



NSW Environmental Trust  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2009–10

**Cover photographs:**

1. Ridge of scribbly gum on the property of Port Macquarie. Photo courtesy of Debbie Andrew, DECCW
2. Planting new habitat for endangered superb parrots. Photo courtesy of North Sydney Council
3. Spotted marsh frog. Photo courtesy of Ken Stepnell
4. Eucalyptus leaves. Photo courtesy of Natalie Waterhouse-Denham

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The Honourable Frank Sartor MP  
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 2009–10 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 Environmental Trust funded a total of \$77.5 million for a diverse range of environmental initiatives in 2009–10. These funds allow community groups, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations, and state and local government agencies to restore and enhance biodiversity, increase environmental awareness and behaviour, and achieve greater sustainability within local communities, businesses and government.

The Trust's Sustainability and Waste Program launched a number of new projects this year focusing on sustainable approaches to waste management including a new program Love Food Hate Waste, and a number of promising trials of recycled materials including road base, glass fines and organics.

A significant conservation outcome for this year has been the signing of the first biobanking agreement in NSW which has been funded through the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. The 80-hectare site in Sydney's south-west will provide permanent protection for some of the best Cumberland Plain woodland remaining in private ownership.

The addition of the River Red Gum program in the coming year will further enhance and diversify the range of outcomes delivered by the Trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Corbyn'.

**LISA CORBYN**  
**Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust**  
**October 2010**

# About the NSW Environmental Trust

## Functions of the Trust

The NSW Environmental Trust (the 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 from the NSW Government, which totalled \$78.4 million in 2009–10. This funded projects under 27 different programs including the Trust's annual competitive grant programs, major projects, the City and Country Environment Restoration Program and other grant programs managed by the Trust.

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 meets four times annually and is administered by DECCW. Further information about administration of the Trust and its membership is provided in the appendices of this report.

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

1. To encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects in both the public and the 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.

Staff of the Trust are employed within the Environmental Funding Programs section of the Sustainability Programs Division 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, ethnic affairs priority statement etc.) should be referred to the DECCW annual report.

## Changes to the Trust

*The Environmental Trust Act 1998* is subject to the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*. Under this Act the Trust is responsible for administering payments under the Brigalow-Nandewar forestry restructuring and development program. Two components of this program ceased this year on 30 June 2010. The Brigalow Assistance Fund provided industry support for businesses and workers to leave the forestry industry. Since 2006 the Environmental Trust has paid out nearly \$43 million to this fund.

The White Cypress Thinning Program paid for workers to thin white cypress trees in the Brigalow-Nandewar region to improve structural and floristic diversity. The thinning of these native pines has allowed the regeneration of a eucalypt-dominated canopy, while rehabilitating the native ground cover and mid-storey vegetation. In total, \$12.5 million in payments were made through this fund over a period of five years. The Trust will continue to administer the two remaining Brigalow-related programs (supporting firewood operators and Community Conservation Advisory Committees) for a further two years.

In May 2010 the NSW Government announced the establishment of more than 100,000 hectares of new national parks to protect the internationally significant river red gum forests of the Riverina region. These reserves are being established following an assessment of the Riverina Bioregion by the Natural Resources Commission. The introduction of the *National Park Estate (Riverina Red Gum Reservations) Act 2010* resulted in amendments to the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995* to enable river red gum forestry restructuring programs to be administered by the Environmental Trust.

From July 2010 the Trust will be responsible for administering \$50 million of the \$97-million river red gum support package. This includes:

- business and worker exit assistance (\$31.5 million over two years)
- industry development assistance (\$5 million over three years)
- support to Murray Catchment Management Authority (CMA) for river red gum programs (\$1.5 million over two years)
- a Regional Employment and Community Development Fund which will make grants available to community organisations, councils and businesses (\$12 million over three years).

# Highlights of 2009–10



The Trust has continued its successful performance in delivering a diverse range of environmental programs for community and government. The strengths of the Trust's grant programs and its administration procedures were acknowledged through independent reviews of two grant programs this year.

The key highlights of the year are listed below.

- Eight new properties were purchased by NSW National Parks using funding under the Trust's Land Acquisition Program. A property near Cobar will become a new Aboriginal Area and another near Grafton will double the existing size of Chambigne National Park. Another key purchase has been a large parcel of land in the highly scenic and biologically diverse Capertee Valley that will protect 700 hectares of endangered grassy woodland and habitat for the endangered regent honeyeater.
- The Trust approved \$7.9 million for new environmental projects through its competitive grant programs. A total of 180 projects were approved including 39 restoration and rehabilitation projects, 18 education projects, 60 schools projects, 17 Aboriginal restoration projects, and 13 research projects.
- The third year of the Trust's Major Environmental Grants Program has seen significant progress achieved in all three projects. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative has been actively promoting the tourism potential and conservation value of the Great Eastern Ranges through an interactive website, interpretive displays and DVDs. The Clean Air Healthy Communities Program launched an Air Education Resource Kit and has commenced the first phase of the heavy vehicles component of FleetWise. The highly successful passenger vehicle component of FleetWise was this year included under the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency as the preferred tool for improving passenger fleets nationally. The Land Alive project completed four management plans for Aboriginal land, three biobanking assessments and trained two Aboriginal landowners in fire management planning.
- The revised Waste and Sustainability Program commenced a number of new projects with a sustainability focus including a project designed to avoid food waste, and a tool to assist small and medium-sized businesses in assessing their waste disposal and recycling. The Business and Industry Resource Recovery Program continues to lead the way in innovative recycling initiatives including house deconstruction, the use of glass fines in the construction industry, and trials of recycled road base. The Sustainability Advantage Program now has 428 organisations across NSW engaged in improving environmental performance.
- The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program entered its second year, achieving a historically significant conservation outcome with the program funding the first biobanking agreement in NSW. The 80-hectare site at Douglas Park will conserve some of the best Cumberland Plain woodland remaining in private ownership.
- The fourth year of the NSW Government's City and Country Environment Restoration Program continued to fund environmental outcomes through two key programs – Urban Sustainability and NSW RiverBank. The Urban Sustainability Program approved 11 new sustainability planning projects for councils worth \$325,540. The RiverBank Program contracted 14,974 megalitres of general security entitlement in the Macquarie and Murrumbidgee Valleys and 1,000 megalitres of high security entitlement in the Lachlan Valley. NSW RiverBank water was delivered to the Macquarie, Gwydir and Murrumbidgee valleys to support high priority wetlands.
- Through its Dissemination Program the Trust partnered with a range of organisations to deliver a series of workshops and other dissemination materials. Topics included managing stormwater drains for aquatic habitat, developing rural partnerships between councils, implementing environmental training for local tourism businesses, and conservation of the endangered bush stone-curlew.
- External reviews of the Protecting Our Places and Dissemination programs were undertaken this year with both programs receiving positive reviews.

# Trust Programs and Achievements





# Land Acquisition

The Land Acquisition Program targets four important conservation issues: protecting Aboriginal cultural values, improving park boundaries, building foundations for the reserve system in Western NSW and preserving coastal lowlands and wetlands.

The Trust provided DECCW with \$2.9 million for the Land Acquisition Program in 2009–10. This contributed to the purchase of eight properties covering 22,680 hectares. In addition, nine properties that were previously acquired with Trust funds were formally gazetted this year under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Following are three of the new acquisitions that will strengthen the NSW reserve system.

## Mt Grenfell Station

'Mt Grenfell Station' comprises 18,187 hectares and is located 65 kilometres north-west of Cobar, within the Cobar Peneplain Bioregion and Barnato Downs Subregion. The landscapes of these regions are currently very poorly represented in the reserve system.

The property is situated in a cultural landscape that is highly significant for Aboriginal communities, and it is proposed that the property be reserved as a new Aboriginal Area. It provides an important link in the Ngiyampaa Dreaming Line and contains several important art sites that are associated with, or include natural features in the landscape, such as rock art, extensive occupation sites, quarry sites, artefact scatters and large numbers of scarred trees. The importance of this area is well recognised by the NSW Government, with the Ngiyampaa Wangaypuwan people owning the existing Grenfell Historic Site under a leaseback agreement and joint managing the site since 2004.



Mt Grenfell grinding stone

## Port Macquarie

The property of 'Port Macquarie' (2,839 hectares) is situated in the upper reaches of the Capertee Valley north-west of Lithgow and was gazetted as Capertee National Park in June 2010. It lies on the edge of two bioregions providing a mix of eastern and western flora and fauna which supports a high diversity of species. Eleven different vegetation communities are found on the property including 700 hectares of nationally critically endangered white box-yellow box–Blakely's red gum grassy woodland and associated native grassland.

The Capertee Valley is well known for its diversity of birds and is considered a stronghold for those woodland species which have suffered most as a result of extensive clearing for agriculture throughout inland south-eastern Australia. The valley has been internationally registered as an Important Bird Area of global bird conservation importance.

The property supports known feeding and breeding habitat for the endangered regent honeyeater which has become a flagship species for conservation in the threatened box-ironbark forests of NSW and Victoria on which it depends. It is estimated there may be only about 1,000 regent honeyeaters remaining in the wild and the Capertee Valley is now regarded as one of three core breeding areas for this species in Australia. 'Port Macquarie' is one of the few sites where the breeding habitat is situated in a matrix of continuous forest that provides additional feeding habitat. The acquisition and future reservation of 'Port Macquarie' will enhance the long-term protection of this beautiful endangered species.

In addition, another 16 threatened species have been recorded on the property and surrounding lands and a further 15 threatened species are likely to occur. The property also includes rare karst areas supporting unique flora and fauna, 15 kilometres of frontage to the Capertee River and a homestead with commanding views down the valley to Mount Airly.







# Restoration and Rehabilitation

## Achievements

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.

Forty-five contestable restoration and rehabilitation projects were completed this year. Achievements include:

- enhancing biodiversity by restoring degraded coastal dunes, seabird habitat, riparian zones and wetlands
- restoring endangered ecological communities including littoral rainforest and Sydney blue gum high forest
- improving critical koala habitat and extending bush stone-curlew populations and habitat.

The following case studies highlight four completed projects that have made significant contributions to protecting and restoring the environment.



***The Restoration and Rehabilitation Program was established in 1990. Between 1991 and 2008 the Trust received more than 2,000 applications for funding through the program and provided \$40 million to more than 700 projects.***



## Major Project

The Trust is currently funding one Major Restoration and Rehabilitation Project. Following the success of the Fire Regime Hotspots project completed in 2007-08, the Trust agreed to provide a further three years of funding (\$600,000) to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. This second phase of the project commenced in 2008-09.

### Hotspots 2

Motivated by the urgent need to develop an integrated fire and natural resource management program, the Hotspots 2 project has developed an education and training model for sustainable fire management practices that protect biodiversity while at the same time providing protection for life, property and cultural values.

In 2009-10 the project built on its success in current regions as well as expanding into two new CMA regions – Namoi and Hunter-Central Rivers. A partnership with the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) was also strengthened this year, with RFS delivering 15 workshops throughout the Northern Rivers, Southern Rivers and Hawkesbury-Nepean regions, and developing associated educational guides and materials.

In collaboration with the Hotspots Advisory Committee, representing over nine partners, the Hotspots 2 project has completed a 20-year strategic plan describing the long-term direction for the Hotspots project.

Since its inception, the project has delivered over 50 workshops to 520 landholders resulting in the development of 153 fire management plans for approximately 87,000 hectares across NSW.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Getting a grip on cane toads in Byron and the NSW Far North Coast

With the assistance of a \$59,062 grant, Byron Shire Council and 309 dedicated volunteers captured over 2,700 cane toads in a series of 'cane toad musters'. Cane toads are invasive animals that threaten biodiversity and endanger native species. They are highly fertile and have few natural predators, and they poison animals and eat food that other species need to survive.

To control the spread of cane toads, 15 musters were organised throughout Byron Shire Council and the Far North Coast. The musters were fun, educational community events where teams of volunteers set out to capture, study and humanely euthanize cane toads. Before each muster, volunteers were taught how to capture cane toads safely, how to distinguish them from native frogs and how to prevent cane toads from breeding in local water bodies. After each muster, the cane toads were counted, their age analysed and some were provided to researchers.

