norton	23 Apr 08	\$1,860.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Brenda Avenue, Kemps Creek	1 May 08	\$972.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at 17th Avenue East, West Hoxton	14 Apr 08	\$1,589.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Enterprise Circuit, Prestons	3 Mar 08	\$2,481.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Haige Park, Moorebank	31 Dec 08	\$2,800.24
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Denham Court Road, Denham Court	26 Oct 07	\$3,053.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Government Road, Kemps Creek	12 Feb 09	\$5,390.27
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at 30th Avenue, Austral	31 Dec 08	\$718.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Arthur Street, Chipping Norton	11 Dec 07	\$11,673.52
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Taylors Road, Badgerys Creek	18 Sep 08	\$880.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Enterprise Circuit, Liverpool	13 Oct 08	\$5,820.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Park Road, Liverpool	20 Mar 08	\$780.00
Transpacific Waste Services	Unknown white substance in an open stormwater drain, corner of Derby and Jove Streets, Auburn	15 Aug 08	\$48,255.76
Transpacific Waste Services	Unknown white substance in an open stormwater drain, corner of Derby and Jove Streets, Auburn	15 Aug 08	\$5,690.25
Transpacific Waste Services	Spill in open stormwater drain at Eggerton Street, Silverwater	11 Sep 08	\$13,538.54
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$173,258.62</b>
<b>Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program Reimbursement 2008-09</b>			
CSR Limited	Costs recovered relating to a spill of carbon polymer into the Parramatta River. Trust paid Veolia Environmental Services in 2006-07	3 Jan 07	-\$2,030.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>-\$2,030.00</b>

# Environmental Education

*The Trust's Environmental Education program funds projects that develop or broaden the community's environmental knowledge and skills, and enhances their commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour. Grants are provided to community groups, councils, government organisations and training providers.*



## Achievements

There were 27 education projects completed this year. The achievements include various sustainability education programs, training for community groups in seagrass monitoring, urban salinity education for builders, geographic information system (GIS) training for Landcare managers, education for ethnic communities about urban birds, and a quarantine awareness strategy for Lord Howe Island.

The following case studies feature three successful projects completed in 2008-09.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Northern Rivers Eco-friendly Youth Centres

The North East Waste Forum designed and implemented an award-winning program to encourage and support youth service providers on the North Coast to become more sustainable. Youth centres fulfil a vital role in providing access to education, mentoring, work opportunities and general assistance to youth on the North Coast.

The Forum received a grant of \$49,972 on behalf of its member councils (Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley and Lismore) and worked with a number of project partners to develop a program that integrates waste reduction and energy and water conservation into the activities, programs and management of the youth centres. The six-step program involves:

1. **Generating commitment** to the environment by developing a simple Environmental Commitment Statement to reduce waste, and water and energy use
2. **Listening to young people** and finding out what young people think and how they act in relation to environmental issues
3. **Investigating the environmental impact** of the youth centre by conducting waste, water and energy audits
4. **Taking actions** to reduce the waste, water and energy impacts identified
5. **Integrating environmental activities** into centre programs and involving youth in the centre's achievements
6. **Celebrating the achievements** of the centre with youth and the community.



*Learning to source local produce for catering*

Youth centre staff attended training sessions on environmental issues, auditing and how to develop and implement an environmental management policy and plan. Training was supported by a resource toolkit which is adaptable for use by other youth centres across Australia. The success of the project was recognised by an Excellence in Environmental Education Award from the Local Government and Shires Associations.

Participating youth centres can now access and provide relevant information about environmental issues to young people in a place where they feel relaxed and accepted. By demonstrating how to be eco-friendly, and incorporating environmental activities into day-to-day operations, the centres are able to influence how young people contribute to positive environmental activities.



## ■ CASE STUDY

### Operation Bluetongue – Fostering Environmental Citizenship for Migrants

Many migrants arrive in Australia with little knowledge about Australia's environment and its unique biodiversity. The Ethnic Communities Council recognised there was no environmental education program for recently arrived migrants and refugees within the current migrant education program. With a grant of \$100,000 from the Trust, the Council developed a program of workshops and field trips that were designed to help participants feel a sense of connection and belonging within the Australian environment.

Operation Bluetongue was developed in partnership with local councils, Bushcare Groups, Migrant Resource Centres and English language schools. Migrants were introduced to the concepts of biodiversity, environmental problems and the web of life during one hour workshops. Four-hour field trips were then organised in the local area, including an Aboriginal cultural exchange, bushwalking, tree planting and meeting native animals such as possums, lizards and snakes.

A total of 27 workshops and 28 field trips were conducted with the involvement of 17 partner organisations. All together 2,240 new migrants participated in the program, far exceeding the 1,000 people that the project had initially planned for.

A comprehensive facilitator's guide was developed for service providers and councils wanting to deliver the program to new migrant communities. The guide is designed for educators with little background in environmental sustainability and local government officers working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and migrant communities.

The project has received substantial feedback from participants and migrant organisations that demonstrates it was a unique and valuable learning opportunity for the migrants. Teachers and migrant facilitators found the workshops and fieldtrips offered a very different experience for the students and recognised the ongoing benefits of the program to language development, overcoming fears about the Australian bush, and assisting with settlement into the local community.



Tree planting on an Operation Bluetongue fieldtrip

## ■ CASE STUDY

### NSW Coastal Communities Caring for Seagrass

Seagrass is a key indicator for the health of a waterway, as well as providing breeding grounds and habitat for many marine species. Through their \$72,554 Environmental Education grant the Community Environment Network delivered 15 training workshops to over 250 people along the NSW coast to expand their community seagrass monitoring program. The training provided community groups with the skills and equipment required to collect data for sites that may not be monitored by local authorities and to observe changes in seagrass in their local area over time.

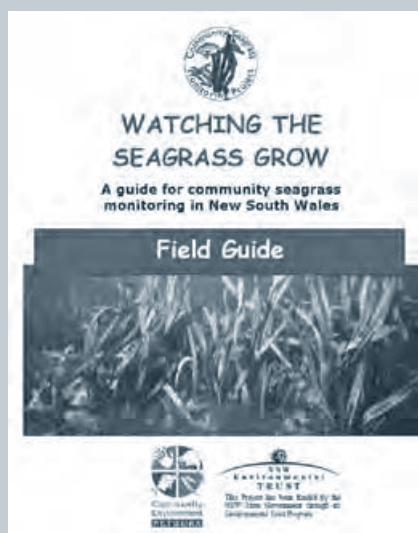
The information gathered by each group fills the gaps between formal monitoring events and is an aid in determining the overall health of estuaries, rivers and catchments. Community monitoring not only provides useful information that can assist with management decisions, but is also an important education tool that increases community awareness and can ultimately reduce negative impacts on the environment.

A field guide, training manual and data entry sheets were developed which detail the scientific methods for collecting site-specific information on seagrass. Together with the training provided, these documents help to make sure the data collected is consistent across regions and reliable over time, so that when it is analysed, changes can easily be detected.

The workshops provided information on seagrass identification, values and threats, and then focused on the most appropriate methods for collecting and managing seagrass data. An excursion to a local estuary allowed participants to practice the methods in the field.

Through this project the Community Environment Network has developed synergies with the world-renowned Seagrass-Watch program. This has allowed the exchange of resources, information and ideas, as well as the international publication of three articles on the project. The project also played a

pivotal role in helping the Department of Primary Industries to educate coastal communities about *Caulerpa taxifolia*, a highly invasive marine alga.



Field guide for seagrass monitoring

# Environmental Education Grant Programs 2008-09



## Community and State and Local Government Grants

The Trust offers a total of \$1,000,000 annually through the Environmental Education Program (\$500,000 to community groups and \$500,000 to State and Local Government organisations). The objectives of the program are to:

- attain one or more outcomes in the NSW *Government's Environmental Education Plan: Learning for Sustainability*
- change behaviours and address specific environmental problems
- develop and promote education projects that improve the environment.

The Trust received 155 expressions of interest in 2008-09 and invited 36 organisations to submit full applications. Ten community projects were funded for a total of \$655,262. Eight State and Local Government projects were funded for a total of \$587,403 and the successful projects are listed in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6

## Environmental Education Grants Awarded in 2008-09 Community Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Total
Anglicare Diocese of Sydney	Growing for Good	Wingecarribee	\$70,560
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Australia Incorporated	Sustainability Action for the Australian Asian Community	Ryde	\$74,100
Camping and Caravan Industry Association of NSW	Gumnut Award Distant Learning Program	Various	\$75,080
Environmental Defenders Office Ltd	Private Conservation Program	State-wide	\$94,657
Housing Trust	Community Housing Learning for Sustainability	Various	\$27,500
Lake Macquarie Landcare Schools Network	Lake Macquarie Landcare for Youth	Lake Macquarie	\$75,000
National Parks Association of NSW	Building a NSW Community-driven MPA Education Network	Various	\$84,204
NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network Incorporated	Eco Centres for Early Childhood	State-wide	\$100,000
Wetland Care Australia Pty Ltd	Starting in your Backyard – Living on the Edge	Ballina	\$24,961
World Wide Fund for Nature Australia	A Kid's Guide to Climate Change – a Positive Message by Kids for Kids	Wollongong	\$29,200
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$655,262</b>

## Table 7

### Environmental Education Grants Awarded in 2008-09

#### State and Local Government Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Museum	BugWise for Schools – Biodiversity in the Classroom	Various	\$100,000
Coffs Harbour City Council	Coffs Ambassadors – Volunteer Interpretive Tours Program	Coffs Harbour	\$47,357
Local Government & Shires Associations of NSW	Climate Change Action Planning for Local Government	Various	\$100,000
Shellharbour City Council	Building Backyard Biodiversity in the Shellharbour LGA	Shellharbour	\$91,150
Southern Cross University	An Environmental Education Strategy for Recreational Fishers	Various	\$49,730
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Volunteer Bilingual River Guides Educating Local Communities	Various	\$32,535
University of Technology, Sydney	Fashioning Now: Changing the Way We Make and Use Clothes	State-wide	\$66,631
Waverley Council	Little Green Steps: Sustainability Education for Childcare Centres	Various	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$587,403</b>

#### ■ CASE STUDY

##### Holsworthy High School Shadehouse Project

Reduce, reuse and recycle was the principle applied by students and teachers from Holsworthy High School who used their \$2,500 Eco Schools grant for the design and construction of a shadehouse. The project formed the preliminary stage of a larger school project which aims to revive the school grounds by propagating and planting Cumberland Plain woodland species around the sports fields and school perimeter.

With assistance from SCRAP, a local recycling company, students from Years 9 and 10 researched and designed the shadehouse using only recycled materials that had been salvaged from a disused nursery. The best designs were then refined into a single design. With the assistance of teachers, a group of Year 9 students constructed the building including designing and installing an irrigation system.

A school environment group comprised of Years 8 and 9 students is using the shadehouse for the propagation of native trees and shrubs. Activities in the shadehouse will also be incorporated into the Environmental Science and Plant units of the Science curriculum.

English students were involved in the project through the writing of publicity and progress reports for the school magazine. The students will contribute further articles to the magazine and local media once propagation and planting is completed. The shadehouse project has successfully engaged a wide range of students and is a great example of how a broad range of outcomes can be achieved from one small grant.



*Students with the completed shadehouse*

## Eco Schools Grants

The Eco Schools Program provides support to help schools develop best practice in environmental education and innovative solutions to environmental issues. The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools Program is the development of ecologically sustainable schools.

The program provides small grants of \$2,500 that help students to develop knowledge, values and behaviour that support environmental sustainability and encourage student participation in improving the quality of the school and local environment. The grants provide opportunities for teachers to integrate environmental projects into school programs to maximise environmental learning. A whole-of-school approach to sustainable management of school operations is

encouraged as are the development of external linkages with the local community to address local environmental issues.

A total of 83 applications were received this year and 60 grants of \$2,500 were awarded (Table 8).

During April and May 2009 the Trust arranged a series of workshops for potential applicants to the Eco Schools Program. Five of these were offered through interactive video conferencing facilities based at the Field of Mars environmental education centre. The video workshops aimed to optimise the opportunities to attend workshops, particularly for regional and remote schools. A further four face-to-face workshops were held in Sydney and regional NSW. A total of 159 people attended the workshops representing 99 schools from the government and non-government sectors.

Table 8

### Eco Schools Grants Awarded in 2008-09

Organisation Name	Project Title	LGA
Abermain Public School	Aboriginal Outdoor Learning Centre and Bush Tucker Garden	Cessnock
Aldavilla Primary School	Outdoor Environmental Classroom	Kempsey
Batemans Public School	Community Bush Tucker Garden	Eurobodalla
Bellbird Public School	Bush Tucker and Healthy Eating Area to Stimulate Our Senses	Cessnock
Black Mountain Public School	Wildlife Corridor Construction – Planting of Endangered Flora	Guyra
Blakebrook Public School	Going Green Amongst the Cattle	Lismore
Blessed Sacrament Primary School	Worm (Worms Recreate Matter!)	Mosman
Bogangar Public School	Sustainable Waterwise Chicken and Orange Orchard Production System	Tweed
Bowraville Central School	Bowraville Central School Sustainable Habitat Construction Project	Nambucca
Burrumbuttock Public School	Environmental Art Gala Days for Five District Schools	Greater Hume
Camden High School	Attracting Native Fauna and Beautifying the School Environment	Camden
Carinya Christian School	Wasted Away	Tamworth
Central Mangrove Public School	Towards a Greener Tomorrow	Gosford
Cobar Public School	Cobar Public School ECOgarden Project	Cobar
Collins Creek Public School	Fresh (Fresh Water, Fresh Food)	Kyogle
Coopernook Public School	Hands of History, Heritage and Harmony Welcome Garden	Greater Taree
Dundurrabin Public School	Outdoor Area Incorporating Bush Tucker Garden	Clarence Valley
Evans River K-12	Whole School Waste Reduction and Recycling Project	Richmond Valley
Glendale East Public School	Responsible Practice Through Swales and Stormwater Management	Lake Macquarie
Glenreagh Public School	Replacing Noxious Species with Native and Nutritional Species	Clarence Valley
Gwandalan Public School	The Gwandalan Veggie Patch	Wyong
Halinda School for Special Purposes	Sustainable Multicultural Community Garden and Outdoor Classroom	Blacktown
Hamilton Public School	Hamilton PS Electronic Environmental Portfolio	Newcastle
Holy Spirit Primary School	Harmonious Habitats	Ryde
Illawong Public School	Restoration of Amphitheatre and Surrounding Bush Regeneration	Sutherland
James Meehan High School	James Meehan High School Indigenous Garden	Campbelltown
Keira High School	Keira's Environment Team	Wollongong

Organisation Name	Project Title	LGA
Kempsey West Public School	The Bush Kitchen	Kempsey
Kendall Public School	Rejuvenation of School Rainforest	Hastings
Killara Public School	Gu-ring-gai Garden – Traditional Tucker Trail	Ku-Ring-Gai
Lakes Grammar An Anglican School	Community Garden Project	Wyong
Lapstone Primary School	Sensory Trail for the Living Classroom	Blue Mountains
Main Arm Public School	Bush Tucker Garden	Byron
Manly Vale Public School	Manly Vale Public School Excels in Energy Efficiency	Warringah
Manly Village Public School	Farmer Brown Community Garden – Eco- Garden/Outdoor Learning Space	Manly
Meadowbank Public School	Meadowbank Public School Edible Permaculture Garden	Ryde
Nana Glen Public School	Nana Creek Regeneration Project	Coffs Harbour
North Sydney Boys High School	Development of an Environmental Learning and Recreational Precinct	North Sydney
North Sydney Demonstration School	Outdoor Classroom and Native Garden	North Sydney
Our Lady of Fatima School (Caringbah)	Feeding Our Future	Sutherland
Our Lady Star of the Sea (Miranda)	Watch It Grow	Sutherland
Pelaw Main Public School	Environmental and Aboriginal Outdoor Learning Area	Cessnock
Plattsburg Public School	Outdoor Discovery and Totem Garden	Newcastle
Queanbeyan South Public School	Koori Bush Tucker Trail	Queanbeyan
Royal Far West School	Eco Classroom	Manley
Rydalmere Public School	Rydalmere Public Greenhouse Greening Programme	Parramatta
Shearwater the Mullumbimby Steiner School	Mullumbimby Creek Rainforest Regeneration Upstream from Amphitheatre	Byron
Singleton High School	Sustainable Waste Recycling Practices	Singleton
Soldiers Point Public School	Cascading Biodiversity Garden	Port Stephens
St Charles' Primary School (Waverley)	Kids Care for Creation: Environmental Sustainability at St Charles	Waverley
St Patrick's Primary School (Bega)	Community Garden	Bega Valley
St Patrick's School (Lithgow)	St Pats Funky Flowers Sustainable Food Gardens	Lithgow
St Paul's Grammar School Junior School	Recycling via a Water Tank and Related Sustainability Education	Penrith
Trundle Central School	Environmental Agricultural Learning Experiences	Parkes
Ulong Public School	Reclaim Weed-infested Area into Lunch and Outdoor Learning Area	Coffs Harbour
Urunga Public School	Outdoor Learning Space in our Edible Gardens	Bellingen
Wentworthville Public School	Wenty Water Watchers	Holroyd
Windeyer Public School	Environmental Awareness Respecting Sustainability	Mid-western Regional
Wollumbin High School	Wollumbin Indigenous Food and Medicinal Plant Walk	Tweed
Woy Woy South Public School	Woy Woy South Public Community and Eco Garden	Gosford
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>



# Environmental Research

*Funding is provided to investigate solutions to environmental problems, reduce the environmental impact of major industries, increase knowledge about environmental issues and improve the assessment of environmental degradation. Seed funding also allows researchers to trial new theories and techniques before embarking on major research projects.*



## Achievements

Nine research projects concluded in 2008-09 with a diverse range of outcomes including:

- improved knowledge of biodiversity through projects on waterbird breeding, vegetation responses to climate change, and freshwater mussels
- new analytical techniques for monitoring herbicides and pesticides, testing for heavy metal toxicity, and identifying the organic fraction of atmospheric fine particles.
- a potential new method for remediating dioxin contaminated soils.

An independent peer review of one of the Trust's previous major research projects, *Better Knowledge: Better Bush*, was completed by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in October 2008. Conducted by CSIRO and concluded in January 2008, *Better Knowledge: Better Bush* aimed to provide

scientific knowledge to support the management of native vegetation that will occur through property vegetation plans.

The NRC found it to be a well-executed and productive project that succeeded in providing high quality, integrated science for native vegetation management in NSW. The final report was considered to present significant new scientific knowledge about native vegetation management, some of which challenged conventional wisdom. This new knowledge is currently being used to improve BioMetric, the decision support tool for property vegetation plans.

The NRC made some recommendations for further synthesis of the project findings into communication products suitable for CMAs and land managers. The Commission also made a number of general recommendations for the management and reporting requirements of future large research projects which the Trust is considering.

The following case studies highlight two of the projects completed this year.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Remediating Dioxin-Contaminated Soils using High-power Ultrasound

The clean-up of contaminated sites is a challenging task, particularly those containing dioxin which is both very toxic and clings persistently to soil particles due to its hydrophobic nature. With a research seeding grant of \$15,700 the University of Western Sydney has successfully demonstrated the feasibility of using high-power ultrasound to clean dioxin-contaminated soils and river sediments.

High-power ultrasound is a green, energy efficient technology that minimises the use of chemicals during treatment. It requires no external heat and does not generate dangerous by-products or uncontrolled emission of pollutants into the environment. Current solutions for remediating dioxin-contaminated sites generally involve excavation and landfilling or thermal technologies.

Researchers used a dioxin surrogate similar in structure to dioxin. Working with real dioxin compounds is expensive due to the high cost of chemical analysis and stringent occupational health and safety requirements. The seeding grant allowed researchers to test the methodology on a less expensive but comparable surrogate before embarking on more detailed research.

The results of the research demonstrate there is a very high likelihood that comparable results will be achieved for dioxin-contaminated soils as for the dioxin surrogate. The project also provided researchers with valuable insights into the process of destruction by the ultrasound and its limitations. It was found that high-power ultrasound eradicates up to 94% of the dioxin surrogate in the first five minutes of treatment but that the rate of eradication then levels off with further treatment (similar to observations of radioactive decay). They also found that although the technique works in all soils, it appears that fine, silty sediments may be more challenging to treat by high-power ultrasound.

With the experience of the dioxin surrogate behind them, the researchers at the University of Western Sydney are now in a position to plan further research using actual dioxin compounds. Presentation of the work at national and international conferences has generated interest in the project and resulted in a number of international collaborators for future work.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Biodiversity Responses to Fire Regimes under Climate Change

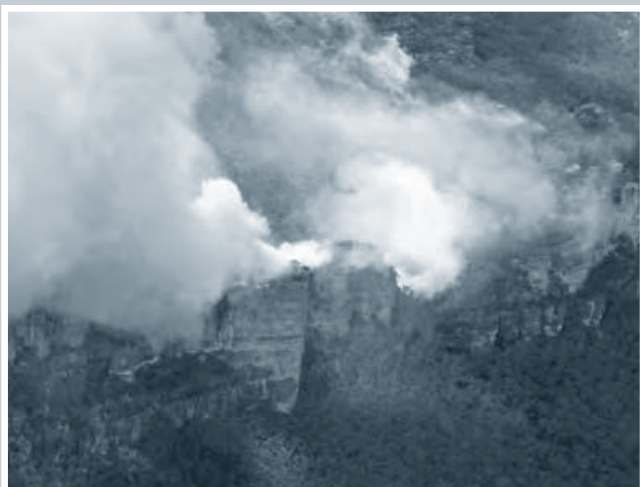
Climate and fire regimes are key drivers of ecosystem dynamics. Climate change will strongly influence these drivers but knowledge of how these changes will affect biodiversity is very limited. With a \$250,000 grant from the Trust, DECCW and the University of Wollongong completed a two-year research project into how climate change and fire regimes may affect ecosystems in the Sydney region and Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

There were three main components to the project. Firstly the current relationships between climate and vegetation across the region were determined. These results allowed examination of the effects of climate change and the predicted increase in fire frequency on vegetation. Secondly, actual vegetation responses to different fire regimes and climatic gradients across the Sydney region were examined to determine if parts of the region are more sensitive to high fire frequency. The third component used remote sensing techniques to investigate the potential for climate change to affect fire regimes directly.

Researchers found that changes in temperature and rainfall are likely to shift the balance between plants that reproduce by re-sprouting and those that reproduce by seeding under hot, dry conditions. This shift may result in compositional and structural changes, with a decrease in shrubs and an increase in herbaceous groundcovers that are more resilient to frequent fires.

The remote sensing analysis indicated that fire regimes in the Sydney region are likely to be highly sensitive to changes in 'fire weather' which was shown to have a greater influence on fire intensity than terrain or fuels. Hotter and drier conditions will therefore favour more intense fires.

As with much of the current research into climate change, the study acknowledged that there are limitations to the results due to the large uncertainties in predicting the magnitude and direction of changes, particularly rainfall. However the project has made a significant contribution to the knowledge of expected biodiversity changes in the Sydney region and will be valuable in planning for biodiversity conservation under climate change.



*A bushfire in the Blue Mountains*



*A eucalypt regenerating after fire*

# Environmental Research Grant Programs 2008-09



The Trust allocates \$1,000,000 annually to the Environmental Research Grants Program (\$900,000 for major grants and \$100,000 for seeding grants).

Major grants were awarded through a two-stage application process. Approximately 60% of funds were allocated for the major category of Air while the balance was split between the two minor categories of Biodiversity, and Hazardous Substances and Waste. A total of 70 expressions of interest were received for the major grants with the Trust's Research Committee inviting 16 full applications. Eleven major research projects were funded to the value of \$1,047,394 with projects varying from one to three years in duration (Table 9).

Seeding grants were available for up to \$20,000 for 'proof of concept' projects that seek to test the viability of a research idea. This is the third year these grants have been offered.

Although 14 applications were received for seeding grants, only two were awarded to a total value of \$39,772 (Table 10). The Technical Committee felt that the concept of the grants was still not well understood by applicants. Only projects that demonstrate they are testing a novel concept, technique or indicator can be considered under this program. The Committee determined that many of the seeding applications this year represented small research projects rather than 'proof of concept' testing. The Committee has agreed to give further consideration to improvements or changes to the research seeding grants in the coming year.

Table 9

## Environmental Research Grants Awarded in 2008-09

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Museum	Monitoring the Response of NSW Bivalves to Changed Environment	State-wide	\$17,800
CSIRO Land and Water	Ecotoxicology of Manufactured Nanoparticles in Natural Waters	State-wide	\$99,998
CSIRO Energy Technology	Fine Particle Carbon Fraction: Limits of Control	State-wide	\$199,550
CSIRO Energy Technology	Sustainable Energy Planning to Reduce Environmental Impacts	State-wide	\$199,800
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	Assisted Colonisation to Maintain and Restore Grassland Ecosystems	State-wide	\$100,000
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	Conservation Management Under Climate Change	Bega Valley	\$99,426
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	Assessing the Vulnerability of Coastal Wetlands to Sea level Rise	Various	\$99,980
Sydney Institute of Marine Science	Expatriation of Tropical Fishes to NSW: Climate Change Effects	Various	\$95,066
University of Newcastle	Understanding Micro-evolutionary Response to Disturbances	State-wide	\$16,875
University of Sydney	Restoring the Ecosystem: Storage of Carbon in Soil by Microbes	Various	\$98,990
University of Wollongong	'Sponge Watch': Assessing the Utility of Sponges as Biomonitoring	State-wide	\$19,909
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,047,394</b>

Table 10

## Environmental Research Seeding Grants Awarded in 2008-09

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	Lead Isotope Finger Printing for Sample Matching	Auburn	\$19,930
University of Western Sydney	Tracking Down a Biodiversity Killer – the Red-eared Slider Turtle	State-wide	\$19,842
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$39,772</b>



## Major Program Grants

*Projects funded under this program are typically large-scale projects involving a number of stakeholders, and encompass both restoration and rehabilitation objectives and educational objectives. These projects are led by DECCW and overseen on behalf of the Trust by appointed subcommittees with membership from stakeholder groups.*

This was the second year for three major projects that are funded under the Major Environmental Grants program for a period of four years:

- Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (\$7 million over four years)
- Clean Air Healthy Communities Program (\$5 million over four years)
- Land Alive: Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity Program (\$5 million over four years).

### Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

The Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative is a long-term strategy that aims to maintain and improve connectivity and conservation for mountain ecosystems of the Great Dividing Range from southern Victoria to far north Queensland. The Trust funds the 1,200-kilometre section of the program in NSW. The initiative draws together various community, industry, government and non-government programs to strengthen the resilience of natural ecosystems in the face of climate change and ongoing threats.

The Trust provided \$2.7 million to the Initiative this year, with strong progress being made in achieving the approved objectives, goals and milestones for the project. In particular, this year has seen the establishment of partnerships in an additional three priority areas – the Southern Highlands, Hunter Valley and Border Ranges. This builds on the two previous regional partnerships established in southern NSW during the first year of the project (Kosciusko to Coast and Slopes to Summit).



*Workshop in April 2009 with Great Eastern Ranges project partners*

Within these priority areas the project team is working with over 60 partner organisations to develop and implement a wide range of integrated community awareness strategies, conservation plans and rehabilitation programs on private land. These partnerships aim to improve connectivity conservation on private land and to buffer and connect core protected areas along the conservation corridor. Aboriginal partnerships have commenced through the provision of grants for three pilot projects in the Border Ranges.

A communications strategy has been developed to ensure effective long-term communication with stakeholders and the community. Work this year has focused on raising awareness within the tourism industry of the GER Initiative by working with Tourism NSW and tourism operators. A comprehensive website is in development to promote the value of the Great Eastern Ranges as a nature-based tourism destination and promote the aims of the GER Initiative.

The GER Initiative is one of Australia's few continental-scale conservation initiatives and has been highlighted through two external communication products. It has been included as a case study in the first global guide book on continental-scale connectivity conservation, to be published in 2009 by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas. Under a grant agreement to the IUCN, the Australian Geographic Society also produced a short film titled *Our Vision for the Great Eastern Ranges*. The film premiered at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008 and has been distributed to key agencies and stakeholders to promote community awareness, support and involvement in the GER Initiative.

Progress is underway to develop a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework that includes outcomes for biodiversity as well as social benchmarks. A landmark report by independent scientists, led by Australian National University, has been completed on the scientific principles for continental-scale connectivity conservation of the Great Eastern Ranges.

Planning is underway for the first national conservation and environment CEOs forum on Linking Landscapes in October 2009. This event will provide an outstanding opportunity to promote the GER Initiative as a national cross-border conservation priority to mitigate the impacts of climate change on Australia's richest assemblage of biological diversity.

Key activities for the next 12 months include consolidating partnerships, increasing community awareness and developing a vision and options for future governance of the initiative.





*Vapour recovery technology will be rolled out to petrol stations in 2010*

## Clean Air Healthy Communities

The Clean Air Healthy Communities (CAHC) Program consists of a suite of projects that aim to improve air quality and community health. The focus of the program is on reducing vehicle emissions, increasing vehicle efficiencies, and promoting initiatives that contribute to cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions in NSW. The program received \$1.3 million in funding from the Trust this year and has had a number of major achievements.

### Air Education Support

An air education campaign was developed this year with targeted direct promotion, public relations and a communication partnership approach. One element of the campaign involves a partnership with councils to roll out air education across NSW. An air education resource kit has been finalised for production, along with the continued development of the Clear the Air website which will be completed in late 2009.