The information and equipment used for the musters was developed into kits which the community are able to use for their own musters free-of-charge. A highly visible pond at Mullumbimby Golf Course was used to demonstrate how to limit cane toad access to waterways by constructing a toad-proof fence around the pond and planting native sedges and grasses.

As a result of this project partnerships have developed between a number of agencies controlling cane toads, including government, the community and research institutions. Through these partnerships agencies are sharing resources and developing uniform systems for cane toad control.



*Cane toad*

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Lower Wilson River reach-based rehabilitation

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has worked with project partners Northern Rivers CMA and Industry & Investment NSW to halt the advancement of erosion in the Wilson River which was having a serious impact on aquatic habitat, bank stability and water quality. With their \$100,000 grant from the Trust, the council has worked intensively on a 1.6-kilometre reach of the river to protect and rehabilitate aquatic and riparian habitat through the installation of erosion control structures and supplementary riparian plantings.

The Lower Wilson River was subject to large-scale commercial gravel extraction until the mid-1900s. This has left the river with some significant erosion problems. A head cut or 'knick point' in the bed of the river has been progressively moving upstream causing lowering of the riverbed, erosion of the riverbanks and the collapse of riparian vegetation.

The project installed three elevated log sills in the river that restrict low to moderate flows and reduce bed erosion. Five timber groynes deflect flow away from eroding banks and towards any accumulating gravel bars on the inside bend. Eroded banks have been strengthened with revetment works and new plantings.

With additional financial support from the CMA and Industry & Investment, the council used the remainder of its Trust funds to carry out bank protection works at another priority location on the river known as Pear Tree Hole. These works included the installation of seven more timber groynes, fencing for stock exclusion, bank reshaping and the planting of over 4,000 native trees and shrubs.

Monitoring has shown that all of the works have successfully survived six flood events and have prevented any further migration of the head cut. This has protected a 26-kilometre reach of high quality habitat upstream of the works. Monitoring of all flood events greater than 30,000 megalitres per day will continue as part of council's River Restoration Program.



*A log sill helps slow the flow of water and prevent erosion of the riverbed*

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Extending curlew populations and habitat across the Murray

The Murray catchment in southern NSW is one of the last remaining strongholds for the bush stone-curlew, which is now considered endangered. With assistance from a \$94,580 Restoration and Rehabilitation grant the Nature Conservation Working Group has worked with landholders to conserve and enhance bush stone-curlew habitat.

The decline of the curlew is the result of loss of habitat to agriculture and urban expansion as well as predation by exotic predators, particularly foxes and feral cats. One of the main elements of this project was the continuation of an existing predator protection program. This included maintaining and observing extensive predator-proof fencing trials and a regional fox baiting program.

To increase curlew numbers and assist with the long-term viability of the curlew population, a captive breeding program was established. This helped chicks to survive the early years by being free from predators before being released into the wild. This program has brought youth back into what was an ageing population, with 15 curlews being released to date.

An extensive education program was also undertaken to improve community and landholder awareness and to empower them to protect the remaining birds and their habitat. This included radio interviews, school visits, 20 presentations to environmental and landholder groups, five field days and numerous individual landholder visits. The program was supported by various promotional materials, including pamphlets, posters, stickers, t-shirts and a bush stone-curlew puppet.



Bush-stone curlew

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Upper Duck Creek strategic subcatchment weed control and regeneration

Madeira vine is one of the most destructive, invasive and difficult riparian weeds to control. With \$15,853 funding from a Restoration and Rehabilitation grant, Upper Clarence Combined Landcare has worked to control Madeira vine along a six-kilometre stretch of Upper Duck Creek. Prior to this project, controlling the Madeira vine infestation was beyond the capacity of local landholders.

The funds from this grant allowed contract bush regenerators to carry out primary and secondary weed removal across ten adjoining private properties. The contractors used a unique technique in the treatment of Madeira vine and privet where individual plants were spot-sprayed with Starane™, which was followed up by scraping the stem back and painting it with glyphosate. This method has resulted in a 99 per cent kill rate of weeds within the 36 hectares treated.

By removing the weeds that were suppressing existing native riparian vegetation, increased recruitment of native seedlings has occurred. The project has also enhanced the survival of the endangered *Eucalyptus dunnii* and reduced the threat of weed dispersal into nearby high-conservation-value rainforest, and into downstream reaches of the creek. The removal of weeds has also likely resulted in improvements in the water quality and aquatic health of Duck Creek. Upper Clarence Combined Landcare is committed to re-establishing native riparian vegetation at this site and ensuring the site remains weed-free in future.



Riparian vegetation on Duck Creek is recovering after removal of madeira vine

# Restoration and Rehabilitation Program 2009–10

Through the Restoration and Rehabilitation Program grants of up to \$100,000 are available to community organisations (total of \$1.5 million) and state and local government organisations (total of \$1.5 million) for projects that enhance and restore the environment.

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 86 applications and funded 19 projects to the total value of \$1,532,927 (Table 1). The State and Local Government Grants Program received 78 applications and funded 20 projects to the total value of \$1,524,069 (Table 2).

Through these new projects it is expected that nearly 1,000 hectares of native habitat will be restored including

the planting of around 220,000 new trees and shrubs. Over 3,000 people are anticipated to be engaged in restoration work, contributing a total of around 50,000 volunteer hours.

**'The provision of Environmental Trust funding has been critical to the Lord Howe Island Board's ability to progress planning for the eradication of rodents.'**

Dave Kelly, Lord Howe Island Board

**'Trust support has enabled our organisation to focus on large-scale strategic planning and implementation of natural resource management priorities for our catchment. We can undertake subcatchment planning, and then progressively implement the identified actions. The Trust has been the key means assisting us in some 140 kilometres of riparian restoration activities in the crucial upstream headwaters of the Clarence River.'**

Terry Moody, Upper Clarence Combined Landcare

Table 1

## Restoration and Rehabilitation community grants awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Project title	LGA	Total
Australian Ecosystems Foundation Incorporated	Wolgan River Valley riparian regeneration and reconstruction	Lithgow	\$100,000
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group Incorporated	Endangered rainforest: ameliorating threats, enhancing resilience	Various	\$100,000
Braeside Bushcare Group	Saving Braeside Blue Mountains Uplands Swamp from gorse and broom	Blue Mountains	\$49,140
Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Incorporated	Vegetation management for threatened woodland birds	Various	\$98,594
Friends of Knudsen Reserve Bushcare Group	Restoring Knudsen Reserve bushland strip to get the natural look	Blacktown	\$62,955
Friends of Lane Cove National Park	Fairyland to Fullers Bridge: restoring endangered communities	Ryde	\$50,310
Friends of Tom Thumb Lagoon Wetland	Conservation works at Tom Thumb Lagoon and EEC in Wollongong	Wollongong	\$98,870
Greening Australia (Capital Region) Limited	Pygmy perch in the Pudman (Boorowa River recovery)	Various	\$98,000

## Restoration and Rehabilitation community grants awarded in 2009–10 (cont)

Organisation	Project title	LGA	Total
Hunter Wetland Centre Australia	Biodiversity improvement at Hunter Wetlands Community Ramsar site	Newcastle	\$99,940
Lake Macquarie Landcare Network Incorporated	Illawong Park littoral rainforest and Themeda grassland restoration	Lake Macquarie	\$46,750
Macleay Landcare Network Incorporated	Control of bitou bush and lantana at Hat Head in EEC areas	Kempsey	\$99,500
Macleay Landcare Network Incorporated	Maria River wildlife project – Stage 2	Various	\$100,000
Mulgoa Valley Landcare Group	Mulgoa Creek biodiversity corridor: targeting 7 weeds along 7 kilometres	Penrith	\$90,000
Orara Valley River Care Groups Management Committee Incorporated	Connecting riparian rainforest along Bucca Creek and north of Nana Glen	Coffs Harbour	\$99,999
Palm Grove Ourimbah Creek Landcare Incorporated	Restoring and protecting Ourimbah Creek	Wyong	\$97,600
Roslyn Landcare Group Incorporated	Restoring and rehabilitating Southern Tablelands native vegetation	Upper Lachlan	\$69,260
Southern New England Landcare Limited	Improving degraded riparian areas and remediating eroded land	Various	\$97,970
Taree Landcare	Manning River and Browns Creek Rainforest restoration stepping stones	Greater Taree	\$14,920
Wolli Creek Preservation Society Incorporated	Undercliffe track (Wolli Creek) bush restoration Stage 1	Various	\$59,119
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,532,927</b>

Table 2

**Restoration and Rehabilitation state and local government grants awarded in 2009–10**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ballina Shire Council	Big scrub rainforest restoration – Killen Falls and Duck Creek	Ballina	\$99,115
Bombala Council	Restoring our waterways to make our platypus happy	Bombala	\$69,208
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	Restoration of alpine/subalpine wetlands – Kosciusko National Park	Snowy River	\$98,000
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	Habitat restoration for the critically endangered <i>Persoonia pauciflora</i>	Cessnock	\$98,226
Department of Lands	Restoration of glossy black cockatoo habitat in the Riverina	Various	\$29,750
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Conserving endangered ecological communities in the Eurobodalla	Eurobodalla	\$95,193
Gloucester Shire Council	Protecting the grey-crowned babbler species in Gloucester	Gloucester	\$43,500
Gosford City Council	Goodywang Reserve regeneration	Gosford	\$93,898
Greater Taree City Council	Regenerating, revegetating and revisiting the Cattai Wetlands	Greater Taree	\$87,461
Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Goorangoola Creek threatened species habitat rehabilitation project	Singleton	\$100,000
Lismore City Council	Rehabilitating and connecting koala habitat in the Richmond catchment	Various	\$99,560
Mid-Western Regional Council	Lawson Creek restoration project – Mudgee	Mid-Western Regional	\$20,400
Penrith City Council	Jamison Creek rehabilitation – Stage 2	Penrith	\$60,000
Port Stephens Council	Improving and protecting water quality in Tilligerry Creek – Stage 2	Port Stephens	\$82,600
Port Stephens Council	Enhancing ecosystem resilience in the Williams estuary	Port Stephens	\$100,000
Ryde City Council	River to river: reconnecting two key Sydney wildlife corridors	Various	\$97,566
Sydney West Area Health Services	Parramatta River riparian corridor restoration project	Parramatta	\$59,592
Tweed Shire Council	Recovery of threatened species in priority implementation areas	Various	\$100,000
Wollongong City Council	Restoration of native vegetation along Sharkys Beach and headland	Wollongong	\$45,000
Wollongong City Council	Removal of willow, coral and other weed trees in riparian corridors	Wollongong	\$45,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,524,069</b>

# Protecting Our Places Program

The Protecting Our Places (POP) Program provides Aboriginal organisations with the opportunity to apply for funding to:

- restore or rehabilitate Aboriginal land or land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people
- educate Aboriginal and other communities about the local environment and the value Aboriginal communities place on their natural environment.

The Trust awarded 17 grants totalling \$520,173 in 2009–10 (Table 3). Ten workshops across NSW were held prior to the call for applications for the 2010 grants program. These workshops attracted 92 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 projects completed in 2009–10 include:

- restoring four kilometres of riparian vegetation at Tooloom Falls
- weeding and restoring endangered grassy woodland on community land at Armidale including production of a plant identification guide
- restoring native vegetation on Aboriginal land at Bowraville including building a greenhouse and community vegetable garden
- mapping cultural heritage sites and revegetation on Aboriginal land on the Murray River
- restoring a 33-hectare reserve at South West Rocks
- weeding and bush regeneration of Aboriginal land near Yamba
- weeding and removal of exotic trees from riverine land at Deniliquin.

## Program review

An independent evaluation of the Protecting Our Places Program was completed in March 2010 by GHD Hassall. The program was last reviewed in 2005. The key aim of the review was to determine whether and how the program is appropriate and effective in contributing to improvements in the NSW environment.

The evaluation comprised a desktop review of 32 projects. Reviews for 18 of these projects included field visits and interviews, while reviews for six projects included interviews only.

**Since 2002 the Trust has committed \$3.7 million to the Protecting Our Places Program for 128 projects.**

Being one of the very few sources of environmental funding specifically for Aboriginal people, the review acknowledged that the POP program is a critical source of funding to facilitate Aboriginal participation in environmental management.

*'The Program is particularly appropriate in meeting Aboriginal communities' need for protecting places of importance, empowering land management decision-making, the opportunity to work on Country and re-engage in land management, sustaining and improving traditional ecological knowledge and reinforcing the interaction between Elders and Aboriginal youth.'*

Of the projects reviewed, 72 per cent were considered to have contributed to the restoration or rehabilitation of Aboriginal land or land culturally significant to Aboriginal people. The program has contributed to a lesser extent to community education, due in part to a greater focus on restoration and rehabilitation objectives than education objectives.

The evaluation found that the POP program has been highly effective in contributing to the ability of Aboriginal communities to undertake environmental projects. The majority (65 per cent) of grantees surveyed felt that involvement in the program had increased their capacity for and knowledge of environmental practices, while more than 80 per cent of grantees felt they had increased capacity in project management.

The review also noted a number of other important outcomes outside the immediate objectives of the program. These include employment outcomes and the establishment of new businesses, improved life-skills, confidence and self-esteem, improved relationships between youth and Elders, and increased participation of Aboriginal people in traditionally non-Aboriginal roles.

The evaluation acknowledged the high level of support provided to the POP program noting that *'the successful function of the Program since its inception is primarily due to the support provided to the potential applicants and grantees by the Aboriginal Programs Officer'*.

The evaluation provided some recommendations for improving the application process and simplifying documentation associated with the program. It also recommended strengthening partnerships between the POP program and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) and CMAs.



## ■ CASE STUDY

### Nanima Preschool – Our place

Nanima Preschool and Wellington Community Children's Centre, with the assistance of a \$10,000 Protecting Our Places grant, have produced a DVD and educational resources that target three to five year-old children. The program explains the importance of preserving, protecting and maintaining the environment, as well as the significance of the environment in Aboriginal life.

Each of the preschools involved was visited by a local Aboriginal identity, who explained the history and cultural significance of various locations within the Wellington area. This was followed by a 'web of life' task in which children identified where they fit in to the environment, and how their actions can impact on the environment.

At the conclusion of in-class activities, plants used in traditional indigenous culture were planted at the local common and at the two preschools. The significance of the plants to the aboriginal community and the environment was explained to the children.

In the weeks following the site visit and planting, the children were encouraged to draw pictures that illustrated what they had learnt from the program. These drawings were used to develop a calendar that was distributed through the preschools.

This project encouraged children and families, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to engage in ongoing reconciliation and community partnerships, and has fostered a sense of belonging to the land.

## Table 3

### Protecting Our Places grants awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Project title	LGA	Amount
Aboriginal Corporation for Employment and Training	Re-establishing Gumbanngyirr traditional use at Pipe Clay Lake	Coffs Harbour	\$33,576
Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council	Summervale community Apsley River restoration project	Walcha	\$34,985
BALLOT Land Enterprises Limited – Brewarrina-Cowga and Euligal Stations	Protecting environmental heritage on ILC* land around Brewarrina (* Indigenous Land Corporation)	Brewarrina	\$18,000
Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council	'Coffs caring for Country' Aboriginal bush regeneration	Coffs Harbour	\$35,000
Darlingung Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protecting cultural sites from damage due to bushfires (Part 1)	Gosford	\$35,000
Dorrigo Plateau Local Aboriginal Land Council	Rehabilitation of Dorrigo Aboriginal land	Bellingen	\$34,818
Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council	The Coranglula riparian vegetation rehabilitation project	Kempsey	\$28,538
Koompahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council	Connecting communities with Country cultural tours	Lake Macquarie	\$35,000
Lachlan Aboriginal Natural Resource Management Corporation	Lachlan River NRM and cultural heritage canoe tours	Forbes	\$17,822
La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council	Eradicate noxious weeds – plant natives at La Perouse	Randwick	\$34,927
Madhima Gulgan Community Association Inc.	Restoration of ancient marriage circle and scar trees at Billinudgel	Byron	\$34,820
Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council	Regeneration of Old Cubawee project	Lismore	\$35,000
Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council	Regeneration of Aboriginal land at Peak Hill	Dubbo	\$35,000
Stuarts Point Aboriginal Community Environment Group	Golden Hole community protecting and interpreting homelands	Kempsey	\$21,600
Wagonga Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protection and development of a learning place at Gadu Maliaan	Eurobodalla	\$34,108
Ulunja Aboriginal Corporation – Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)	Protecting environmental heritage on IBA stations around Barmah	Murray	\$17,000
West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council	Manna Mount restoration and rehabilitation project	Lachlan	\$34,979
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$520,173</b>

# Contaminated Land Management Program

The Contaminated Land Management Program provides funds for the often complex task of remediating land that has been contaminated by pollution or former gas manufacturing operations. A total of \$6 million is available to fund investigation and remediation works in a four-year program until 2011.

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. The granting of Trust funds ensures that prolonged delays in remediation and potential risks to the environment are kept to a minimum.

The program also assists local councils in the 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 assist councils to achieve a state where the serious risk of harm to the community and the environment is removed.

The Contaminated Land Management Program is managed by the Contaminated Sites Unit of DECCW and is overseen by a Trust subcommittee with representation from industry, non-government organisations and local and state government.

There were no grants provided to innocent owners of contaminated sites this year. Four grants were awarded to councils for former gasworks sites for a total of \$1.1 million (Table 4).

Two major grants of \$500,000 each to Yass and Cootamundra councils complement the provision of \$500,000 for remediation of the former Wagga Wagga gasworks in 2008-09. It is proposed that significant economies of scale will be achieved by establishing one regional treatment site for the remediation of these three gasworks.

Previous investigations at the former Cootamundra gasworks found that both soil and groundwater at the site are contaminated with a range of chemicals in concentrations that exceed relevant guidelines. Investigations at the former Yass gasworks have also found both soil and groundwater contamination in excess of guideline levels.



*Remediation of the former Yass gasworks commenced this year*

## Table 4

### Contaminated Land Management grants awarded in 2009–10 Council gasworks

Organisation	Project title	LGA	Amount
Cootamundra Shire Council	Cootamundra Gasworks – Remediation	Cootamundra	\$500,000
Yass Valley Council	Yass Gasworks – Stage 2 Investigation	Yass	\$86,700
Bathurst Regional Council	Bathurst Gasworks – Contingency on 2008/CG/0008	Bathurst	\$5,225
Yass Valley Council	Remediation of Yass Gasworks Stage 3	Yass	\$500,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,091,925</b>

# Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program

This program provides funds for the clean-up or mitigation of emergency pollution events and the removal and management of waste that has been unlawfully disposed of (orphan waste). The program allows action to be taken quickly to avoid or minimise risks to the environment and public health.

Funds are provided to councils and other land managers in cases where the polluter cannot be identified, or where there is uncertainty about the prospect of clean-up costs being paid for by the responsible party. Nominated officers of DECCW have delegated authority to approve the spending of Trust funds up to a maximum of \$500,000 per year. Sixty-two grants were awarded in 2009–10 to address emergency or orphan waste pollution incidents (Table 5). This is the highest number of grants awarded in one year since the program's inception.

This year there was a significant win for the program and the environment with the conviction of a serial polluter in

the Land and Environment Court of NSW. In late 2008 and 2009 an individual was investigated by a joint team from the Western Sydney Regional Illegal Dumping Squad, DECCW, and staff from Blacktown, Liverpool and Bankstown councils. The offender was convicted for four separate incidents of illegal dumping and ordered to pay fines totalling \$104,000 which will be returned to the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program.

**'The funds received from the Trust to cover the removal and disposal of orphan waste have enabled council to allocate a greater budget to illegal dumping prevention programs targeting the LGA's hotspots and to raise community awareness of this issue.'**

Samantha Watkins, Strathfield Council

Table 5

## Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up grants awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Reen Road Blacktown / Clean-up of asbestos at Meadlow Road, Schofields	2 Apr 09	\$2,010.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos dumped at Bartholomews Lane, Prospect	27 May 09	\$3,435.45
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Thornley Road, Prospect	22 Jul 09	\$3,030.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Lot 1 Victoria Street, Riverstone	16 Sep 09	\$3,220.00
Cabonne Council	Clean-up of asbestos near Walls Road, Borenore	19 May 09	\$1,937.27
Clarence Valley Council	200-litre drum containing unknown hazardous liquid washed up at Iluka Bay	21 Sep 07	\$565.48
DECCW	Clean-up of asbestos at Kings Tableland Road, Wentworth Falls (Blue Mountains National Park)	31 Jan 09	\$1,400.00
DECCW	Clean-up of asbestos Clyde River National Park	13 Jun 09	\$2,100.00
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Wallaga Lake Road and Umbarra Road	9 Apr 09	\$8,700.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at 17 Church Street, Cabramatta	2 Oct 08	\$988.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos Corner Old Wallgrove Road and Burley Road, Horsley Park	10 Feb 09	\$2,258.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos Knight Park Reserve	13 Feb 09	\$640.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at 60 Lisbon Street, Villawood	6 Mar 09	\$5,687.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Cavisini Place, Wetherill Park	2 Jan 08	\$920.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Old Cowpasture Road, Wetherill Park	2 Jan 08	\$660.00

## Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up grants awarded in 2009–10 (cont)

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Blackstone Street, Wetherill Park	15 Jan 08	\$880.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Larra Street, Yennora	15 Jan 08	\$661.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at at Gipps Road, Smithfield	18 Mar 08	\$1,982.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Redmayne Road, Horsley Park	9 Sep 09	\$960.00
Forests NSW	Clean-up of asbestos at Palmers Road, Freemans Waterhole	14 Apr 09	\$3,714.00
Lane Cove Council	Clean-up of asbestos Hamilton Street, Lane Cove	11 Jun 09	\$1,015.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos Ash Road, Liverpool	24 Apr 09	\$5,812.75
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Casula Road, Casula	8 May 09	\$1,689.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos George's Service Way (Scott Street), Liverpool	30 Apr 09	\$466.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Riverside Road, Chipping Norton	5 Jun 09	\$1,694.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Lee and Clarke Roads, Kemps Creek	28 Apr 09	\$4,107.40
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Fourth Avenue, Liverpool	5 Jun 09	\$1,974.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Cross Street, Kemps Creek	20 May 09	\$1,444.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Orient Road, Greendale	3 Jul 09	\$1,419.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Second Ave, West Hoxton	3 Jul 09	\$2,358.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Sixteenth Avenue, West Hoxton	31 Jul 09	\$1,949.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Taylors Road, Badgerys Creek	22 Jul 09	\$11,865.64
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Kelso Park carpark, Kelso Crescent, Moorebank	6 Jul 09	\$1,659.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Western Road, Kemps Creek	13 Sep 09	\$4,328.67
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Filed Close, Moorebank	11 Aug 09	\$7,076.47
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Ash Road, Prestons	19 Sep 09	\$2,543.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Kelso Park, Moorebank	27 Sep 09	\$2,387.27
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Brandowns Tip access road, Cecil Park	25 Sep 09	\$3,576.80
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Enterprise Circuit, Prestons	6 Oct 09	\$1,752.00