### Diesel Retrofit

More than 70 vehicle retrofits were carried out in 2008-09 despite the impact of the global financial crisis which meant that many participants had fewer funds for retrofitting activities. In partnership with the RTA, the project also started development of an innovative fuel use monitoring device for heavy vehicles. The device will allow in-vehicle measurement of the emission reductions achieved as a result of installing various fuel saving technologies.

### FleetWise

This project helps fleet operators reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing cleaner vehicles, minimising travel, and operating fleets efficiently. This year FleetWise completed a pilot project for its light vehicle component that involved four project partners and over 1,000 vehicles. The pilot achieved an 11.5% reduction in fleet-related greenhouse

gas emissions. Following the success of the pilot, from July 2009 FleetWise is being rolled out as part of the DECCW Sustainability Advantage Program, starting with a workshop in July 2009.

Work began this year on program design for the heavy vehicles component of FleetWise. Transport consultants have advised on a number of options for developing FleetWise heavy vehicles. The FleetWise website was also finalised this year and now features a range of online tools to help fleet operators measure and progressively reduce their vehicle emissions.

### Low Emissions Air Project (LEAP)

The LEAP project aims to reduce the emission of volatile organic compounds by smash repair workshops. The project has established a benchmark of emissions of volatile organic compounds from smash repairers in the Sydney Basin with assistance from vehicle manufacturers. A range of options that could be implemented to reduce emissions have been developed.

### On Your Bike

The On Your Bike project aims to increase the rate of participation and safety of cycling. Three high-profile Active Transport Conferences were successfully staged in July and August 2008 in partnership with the Premier's Council for Active Living. The conferences included a keynote address from Mr Christian Wolmar, a renowned international sustainable transport expert. The outcomes from these conferences have been used in developing the new NSW BikePlan.

On Your Bike continued its close collaboration with Bicycle NSW in 2008-09, expanding the Ride2Work and Ride2School Programs. It also conducted research into the barriers to participation in cycling which provides a foundation for future education campaigns.



## Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments (SMILE)

This year SMILE finalised an innovative study using market research techniques to develop a better understanding of the choices made by different groups of transport users. The study resulted in the development of a draft profiling tool to predict which sustainable mobility initiatives are likely to be most effective based on demographic characteristics and transport availability.

Results from the draft profiling tool will be tested through a demonstration project with Randwick City Council. Randwick is an ideal demonstration site because it has a diverse range of transport consumers and a large proportion of the population who travel by three modes of transport.

## Stage 2 Vapour Recovery

This project involves installing vapour recovery technology at petrol service stations to reduce the emissions of volatile organic compounds. A draft regulation and guidelines were prepared this year following consultation with key stakeholders. Following submissions, a number of changes to the regulation were made, and technical and testing issues were resolved with the assistance of industry.

Progress has been made towards the planned roll-out of vapour recovery technology in 2010. A compliance and monitoring framework for the upgrade of service station facilities has been completed. Based on industry consultation it was decided to delay the roll-out of the new technology by six months to allow for trials.

## Woodsmoke Management Workshops

This project runs workshops for council staff to give them the skills and knowledge to regulate against excessive smoke from chimneys, improve wood heater installation practices and carry out community education campaigns.

Workshops were held in Coffs Harbour, Queanbeyan, Western Sydney and Sydney, which were attended by 51 participants from 31 councils in NSW. Over the past two years, a total of 120 officers from 66 councils have attended the woodsmoke management workshops. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with the majority finding the workshops well-organised, well-presented, and the information useful.

## Evaluation and Monitoring Framework

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework was developed for the CAHC Program, based on the recommendations of the CAHC Subcommittee. The CAHC Evaluation and Monitoring Project Plan and individual project evaluation and monitoring frameworks were completed through a series of meetings with CAHC project coordinators.

## Land Alive: Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity

Land Alive aims to build the capacity of Aboriginal land owners in land management for biodiversity. The project works with Aboriginal land owners to build knowledge and understanding of the biodiversity and cultural values of their land, develop experience in conservation programs and deliver accredited training in conservation land management to the Aboriginal community. It also assists Aboriginal land owners to successfully participate in the BioBanking scheme as a way of balancing cultural obligations as land stewards with broader socio-economic aspirations.

With funding of \$1.46 million from the Trust in 2008-09, the Land Alive project supported the development of five management plans for Local Aboriginal Land Councils and commenced training for 30 Aboriginal trainees in Conservation and Land Management. A project titled Connecting Culture to Biodiversity also began which will document and verify Aboriginal cultural resource use in north-eastern NSW. The Land Alive project also started work on a land management database including entry of land management information and training Local Aboriginal Land Councils in its use and maintenance.

It is important for Aboriginal land owners to be engaged with the development of relevant government programs and policy. To assist this, Land Alive has funded the NSW Aboriginal Land Council to establish a dedicated position that will work alongside DECCW to make the BioBanking Scheme accessible and understood by the Land Council network.



*LandAlive brochure*

# Waste Program

*The Trust has been responsible for administering all waste-related programs and funding since 2005. The Waste Program is designed to support the implementation of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.*



2008-09 was the final year of the current funding framework that was established for the Waste Program in 2005-06. Through this program, the Trust has been one of the key players in driving progress in waste and sustainability outcomes. The program supports the NSW Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy which sets key targets for reducing waste and making better use of resources in NSW. It is overseen by the Waste sub committee of the Trust which provides advice and recommendations to the Trust on strategic issues, allocation of funds and progress of programs.

Over the past three years, clear progress has been made towards achieving waste and sustainability targets. Strong partnerships have developed particularly with local government (Household Chemical CleanOut, Regional Illegal Dumping [RID] Squads, Regional Organisations of Councils

and Sustainable Choice programs), the Department of Education and non government schools (Sustainable Schools program) and with business and industry (Sustainability Advantage program).

A total of \$10.7 million was provided to the DECCW Sustainability Programs Division in 2008-09 for delivery of the Waste Program (Table 11). A brief report on some of the program's achievements this year follows.

A new proposal for funding, approved by the Trust in May 2009, will provide continued funding for waste-related programs until June 2012. The new program recognises that many initiatives are now delivered from a sustainability perspective and it will therefore be renamed the Waste and Sustainability Program to better reflect the range of projects and outcomes.

## Table 11

### Waste Program in 2008-09

Program Area	Funding Approved
Coordinated Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Waste Reduction	\$1,840,000
Education Programs (including schools)	\$675,000
Improving Waste Separation on Construction Sites	\$150,000
Litter and Illegal Dumping Enforcement	\$220,000
Local Government Programs	\$865,000
Materials Production and Dissemination	\$650,000
Recycled Organics Market Development	\$750,000
Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads	\$460,000
Specific Waste Streams, including Household Hazardous Waste	\$2,250,000
Supporting Regional Waste Programs	\$1,590,000
Waste Intelligence and Analysis	\$1,225,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,675,000</b>

## Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up

Aboriginal Lands Clean-up Projects aim to facilitate a partnership between Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) and local governments to develop collaborative projects that address the social and environmental issues of illegal dumping on Aboriginal-owned lands.

To date, \$740,000 has been provided to 16 Local Aboriginal Land Councils in partnership with their respective councils to achieve the following objectives:

- clean up illegally dumped materials on Aboriginal owned lands
- deter illegal dumping across the project area
- maximise recycling and resource recovery from the illegally dumped materials
- foster relationships between Aboriginal communities, local and state government and community groups.

Following completion of the four original pilot projects last year, two additional pilot projects were completed in 2008-09. Penrith City Council and Deerubbin LALC made significant improvements to land owned by the LALC through the removal of asbestos. The training of members of the local Aboriginal community in asbestos removal and subsequent potential for further employment opportunities was one of the key outcomes of this project.

Greater Taree City Council and Purfleet LALC specifically targeted the removal of litter and illegally dumped material within a community setting, the first project of this nature. Not only did this project result in the removal of litter and illegally dumped waste, but it also resulted in increased community involvement and pride. Further waste education initiatives by the Greater Taree City Council have worked to ensure long-lasting environmental and community outcomes.

Following the completion of these pilot projects, the Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Program moved to a mainstream grant program. Four projects commenced in 2008-09 between Kempsey Shire Council and Kempsey LALC, Wyong Shire Council and Darkinjung LALC, Gilgandra Shire Council and Gilgandra LALC, and Eurobodalla Shire Council and Mogo LALC.

Six additional Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Projects were approved during 2008-09 to fund on-site activities in Warren, Penrith, Kempsey, Ballina, Eurobodalla and Nambucca.

Since its inception the Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Program has resulted in the reuse of 2,524 tonnes of waste material, the recycling of 97.5 tonnes of metal, concrete, brick, glass and whitegoods, and the disposal of 480 tonnes of mixed waste (including 198 tonnes of asbestos).



*Undertaking a survey of mixed waste*

## Commercial and Industrial Waste Survey

A comprehensive survey of the commercial and industrial waste stream in the Sydney metropolitan area was completed in 2008-09. Involving six landfill sites and six transfer stations, the survey included gate house surveys, visual assessment of mixed and single material loads and a weight-based garbage bag survey from predetermined industry sectors.

The survey provided information about the composition and tonnage of the waste stream for key industry sectors, waste generation and disposal by region, and the proportion of organic carbon and packaging materials. Over 2.2 million tonnes of commercial and industrial waste was sent to Sydney landfills during 2007-08, with 78% of this coming from mixed loads. The main materials in the mixed loads were garbage bags (18.7%), wood (16%), food (14.6%), plastic (12.5%), paper and cardboard (11.8%) and construction and demolition materials (9.6%). Since the last survey in 2003 the amount of construction and demolition material has halved but there has been a substantial increase in food waste being generated from small to medium businesses and the manufacturing and retail sectors.

Single material loads generally consisted of contaminated soils and residues from processing sites, with small quantities of non-contaminated soil, glass, hazardous materials and vegetation. Small to medium sized businesses (45%) and the manufacturing industry (19%) were the largest contributors of waste to landfill in Sydney with the main materials being garbage bags, plastics, wood, paper and cardboard, and food. A comprehensive report on the findings of this major survey will be published in late 2009.

## Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living

DECCW works in partnership with the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECC NSW) and currently employs 20 bilingual educators to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of sustainable living in a culturally appropriate context. With funding of \$125,000 from the Trust in 2008-09, the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living project delivered workshops and field trips in eight languages to 2,100 participants from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.



Information stalls and interactive activities were featured at 21 community and cultural festivals, reaching a further 3,000 people. ECC's environmental programs were recognised this year when ECC received the Community Sustainability Award and the prestigious Premier's Sustainability Award for the best environmental sustainability project at the 10th Green Globe Awards. The Award recognises the range of programs supported by DECCW at the ECC; which includes the Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project, the Asian Dry-Cleaner Energy Reduction program and Saving Water in Asian Restaurants Project.

*Learning with Ethnic Communities: An Educator's Guide* has been developed as a resource and will be promoted to local government sustainability officers through workshops in 2009-10. The guide will build environmental educators' capacity to develop projects in partnership with ethnic communities.

## Recycled Organics

Recycled Organics projects received \$550,000 this year to focus on the environmental and economic benefits to farmers and others who use compost. A four-year cost benefit trial carried out in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries concluded this year with a number of important outcomes for farmers.

Composted mulch was found to enhance the productivity of low yielding areas in Central West vineyards by evening out production. The temperature buffering effect of the compost in the soil and in the canopy was found to increase both productivity and water savings. The trial also demonstrated that composted soil conditioner is an effective alternative to chicken manure for growing vegetables in the Sydney basin, improving productivity and causing fewer environmental impacts. The use of composted soil conditioner also dramatically reduced the runoff of phosphorous from vegetable plots compared to the commonly used chicken manure. The outcome of these trials was a contributing factor in the allocation of substantial Federal government money for the purchase of compost to establish a 'Nutrient Smart Farms' program in the Hawkesbury – Nepean basin.

A number of trials have been undertaken this year on playing fields. Results have been incorporated into Sydney Water's guidelines *Improving the Sustainability and Playability of Open Space Turf Areas in Sydney*. The trials resulted in a number of new or amended guidelines for managing sandy soils, using compost to avoid soil compaction and using compost incorporation techniques for turfed areas. New turf guidelines highlight the benefits of recycled organics and encourage councils to buy back the composted material which is processed from raw organics through kerbside collections.

Compost has a distinct role to play in combating climate change and DECCW has commenced gathering data to support and model compost's contribution to soil carbon sequestration. A comprehensive database and an annotated literature review has been compiled which is being presented nationally.



Hardwood floor made from recycled electricity poles

## Resource Recovery

The Resource Recovery Program partners with local government, industry and recyclers to find innovative ways to recycle or reuse products that would otherwise contribute to landfill. Some of the achievements from the program, which received \$253,000 in funding during 2008-09, are detailed below.

### Recycling of Bridge Timbers and Utility Poles

In partnership with the Timber Development Association, DECCW has established protocols for separating and preparing recovered timber and poles that have been treated with copper chrome arsenate. The protocols provide a guide to the safe and effective marshalling of this material to the recycler Australian Architectural Hardwoods. The Roads and Traffic Authority and Integral Energy were major participants in the project. Over a 12-month period Integral Energy recovered and recycled 868 power poles saving 1,500 tonnes of timber going to landfill. The timber is reused in a variety of products including garden stakes, hardwood floors and commercial sawdust.

### Mattress Recycling

Unwanted mattresses are often illegally dumped and those disposed of in landfill take up enormous volumes of space. Once buried in landfill they often move, causing safety and logistical problems for equipment and personnel. The Resource Recovery team has been instrumental in facilitating mattress recycling in NSW between recycling contractor Dreamsafe and major stakeholders including landfill operators, councils and voluntary waste groups. Around 7% of collected mattresses are in good condition and can be sanitised and passed on to charities for resale. The remaining mattresses are separated into their component materials – polyurethane foam and wadding are compacted for manufacture into carpet underlay, wood from bed bases is mulched and steel frames and springs are sold to metal recyclers. As a result of this initiative 100,000 mattresses are now being recycled each year in Sydney.

## Recycled Paper Guides

Two guides that will help printers, graphic designers and businesses wanting to use recycled content office paper and printing paper were updated this year. The *Know Your Paper* guide provides a list of all recycled office papers that are available in Australia, up-to-date product and performance information, supplier contacts and information on environmental impacts and recycling. The *Know your Printing Paper* guide contains similar information for the use of recycled paper within the printing industry for publications, brochures and stationery products. The printing guide is endorsed by the Printing Industries Association of Australia.

## CleanOut Household Chemical Collections

The success of the CleanOut program continues to grow each year. Working in partnership with local government, it allows businesses and the community to dispose of common household chemicals while raising awareness of their potentially hazardous nature. In 2008-09 CleanOut held 40 collections throughout the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions collecting 819,718 kilograms of household hazardous waste from 24,598 households. Since its inception in 2003 the program has conducted 301 collections and assisted 112,420 households with the disposal of nearly 4 million kilograms of hazardous waste.