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Date of incident</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at McIver Avenue, West Hoxton	21 Oct 09	\$1,752.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Seton Road, Moorebank	20 Oct 09	\$6,282.92
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Glen Allan Road, Rossmore	21 Oct 09	\$2,363.80
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Wolstenholme Street, Greendale	17 Nov 09	\$2,872.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Second Avenue, West Hoxton	30 Nov 09	\$924.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Enterprise Circuit and Progress Circuit, Prestons	11 Dec 09	\$1,819.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos Southern side of Pleasure Point Road, Liverpool	19 Jan 10	\$931.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos Fuller Street, Badgerys Creek	14 Jan 10	\$1,239.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos Fifteenth Avenue, Austral	3 Feb 10	\$3,977.07
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Orchard Road, Busby	8 Feb 10	\$1,966.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Whyalla Place, Prestons	18 Feb 10	\$1,460.00
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Buckland Road, Casula	10 Feb 10	\$3,838.92
Liverpool Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Goulburn Street, Liverpool	20 Apr 10	\$837.26
P & D Envirotech Pty Ltd	Clean-up of asbestos at Luddenham Road, Luddenham.	14 Oct 09	\$3,286.00
P & D Envirotech Pty Ltd	Clean-up of asbestos at Beames Avenue, Rooty Hill.	15 Oct 09	\$3,386.00
Penrith Council	4 drums of AntisolWB (liquid paraffin wax) spilled at Lenorie Drive, Erskine Park	21 May 09	\$1,442.45
Ryde Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Wicks Road, North Ryde	17 Aug 09	\$6,705.00
Singleton Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Glenbrook and Elderslie Roads	3 Sep 08	\$25,454.54
Strathfield Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Wentworth Street, South Strathfield	7 Aug 09	\$818.00
Strathfield Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Naughton Street, Greenacre	9 Sep 09	\$3,002.00
Transpacific Industries Group Limited	Clean-up of asbestos John Hines Avenue, Minchinbury	19 Oct 09	\$2,758.00
Transpacific Waste Services	Drum of tar-based creosote washed up on Tuross Lake and spilled on intertidal area.	9 Jun 10	\$70,508.74
Willoughby Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Sugarloaf Road, Middle Cove	22 Oct 09	\$1,914.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$254,402.90</b>



# Environmental Education

The Environmental Education Program funds projects that will develop or broaden the community's environmental knowledge and skills, enhance their commitment to protecting the environment, and promote sustainable behaviour. Grants are provided to community groups, councils, government organisations and training providers to support a broad range of environmental programs.

## Achievements

Fourteen education projects concluded this year. Some of the practical educational initiatives that have been implemented include:

- Biodiversity and natural resource education including guided underwater marine tours, an interpretive wetlands walk, information for landholders living adjacent to wetlands, an interactive natural resource management demonstration site, and workshops and resources on groundwater management.



***Since 1991 the Environmental Education Program has received 2,043 expressions of interest and applications for funding and provided \$11.6 million for 300 projects.***



- Environmental education for ethnic communities including an introduction to Australian biodiversity for recently arrived migrants, a media campaign on sustainable living for the Chinese community, and urban biodiversity and bird monitoring for ethnic communities.
- Projects targeting climate change and sustainable living including the development of resource kits for high schools and regional communities.

The following case studies feature four successful projects completed in 2009–10.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### **Artarmon Sustainable Living Library Collection**

The Artarmon and Tulloh Street community sustainability groups, together with Willoughby Council, have established a 'Sustainable Living Collection'. This collection of resources, which is the result of a \$9,000 grant from the Trust, is located in Artarmon Library and contains a range of information on topics such as recycling and composting, self-sufficiency, reducing pollution and sustainable building and design. These resources provide a free and easily accessible way of achieving sustainability education in the community and have been effective in promoting behavioural change within the community. Over 91 per cent of surveyed users of the collection stated that it had helped them live a more sustainable lifestyle.

The collection was purchased from a targeted book list and launched during the early stages of the project. The event

attracted over 70 people including the Mayor and the local Member of State Parliament.

Two major pieces of artwork were created by local children to attract borrowers to the collection. These artworks are detachable and mobile, so that the images and messages can be changed to reflect current environmental interests within the community. Community groups frequently meet in the Library, and pass by the collection on the way to their meetings.

The collection has been kept up-to-date through periodic review by the sustainability groups, where they compare current acquisitions against the themes the collection covers to identify gaps and provide balance. Ongoing financial support for the collection has been secured from Willoughby Council, which will allow future purchase of new resources.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### An EcoLogic Powerpack Kit for regional community use

With their \$50,000 grant from the Trust, the Powerhouse Museum has created educational resource kits to help regional educators encourage consumers to think about sustainability. The EcoLogic Kits consist of a ready-made small exhibition for use in schools, libraries, at field days and other local events.

The kits have all the necessary tools to effectively communicate information about environmental issues, including a collection of product samples, lesson plans, posters, a teacher's guide and background information. The kits are made up of three individual cases of materials that focus on different topics – saving energy, saving materials, saving water and biodiversity.

The Museum worked with Orange City Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council to test the appropriateness of the kit as a resource for local council educators and school teachers. The kits were used extensively throughout both regions with over 5,400 people in just five months having exposure to one or more of the cases that make up the kit. The kits are a unique idea as they contain products and information that can be used both in a class room environment and at exhibitions and field days. By allowing people to touch and see various products that can help them to live more sustainably, the Museum hopes that more people will become engaged in implementing sustainable practices in their homes and community.



*Saving energy – one of the three cases in the Powerpack kit*

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Starting in Your Backyard – Living on the Edge

WetlandCare Australia received a \$24,961 grant from the Trust to trial a unique and innovative education program that targeted residents living in proximity to East Ballina Wetland Reserve. The Starting in Your Backyard project was successful in reaching over 500 residents through workshops and the provision of educational information.

Two workshops provided residents with information, hands-on experience and tools to protect the East Ballina North Creek Wetland. The workshops, which were attended by over 50 people, started with presentations on the wetlands and were followed by hands-on activities including plant, weed, bird and frog identification, a walk through North Creek Reserve wetland and a facilitated brainstorming session.

During the brainstorming session residents set short, medium and long-term goals for protecting the wetland, starting from their own backyards. Residents were encouraged to go home and to start implementing measures that would protect the neighbouring wetland. Following the workshops, WetlandCare Australia staff visited nine households to review their backyard plans and to provide advice to residents on what they could do next.

The demand for the workshops was so high that two additional interpretative tours were conducted following completion of the project.



*Participants in one of the Living On the Edge workshops*

■ CASE STUDY

**Cabbage Tree Island interpretive educational wetland walkway**

With assistance from a \$100,000 Environmental Education grant the Aboriginal community on Cabbage Tree Island has worked to restore an area between Cabbage Tree Island Primary School and the adjacent riparian wetland zone and create a wetland boardwalk with interpretive signage.

A local bush regeneration team comprising members of the local indigenous community was formed and trained in rehabilitation work to eradicate weeds and clean up rubbish from an area of approximately 2,250 square metres. The riparian zone was enhanced by planting over 6,000 native trees and shrubs including river mangroves and bottle brush species.

The project constructed a boardwalk through the wetland with interpretive signage that is assisting the primary school, visiting students and the local community to access and learn about the wetland. The signage educates visitors about the cultural heritage of the area, local flora and fauna species and the importance of the estuarine wetland.

A website was also developed to further promote the educational messages of the boardwalk and its signage. The website was designed primarily for the children of Cabbage Tree Island Primary School to teach students about the value of the wetlands, the flora and fauna that exist within

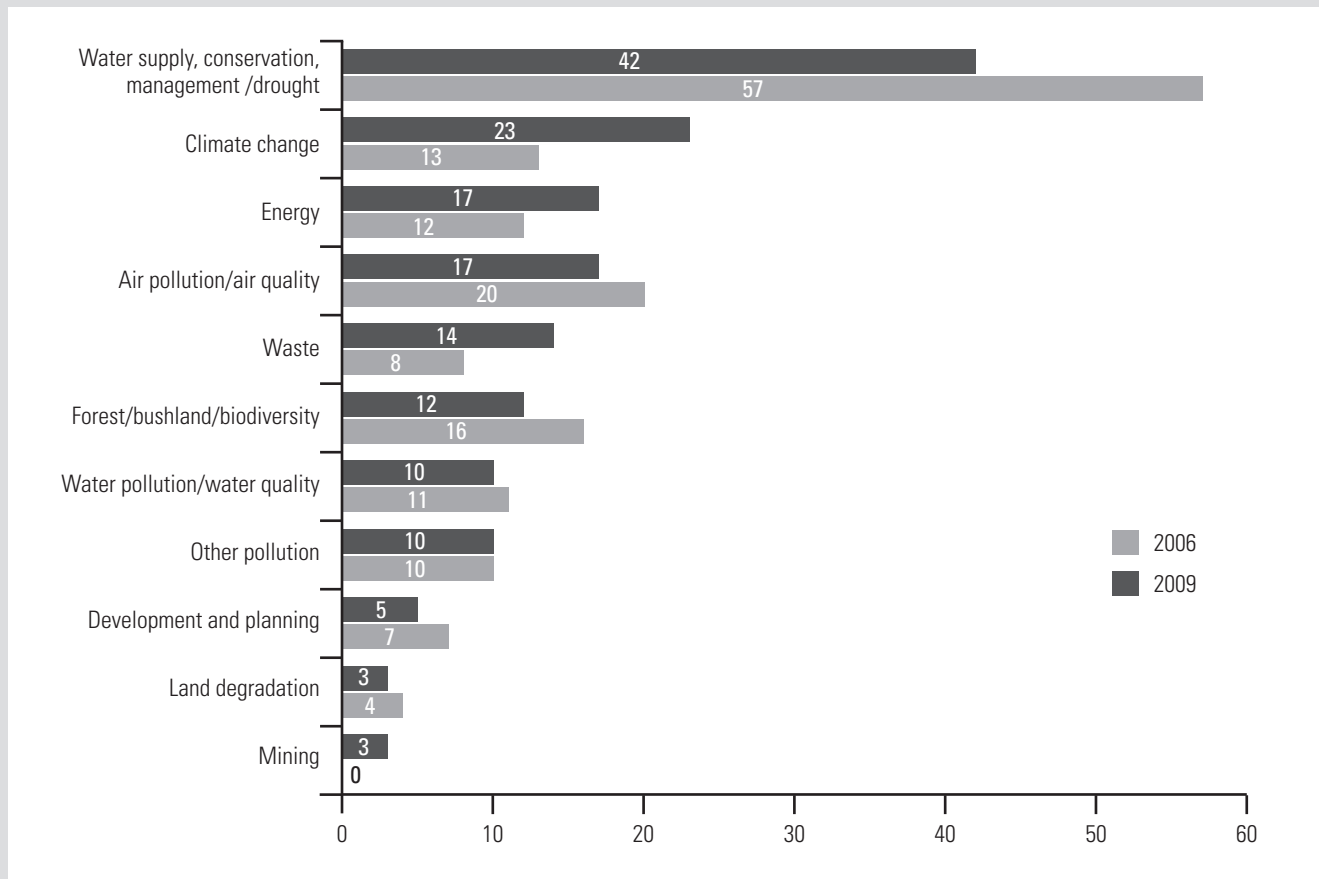
it, the threats to the wetland and why it is important that they be maintained. The website also contains password-protected areas where the children can record details of fauna they have observed, as well as water sample results.

The project has harnessed local community involvement and traditional knowledge to develop a strong ownership of the project site and outputs. The Cabbage Tree Island community and primary school now have a wonderful resource to appreciate and share with other schools and communities.



*Cabbage Tree Island wetland boardwalk*

**The most important environmental issues in 2006 and 2009 – Who Cares about the Environment?**





# Environmental Education Program 2009–10

The Environmental Education program offers grants on an annual basis for projects that:

- attain one or more of the outcomes set out 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.

There was a very high level of interest in the Environmental Education Program this year, with the Trust receiving 191 expressions of interest, a substantial increase on 2008-09. As in previous years a total of \$1,000,000 was offered, with \$500,000 available to community groups and \$500,000 available to state and local government organisations.

Thirty-six organisations were invited to submit full applications. Eight community projects were funded for a total of \$503,490 (Table 6) and eleven state and local government projects were funded for a total of \$530,560 (Table 7).

It is estimated that these 19 projects will result in the training of over 11,000 people through 130 training events. On a broader level these projects will be aiming to engage over 18,000 people in environmental awareness and education.