## RID Squads

The Trust provided \$460,000 to support two Regional and Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads to prevent and investigate illegal dumping and landfill incidents. The Western Sydney RID Squad was established in 1999. Six member councils (Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith) have formed a partnership to ensure illegal dumping is addressed through a combined regional strategy. In 2008-09 the squad investigated 2,819 incidents involving in excess of 2,192 tonnes of illegally dumped waste. Investigations resulted in 16 Clean-up Notices and 396 Penalty Notices being issued.

The Greater Southern RID Squad is a partnership between Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Eurobodalla Councils, DECCW and the Sydney Catchment Authority. In 2008-09 the squad investigated 598 illegal dumping incidents involving 7,161 tonnes of waste. Investigations resulted in 34 Clean-up Notices and 78 Penalty Notices being issued.

## Sustainability Advantage

Sustainability Advantage is a holistic sustainability program that helps medium to large organisations to identify, prioritise and implement environmental projects that add value to the business. Now in its third year of operation, the number of participants has grown to 305 organisations that employ over 100,000 people in NSW. The program had a budget of \$941,150 for 2008-09.

Members receive support in the form of workshops and training, technical advice and the facilitation of clusters that allow participants to share ideas and find solutions to common issues. There are 32 clusters of Sustainability Advantage members operating across NSW, from sectors as diverse as building products manufacturing, agribusiness, hospitality, health and aged care, tertiary education, community services and government.

Over the past three years the Sustainability Advantage Program has helped participants to deliver significant financial and environmental improvements. These include annual reductions of 13,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions as a result of savings in electricity and gas use, water savings of 170 million litres and reduced waste to landfill of 17,100 tonnes.

During 2009, more than 30 Sustainability Advantage members, representing some of NSW and Australia's biggest building products manufacturers, forged a unique alliance with the Waste Management Association of Australia under the badge of the Industrial Ecology Network. This Network successfully held Australia's inaugural Australasian Industrial Ecology Conference in July and is currently actively engaged in opportunities to recover and utilise over 200,000 tonnes of industrial by-product wastes. For example, targeted industrial wastes including 100,000 tonnes of crushed glass fines, 30,000 tonnes of fibre cement, 15,000 tonnes of foundry sands and 15,000 tonnes of timber offcuts are currently being trialled as alternative raw materials and fuel for the building and construction sector. Key objectives of the Network include:

- Increase industrial recycling by more than 1 million tonnes in next 3 years
- Increase employment, job growth/retention in the resource recovery industry
- Inject millions into new infrastructure.

Further achievements from the Sustainability Advantage Program in 2008-09 are also detailed below.

## Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver

During 2008-9, Sustainability Advantage was enhanced by the introduction of Sustainability Advantage Energy Saver. Supported by the Climate Change Fund, Energy Saver provides subsidised energy audits and other technical support to Sustainability Advantage participants. In its first four months of operation Energy Saver helped NSW organisations identify energy savings opportunities that could lead to over \$3 million in cost savings and save 21,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions.



The first 13 organisations to be recognised as Sustainability Advantage Bronze Partners were congratulated by Minister Tebbutt on World Environment Day, 5 June 2009. Bronze Partner is the first of five levels of recognition available to participants in the Sustainability Advantage Program.

Pictured with Minister Tebbutt are representatives from Converga, De Bortoli Wines, Focus Press, Inghams Enterprises, Koppers Australia, Ontera Modular Carpets, Marquis Bathroom Products, Rondo Building Services, Schindler, Sydney Markets, TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute, Tarkett and The Austral Bricks Company.



## Sustainable Property Guide

A Sustainable Property Guide was designed and developed by DECCW in partnership with Colonial First State Global Asset Management. The guide is an online resource specifically for commercial building owners and service providers such as property agents and building managers. It contains comprehensive step-by-step guidance, checklists and worksheets to integrate ecologically sustainable development into property portfolios.

## Regional and Local Government Support

The Trust provided \$1.47 million to DECCW to work with local councils to improve their waste management and resource recovery practices. This is achieved through RENEW NSW, a network of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups who collectively represent 96 rural regional councils. The groups meet regularly to collaborate on rural regional waste issues, identify programs to reduce landfill and optimise resource recovery. During 2008 RENEW NSW developed a three-year strategic plan (2009-2012) to progress cross-regional programs that link waste management and resource recovery with broader sustainability issues.

The eight regional groups developed Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Plans for the next three years. A key focus of these plans is resource recovery in the commercial and industrial sectors, and linking waste-related actions to other environmental issues such as water savings, conservation of resources, greenhouse gas emissions and soil health.

Some of the achievements of the Voluntary Regional Waste Groups in 2008-09 include:

- A number of councils worked together to tender for joint regional recycling contracts. Griffith and Leeton Councils commenced the first kerbside recycling service in the Riverina region in November 2008. Gloucester, Greater Taree and Great Lakes Councils will commence a new service in November 2009 that will streamline current waste and recycling collections and provide a new green waste collection. Tamworth, Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah Councils also joined together to extend kerbside recycling services throughout the region.
- North East Waste Forum conducted a region-wide trial collection of e-waste that resulted in 68 tonnes of waste being diverted from landfill. The trial was supported by a survey that revealed a large amount of e-waste still exists in sheds, office storerooms and schools.
- Midwaste conducted a recycling trial in two caravan parks that showed 8% of organic material and 49% of recyclable material was recoverable. A three-bin recycling system was established for the collection of waste and the program will now be extended to all caravan parks across the region.
- NetWaste completed domestic waste audits, data modelling and a community survey to gather information on the waste disposal habits of their communities. The data will be used to develop a tool that will help regional councils to estimate the volume and composition of domestic waste likely to be produced by their communities. The calculator will be provided to all rural regional councils in 2009-10.
- The exchange website [www.yours2take.com.au](http://www.yours2take.com.au) developed by Riverina Eastern group allows people to exchange unwanted products that are too good to discard. The site continues to receive between 4,000 – 8,000 visits per month with 430 items having been exchanged in the last year.
- Eight Garden Smart workshops attended by 312 people were held across the Riverina region in October 2008. Due to the overwhelming success of the workshops the participating councils are now considering holding them on an annual basis.



## Climate Change Fund

*The Trust's grant to the Climate Change Fund forms part of the NSW Government's \$340 million fund for households to become energy and water efficient. The three-year program will contribute \$4.5 million to Climate Change programs that are consistent with the Trust's objectives.*

The Trust's contribution to the Climate Change Fund is evenly proportioned between the Schools Energy Efficiency Program and the Public Facilities Program. Both programs will receive a total of \$2.25 million over three years.

### Schools Energy Efficiency Program

This program is implemented by the Department of Education and Training NSW (DET) and DECCW and aims to see all government schools in NSW reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve their sustainability. The Schools Energy Efficiency Program will deliver a range of measures to generate significant electricity savings and fund student initiatives in energy efficiency.

Key elements of the program are \$20 million from DECCW for a full lighting retrofit for up to 150 high schools, and \$5 million from DET for the Climate Clever Energy Savers to support project-based learning for sustainable energy use and greenhouse gas emission reduction in NSW government schools.

Lighting upgrades were completed for 16 schools in 2008-09 at a total cost of \$2.3 million. It is expected these upgrades will generate energy savings of about 14% (777 megawatt hours per year, equivalent to 824 tonnes of carbon dioxide) with a 28% reduction in lighting costs. Planning is underway for the upgrade of 24 large high schools in 2009-10.

### Public Facilities Program

This program provides funding for water and energy savings in NSW educational facilities and other public facilities. The program aims to overcome barriers to improved water and energy efficiency by bridging the gap between the upfront cost of investment and the return of savings. The program is open to local councils, schools and NSW government agencies and non-government organisations providing public or educational facilities on a non-profit basis.

The successful projects from Round 1 of the Public Facilities Program were announced in September 2008. Trust funding has been allocated to the following four projects which are considered to be consistent with the Trust's objectives.

#### Coffs Harbour City Council

This project will provide a retrofit of Rigby House which houses the two busiest public facilities in Coffs Harbour – the Regional Art Gallery and the City Library. The retrofit will deliver the first solar-powered public building in the region by installing a grid of solar panels on the roof. The system is designed to supply up to half of the energy requirements of the building and save more than 120 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year. Council will use the project to increase the community's awareness of the practical application of sustainable technology. Council has called for tenders to supply and install the 100-kilowatt photovoltaic rooftop system and the contract is expected to be awarded in October 2009.

#### Bland Shire Council

Bland Shire Council is building a major stormwater harvesting system to irrigate several of its public facilities, including sports fields, parks, gardens and street landscaping. The project is designed to drought-proof the town of West Wyalong, and restore a degraded wetland to the bird sanctuary that it once was. The project, which will save 15 million litres of water a year, will be achieved through a partnership between Bland Shire Council, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, Lachlan CMA, local schools and the Tidy Towns Committee. The first stage of the project has been completed with the de-silting and enlargement of a dam at McCann Park to allow for greater water storage during rain events. A communication and education plan has also been developed to facilitate engagement with local stakeholders and the community.



*McCann Park stormwater harvesting project at West Wyalong*

## University of New South Wales

The Lowy Cancer Research Centre will be a world-class research facility for the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia and cancer researchers from the UNSW Faculty of Medicine. The Centre is due for completion in September 2009. This project will install a gas-fired cogeneration unit on the roof of the Centre to provide hot water and electricity for the building and heat for an absorption chiller. The unit will reduce peak power demand by 770 kilowatts and save 1,700 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year. The University is currently obtaining development approval with work expected to commence in late 2009.

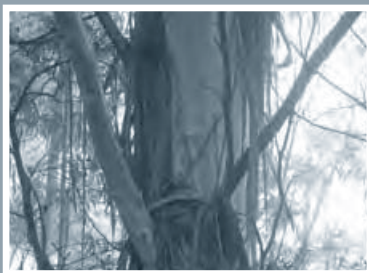
## Mogo Zoo

As part of a major water saving program, Mogo Zoo will capture, treat and reuse wastewater to clean animal enclosures. A water treatment system will be installed to recycle waste water for cleaning and irrigation, and rainwater tanks will provide water for use in toilets, the laundry and hose taps. This project will significantly reduce potable water use at the Zoo and will be complemented by an education program to showcase the water recycling facilities to schools, local businesses and visitors. The Zoo is currently in the process of obtaining development approval for the work.

Table 12

## Climate Change Fund Payments in 2008-09

Lead Organisation	Amount
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	\$1,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>



## Private Native Forestry Program

*This five-year program commenced in 2007-08 to support the implementation of the new Private Native Forestry Code of Practice. This code establishes a regulatory framework for the sustainable management of native forests on private land by ensuring that operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes.*

The Private Native Forestry Program provides assistance to the forestry industry to implement the Private Native Forestry (PNF) Code of Practice and adjust to its new requirements. The funding package comprises:

- \$29.3 million available for an industry structural adjustment program to help businesses which become unviable and workers made redundant due to implementation of the PNF Code
- \$4 million for training and accreditation of forestry workers, landowners and logging operators
- \$3.7 million to accelerate and support implementation of the PNF Code and PNF package.

A total of 805 PNF property vegetation plans representing 249,296 hectares were approved in 2008-09 to allow landholders to undertake private native forestry operations on their land. 90 operations were inspected for monitoring and audit purposes, and minor non-compliance issues have been addressed. Investigations of two potential breaches of the code are currently ongoing.

\$29.3 million was allocated to the PNF Industry Assistance Program to help sawmills, harvest and haulage contractors and timber companies that have been significantly affected by the PNF Code to leave the industry. Applications for assistance closed in May and successful applicants will be announced in late 2009.

An accredited course in Sustainable Private Native Forestry has been developed in partnership with TAFE NSW and is currently being delivered on the North Coast and in Deniliquin. The course focuses on the protection of soil, water and biodiversity, and forest cultivation practices relevant to the code.

Field days for landholders and contractors have been developed by the Department of Primary Industries to increase awareness of the PNF Code and promote interest in native forestry to landholders as part of their farm business. Pilot field days were held in June-July 2009 on the north coast, southern highlands and northern tablelands.

Educational resources to support training and assist landholders to comply with the code have been developed by DECCW. A field guide includes cultivation techniques, measurement of stand basal area, preparation of a forest operation plan and an illustrated guide to the PNF Code. The guides will be available through the DECCW website and the Department's extension officers.

New legislation is currently being developed which will remove private native forestry from the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. The new legislation will provide a framework for the long-term management of forestry on private land and will retain the existing PNF Code. In 2008 DECCW sought input from stakeholders on the new legislation through the Natural Resource Advisory Council PNF Working Group. Proposals for the draft legislation are being considered by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Minister for Primary Industries.

In February 2008 the Government granted access for PNF landholders to the Sustainable Farming Grants (available under the Native Vegetation Assistance Program). From July 2009 landholders affected by the PNF Code will also have access to the Farmer Exit Assistance Package (also part of the Native Vegetation Assistance Program). A revised three-year business plan will govern the package from 1 July 2009.



*Recently harvested forest*

## Table 13

### Private Native Forestry Payments in 2008-09

Lead Organisation	Amount
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	\$1,921,000
Department of Primary Industries	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,021,000</b>

# Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

*This new program will support the establishment of biobanking agreements and the purchase of new reserves on land in Western Sydney and surrounding regions.*



This is the first year of operation of the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. It will provide funding of \$397.5 million over the next 30-40 years for biodiversity offsets outside the Growth Centres. The environmental objectives of the program are to contribute to the protection and long-term recovery of bushland, endangered native vegetation and threatened species in the Cumberland Plain, protect areas with Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and improve the functioning of waterways and rivers through the retention and enhancement of vegetation.

The North West Growth Centre is approximately 10,000 hectares and lies within Baulkham Hills, Blacktown and Hawkesbury local government areas. It will be supported by a major centre at Rouse Hill and will contain about 70,000 new homes. The South West Growth Centre lies within Liverpool, Camden and Campbelltown local government areas and covers approximately 17,000 hectares (the same size as Canberra). It will be centred on Leppington, and have capacity for around 110,000 new homes.

Access to this funding is linked to the biodiversity certification of the *Growth Centres State Environmental Planning Policy* which provides the planning framework for

the new development. The certification allows for threatened species issues to be resolved at the strategic planning stage rather than at the development application stage. This provides a more streamlined and cost effective land release process and more strategic conservation outcomes.

The certification requires funding to be allocated annually based on the rate of predicted lot production and land values within the Growth Centres. This is to ensure that offsets are provided at a rate that approximates that of biodiversity loss through development. Funding for offsets will therefore start at a low level and build as the rate of development and biodiversity loss increases.

The Trust will provide an annual grant to DECCW to implement the program primarily through conservation agreements on private land (biobanking agreements) and new reservations under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. A four-year business plan has been prepared for the period to 2008-12 with an expected funding of \$7.145 million for this period.