**‘Because of the funding of our project, ErinEarth is now more closely involved with schools. This has in turn impacted on our community education programs. One of the wonderful and unexpected outcomes has been the number of parents and grandparents who now come to our monthly Open Garden and sustainability workshops because they have been ‘sent’ by the children and grandchildren who have previously come on a school excursion.’**

Carmel Wallis, ErinEarth

**‘The funding [from the Trust’s Environmental Education program] has made possible two projects that otherwise would not be considered. The Yaralla Bush Rehabilitation Project has given the Bushcare program a significant site and excellent opportunity to engage residents on a bushland site that is not owned by council.’**

Rob Stevenson, City of Canada Bay

Table 6

## Environmental Education community grants awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Project title	LGA	Total
Auburn Community Development Network Incorporated	Multilingual multimedia community education program	Various	\$100,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Incorporated	Managing native vegetation in travelling stock reserves	Statewide	\$51,351
Birds Australia	Does biodiversity education work: a case study using urban birds	Various	\$77,509
Birds Australia	Integrating biodiversity to create sustainable urban developments	Baulkham Hills	\$15,650
Candlagan Tomaga Waterwatch	South Coast estuary health and climate change	Various	\$50,000
Dairy NSW Limited	Dairy effluent management training in the Sydney catchments	Various	\$59,000
Mid Coast Dairy Advancement Group	Implementation of farmer targets for climate change	Various	\$99,980
UnitingCare NSW	Environmental sustainability education for aged care	Statewide	\$50,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$503,490</b>

Table 7

### Environmental Education state and local government grants awarded in 2009–10

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Strathfield Municipal Council	Growers for greenspace	Various	\$78,600
Charles Sturt University	Bathurst school community garden network	Bathurst	\$35,623
Great Lakes Council	Step to sustainable tourism – industry action for lake health	Great Lakes	\$50,000
Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority	Farm dams handbook	Statewide	\$27,500
Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW	Councillor training in natural resource management	Statewide	\$30,000
Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW	Climate change adaptation planning resources for local government	Statewide	\$99,692
Mosman Municipal Council	Mosman sustainable business champions program	Mosman	\$15,000
Port Stephens Council	Port Stephens project AWARE on the coast	Port Stephens	\$7,500
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Bushcare volunteer training and professional support	Statewide	\$74,395
TAFE NSW Western Institute	Building capacity in sustainability for the trades	Various	\$87,500
Woollahra Municipal Council	Woollahra Council Environmental Schools sculpture prize	Woollahra	\$24,750
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$530,560</b>

# Eco Schools Program

The Eco Schools Program provides small grants of \$2,500 to assist schools to 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 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 is the development of external linkages with the community to address local environmental issues. Eco Schools projects help students to develop their knowledge and skills in environmental sustainability, and provide an opportunity for students to actively participate in improving the quality of their school and local environment.

**Since 2000 the Eco Schools Program has provided \$1.4 million for 724 projects that have assisted schools to improve environmental awareness and sustainability.**

There was a high level of interest in the Eco Schools program this year with the Trust receiving 122 applications requesting a total of \$305,000. This was an increase of 39 applications from the previous year. Sixty grants were awarded totalling \$150,000 (Table 8).

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Replacing noxious weed species with native and nutritional species

With their \$2,500 Eco Schools grant, Glenreagh Public School enthusiastically embarked on the removal of three large seed-bearing camphor laurel trees, as well as privet within the school grounds. This project linked with a local community project that was regenerating the Orara riverbank in Glenreagh village, and provided the opportunity for the community to work together towards eradicating noxious species and building biodiversity.

Initially a group of students researched the environmental weeds that were prevalent in the area and produced a video for presentation to the rest of the school community. This video was also shown to Landcare representatives and has been uploaded to TeacherTube where it has received over 700 hits to date.

Contractors, the school community and local volunteers worked together to remove the camphor laurels and privet from the site. Once the weeds were removed the area was revegetated with over 100 native plants.

The school ran a noxious weed and biodiversity workshop for students facilitated by Landcare and council staff. Students learnt how to identify weeds, as well as native flora and fauna, and how to grow native plants for future bush regeneration work.

Students also completed a bug and tree species audit of the school grounds. Once the audit was complete students decided to design and construct 10 nesting boxes to encourage more native fauna into the area. Within two weeks of being installed the nesting boxes had native inhabitants.



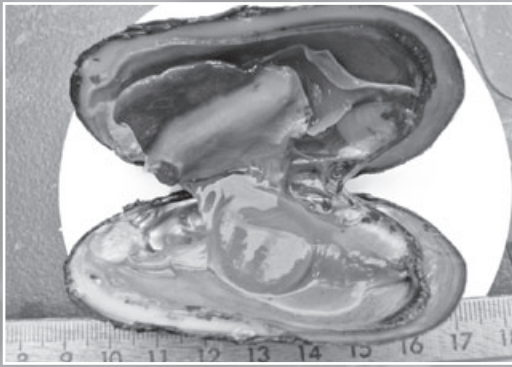
*Replanting after removal of the camphor laurels*

## Table 8

### Eco Schools grants awarded in 2009–10

School	Project title	LGA
Ajuga School	Ajuga's butterfly orchard	Campbelltown
Alstonville High School	Alstonville High waste wise and waste minimisation project	Ballina
Billabong High School	Billabong High – NPWS* environmental partnership (*National Parks and Wildlife Service)	Greater Hume
Birrong Public School	Birrong Public School water conservation project Stage 3	Bankstown
Bomaderry High School	Gumbuya – bush tucker garden	Shoalhaven
Carrington Public School	Carrington Public School garden classroom	Newcastle City
Cascade Environmental Education Centre	Outdoor learning environment and bush tucker garden	Bellingen
Centaur Primary School	Centaur goes green – reducing, recycling and composting green waste	Tweed
Cleveland Street Intensive English High School	Wipeout water wastage	Sydney City
Coledale Public School	Coledale native gardens	Wollongong
Comboyne Public School	Permaculture kitchen garden	Hastings
Cootamundra High School	Rural schools environmental renewal in response to drought	Cootamundra
Cronulla South Primary School	An integrated recycling centre made from recycled materials	Sutherland
Curl Curl North Public School	Where are the bugs, lizards and butterflies?	Manly
Dulwich Hill Public School	Taps and tools project – water use reduction	Marrickville
Fisher Road Special School	Developing a shaded sensor garden	Warringah
Forster Public School	Tucker up – bush tucker garden	Great Lakes
Fort Street High School	Urban jungles: local provenance and fresh habitats in the inner west	Marrickville
Gol Gol Public School	Regenerating, revegetating and remembering our environment	Wentworth
GyMEA Technology High School	Fostering native flora and fauna to flourish	Sutherland
Hamilton North Public School	Eat your school – sustainable food production in the schoolyard	Newcastle
Hammondville Public School	Water wise sensory bush tucker garden and maze	Liverpool
Holgate Public School	Restoration of remnant rainforest	Gosford
Jennings Public School	Reed-bed grey water recycling system and rare plant species garden	Tenterfield
Katoomba High School	Gondwana garden	Blue Mountains
Kellyville Public School	Reducing energy use at Kellyville Public School	Baulkham Hills
Kenthurst Public School	Kenthurst native garden	Baulkham Hills
Kingswood High School	Electrical monitoring and waste minimisation program	Penrith
Kirkton Public School	Organic vegetable garden and compost facilities	Singleton
Kyogle High School	Red, yellow, green, let's keep Kyogle High School clean	Kyogle

Lambton High School	Creating lifelong green citizens at Lambton High School	Newcastle
Lavington East Public School	Lavington East Public School learnscape	Albury
Macintyre High School	Improving our carbon footprint	Inverell
Mascot Public School	Mascot Public School's eco-friendly vegetable garden project	Botany
Menindee Central School	Menindee Central School development project	Central Darling
Mount Austin High School	Indigenous bush tucker and bush medicine outdoor learnscape	Wagga Wagga
Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls Campus	Sustainable outdoor areas	Warringah
Nundle Primary School	Kitchen to garden to kitchen again	Nundle
Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre	Ultra eco tour – students for sustainability in high schools	Sydney City
Oxley Park Public School	Bush homes at Oxley Park	Penrith
Pennant Hills Public School	Year 2 green thumbs project 2010	Hornsby
Port Macquarie High School	Grounds management – sustainable planting	Hastings
Putney Public School	Greenhouse	Lane Cove
Rockdale Public School	Cool conversations outdoor learning area	Rockdale
Seven Hills High School	Cumberland Plains woodland learning and teaching area	Blacktown
St Michaels Catholic Primary School, Nowra	Rainbow snake sustainable garden	Shoalhaven
St Marys Primary School, Bellingen	Full cycle recycling: whole school community waste minimisation	Bellingen
St Marys South Public School	Outdoor learning centre and native gardens project	Penrith
St Peters Catholic College, Tuggerah	St Peter's bush tucker and herb garden	Wyong
Stewart House School	Outdoor learning area with seating set in a bush tucker garden	Warringah
Sussex Inlet Public School	The green gang's veggie patch	Shoalhaven
Sylvania High School	Eco-rangers wiping out waste at Sylvania High	Sutherland
Tomaree High School	Worimi food forest and gathering place	Port Stephens
Tumbarumba High School	Green footprints – reducing waste at Tumbarumba High School	Tumbarumba
Wahroonga Public School	Adopt a tree project	Ku-ring-gai
Waitara Public School	Organic, edible garden and worm farms	Hornsby
Wallsend Public School	Worms and vegies establishing a financial literacy program	Newcastle
Wattawa Heights Public School	Creating a sustainable vegetable garden	Bankstown
Wollongong West Public School	Growing healthy foods with chooks and worms	Wollongong
Woonona East Public School	Understanding where we live – teaching others about where we live	Wollongong
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>



# Environmental Research

The Environmental Research Program provides funding to projects that:

- investigate solutions to environmental problems
- reduce the environmental impact of major industries
- increase our knowledge about environmental issues
- improve the assessment of environmental degradation.

Seeding grants are also available that allow researchers to trial new theories, techniques or indicators before embarking on a major research project.

## Achievements

Six research seeding projects and ten major research projects concluded this year. These projects have contributed to a better understanding of a diverse range of issues including the impacts of noise on marine invertebrate fauna, the impacts and accumulation of arsenic and antimony in the environment, the impacts of biosolids and heavy metal concentrates on soil and plant health, and the genetic make-up and distribution of bivalves in NSW.

Other practical research outcomes include a potential new method for rapid analysis of biological taxa in soil and sediment samples, and a new sampling and analytical technique for atmospheric fine particles.

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

## Major Project

This year the Trust agreed to fund a \$750,000 three-year major research project that will increase understanding of intense low-pressure weather systems (known as East Coast Lows). The project will focus on understanding the causes and variability of these weather systems, their impacts on the coastline of NSW, and how climate change may modify these extreme weather events.

### East Coast Lows

East Coast Lows (ECL) are intensive low-pressure systems that occur off the eastern coast of Australia. They often intensify rapidly overnight, generating gale force winds, heavy widespread rainfall that leads to flash or major flooding, and heavy swells that can damage the shoreline. They are one of the most dangerous weather systems to affect the NSW coast. They also play a critical role in water

management with major water catchments on both sides of the Great Dividing Range being replenished by these extreme rainfall events.

The research will be undertaken by the Eastern Seaboard Climate Change Initiative, a cooperative research consortium led by DECCW. Members include other NSW government agencies, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the Sydney Institute of Marine Studies, Macquarie University and the University of New South Wales. The aim of the research consortium is to address information gaps in the nature and impacts of climate change and climate variability on the Australian east coast, ranges and inshore marine environments.

The project aims to deliver a number of practical and policy-based outputs:

- a publicly accessible ECL hazard tool linking 20th-century ECL events with information on their environmental impacts. This tool will build on and integrate existing datasets and will include consultation with intended users of the tool such as emergency services, water managers, researchers and insurance agencies
- predictive modelling of future ECL frequency along the NSW coast. The risk factors for ECL formation will be identified and applied to existing global and regional climate models
- predictive modelling of long-term (1,000 years) variability of ECLs. Palaeo-climate information (such as oxygen isotopes in tree rings and coral cores from the eastern Pacific Ocean) will be used to produce a time series of climate information over the past 1,000 years. This will provide the basis for risk assessment of extreme ECL events both under natural climate variability, and interpreted from climate shifts associated with climate model projections
- assessing regional coastal and estuarine impacts of extreme ECLs from the geohistorical record and using this information for coastal planning and natural resource management. The project will define regional impacts on the NSW coastal zone for a range of storm intensities.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Hidden losses: identifying co-extinction of fauna on threatened plants

The University of New South Wales was awarded a grant of \$99,968 under the Environmental Research program to undertake research into co-extinction. Co-extinction can occur when a dependent species becomes extinct because the host they depend on at some stage in their lifecycle is gone. The potential for co-extinction of many host-specific insects is high.

Species co-extinction remains a poorly studied area, but it is one that has critical implications for biodiversity. This project has taken the first step to begin looking at this risk in more detail. The University looked at co-extinction risks of insects affiliated with threatened plants, specifically focusing on threatened *Acacia* species.

The research has confirmed that co-extinction risks can be high for species that specialise on threatened hosts and that specialist insects are likely to become extinct before or simultaneously with their host plant. The other major finding of this research is that no single strategy can be applied to vulnerable plant species to ensure co-extinction does not occur due to the specificity of hosts, their abundance and spatial distribution.

The research demonstrated the need for inclusion of remediation actions addressing co-extinction when implementing plans for the conservation of threatened plants. While it is not possible to make generalisations about invertebrate conservation in Australia due to taxonomic limitations, this project provides insight into co-extinction and serves as a basis for future work on this issue.



*One of the psyllid species that relies on *Acacia ausfeldii**

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Bioavailability and risk from antimony and arsenic contamination

With the assistance of a \$100,000 Environmental Research grant, the University of New England has investigated twenty million tonnes of antimony and arsenic contaminated tailings in the Upper Macleay River catchment. This project investigated the bioavailability of these substances and sought to better understand the exposure pathways and environmental risks of antimony and arsenic.

Data collected during the project indicated low rates of bio-transference and bioaccumulation of arsenic and antimony by plants and other organisms. Only a small fraction of the antimony present in the soil samples appeared to be available to organisms. It also appears that the amount of antimony found in organisms directly relates to the level of antimony available to plants. Soil conditions, including pH, cation exchange, organic content and clay content have been identified as factors that can inhibit uptake into the plants. Contamination was detectable in all invertebrates, but concentration levels did not increase in higher levels of the food chain.

The research undertaken showed that arsenic and antimony do not accumulate in the leaves and stems of riparian vegetation. The level of contamination present depends on the species and the age of the plant, which both affect the uptake of metals by plants. The research found that the metals accumulate in the roots of aquatic plants rather than in the leaves and stems. It appears that iron oxide on the plant roots either sequesters or inhibits uptake of the metals and acts as a barrier preventing transport to above ground parts of the plant.

This project has greatly increased researchers' understanding of how the environment responds to contamination by arsenic and antimony. It is hoped that this knowledge will contribute towards more informed decision-making and management of contaminated land in the highly populated Macleay River catchment.

# Environmental Research Program 2009–10

The Trust allocates \$1,000,000 annually for environmental research projects that meet one of more of the following objectives:

- generate new knowledge or information to facilitate local solutions to environmental problems
- discover new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment
- provide knowledge about general environmental problems
- assess environmental degradation.

A total of 13 grants were awarded under the program in 2009–10, totalling \$1,037,709.

Major grants were awarded through a two-stage application process for projects of up to three years. This year the major category was Hazardous Substances and Waste, with approximately 60 per cent of funds allocated to projects addressing this issue (for grants of up to \$200,000). The balance was split between the two minor grant categories: Waters and Catchments and Noise (grants of up to \$100,000) and Seeding Grants (grants of up to \$20,000).

Sixty-six expressions of interest were received for the major and minor grant categories, with the Trust's Research Committee inviting 15 full applications. Eight research projects were funded to the value of \$938,465 (Table 9).

Seeding grants offer up to \$20,000 for 'proof of concept' projects that seek to test the viability of a research idea.

Following a poor response to this program in previous years, the guidelines were revised by the Research Technical Committee to better define what projects are eligible for seed funding. Thirty-nine applications were received for the Seeding Grants program requesting a total of \$751,285. This

was a significant increase on the previous year when only 14 applications were received. The Trust funded five seeding projects totalling \$99,244 (Table 10).

This year the Technical Committee also conducted a review of the major categories under which grants are offered. After eight years of operation the committee thought it was appropriate that the funding categories be revised in light of changing NSW Government priorities. Five new categories were approved by the Trust:

- climate change (targeting priority areas from the NSW Climate Change Research Plan)
- biodiversity and conservation (including threats to biodiversity, conservation planning, marine parks research, ecological research, and restoration ecology)
- integrated landscape management (including natural resource management, links between pressures and impacts, and the effectiveness of management activities)
- environmental pollution (including environmental contaminants, and air, water, land and noise pollution)
- resource efficiency and sustainability (including research on waste avoidance and management and resource recovery, and innovative technologies for improving efficiency of resource utilisation).

Due to the significant gaps in climate change research in NSW, it was agreed that Climate Change will be designated as the major research category for the next three years with 60 per cent of available funding to be allocated to this category. The other new categories will be addressed through rotating minor categories each year. Seeding grants will continue to be offered as under the current program.

**Without support from the Trust, the program [on organic carbon storage by microbes] would have been a paper or two. With their support, the program has developed depth and rigour. The program has achieved comment and requests at seminars and conferences for collaboration and training.'**

A/Prof Peter McGee, University of Sydney



Table 9

**Environmental Research grants awarded in 2009–10**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CSIRO	Environmental risk assessment of selected human pharmaceuticals	Statewide	\$200,000
DECCW	Resolving the sources and fate of hydrocarbons in groundwater	Statewide	\$199,970
DECCW	Validation of inversion strength estimation method	Statewide	\$50,000
DECCW	Remote sensing, biogeochemistry and optics of coastal algal blooms	Statewide	\$100,000
Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre	Impact of sulfidic sediments on the viability of dormant propagules	Statewide	\$99,286
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Evaluating urban stream remediation techniques: Cooks River, Sydney	Statewide	\$50,000
University of Sydney	Bioremediation for organochlorine-contaminated groundwater	Statewide	\$199,671
University of Canberra	Accumulation and sublethal effects of juvenile hormone mimics in bees	Statewide	\$39,538
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$938,465</b>

Table 10

**Environmental Research seeding grants awarded in 2009–10**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Macquarie University	Remote sensing of water temperature and salinity profiles	Ryde	\$20,000
University of New South Wales	Online vehicle exhaust monitor	Statewide	\$20,000
University of Sydney	A new tool for assessing ecological integrity in urban landscapes	Statewide	\$19,494
University of Sydney	Community-based solutions for sustainable water systems	Statewide	\$19,950
University of Wollongong	Novel approach for on-site landfill leachate treatment	Wollongong	\$19,800
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,244</b>



# Major Environmental Grants

This was the third year for three projects that are funded under the Major Environmental Grants Program:

- 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).

These projects are all large-scale projects that involve multiple stakeholders, and encompass both restoration and rehabilitation objectives and education objectives. They are led by DECCW and overseen on behalf of the Trust by appointed subcommittees with membership from stakeholder groups.

## Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

The Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative provides a national vision for linking landscapes along Australia's Great Eastern Ranges from the Australian Alps to the Atherton Tablelands and beyond. It has created a unique opportunity for private and public sector organisations to work together to improve connectivity of ecosystems and conserve the precious natural heritage of the Great Dividing Range.

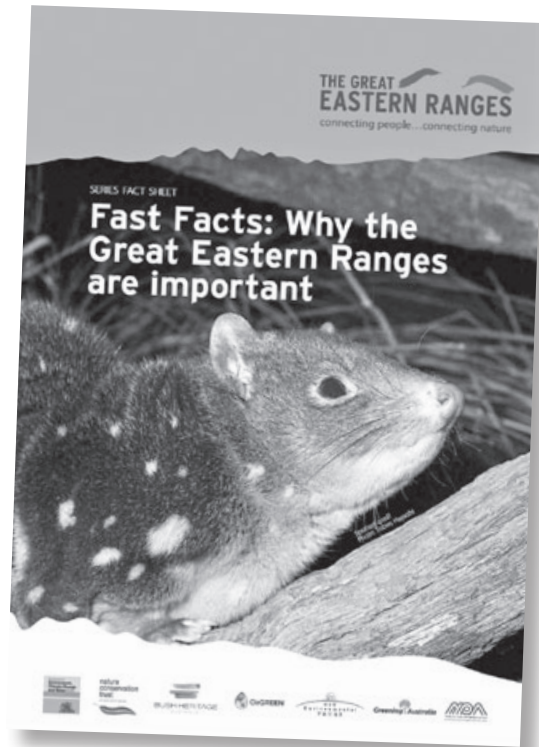
The Trust provided \$2.5 million to the project this year to fund initiatives in the 1,200-kilometre section of the program in NSW.

Great progress has been made again in the third year of the project. A new Lead Partners Group was established as part of the transition towards future leadership and governance of the project. This was negotiated through a Memorandum of Understanding between DECCW and leading conservation non-government organisations (Greening Australia, OzGREEN, the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW, Bush Heritage Australia and the National Parks Association of NSW).

The project continued its focus on achieving more integrated conservation planning and management across all land tenures. This approach has been strongly supported by a wide range of organisations and industry sectors. The five regional conservation partnerships established in previous years of the project continued their operation throughout 2009–10.

Through these partnerships there are over 60 organisations engaged in delivering integrated conservation outcomes on the ground. The Border Ranges partnership expanded over the Queensland border with involvement from South East Queensland (SEQ) Catchments and Condamine Alliance (the Condamine catchment authority), and the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management.

A highly successful open day was held by the Slopes to Summit partnership on a private property on the south-west slopes of NSW. Over 250 local people turned out to hear talks



*One of the fact sheets available from the GER website*

on biodiversity and inspect a range of landscape conservation activities by partners including Holbrook Landcare, Charles Sturt University, Murray CMA, CSIRO and DECCW.

Project funding of \$1.34 million was devolved in 33 grant agreements to support the delivery of a range of conservation partnership activities that contribute to the GER goals. These funds included \$855,500 for regional coordination and on-ground activities, \$350,000 to analyse threats to conservation and to develop systems to guide future investment and information delivery, and \$100,000 to supplement communications and media activities delivered through project partners.

In December 2009 an extensive, interactive website ([www.greateasternranges.org.au](http://www.greateasternranges.org.au)) was launched providing interactive maps, information and space for collaboration. Further promotion of the GER Initiative to tourists was achieved through a 10-page feature in Australian Traveller magazine, and interpretive displays featuring multi-media resources and photographs that toured National Parks and Wildlife Service visitor centres. A high quality DVD titled 'Our vision for the Great Eastern Ranges' was completed this year

as well as a DVD for school children about Aboriginal culture and connection to Country in the GER.

## Clean Air, Healthy Communities

The Clean Air, Healthy Communities (CAHC) Program is an initiative funded by the Trust to reduce vehicle emissions, fuel consumption, and car dependence in order to improve public health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality.

The CAHC Program aims to address a series of priorities in the NSW State Plan associated with environment, transport and urban living, with a particular focus on making progress towards the NSW air quality and greenhouse targets. The program received \$1.27 million from the Trust for 2009–10, with the program continuing to make significant achievements in each of the funded projects. A program-wide monitoring and evaluation plan, including key performance indicators, has also been completed for the CAHC program, as have individual project evaluation and monitoring frameworks.