## Table 14

### Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program Payments in 2008-09

Lead Organisation	Amount
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	\$260,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$260,000</b>





# Urban Sustainability Program

*The Urban Sustainability Program helps councils and other eligible organisations to improve sustainability in urban areas. It focuses on a number of important issues including urban water management, resource conservation, urban creeks and bushland, environmental quality and organisational performance.*

This was the third year of the five-year Urban Sustainability Program. After three rounds of funding a total of \$78.1 million has been allocated to 102 projects that address current sustainability challenges through on-ground action and strategic planning.

The Urban Sustainability Program aims to improve:

- Urban water management, focusing on stormwater and urban runoff, to achieve sustainable water quality and conservation outcomes.
- Resource conservation through effective waste management, avoidance, reuse and recycling; and support for sustainable products and services.
- Urban bushland and creeks, providing opportunities for urban wildlife to flourish and improving habitats for rare and endangered flora and fauna.
- The quality of the local urban environment, through integrated approaches that resolve air quality, noise, odour, chemical use, biodiversity, litter and dumping issues.
- The performance of local councils, businesses, community organisations and householders in urban areas regarding sustainability issues.

A total of 122 councils and eight Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) are now participating in projects funded under the Urban Sustainability Program. Case studies highlight the achievements of two innovative projects that are currently in progress.

Councils (or alliances of councils) may apply to the Trust for three types of funding:

- Seed funding helps councils to develop local sustainability plans in partnership with their local community, and also allows councils to work together on common issues across local boundaries.
- Major project grants are for projects that will resolve various environmental issues and will deliver sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes.
- The Urban Waterways Initiative provides funding for projects addressing sustainability in the priority urban catchments of the Cooks, Georges, Hawkesbury Nepean, Central Coast/Lower Hunter and Sydney Harbour catchments.

Round 3 saw the approval of 14 major projects worth \$20,401,580 and ten Urban Waterways projects worth \$8,653,022 (Tables 15 and 16). Applications were accepted for a further round of seed funding to the value of \$500,000 in 2009. There will be no further call for applications for the major projects and Urban Waterways components.

The Trust continued to provide high-level support to grant recipients in the management of funded projects. Cluster meetings continued throughout 2008-09, providing opportunities for information exchange and learning among project managers. Business planning workshops were also held in February 2009 for all new projects, with 43 council representatives attending.

The following are some of the new projects that were funded in 2008-09.

## Our Living Coast Regional Sustainability Initiative

### Coffs Harbour City, Bellingen Shire and Nambucca Shire Councils

Our Living Coast will work through regional partnerships to develop a planning framework that addresses both institutional and community change for sustainability. The project will develop a regional sustainability route map which will set directions for sustainability, key environmental issues, knowledge management and internal governance. Sustainability will be embedded into council operations and governance systems, while community and business projects will build values and capacity in biodiversity conservation and the linking of everyday actions to key sustainability issues. A key tool in the delivery of this project will be an online sustainability hub.

## Effective Community Education and Engagement for Sustainability

### Ku-ring-gai, Coffs Harbour City, Bathurst – Orange – Dubbo Alliance of Councils, Wyong Shire, City of Sydney and Mosman Municipal Councils

This project is a partnership between six councils, DECCW and research experts to enable effective community education and engagement for sustainability. It explores the integration of community engagement and education with core organisational sustainability planning and practice. This project will shape a vision for the future role of community engagement and education in achieving sustainability in NSW local government and develop a medium to long-term strategy through the implementation of projects by each government partner. A collaborative approach will be used to foster organisational integration between and across partner institutions and the community in order to achieve sustained and systemic change.

## Cooper Park Creek Sustainable Water Project

### Woollahra Municipal Council

Cooper Park Creek is the only significant natural creek system in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. This project will improve water quality in the creek through urban stormwater management, and activate and educate the community through the restoration of the natural creek system. The project will engage with local households, businesses, schools and bush care groups to improve the quality of the local urban environment.

## Water in the Landscape

### Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

This project will engage the general community in regional water issues, broadening the current focus on household water use to include the potential impacts of water supply constraints on environmental values, regional amenity and land uses. The project will use cultural development strategies to engage the community, linking with existing water awareness campaigns and a new regional consultation and advocacy structure. This project will improve community understanding and attitudes towards water saving options and enhance the capacity of the community to advocate for better water solutions. The regional focus and public debate will influence local government and other stakeholders to develop consistent and integrated urban water management strategies.

### ■ CASE STUDIES

#### Reducing the Ecological Footprint of the Eastern Suburbs

Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils are working together on this project to reduce the ecological footprint of their communities and build awareness of sustainable practices.

A major milestone for this \$1.875-million project was completing a stormwater treatment and reuse system on the Rose Bay Promenade in 2008. Stormwater from a 750 metre section of New South Head Road is cleaned of oils, hydrocarbons and sediment by passing through a porous paving system and underlying layers of sand and basalt. Eleven parking bays were retrofitted with underground storage cells that provide 200,000 litres of water for the irrigation of parks, reserves and street trees along the promenade. Early results from the monitoring and evaluation program indicate an annual saving of 1.5 megalitres of potable water a year.

A Home Energy Assessment program has been completed, involving 720 households across the three council areas. Follow-up phone calls have shown that almost all households have implemented at least some simple measures to save energy and some have undertaken more expensive actions or structural changes.

The project is now in the early stages of implementing an organic waste initiative that will collect commercial and residential organic food waste across Randwick and Waverley. The community is also being invited to participate in a 12-month home composting trial. The project is due for completion in 2011.



Rose Bay stormwater treatment and storage cells

#### Groundswell

The Groundswell project, led by Goulburn-Mulwaree Council, is aiming to establish the practical and economic viability of composted urban organic waste as a high-quality,



The Groundswell composting centre at Goulburn

cost effective agricultural fertiliser. With a \$1.986-million grant from the Trust, council and its project partners (Queanbeyan City, Palerang and Lachlan Shire Councils) are pulling organic waste out of the cities for use on farm land, reducing the volume of organic waste sent to landfill and increasing organic levels in agricultural soils.

Food and garden waste is being collected for composting at a rate of 120 tonnes a month from 1,300 households in Condobolin and 9,200 households in the Goulburn – Mulwaree area. An effective communication strategy and education program has resulted in a high level of commitment from the community and low rates of contamination in the collected waste.

The project is seeking to identify the economic benefits of the composted waste to agriculture and develop a permanent market for recycled urban organics. Trials for the use of the composted waste commenced in May 2009 at on-farm sites at Condobolin, Goulburn and Palerang.

The Groundswell project has had a major impact on rural and regional councils and is providing an innovative example of local organics management. The Goulburn composting site has received regular visits from interested councils and composting businesses from as far away as Ipswich in Queensland. The project is due for completion in late 2010.

Table 15

## Urban Sustainability Major Project Grants Awarded in 2008-09

Lead Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Central NSW Regional Organisation of Councils (CentROC)	Growing Capacity in Climate Change Adaptation in Central NSW	All Central NSW Councils	\$778,160
Coffs Harbour City Council	Our Living Coast Regional Sustainability Initiative	Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca	\$1,998,820
Coffs Harbour City Council	Local Food Futures Project	Coffs Harbour, Bellingen	\$249,940
Ku-ring-gai Council	Enabling Effective Community Education and Engagement as a Driver for Sustainability in Local Government	Ku-Ring-Gai, Mosman, City of Sydney, Orange, Bathurst, Dubbo, Wyong, Coffs Harbour	\$1,787,100
Lake Macquarie City Council	Building Sustainable Communities in Lake Macquarie	Lake Macquarie	\$207,132
Lismore City Council	Future-proofing Northern Rivers Urban Communities	Various Northern Rivers Councils	\$1,999,080
Lithgow City Council	Future of Lithgow: Forward into a Sustainable Future	Lithgow	\$250,000
Manly Council	Burnt Bridge Creek Integrated Restoration Program	Warringah, Manly	\$1,997,570
Namoi Regional Organisation of Councils (NamoiROC)	Namoi Sustainability in Action – Green is the new Black	All Namoi Valley Councils	\$1,998,000
New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC)	Biodiversity in High Country Urban Communities	Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Walcha, Uralla	\$2,000,000
Orange City Council	Inspiring and Integrating Change in the Central West Catchment	Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo	\$2,000,000
Sydney City Council	Social Housing Sustainability Partnerships	City of Sydney, Randwick, Marrickville, Canterbury	\$1,750,000
Tweed Shire Council	Improving Urban and Peri-urban Bushland Sustainability in Tweed and Byron Shires	Tweed, Byron	\$1,710,278
Willoughby City Council	Sustainable Business – North Shore	North Sydney, Willoughby, Ku-ring-gai, Hornsby	\$1,675,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$20,401,580</b>

Table 16

**Urban Sustainability Urban Waterways Grants Awarded in 2008-09**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Campbelltown City Council	Urban Sustainability – Sustainable Environment Management Plan (EMP) FOR Campbelltown Golf Course	Campbelltown	\$250,000
Fairfield City Council	Improving Prospect Creek's Riparian Corridor for Water Quality and Habitat	Bankstown, Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd	\$550,766
Lake Macquarie City Council	Improving Lake Macquarie Through Integrated Lake and Catchment Activities	Lake Macquarie, Wyong	\$2,000,000
Leichhardt Municipal Council	Iron Cove Water Quality Improvement Project	Ashfield, Canada Bay, Leichhardt	\$1,617,100
North Sydney Council	Sustainable and Integrated Management of a Highly Urbanised Area that includes Much loved Creeks	North Sydney	\$250,000
Penrith City Council	Werrington Creek Rehabilitation and Community Engagement Project	Penrith	\$250,000
Rockdale City Council	Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative	Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville, Sutherland	\$1,999,506
Wollondilly Shire Council	Urban Waterway Management Framework for Wollondilly LGA	Wollondilly	\$250,000
Woollahra Municipal Council	The Cooper Creek Sustainable Water Project	Woollahra	\$250,000
Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC)	Water in the Landscape Regional Community Engagement for Water Management	All WESROC Councils	\$1,235,650
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$8,653,022</b>





## NSW RiverBank

*NSW RiverBank provides funds to buy and manage water for the rehabilitation and protection of stressed rivers and important wetlands in NSW. It is the largest single program within the City and Country Environment Restoration Program.*

The NSW RiverBank Program has made substantial progress in the acquisition of water licences for environmental water. This year also saw the use of NSW RiverBank adaptive environmental water for the first time in the Gwydir and Murrumbidgee Valleys.

More than \$23.4 million was spent on the purchase of entitlements in 2008-09 under the NSW RiverBank program (Table 17). A total of 22,585 unit shares of General Security entitlement (equivalent to 18,983 megalitres) were purchased in the Gwydir, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murrumbidgee Valleys. NSW RiverBank operates within the existing water market, buying and managing water rights from willing sellers. Licences are held by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and are managed by DECCW on the Minister's behalf.

The objectives of NSW RiverBank are to:

- improve the ecosystem function of wetlands and rivers, including the habitat for water-dependent biodiversity
- rehabilitate wetland habitat for significant water-dependent biota, including floodplain eucalypts, waterbirds, frogs, reptiles and fish
- contribute to meeting the nation's international obligations with respect to wetlands and migratory birds
- improve water management decisions to reflect an understanding of the links between environmental and Aboriginal cultural values.

NSW RiverBank staff contributed to the continuing development this year of a NSW water management planning framework. Water Use Plans prepared in accordance with the *Water Management Act 2000* have

been approved by the previous Department of Water and Energy for the Gwydir, Macquarie and Lachlan valleys and a Water Use Plan for the Murrumbidgee River is subject to approval. These plans, together with non-statutory Annual Watering Plans prepared by DECCW, identify watering priorities according to climatic conditions and available water. This year also saw DECCW and the Commonwealth sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperative use of environmental water holdings for priority wetland sites in NSW.

In November RiverBank water was used to deliver an environmental flow to Whittakers Lagoon, an isolated wetland on the floodplain of the Mehi River in the Gwydir Valley. The lagoon is important wetland habitat and has substantial indigenous cultural values. 90 megalitres of water was pumped to the site with the cooperation of the adjacent landholder. Flooding of the lagoon and subsequent rainfall attracted a number of waterbirds to the wetland including grebes, cormorants, darters, ducks and waders. The delivery of water will contribute to restoration of the lagoon which has become degraded through weed invasion, soil compaction and prolonged drought.

In December 812 megalitres of NSW RiverBank adaptive environmental water was delivered to Yanga National Park and other wetlands on the lower Murrumbidgee River to support recovery of a population of southern bell frogs. The water was used to top-up environmental water of 2,500 megalitres available under the Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan. Yanga National Park contains the most significant populations of southern bell frog in NSW. Following a successful breeding event in 2007-08 it was important to follow-up with further watering in 2008-09 to ensure that suitable habitat was maintained throughout the summer breeding season.



*Whittakers Lagoon after release of an environmental flow.*



*River Red Gums in Yanga National Park*



Table 17

## NSW RiverBank Payments in 2008-09

Catchment	Water Access Licence Type	Unit Shares	Funding	Amount
Gwydir River	General Security	2,698	Fully Funded	\$5,967,976
Gwydir River	General Security	504	Fully Funded	\$1,075,032
Lachlan River	General Security	642	Pay Final Balance	\$394,911
Lachlan River	General Security	1,651	Fully Funded	\$1,015,365
Lachlan River	General Security	675	Pay Final Balance	\$405,000
Lachlan River	General Security	794	Fully Funded	\$476,400
Lachlan River	General Security	1,450	Fully Funded	\$928,000
Lachlan River	General Security	1,900	Fully Funded	\$1,178,000
Lachlan River	General Security	581	Fully Funded	\$348,600
Lachlan River	General Security	400	Fully Funded	\$246,000
Lachlan River	General Security	1,000	Fully Funded	\$620,000
Lachlan River	General Security	250	Fully Funded	\$150,000
Lachlan River	General Security	800	Fully Funded	\$504,000
Lachlan River	General Security	972	Fully Funded	\$583,200
Lachlan River	General Security	133	Fully Funded	\$79,800
Lachlan River	General Security	60	Fully Funded	\$36,900
Macquarie River	General Security	501	Fully Funded	\$616,230
Macquarie River	General Security	310	Fully Funded	\$387,500
Macquarie River	General Security	700	Fully Funded	\$434,000
Macquarie River	General Security	222	Fully Funded	\$277,500
Macquarie River	General Security	574	Fully Funded	\$717,500
Macquarie River	General Security	388	Fully Funded	\$485,000
Macquarie River	General Security	1,000	Fully Funded	\$1,260,000
Macquarie River	General Security	163	Deposit	\$205,451
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	500	Fully Funded	\$605,000
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	500	Fully Funded	\$600,000
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	307	Fully Funded	\$371,470
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	250	Fully Funded	\$302,500
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	960	Fully Funded	\$1,152,000
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	900	Fully Funded	\$1,102,500
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	300	Fully Funded	\$360,000
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	500	Fully Funded	\$600,000
<b>Total Licences Purchased</b>		<b>22,585</b>		<b>\$23,485,835</b>
<b>Administration and other charges</b>				<b>\$2,514,165</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$26,000,000</b>

One unit share at full allocation is equivalent to one megalitre in all valleys except the Lachlan, which has a maximum 0.7 megalitres per unit share.



# Native Vegetation Assistance Program

*The Native Vegetation Assistance Package forms part of the NSW Government's City and Country Environment Restoration Program. It helps landholders who are financially affected by the implementation of the Native Vegetation Act 2003.*

This was the final year of the three-year Native Vegetation Assistance Package which provided funds for three sub-programs: Sustainable Farming Grants, Farmer Exit Assistance and Offset Pools.

Substantial changes were made to the Native Vegetation Assistance Package Business Plan in August 2008 to allow for opening of the package to landholders affected by the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice.

In introducing the PNF Code of Practice, the Government specified that landholders and growers impacted by the implementation of the Code would be able to seek financial assistance through the NVAP. The changes to NVAP provide for PNF landholders by adjusting the existing assistance components of the package. Specific changes to each component are detailed below.

Due to the low demand for some components of the package, including the offset element, the program budget was reduced by approximately \$15 million in November 2008.

## Sustainable Farming Grants

As for other years, this component was managed by the CMAs on behalf of the Trust in 2008-09. In an effort to increase the uptake of Sustainable Farming Grants changes were made to reduce the landholder contribution (previously on a dollar-for-dollar basis) to one dollar for every two dollars of grant money. The maximum grant value was also increased from \$80,000 to \$120,000.

Despite these changes demand for the grants continued to be low across the State. Three grants totalling \$360,000 were approved in 2008-09 for on-ground sustainability improvements including adopting best practice zero-till farming, diversifying livestock and adding to an irrigation project to increase the flexibility of a grazing and farming enterprise. This was an increase on the approved grants for 2007-08.

The program was finalised on the 30 June 2009 with one additional grant still pending approval. Sustainable Farming Grants are still available for eligible PNF landholders until 30 June 2011 or until available funds are expended.

## Farmer Exit Assistance

The Nature Conservation Trust (NCT) of NSW initially received \$12 million for administration and acquisition of properties under the Farmer Exit Assistance Program. Due to its success a further \$5.6 million was allocated this year to fund the acquisition of Hartwood Station (Table 18). The Farmer Exit Assistance Package has been very well received and all available funds have been spent purchasing properties from approved applicants.

Nine applications were received under the program resulting in four acquisitions. The four properties purchased are:

- Kewilpa (purchased January 2007). This 850-hectare property near Casino supports a number of endangered ecological communities and provides habitat for threatened species including the powerful owl, giant barred frog, yellow bellied glider, squirrel glider and an endangered emu population. Approximately 800 hectares of the property will be set aside as a conservation area.
- Estuary Creek (purchased February 2008). This 1,700 hectare property near Grafton supports endangered subtropical coastal floodplain forest, under-reserved forest vegetation and threatened species habitat including squirrel gliders, green-thighed frog and grey-crowned babbler. Approximately 1,650 hectares will be set aside as a conservation area.
- Hartwood Station (purchased November 2008). This 6,700-hectare irrigation and grazing property near Conargo is in the under-reserved Riverina Bioregion. The property has significant areas of floodplain forest and woodland and two endangered ecological communities, as well as threatened plant and animal species, and habitat for the endangered plains wanderer. The property has significant indigenous and non-indigenous heritage values. Approximately 3,400 hectares will be set aside as a conservation area under a strategic grazing regime.
- Carwell Station (purchased February 2009). This 8100-hectare grazing and cropping property is near Quambone in the under-reserved Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion. The property is adjacent to the Macquarie Marshes and has significant areas of native grassland and endangered Myall woodlands. Approximately 7,500 hectares will be set aside as a conservation area under a strategic grazing regime.



*Riverine habitat on Hartwood Station*



*The property of Estuary Creek*

The NCT uses its revolving fund mechanism to place a covenant over purchased properties before putting them back on the market. The NCT has been successful in receiving an offer to purchase the first property Kewilpa for the full asking price, with exchange of contracts taking place in July 2009. The second property of Estuary Creek is currently being marketed for sale and NCT is following up prospects for Carwell and Hartwood Stations while finalising their conservation plans.

As of July 2009 the Farmer Exit Assistance Package has been extended to include eligible landholders affected by the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice. Assistance to both groups of landholders will continue until June 2012.

### Offset Pools

There has been little demand for the Offsets Pool funding program with few expressions of interest received and no applications approved. The Offsets Pool funds are not applicable to the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice and therefore this program closed on 30 June 2009.

Table 18

### Native Vegetation Assistance Program Payments in 2008-09

Sub Program	Organisation	Amount
Farmer Exit Assistance	Nature Conservation Trust	\$5,600,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,600,000</b>



## Dissemination Program

*The Dissemination Program has an annual budget of \$200,000. The program aims to extend the knowledge and experience gained through previous grant projects that have achieved excellent results, to a wider audience, and distributes innovative environmental resources from these projects throughout NSW.*

## Achievements

Eight dissemination projects were successfully completed in 2008-09. A number of different workshop series were held with topics covering the management of off-shore islands, rehabilitation and management of rainforest remnants, bird habitat in urban environments, wetland assessment techniques, and sustainable market gardening. This year also saw publication of a book, various fact sheets and educational signage. The completed projects are detailed below.

Nine new dissemination projects were awarded in 2008-09 for a total value of \$226,590 (Table 19). The Dissemination Program also provides a range of case studies to showcase successful grant outcomes. An additional 10 case studies were added to the Trust's website in 2008-09 bringing the total number of case studies available to 60.

### Shared Island Management Experiences and Restoration of Seabird Nesting Habitat

This project, conducted by the DECCW Parks and Wildlife Group, brought together 21 NSW island managers to share their experiences of managing off-shore island environments. Based on a successful restoration and rehabilitation project that has restored seabird habitat on Montague Island, participants shared information on kikuyu management and the restoration of coastal habitats. Proceedings from the workshop were published along with a case study of the Montague Island experience.

### Rainforest Remnant Rehabilitation Training and Rainforest Walk Interpretation

EnviTE NSW and Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group conducted a highly successful workshop for 36 managers of rainforest remnants. It provided participants with the skills to train others in their local community on the value of rainforest remnants and best practice techniques for their management. A series of key learning documents on site assessment, weed control, and monitoring and evaluation were developed and distributed. Interpretive signage was also installed at a frequently visited rainforest remnant to educate the public about these important areas.

### Koala Habitat Management and Education

Lismore City Council and Friends of Koalas extended a previous Restoration and Rehabilitation grant to produce and distribute a brochure to educate communities on the far north coast about local koala populations and the conservation of koala habitat. 20,000 brochures were distributed through six north coast councils, government agencies and tourist centres. Prominent educational signage was installed at two well-visited tourist locations in Lismore to raise awareness among visitors and the local community about the importance of koala habitat management.



*Brochure on Northern Rivers koalas*



## Birds in Backyards in Regional New South Wales

Birds Australia conducted a series of eleven workshops on urban bird habitat which were attended by 303 people. The workshops provided an opportunity to promote a series of seven guidelines produced as part of their original education grant. The guidelines target different stakeholders such as gardeners, planners and landscape architects. An educational resource kit was also developed to help council staff host Birds in Backyard workshops in their own region.

## Stories of Experience

Stories of Experience: Learning from the Environmental Experiences of Older Australians is the culmination of a previous Education grant to the Council on the Ageing. The 90-page book, which was launched in March 2008, brought together a selection of personal stories from older Australians which highlight some of the environmentally sustainable practices used in the past and how these relate to present environmental issues. Environmental themes include energy use, waste minimisation, transport, biodiversity, water conservation and reuse, and chemical use. Over 550 books were distributed free to NSW libraries and other relevant institutions and 400 copies of the book have been sold to date.

## Providing Automated Fish Passage at Balranald Weir

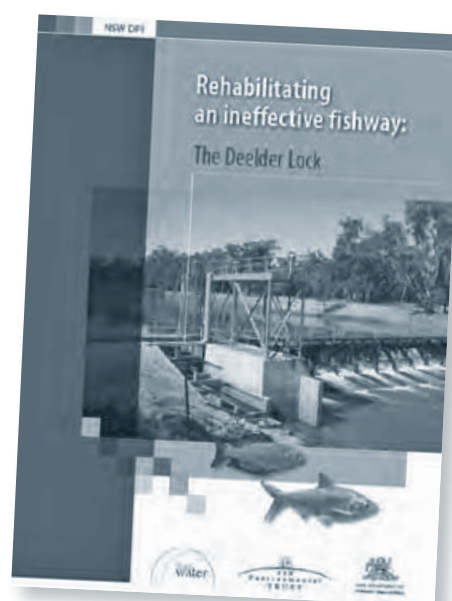
This project was an extension of a former Restoration and Rehabilitation grant which resulted in automation of a fish lock on the Murrumbidgee River. The Department of Primary Industries developed a supporting brochure, signage and a workshop. The workshop was attended by 27 participants and covered the importance of fish passage and the unique operation of the Deelder fish lock. Signage at Balranald Weir, which is visited by 20,000 people annually, illustrates how the lock works and explains why it is important for fish to be able to access large stretches of the river for breeding.

## Estuarine Wetland Assessment Techniques

Wetland Care Australia built upon their Environmental Research grant which developed a scientifically rigorous method for assessing the health of estuarine wetlands. Training in the use of the Estuarine Wetland Health Assessment and Investment Prioritisation technique was delivered to 66 participants across three workshops at Nowra, Belmont and Port Macquarie. The workshops effectively facilitated and supported collaboration, cooperation and network building between those working in wetland management.

## Agricultural Education Partnership Program

This project by the Department of Primary Industries delivered training to 184 non-English speaking background (NESB) market gardeners operating within the Sydney basin. Workshops were conducted for Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese and Cambodian market gardeners about methods and techniques to reduce their impacts on the environment. A series of multilingual brochures produced through the original Education grant were updated and distributed to councils with NESB market gardeners.



Brochure on the Balranald fish lock

## Table 19

## Dissemination Projects Awarded in 2008-09

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Amount
DPI and Richmond Valley Council	Saving Aquatic Habitats in Stormwater Drains	A workshop and guidelines for the management of stormwater drains as habitat for threatened Oxleyan pygmy perch and other species.	\$16,000
Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust (DECCW)	Cape Byron Sustainability Trail	A 'sustainability trail' comprising education signage and visitor brochures to raise awareness of the extensive work that has been done in the Cape Byron area.	\$19,000
North Sydney Council	Building Regional Partnerships	A workshop, manual and fieldtrip that will encourage Sydney-based councils to develop partnerships with rural councils and Landcare groups for environmental rehabilitation projects in regional locations.	\$23,500
Byron Shire Council and North East Waste Forum	Eco-friendly Youth Centres	Workshops and mentoring program to encourage youth service providers to integrate waste reduction and energy and water conservation practices into youth centre programs and management.	\$30,000
Ocean Watch	TAngler Fishing Line Recovery Bins	Installation of at least 40 fishing line recovery bins on inland waterways, and education of regional recreational fishers on the use of the bins to reduce littered fishing line.	\$45,690
DECCW	Biodiversity Responses to Fire Regimes under Climate Change	A booklet on ecosystems, climate change and fire regimes for land managers and the community.	\$25,000
Gosford City Council and Australian Plant Society	Long-stem Planting Guide	A guide for land managers and community groups on the benefits of long-stem planting in rainforest, riparian zones, coastal dunes and saline environments.	\$25,000
Nature Conservation Working Group	Bush Stone-curlew Conservation Enhancement	Workshops and educational resources to enhance existing efforts to protect bush stone-curlew populations.	\$24,700
Wetland Care Australia	Estuarine Wetland Assessment Techniques	Wetland workshops to provide training in wetland health assessment and prioritisation.	\$17,700
Total			<b>\$226,590</b>

# Other Trust Programs



## Lead Environmental Community Groups

The Trust has committed \$300,000 per annum to this program since 2006-07 which recognises the value and environmental benefits delivered by non-government organisations (NGOs). Environmental organisations that meet the Trust's seven eligibility criteria may apply for funding under this program to help with the administrative expenses of running the organisation.

Trust funded Lead Environmental Community Groups must demonstrate they work to value, conserve and protect the natural environment through:

- actively involving the community in projects to protect and enhance the natural environment
- raising community awareness and understanding of environmental issues, and gathering information on such issues to bring about behavioural change across the community
- being effective advocates in expressing the community's environmental concerns
- being actively involved in environmental program and policy development with governments and industry bodies.

Grants are awarded every three years. A new round of grants was advertised in March 2009 for funding in 2009-10. This year the Trust offered \$600,000 with grants of up to \$80,000 per year available.

## BioBanking Trust Fund

In 2008-09 the Trust became the fund manager for the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (known as BioBanking). This market-based scheme provides an opportunity for rural landholders to generate income by managing land for conservation. By entering into formal commitments to conserve the biodiversity values of their property, landholders are given biodiversity credits. These credits can then be sold to those seeking to secure conservation outcomes, such as developers needing to offset environmental impacts, philanthropic organisations, corporations and government.

The BioBanking public registers were launched in July 2008 and 28 expressions of interest have been received from landholders interested in establishing a biobank site. No BioBanking transactions have occurred yet. The public registers are available on the BioBanking website ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking)).

More than 100 people have attended training to become BioBanking assessors. Of these, 42 have been accredited – 27 external consultants and 15 DECCW staff. The use of accredited assessors ensures consistency in the application of the assessment methodology.

As at 30 June 2009, no funds have been received into the BioBanking Trust Fund and no transactions have occurred.





# Finance



# NSW Environmental Trust



GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Environmental Trust

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Environmental Trust (the Trust), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement and a summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2009, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

#### The Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A Act. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Trust's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Trustees, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Trust,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

#### Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



Peter Achterstraat  
Auditor-General

20 October 2009  
SYDNEY

## Environmental Trust


### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

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Pursuant to Section 41C(1C) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and in accordance with a resolution of the Environmental Trust, we state that:

- a) the accompanying financial report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2009 and the transactions for the period then ended, and
- b) the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005*, and the Treasurer's Directions.