## Air Education Support

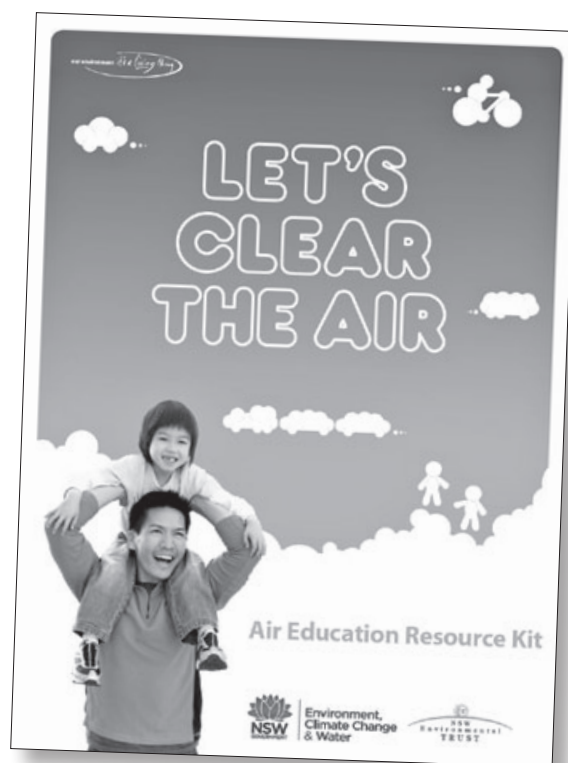
This project aims to increase community understanding of air pollution and build community support for the suite of CAHC projects through an air education kit, website and workshops.

The Let's Clear the Air website ([www.cleartheair.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cleartheair.nsw.gov.au)) was launched in November 2009 providing a portal for air quality information that can be used by residents, businesses, non-government organisations, local councils and government agencies.

The Air Education Resource Kit was also finalised in November 2009. The kit contains ready-to-use templates, promotional resources, and a how-to guide for designing local air education programs. The kit featured in workshops for local government staff that were held in Parramatta, Sydney,

Newcastle and Wagga Wagga. Further copies of the kit will be distributed to all councils in NSW in 2010-11. It is also available for download from the Let's Clear the Air website.

An Air Education Grants Program was developed to fund local and regional air education projects. Six councils received grants totalling \$162,000 for projects promoting and supporting clean air actions.



Many resources are available for download from the Lets Clear the Air website

**LET'S CLEAR THE AIR**

**You can help clear the air by using public transport**

More people and vehicles traveling more kilometres will affect air quality. More hot days can reduce our air quality because warmer and drier conditions increase the chance of smog, dust storms and fires.

Public transport uses less fuel and creates less air pollution than car travel. Improve air quality and reduce fuel costs by:

- catching public transport to work
- encouraging your children to catch public transport to school
- using public transport to and from major events or outings.

Visit [cleartheair.nsw.gov.au](http://cleartheair.nsw.gov.au) to find out how walking, cycling and enviro driving can also help.

NSW GOVERNMENT | Environment, Climate Change & Water | NSW Environmental TRUST

## Diesel Retrofit

Nearly 100 vehicle retrofits were completed this year as part of this project that supports the retrofitting of exhaust systems of older (pre-1996) diesel vehicles with emissions reduction equipment. In partnership with the Roads and Traffic Authority, an innovative fuel monitoring device for heavy vehicles has been developed. The device was installed on a truck and the project is now measuring the emission reductions achieved as a result of various fuel saving technologies.

The project has gained Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) endorsement for the development of a SmartWay-style program to reduce heavy vehicle pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. SmartWay is an innovative program in the United States that encourages heavy vehicle owners to buy a kit of fuel saving and exhaust treatment devices by offering easy finance, pay back from the fuel savings and access to a SmartWay shippers network. A plan for implementing the program in NSW has been prepared by DECCW.

## FleetWise

This partnership project between DECCW and fleet vehicle operators provides participants with technical assistance, advice and training on measuring and reducing their vehicle emissions. So far the primary focus of the project has been on light vehicles. However, this year the project commenced a benchmarking exercise to measure the performance of heavy vehicle fleets. This first phase of the heavy vehicles component of FleetWise involved the use of automated emissions measuring equipment to establish a database of emissions factors.

The FleetWise passenger vehicle module was finalised this year. The module includes various components to engage and assist partners in the program including introductory seminars, training workshops, online tools and assistance with preparing and implementing an Emissions Reduction Plan. The completed tool was provided to the Sustainability Programs Division of DECCW for rollout as part of its Sustainability Advantage Program. The passenger vehicle module was included under measure 2.3.4 of the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency as the preferred tool for improvement of passenger fleets nationally. This has resulted in interest in the FleetWise tool from fleet managers in other states.

## Local Emissions Air Project (LEAP)

LEAP funds peak industry groups, councils and businesses on a contestable basis to develop and implement measures to reduce emissions from smash repairers. The project has implemented two of the options identified last year to reduce the emission of volatile organic compounds from smash repairers (a TAFE training program, and a national cost-benefit analysis of volatile organic compound limits).

Stage one of a project designed to reduce emissions from aerosols and solvents was completed this year. This included a desktop review of regulations introduced by overseas regulatory authorities for consumer aerosols and solvents products, and preparation of a draft national aerosols and solvents emissions inventory. The next stage of the project will involve prioritising product groups in terms of their risk to air quality and health, refining the draft emissions inventory

using data gathered for the Australian market, and preparing some draft policy options for controlling emissions from aerosols and solvents in NSW.

## Stage 2 Vapour Recovery

This project is helping to reduce harmful petrol vapours through capturing emissions at service stations as part of the NSW Government's successful vapour recovery program. The *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Amendment (Vapour Recovery) Regulation 2009* was gazetted by the NSW Government in November 2009. The Regulation refers to *Standards and best practice guidelines for vapour recovery at petrol service stations* which include details of standards, certification, testing and monitoring. Data from five vapour recovery trial sites were evaluated and incorporated into the adopted guidelines.

The amendment of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002* allows progressive installation of vapour recovery technology at petrol service stations between 2010 and 2017. The amendment is expected to reduce regional emissions of volatile organic compounds by around 5,000 tonnes per year and improve local air quality at and near petrol service stations.

A forum was held in cooperation with the Petroleum Industry Contractors Association to explain the new requirements to designers and installers of vapour recovery systems. The forum also sought feedback on a draft manual (*Recommended Practices for the Installation and Testing of Vapour Recovery Systems at Service Stations*) which was finalised and published on the Petroleum Industry Contractors Association website.



*The new best practice guidelines for vapour recovery*

## On Your Bike

This was the final year of the On Your Bike project, which concluded in June 2010. Capitalising on the increased public and government interest in cycling, this project has provided practical guidance on increasing the ease and safety of cycling, and strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration in the promotion of cycling as a transport option.

The NSW BikePlan was launched in May 2010, outlining a ten-year plan for rolling out cycling infrastructure in NSW. The plan is a whole-of-government initiative overseen by the Premier's Council for Active Living. With approval from the CAHC Subcommittee, the On Your Bike project contributed funding to two initiatives relating to the BikePlan. A number of subregional studies were carried out to produce ideas and models for local infrastructure improvements and programs that will encourage more cycling for short trips. These studies provided an evidence base for specific actions for the new NSW BikePlan. On Your Bike also funded the development of a comprehensive cycling website associated with the Premier's Council for Active Living website.

The project continued its close collaboration with Bicycle NSW in expanding the Ride2Work and Ride2School Programs. The project also delivered a program of cycling proficiency training for adults throughout NSW. This program provided 420 free training vouchers (valued at \$360 each) to government, business, universities, non-government and community organisations. Training was provided to groups of 3-12 participants depending on levels of competency.

## Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments (SMILE)

SMILE aims to assist local councils and communities reduce the negative impacts of urban transport by understanding the motivations of different transport users and encouraging a shift away from car-based travel to more sustainable forms of transport.

A demonstration project is operating within the Randwick City Council area. Initiatives being implemented include workplace travel plans, increasing participation in walking and cycling, a local rewards program and car sharing.

A new project was developed this year to demonstrate the value of Transport Management Associations in NSW. A transport planning consultant was appointed in April 2010 to undertake a viability assessment of establishing a Transport Management Association, or similar entity, in Macquarie Park in Sydney.

In partnership with the Premier's Council for Active Living, SMILE also contributed funding to the development of a promotional brochure on workplace travel plans to help engage decision-makers in workplace travel planning.

## Land Alive: Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity

The Land Alive project is building Aboriginal landowners' capacity to be effective land managers. The project helps Aboriginal landowners to develop knowledge and understanding of the biodiversity and cultural values of land holdings, develops experience in conservation programs and delivers accredited training in conservation land management to the Aboriginal community.

In 2009-2010, Land Alive received \$1.68 million from the Trust. A major achievement for the year was the development of four management plans for Aboriginal landowners, bringing the total number of plans prepared under the project to nine. The project also funded three biobank site assessments for Aboriginal landowners and provided support to one Aboriginal organisation in their discussions with a land developer.

Land Alive also partnered with the Hotspots Fire Project (managed by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW) to deliver fire management planning to two Aboriginal landowners with high fire risk. Thirty Aboriginal trainees continued their training in conservation land management this year, with 22 trainees attaining their 12-month milestone in June 2010.

A mid-term evaluation of the Land Alive project commenced in February 2010 and a symposium of Land Alive trainees and stakeholders was conducted in April 2010. The symposium identified issues for trainees and obtained feedback from stakeholders to improve the project's outcomes for its final year in 2010-11.

The evaluation recognised that the Land Alive project has faced a number of challenges, including the slow start of the BioBanking scheme, and reservations of Aboriginal landowners about entering into biobanking agreements. However, one of the many positive results highlighted in the evaluation has been the successful building of connections that has occurred through the project, demonstrating DECCW's productive partnerships with Aboriginal people.

Feedback from both the symposium and evaluation highlights the need to support Aboriginal landowners to develop longer term strategies to ensure they have the capacity to implement management plan recommendations. The evaluation also makes recommendations to improve the retention and training outcomes of Land Alive trainees. These two areas in particular will be targeted by the Land Alive project team in 2010-11.

The Land Alive project also funded the NSW Aboriginal Land Council to establish a position dedicated to working with DECCW on making the BioBanking scheme accessible to, and understood by, the Local Aboriginal Land Council network.



# Waste and Sustainability Program

Through its Waste and Sustainability Program, the Trust has been a key player in driving progress in these important issues since 2005. The program is designed to support the implementation of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.

This was the first year of a new three-year funding period for the Waste and Sustainability Program. Previously the Waste Program, the new name reflects the more recent focus on addressing broader sustainability issues.

The new program (until June 2012) has been built upon the knowledge and experience gained through the previous waste-related projects, with the benefit of significant data that is now available. Many of the projects under the previous program are continuing, while there are also a number of new initiatives including a waste action planning tool for councils and a Love Food Hate Waste program targeting the significant issue of food waste. Projects have been restructured around five target audiences: businesses, homes, community organisations, state government and local government.

The majority of projects within the Waste and Sustainability Program are delivered by the Sustainability Programs Division of DECCW in partnership with state and local government, businesses, non-government organisations and the community. A key feature of the program is the successful partnerships that have been developed particularly with local government in the Household Chemical CleanOut program, Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads, and Voluntary Regional Waste Groups. Other strong partnerships have developed with the education sector through the Sustainable Schools program and with business and industry through the Sustainability Advantage program.

The Waste and Sustainability Program is overseen by a subcommittee which provides advice and recommendations to the Trust on strategic issues, funding allocation and progress of projects. A total of \$9.7 million was provided to DECCW in 2009–10 for delivery of the program (Table 11). Some of the achievements for the year are highlighted in the following pages.

Table 11

## Waste and Sustainability Program in 2009–10

Program area	Funding
Local government	\$2,825,000
Business	\$2,960,000
Community organisations	\$715,000
NSW Government	\$175,000
Homes	\$1,650,000
Sustainability support	\$805,000
Environmental protection and regulation programs	\$570,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,700,000</b>

## Regional and Local Government Support

The collaborative Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWG) aim to improve the delivery of waste management and resource recovery in rural regional NSW. The Trust provided \$1.56 million to DECCW to support the activities of the eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups in 2009–10. These groups collectively represent 96 rural regional councils.