Further, we are not aware of any circumstances, which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



John Robertson MLC  
Chairperson  
20 October 2009



Lisa Corbyn  
Secretary  
12 October 2009



**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST****BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****OPERATING STATEMENT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	1,919	1,482	1,705
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	89,647	92,464	89,290
<b>Total Expenses excluding losses</b>		<b>91,566</b>	<b>93,946</b>	<b>90,995</b>
Less:				
Revenue				
Investment revenue	3(a)	1,239	1,323	2,405
Other revenue	3(b)	1,017	300	343
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>2,256</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>2,748</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	13	<b>89,310</b>	<b>92,323</b>	<b>88,247</b>
Government Contributions				
Recurrent appropriation	4	86,792	88,695	86,945
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<b>86,792</b>	<b>88,695</b>	<b>86,945</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(2,518)</b>	<b>(3,628)</b>	<b>(1,302)</b>

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST****STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009**

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE</b>				
<b>RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY</b>		-	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year		(2,518)	(3,628)	(1,302)
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR</b>	9	<b>(2,518)</b>	<b>(3,628)</b>	<b>(1,302)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	14,082	10,829	14,457
Receivables	7	1,387	2,492	2,492
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>15,469</b>	<b>13,321</b>	<b>16,949</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>15,469</b>	<b>13,321</b>	<b>16,949</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	8	4,025	2,987	2,987
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,025</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>2,987</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>4,025</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>2,987</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>11,444</b>	<b>10,334</b>	<b>13,962</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Accumulated funds	9	11,444	10,334	13,962
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>11,444</b>	<b>10,334</b>	<b>13,962</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Grants and subsidies		(88,643)	(92,464)	(88,835)
Other		(4,387)	(1,732)	(4,103)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(93,030)</b>	<b>(94,196)</b>	<b>(92,938)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Interest received		1,482	1,323	1,999
Grants and Subsidies		-	-	-
Other		4,381	550	2,020
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>5,863</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>4,019</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Government</b>				
Recurrent appropriation	4	86,792	88,695	86,945
<b>Total Cash Flows from Government</b>		<b>86,792</b>	<b>88,695</b>	<b>86,945</b>
<b>NET CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	13	<b>(375)</b>	<b>(3,628)</b>	<b>(1,974)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>				
Opening cash and cash equivalents	6	14,457	14,457	16,432
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>14,082</b>	<b>10,829</b>	<b>14,457</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

## SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL DIRECTIVES

	2009				2008			
	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
<b>Original budget Appropriation/expenditure</b>								
Appropriation Act	88,695	86,792	-	-	86,969	86,945	-	-
Additional Appropriations (Mini Budget)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 24 – Transfers of functions between Departments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/from another agency (section 27 of the Appropriation Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/from another agency (section 28 of the Appropriation Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>88,695</b>	<b>86,792</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,969</b>	<b>86,945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Appropriation/expenditure</b>								
Treasurer's advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Recurrent to Capital Allocations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/ From Another Agency (section 31 of the Appropriations Act)	<b>(1,167)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>87,528</b>	<b>86,792</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,969</b>	<b>86,945</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Amount drawn against appropriation</b>		<b>86,792</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>86,945</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>LIABILITY TO CONSOLIDATED FUND</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>

The summary of compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund moneys are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed).



## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### (a) Reporting Entity

The Environmental Trust, constituted by the Environmental Trust Act 1998 as a reporting entity, comprises the normal operating activities of the Environmental Trust, namely supporting the environment.

The Environmental Trust is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) with no cash generating units. The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

This financial report has been authorised for issue by the Trust during October 2009.

#### (b) Basis of Preparation

The Trust's financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations);
- the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Regulations;
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies issued by the Treasurer.

Financial statement items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimates made by management are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial report.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

#### (c) Income recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable.

Income is recognised when the Trust has control of the good or right to receive; it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Trust; and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably. All the Trust's revenue arises from its operating activities. When the unused part of a grant is returned to the Trust, it is recognised as other income. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for recognition of income are discussed below.

##### (i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies

Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies (including grants and donations) are generally recognised as income when the Trust obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations/contributions. Control over appropriations and contributions are normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

An exception to the above is when appropriations are unspent at year end. In this case, the authority to spend the money lapses and generally the unspent amount must be repaid to the Consolidated Fund in the following financial year. As a result, unspent appropriations are accounted for as liabilities rather than revenue.

##### (ii) Investment revenue

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and measurement*.

#### (d) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where:

- the amount of GST incurred by the Trust as a purchaser, that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

#### (e) Receivables

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Short term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

An allowance for impairment of receivables is established where there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due.

#### (f) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Trust and other amounts, including interest. Payables are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Short-term payables with no stated interest are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

**(g) Budgeted amounts**

The budgeted amounts are drawn from budgets as formulated at the beginning of the financial year (State Budget) and with any adjustments for the effects of additional appropriations under s.21A, s.24, and/or s.26 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*.

The budgeted amounts in the Operating Statement and the Cash Flow Statement are generally based on amounts disclosed in the NSW Budget Papers (as adjusted above). However, in the Balance Sheet, the amounts vary from the Budget papers, as the opening balances of the budgeted amounts are based on carried forward actual amounts, i.e. per the audited financial statements (rather than carried forward estimates).

**(h) Early adoption of standards**

At reporting date a number of Australian Accounting Standards have been issued by the AASB but are not yet operative. These have not been early adopted by the Trust. These standards have been assessed for their possible impact on the financial report, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

**(i) Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge**

The maintenance of the Trust's accounting records and provision of other administrative services is provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The fair value of such services is charged to the Environmental Trust.

**2. EXPENSES****(a) Other operating expenses:**

Auditor's remuneration-audit of financial report	28	29
Communication costs	-	-
Minor plant, stores and supplies	5	5
Information dissemination costs	55	109
Personnel services	1,812	1,535
Travel	19	27

**2009**  
**\$'000**

**2008**  
**\$'000**

**1,919**

**1,705**

**(b) Grants and subsidies:**

Grants provided to federal government	418	358
Grants provided to state and local governments	76,836	72,525
Grants provided to community/school groups	8,706	11,559
Grants provided to Consolidated Fund for initiatives under the <i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995</i>	3,687	4,848

**89,647**

**89,290**

**3. REVENUES****(a) Investment revenue**

Interest on bank account	1,239	2,405
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**1,239**

**2,405**

**(b) Other revenue**

Other	1,017	343
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**1,017**

**343**

#### 4. APPROPRIATIONS

##### Recurrent appropriations

Recurrent draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)

Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)

##### Total

##### Comprising:

Recurrent appropriations (per Operating Statement)

##### Total

2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
86,792	86,945
-	-
<b>86,792</b>	<b>86,945</b>
86,792	86,945
<b>86,792</b>	<b>86,945</b>

#### 5. SERVICE GROUPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

##### Service Group Competitive Grants and Major Programs

**Service Description:** This service group covers grant funding to community groups, Aboriginal organisations, research bodies, and state and local government agencies to undertake restoration and rehabilitation, education, research and urban sustainability initiatives. It also provides grant funding to government agencies for programs addressing key environmental initiatives and government priorities.

#### 6. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank and on hand

Cash at T-Corp

Closing Cash or cash equivalents (as per Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement)

585	695
13,497	13,762
<b>14,082</b>	<b>14,457</b>

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and short term deposits.

Cash Assets recognised in the Balance Sheet are reconciled to cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement as follows:

#### 7. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

##### Current

Debtors

Accrued Income

Interest receivable

GST claimable

-	-
-	-
243	883
1,144	1,609
<b>1,387</b>	<b>2,492</b>

No provision for doubtful debts has been made as all amounts are considered to be collectable.

#### 8. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

##### Current

Creditors

Accrued expenses

285	54
3,740	2,933
<b>4,025</b>	<b>2,987</b>

## 9. CHANGES IN EQUITY

### Accumulated Funds:

#### Balance at the beginning of the financial year

Surplus/(deficit) for the year

#### Balance at the end of the financial year

2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
13,962	15,264
(2,518)	(1,302)
<b>11,444</b>	<b>13,962</b>

## 10. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

### (a) Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 30 June 2009 (2008 – nil).

### (b) Operating expenditure commitments

The Trust's commitments totalling approximately \$127.2 million (2008 – \$70.0 million) for the funding of Trust's environmental initiatives are proposed to be financed from future funding provided by the NSW Government. The commitments (inclusive of applicable GST) are as follows:

#### Not later than one year \*

State and Local Government Grants

Community Grants and Other

#### Total (including GST)

60,573	48,494
2,785	3,410
<b>63,358</b>	<b>51,904</b>

#### Later than one year but not later than five years \*

State and Local Government Grants

Community Grants and Other

#### Total (including GST)

63,181	17,226
692	894
<b>63,873</b>	<b>18,120</b>
<b>127,231</b>	<b>70,024</b>

\* As a consequence of the Goods and Service Tax (GST), a contingent asset is included in the commitments above. The value of this contingent asset is \$4,168,447, which represents commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised in the statements as liabilities.

## 11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2009 (2008 – nil).

## 12. BUDGET REVIEW

### (a) Net cost of service

The actual net cost of services was \$89.3 million compared to a budget of \$92.3 million. The two main factors that impacted on the actual result were delays in expected expenditure and higher miscellaneous revenue during the year.

### (b) Assets and Liabilities

Total assets were \$2.1 million higher than the budget and total liabilities were \$1.0 million higher than the budget. Assets increased due to the higher cash holdings as a result of the lower than budget expenditure of the Trust and higher miscellaneous revenue during the year. Liabilities increased due to higher than expected accruals at year end.

### (c) Cash Flows

The net decrease in cash holdings was \$3.2 million lower than the budget. Primarily due to delays in expected expenditure and higher receipts (including miscellaneous revenue) during the year.

### 13. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET COST OF SERVICES

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	(375)	(1,974)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(1,038)	(486)
(Decrease)/increase in receivables	(1,105)	1,158
Cash Flows from Government appropriations	(86,792)	(86,945)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(89,310)</b>	<b>(88,247)</b>

### 14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the Trust's operations or are required to finance the Trust's operations. The Trust does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The Trust's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the Trust's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial report.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Audit Committee on a continuous basis.

#### (a) Financial Instrument Categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount 2009 \$'000	Carrying Amount 2008 \$'000
Class :				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6	N/A	14,082	14,457
Receivables (1)	7	Receivables (at amortised cost)	243	883
			<b>14,325</b>	<b>15,340</b>
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount 2009 \$'000	Carrying Amount 2008 \$'000
Class :				
Payables (2)	8	Financial Liabilities (at amortised cost)	4,025	2,987
			<b>4,025</b>	<b>2,987</b>

(1) Excludes Statutory Receivables

(2) Excludes Statutory Payables

#### (b) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Trust's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Trust. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Trust, including cash, receivables and authority deposits. No collateral is held by the Trust. The Trust has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Trust's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. Authority deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.



## Cash

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the NSW Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11am unofficial cash rate, adjusted for a management fee to NSW Treasury. The TCorp Hour Glass cash facility is discussed in para (d) below.

## Receivables and Trade Debtors

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectibility of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. This evidence includes past experience, and current and expected changes in economic conditions and debtor credit ratings. No interest is earned on trade debtors. Sales are made on 30 day terms.

The Trust is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. No provision for doubtful debts has been made as all amounts are considered to be collectable.

2009	total	Past Due but not Impaired	Considered Impaired
< 3 Months Overdue	-	-	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2008			
< 3 Months Overdue	-	-	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-

The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7.

## (c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. The Trust continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets.

The Trust's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment.

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Trust's financial liabilities, together with the interest rate exposure.

Maturity Analysis and interest rate exposure of financial liabilities

Interest Rate Exposure		Maturity Dates		
2009	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
Payables:				
Creditors	N/A	285	-	-
2008				
Payables:				
Creditors	N/A	54	-	-

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities, therefore the amounts disclosed above will not reconcile to the balance sheet.

#### (d) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Trust's exposures to market risk are primarily through price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour Glass Investment facilities. The Trust has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the Trust operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2008. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

#### Interest rate risk

This risk is minimised by undertaking mainly fixed rate borrowings, primarily with NSW TCorp. The Trust does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available for sale. Therefore for these financial instruments a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The Trust's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

\$,000					
	Carrying Amount	-1%		+1%	
		NCOS	Equity	NCOS	Equity
<b>2009</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,082	141	(141)	(141)	141
Receivables	243	2	(2)	(2)	2
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	285	3	(3)	(3)	3
<b>2008</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,457	145	(145)	(145)	145
Receivables	883	9	(9)	(9)	9
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	54	1	(1)	(1)	1

### Other Price Risk – TCorp Hour Glass Facilities

Exposure to 'other price risk' primarily arises through the investment in the TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities, which are held for strategic rather than trading purposes. The Trust has no direct equity investments. The Trust holds units in the following Hour-Glass investment trusts:

Facility	Investment Sectors	Investment Horizon	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 2 years	13,497	13,762

The unit price of each facility is equal to the total fair value of net assets held by the facility divided by the total number of units on issue for that facility. Unit prices are calculated and published daily.

NSW TCorp as trustee for each the above facility is required to act in the best interest of the unitholders and to administer the trusts in accordance with the trust deeds. As trustee, TCorp has appointed external managers to manage the performance and risks of each facility in accordance with a mandate agreed by the parties. However, TCorp, acts as manager for part of the Cash Facility. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

Investment in the Hour Glass facilities limits the Trust's exposure to risk, as it allows diversification across a pool of funds, with different investment horizons and a mix of investments.

NSW TCorp provides sensitivity analysis information for each of the facilities, using historically based volatility information. The TCorp Hour Glass Investment facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss and therefore any change in unit price impacts directly on profit (rather than equity)

		Impact on profit/loss	
	Change in unit price	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility	+/- 5.35%	722	936

### (e) Fair Value

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. As discussed, the value of the Hour Glass Investments is based on the Trust's share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility, based on the market value. All of the Hour Glass facilities are valued using 'redemption' pricing.

## 15. AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

There are no known events that would impact on the state of affairs of the Trust or have a material impact on the financial report.

**End of Audited Financial Statements**

# Appendices



## Statement of Affairs and Administration of the Trust

Indicators of activity in administering the Trust

	2007-08	2008-09
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives <sup>1</sup>	\$84 million	\$86 million
Number of major programs	6	5
Number of grant programs running	13	13
Number of current major projects	10	6
Number of new grant projects approved and started	206	195
Number of applications/expressions of interest processed <sup>2</sup>	509	551
Number of grant payments processed	406	416
Number of emergency pollution clean-ups funded	33	50

### Notes:

1. Does not include spending on forestry restructuring under the Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995.
2. Total includes applications invited/received as a result of the Expression of Interest stage.

The Environmental Trust, under Section 15 (5) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, waived the condition requiring a grant to be expended within three years after it is made for the following grants:

- CSIRO Land and Water – Do NSW Biosolid Guidelines Permit Harm to Soils and Food Production?
- Friends of the Colo Incorporated – Willow Control and Monitoring in the Colo River and its Catchment
- Jindabyne East Residents Committee – Restore Rushes Creek Gorge, Jindabyne Creek and Connecting Lake Foreshore
- Mid Macquarie Landcare Incorporated – Restoration and Rehabilitation of Vegetation and Biodiversity in the Mid Macquarie Landcare Region
- Nature Conservation Working Group – Extending Curlew Populations and Habitat across the Murray
- NSW Department of Primary Industries – Construction of a High and Low-flow Fishway at Brewarrina Weir
- Orama Rivercare Association – Rehabilitation of Upper Bellingier Riparian Zone at Darkwood
- Parc Menai Bushcare Group – Rehabilitation of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest at Parc Menai
- Parramatta City Council – Protection of Endangered Remnants and Wetland at Duck River Stage 3
- Shoalhaven City Council – Restore and Extend Habitat for 18 Vulnerable Species/Communities
- Singleton Shire Landcare Network – Implementation of Catchment and Rivercare Plans in the Upper Hunter
- Southern Councils Group – Coral Tree Removal in the Jamberoo Valley
- TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute Ryde College – Restoring Florence's Hideaway – Blue Gum Forest at Ryde Hospital
- University of New England – Cross-cultural Education on Traditional Harvesting Practices
- University of Sydney – E-flora: a Botanical Resource for Environmental Educators
- Waverley Council – Rehabilitation of the East Coast Habitat Corridor of Waverley Council
- Wollongong City Council – Puckey's Estate Threatened Vegetation Restoration Project
- Kiama – Business Treading Lightly
- Marrickville – Cooks River Sustainability Initiative
- Parramatta – TBL – A Model for Industrial Sustainability in the Duck River Catchment
- Ashfield – Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway – Making Sustainability Work
- Bankstown – Mid Georges River Sustainability Initiative
- Wyong – Tuggerah Lakes Integrated Urban Stormwater Management
- Marrickville – Collaborative Planning for Sustainable Irrigation in Marrickville

## Structure and Management of the Trust

The Trust consists of three parts and is guided by the governance structures outlined in the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*: Trust members, Trust committees and support staff within the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW). The Trust funds the costs incurred in administering the Trust's programs, including staff salaries. The Department also provides all support services for the Trust, such as finance, human resources and information technology.

Day-to-day management of the Trust's programs and activities is the responsibility of the Environmental Funding Programs Section within DECCW's Sustainability Programs Division. The section's major tasks are:

- promoting and managing the Trust's grants programs
- coordinating assessments by the Trust's technical committees
- servicing Trust meetings, technical committees and subcommittees to facilitate good decision making
- negotiating grants and agreements and paying grants
- monitoring and acquitting funded projects
- disseminating and promoting successful Trust-funded projects
- managing the Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program and
- reviewing and evaluating the Trust's programs and procedures.

## Grants Administration

All grants have conditions attached, covering matters such as the project timetable, grant payments, progress and final project reports, financial reports, project variations and other administrative requirements. Except where a project is of a short duration or small amount, the Trust pays the grants in instalments in advance.

The Trust's technical committee representatives review project progress and final reports. This is a means of keeping the Trust progressively informed about the quality of the work and the outcomes of each project. Where appropriate, a copy of the final report is placed in the DECCW Library.

All major programs are overseen by program-specific Trust subcommittees. These subcommittees provide input into the development of program business plans, monitor program implementation and progress and provide ongoing advice to the Trust.

## Organisational Performance

Trust administration staff work wholly within the administration of DECCW and are therefore part of organisational performance programs of that Department. These include occupational health and safety, ethnic affairs priorities, Aboriginal affairs priorities, action planning for women, equal employment opportunity and disability planning. Environmental impact reduction programs that include waste reduction and purchasing, resource recovery and recycled material are also included. Further information on these issues can be found in the DECCW Annual Report for 2008-09.

## Assets

The Trust does not have any physical assets that require risk management or associated insurance activities, as it utilises the resources of DECCW.

## Risk Management

The Trust's risk management includes independent grant assessment processes, formal authorisation and payment procedures under explicit delegated authority, written grant agreements and approved business plans with grantees. A clause in the grant agreements indemnifies the Trust, and there are processes for tracking the progress of grants and payments of grants, a procedures manual and regular audits of procedures.



# Contact Information



## Public Access

Further information on the NSW Environmental Trust can be obtained by contacting:

### Grants Administrator

PO Box 644  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Telephone (02) 8837 6093

Information on the Trust's Grant Programs is also available on the Trust's website at [www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au)

## Offices

The Trust office is located at:

Level 2  
1 Fitzwilliam Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

The office is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday.

## Publications

The following publications are available from the Trust:

- *Guidelines and grant application forms for all 2009 programs*
- *Environmental Trust Annual Reports from 1992-93 to 2007-08.*

550 copies of the 2008-09 Annual Report have been produced at an external production cost of approximately \$16 per copy. The report is also available to download from the Trust's website at [www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au).

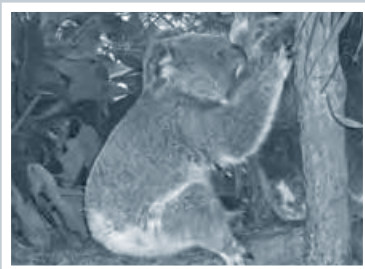
A range of case studies highlighting successfully completed grant projects are available from the Trust's Dissemination webpage at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/casestudies.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/casestudies.htm)

## Freedom of Information

Documents held by the Trust fall into three categories – publications, working files, and grant applications.

Publications are freely available. The other types of documents are available as set out in the *Freedom of Information Act 1999*. Any member of the public who wishes to obtain documents under the Freedom of Information (FOI) provisions should contact the FOI/Privacy Officer at DECCW on (02) 9995 6497.

There were no freedom of information requests during 2008-09.



## Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust and Committees

As defined in Section 6 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust consists of five members. They are:

- Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Chairperson)
- Secretary of NSW Treasury
- Director General of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by the Nature Conservation Council (NCC)
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by the Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW (LGSA).

The Trust met four times in 2008-09.

### Members of the Trust and Meeting Attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
The Hon Carmel Tebbutt MP	(Chairperson) Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water (statutory appointment)	4	4
Mr Michael Schur	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)	4	4
Permanent Deputy: Ms Lindsey Williams	Director, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, NSW Treasury	4	4
Ms Lisa Corbyn	(Secretary) Director General, DECCW (statutory appointment)	4	4
Mr Rob Pallin	Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW	3	4
Delegate:	Mr Don White	1	1
Cr Genia McCaffery	Representing the Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW	2	4
Delegate:	Ms Kirsty McIntyre	1	1
Delegate:	Mr Robert Verhey	1	1

## Trust Subcommittee Membership

The Trust had seven subcommittees in operation under Section 9(3) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* during 2008-09 to assist with the management of its major projects and programs. Trust subcommittees provide input into the development of project and program business plans in consultation with external stakeholders, oversee program governance arrangements and provide ongoing advice to the Trust. Membership of each subcommittee follows.

### Clean Air Healthy Communities Subcommittee

**Mr Tom Grosskopf**

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

**Mr Henry O'Clery**

Director Future Climate Australia

**Mr Jack Haley**

Vehicle Policy Specialist, NRMA Motoring and Services

**Cr Genia McCaffery**

President Local Government and Shire Associations of NSW and Mayor North Sydney Council

**Mr Bruce Dowdell**

Senior Environmental Specialist, Roads and Traffic Authority

**Ms Joanna Quilty**

Senior Manager Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Transport

**Mr Michael Wright**

General Manager StateFleet Services, NSW Department of Commerce

**Mr Peter Dixon**

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECCW

### Contaminated Land Management Subcommittee

**Mr Craig Lamberton (Chairperson)**

Director Specialised Regulation, DECCW

**Mr Peter Dixon**

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECCW

**Mr Jeff Smith**

Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Defenders Office

**Mr Robert Verhey**

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

**Dr Michael Staff**

Director Environmental Health Branch, NSW Health

**Mr Adam Capon**

Manager, Health and Risk Assessment, NSW Health (Deputy for Vicki Sheppard)

**Ms Kylie Lloyd**

NSW Manager, Golder and Associates

### Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Subcommittee

**Mr Tom Grosskopf**

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

**Dr Graeme Worboys**

Vice Chair IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

**Mr Norman Laing**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

**Ms Lorraine Cairnes**

Hon. Secretary, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

**Ms Bronwyn Petrie**

Representing the NSW Farmers Association

**Prof Chris Dickman**

Professor in Ecology, Sydney University

**Dr Judy Henderson**

Chair, Northern Rivers CMA

**Mr Peter Dixon**

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECCW

**Cr Jan Barham**

Mayor Byron Bay

**Mr Ashley Love**

President Coffs Harbour – Bellingen Branch, National Parks Association of NSW

### Land Alive (Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity) Subcommittee

**Mr Tom Grosskopf**

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

**Mr Norman Laing**

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

**Ms Kathryn Ridge**

Solicitor Director, Ridge and Associates

**Ms Yvonne Stewart**

Chairperson Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee

**Mr Jason Ardler**

Former Executive Director Cultural Heritage Division,  
DECCW

**Mr Peter Dixon**

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECCW

## Native Vegetation Assistance Program Subcommittee

**Mr Tom Grosskopf (Chairperson)**

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

**Mr Tim Ferraro**

General Manager, Central West CMA

**Mr Stephen Griffith**

General Manager, NSW Rural Assistance Authority

**Dr Regina Fogarty**

Director Extensive Industries Development, NSW  
Department of Primary Industries

**Mr Bill Stanhope**

Principal Adviser, NSW State Treasury

**Mr Rob Dunn**

CEO Nature Conservation Trust of NSW

**Mr Jim Adams**

CEO Timber Communities Australia Ltd

**Ms Phyllis Miller**

Convenor, Natural Resource Advisory Council

**Mr Peter Dixon**

Manager Environmental Funding Programs,  
DECCW

## NSW RiverBank Subcommittee

**Ms Lisa Corbyn (Chairperson)**

Director General DECCW and Trust Secretary

**Mr Simon Smith**

Deputy Director General Climate Change Policy and  
Programs, DECCW

**Mr Gordon Leggoe / Mr Bill Stanhope**

Principal Financial Analyst/ Principal Adviser, NSW Treasury

**Ms Anthea Kerr**

Senior Principal Policy Officer, The Cabinet Office NSW

**Mr Digby Jacobs**

Manager River Works and Management, NSW Department  
of Water and Energy (now DECCW)

**Mr Austin Whitehead**

Director Water and Resources Policy, NSW Department of  
Primary Industries

**Prof Richard Kingsford**

Professor of Environmental Science, University of NSW

**Dr Terry Hillman**

Member of the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group

**Mr Howard Jones**

Chair, Murray Wetlands Working Group

**Mr Mike Young**

Research Chair Water Economics and Management,  
University of Adelaide

**Mr George Warne**

CEO State Water

## Waste Subcommittee

**Ms Lisa Corbyn (Chairperson)**

Director General DECCW and Trust Secretary

**Dr Tony Wilkins**

Manager Environmental Secretariat, News Limited

**Professor Don White**

Chairperson Nature Conservation Council of NSW

**Mr Robert Verhey**

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government and  
Shires Associations of NSW

**Mr Joe Woodward**

Deputy Director General Environment Protection and  
Regulation, DECCW

**Mr Bernard Carlon**

Divisional Director Sustainability Programs, DECCW

## Technical Committee Membership

Under Section 9(1) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust has established several technical committees. These committees assess and recommend grant applications and provide guidance in implementation of the program. The membership of each committee during 2008-09 is set out below.

### Eco Schools Program

**Ms Sue Burton** (A/Chairperson)

Senior Project Officer, Community Education, DECCW  
(Deputy for Geoff Young)

**Mr Kevin Butler**

Manager Environmental Education, Department of Education and Training

**Ms Kathy Pflieger**

Youth Community Greening Officer, Botanic Gardens Trust  
(Deputy for Janelle Hatherly)

**Ms Wendy Kinsella**

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

**Mr Gary Carey**

Archdiocesan Science Adviser, Catholic Education Office

### Environmental Education Program

**Mr Geoff Young** (A/Chairperson)

Manager Community Programs, DECCW (Deputy for Roz Hall)

**Ms Corinne Cheeseman**

National Manager – Programs, Australian Water Association

**Mr Richard Davies**

Manager Visitor and Community Programs, DECCW

**Ms Rebecca Jones** (Community Program)

Urban Sustainability Support Alliance Officer, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

**Ms Niki Carey** (State and Local Government Program)

Urban Sustainability Support Alliance Project Manager, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

Manager Environmental Services, Blacktown City Council

**Ms Jane Smith**

Executive Officer, Community Environment Network

### Environmental Research Program

**Dr Klaus Koop** (Chairperson)

Director Environment and Conservation Science, DECCW

**Dr Derek Van Dyk**

Director Science, NSW Office for Science and Medical Research (now Director, Innovation & Economic Analysis, Department of State and Regional Development)

**Dr Graeme Batley**

Chief Research Scientist, Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research, CSIRO Land and Water

### Protecting Our Places Program

**Mr Peter Dixon** (Chairperson)

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECCW

**Mr John Lennis**

Aboriginal Community Support Officer, Hawkesbury Nepean CMA

**Mr Drew Roberts**

Training coordinator, Cultural Heritage Division, DECCW  
(Deputy for Teresa Gay)

**Mr Linton Howarth**

Aboriginal Natural Resource Officer, DECCW, (now Aboriginal Employment and Training Facilitator, Lachlan Aboriginal Natural Resource Management Group)

**Mr Anthony Seiver**

Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Aboriginal Affairs

**Ms Yvonne Stewart**

Secretary, Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation

### Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

**Mr Joe Woodward** (Chairperson)

Deputy Director General Environment Protection and Regulation Group, DECCW

**Mr Geoff Hudson** (State and Local Government Program)

Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

**Ms Kirsty McIntyre** (Community Program)

Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

**Mr John E Searson**

General Manager, Murrumbidgee CMA

**Mr Tom Celebrezze**

A/Manager Biodiversity and Conservation, DECCW

**Ms Ellen O'Brien**

Principal, Envirostrategy



**Ms Sandra Morse**

Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

**Mr Tim Baker**

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

## **Urban Sustainability Program**

**Ms Ann Trofa (A/Chairperson)**

Acting Director, Local Government and Resource Recovery,  
DECCW

**Dr WEJ Paradise**

Chair, Hunter – Central Rivers CMA

**Dr Judy Henderson**

Chair, Northern Rivers CMA

**Mr Robert Verhey**

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government and  
Shires Associations of NSW

**Dr Mehreen Faruqi**

Acting Director Institute of Environmental Studies, University  
of New South Wales.

## Shortened Forms

CAHC	Clean Air Healthy Communities
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW
DET	NSW Department of Education and Training
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
FOI	Freedom of information
GER	Great Eastern Ranges
GIS	Geographic Information System
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
NCC	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
NCT	Nature Conservation Trust
NESB	Non-English speaking background
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
NSW	New South Wales
NVAP	Native Vegetation Assistance Package
PNF	Private Native Forestry
PVP	Property Vegetation Plan
POP	Protecting Our Places
RID	Regional Illegal Dumping
ROC	Regional Organisation of Councils
SMILE	Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments
TAFE	Tertiary and Further Education
UNSW	University of New South Wales



## Photographs:

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2	Planting at Heritage Park. Photo courtesy of Brunswick Valley Landcare
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