The rate of municipal resource recovery continues to increase steadily, with the domestic recycling rate increasing from 27 per cent in 2005 to over 38 per cent in 2009. This is a good result considering the issues that affect recovery rates in rural regional areas, such as a low population base, high transport costs and remote townships. Regional recycling contracts are proving to be a cost-effective option for councils in rural regional NSW. Economies of scale provide small councils with access to recycling services that were previously not geographically or economically viable.

The efforts of the VRWGs have influenced the increase in household recycling by facilitating the process with member councils. Regional domestic contracts have allowed for expansion of kerbside recycling into areas previously not serviced. New domestic recycling contracts commenced in 2009–10 with the following council groups: The Northern Inland Regional Waste councils of Tamworth, Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah; the NetWaste councils of Dubbo and Narromine; and the Midwaste subgroup of councils of Great Lakes, Greater Taree City and Gloucester Shire.

The VRWGs have been instrumental in negotiating regional contracts on behalf of their councils for collection of wastes of particular concern in rural regional areas. Preliminary data results for 2009–10 are showing returns of:

- 24,000 tonnes of scrap metal recycled
- 300,000 cubic metres of garden organics reprocessed
- 440,000 agricultural chemical drums collected for recycling
- 450,000 litres of used oil collected for reprocessing.

E-waste is a growing issue. In 2010 the VRWG, through their collective identity, RENEW NSW, met with Product Stewardship Australia to support the design of an appropriate collection system for televisions and computers. The regional groups facilitated events for the collection of these items from households in 2009–10 resulting in 191 tonnes of e-waste collected for recycling.

## Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads

The Trust provided \$488,000 to support two Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads in 2009–10. The RID Squads investigate incidents and take action against offenders, organise clean-ups, track down illegal landfills, identify changes and trends in illegal dumping across a regional area and educate community members about illegal dumping.

The Western Sydney RID Squad was established in 1999 to combat illegal dumping incidents. With support from DECCW, RID members Bankstown City Council, Baulkham Hills Shire Council, Fairfield City Council, Holroyd City Council, Liverpool City Council and Penrith City Council work together to ensure illegal dumping issues are addressed in

a regional manner. Parramatta City Council will join Western Sydney RID Squad in 2010-11.

In 2009–10 the Western Sydney RID Squad investigated 3,477 illegal dumping incidents involving approximately 12,000 tonnes of waste. Investigations resulted in 117 clean-up notices and 562 penalty notices being issued. Because of RID Squad activity around one third of the illegally dumped waste was removed by offenders.

The Greater Southern RID Squad was established in 2004 and is a collaboration between DECCW, the councils of Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Eurobodalla, the Sydney Catchment Authority and the National Parks and Wildlife Group. The Greater Southern RID Squad has identified substantial dumping sites and investigated illegal dumping of household waste, garden organics, building and construction material, asbestos, as well as illegal landfilling.

The Greater Southern RID Squad investigated 515 illegal dumping incidents involving 600 tonnes of waste in 2009–10. Investigations resulted in 35 clean-up notices and 60 penalty notices being issued.

## Love Food Hate Waste

NSW households throw away more than 800,000 tonnes of food waste each year, with a further 300,000 tonnes being thrown away from businesses in the Sydney region. Food waste is now the largest component by weight (38 per cent) of the household garbage bins and the second largest component of commercial waste by weight (13 per cent) in Sydney. A survey of 1,200 households by DECCW in December 2009 found that the average NSW household disposes of \$1,036 of edible food per year.



Promoting the Love Food Hate Waste program

To tackle household food waste, DECCW developed the Love Food Hate Waste program. The program aims to raise awareness about the environmental and financial impacts of food waste in NSW and to reduce the amount of edible food being sent to landfill. By promoting easy and practical solutions for buying, cooking and storing food, Love Food Hate Waste will help the NSW community to prevent food waste, save time and money and reduce our impact on the environment.

The first year of the project has focused on the development and launch of the Love Food Hate Waste program. Key achievements include:

- qualitative and quantitative research to inform the design of the Love Food Hate Waste program and assist in program evaluation
- developing clever and engaging marketing and communications materials
- developing the Love Food Hate Waste website which is the key communication platform for the program
- forming strong partnerships with leading food retailers, manufacturers and government agencies including Woolworths Pty Ltd, Australian Food and Grocery Council, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, NSW Health and NSW Food Authority.

The program was launched by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment in May 2010.

## Sustainability Advantage

The Sustainability Advantage Program has been engaging business in improved environmental performance since 2007. There are now 428 member organisations in 48 clusters across regional and metropolitan NSW. The program had a budget of \$1.5 million for 2009–10.

A diverse range of sectors continue to be attracted to the program with members now including hospitality, health and aged care, community services, tertiary education, government, utilities, steel production and forging, oil refining, port and airport facilities, agribusiness, manufacturing of food, chemicals and building materials as well as large food retailers and wholesalers.

The core elements of the program begin with an assessment of current business sustainability followed by support in the form of workshops, training and technical advice. The workshops and training focus on key areas of sustainability including planning, resource efficiency, staff engagement and climate change.

This year's World Environment Day marked the second Sustainability Advantage recognition event where organisations were recognised for demonstrating their commitment to sustainability. The event celebrated the first businesses to become Silver Partners by demonstrating a significant environmental achievement. All of the recognised partners demonstrated a holistic approach to sustainability that went beyond the focus of energy and resource savings. These businesses were:

- Converga
- The Austral Brick Company
- De Bortoli Wines
- Focus Press
- Marquis Bathroom Products



***Businesses in the Sustainability Advantage Program have saved a combined \$13 million through improved energy, resource and other efficiencies. Members have also saved over 57,000 tonnes of carbon pollution, 1,300 million litres of water and diverted 82,300 tonnes of waste from landfill.***



- Offset Alpine Printing
- Ontera Modular Carpets
- Schindler Lifts Australia
- TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute.

42 Bronze Partners were also recognised for their demonstrated commitment to business sustainability.

## Business and Industry Resource Recovery

The Business and Industry Resource Recovery Program comprises a number of projects that focus on finding innovative ways to promote recycling and the reuse of waste products that would otherwise be sent to landfill. The program received funding of \$380,000 this year with the major achievements being detailed below.

### Recycling directory

In late 2009 DECCW entered into a partnership with Planet Ark and Pitney Bowes Australia, to develop, maintain and promote a national online recycling directory and support hotline.

During 2009–10 the website was developed in consultation with industry. This directory ([BusinessRecycling.com.au](http://BusinessRecycling.com.au)) enables both business and the public to quickly find the location of local businesses that will recycle their item of interest. At present there are over 100 categories of materials and it is likely to become the most extensive directory of recycling services in Australia. The directory allows recycling businesses to promote their services free of charge, and thus increase reuse and recycling of a range of materials that are otherwise directed for disposal at landfills. [BusinessRecycling.com.au](http://BusinessRecycling.com.au) and the Business Recycling hotline were launched at Parliament House in June 2010.

At present the commercial and industrial sector produces the largest amount of waste in NSW. DECCW is committed to the continued development, maintenance and promotion of the directory until 2012.



*Project partners at the launch of the Business Recycling directory at Parliament House*



## House deconstruction fact sheets

Conventional methods of building demolition are giving way to a more sophisticated method that cuts disposal costs and increases revenue. House deconstruction involves the removal and separation of building materials to maximise the recovery of materials and minimise the increasingly expensive costs of disposal.

DECCW has produced a series of fact sheets and a DVD that compares the benefits and costs of deconstructing buildings against old-fashioned demolition. Due to the rising costs of landfill disposal and the re-sale value of many recovered building materials, house deconstruction has proven to be more cost-effective than demolition across a range of building types.

The fact sheets look in detail at the stages of house deconstruction and offer tips and advice on how to plan and carry out house deconstruction successfully. They show the income generated and costs avoided by deconstructing buildings in comparison with the costs associated with traditional demolition and landfill disposal.

The fact sheets available are:

- Cost of house deconstruction
- Stripping out: fixtures and fittings
- Bricks and concrete removal
- Roof beams and timber removal
- Plasterboard removal
- Roof surface removal

## Greenspec

DECCW updated and expanded the Specification for Supply of Recycled Material for Pavements, Earthworks and Drainage to provide consumers with more information on environmentally sustainable products. The specification encourages local government and other organisations within the public and private works engineering sector to use recycled concrete, brick and asphalt materials.

The performance standards for the recycled materials provide the confidence needed in the marketplace for their increased usage. Prepared for DECCW by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (NSW), the specification had considerable input from a panel of engineers and industry organisations with experience in the recycling of construction and demolition materials for road-making.

## Trial of recycled road materials

\$100,000 was provided to Fairfield City Council to conduct trials of recycled concrete and asphalt in road construction. The trial on Delgarno Road in Bonnyrigg Heights is the first in the area to use 93 per cent recycled construction and demolition waste rather than quarried rock. Sixty-seven per cent of construction and demolition material is being recycled in NSW, however more than two million tonnes is still being sent to landfill every year. This trial will divert construction and demolition waste from landfill and promote the project findings to the community.



*Trialling recycled road base at Fairfield*

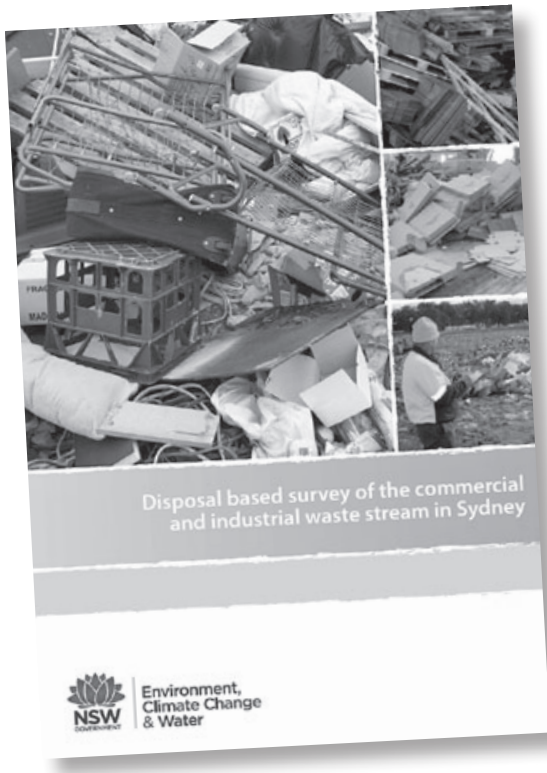
## Trial of glass fines in road construction

While large quantities of glass are recovered for recycling, the collection and sorting process generates many fine pieces that are unsuitable for re-manufacturing. In 2009–10 DECCW partnered with the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and Waverley City Council to fund the construction of roads at two sites in Bondi using recycled glass fines. The construction of a concrete road and an asphalt road used 83 tonnes of recycled glass sand, diverting this material from landfill and displacing virgin sand, which is traditionally used in such applications. This project will test the performance and durability of the road surfaces over the next five years, to promote use of recycled materials to local government, state government, civil construction and recycling industry stakeholders.

## Commercial and industrial waste survey

Following the audit of transfer stations and landfills in the Sydney Metropolitan Area during 2008–09, a comprehensive report was produced in 2009–10. The report, *Disposal based survey of the commercial and industrial waste stream in Sydney*, shows that 2,223,856 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste were sent to Sydney landfills in 2007–08. It is estimated that this waste could fill over 7,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The main materials found in commercial and industrial waste are food (17.4 per cent), wood (16.7 per cent), plastic (16.9 per cent) and paper and cardboard (17.4 per cent). The survey also found that small and medium enterprises are the largest contributor (45 per cent).



Final report of the commercial and industrial waste survey

The report is now available online and provides valuable information for future waste programs in DECCW and the waste industry in general.

### Waste diagnostic tool

During 2009–10 significant progress has been made towards developing a Waste Diagnostic Tool that is designed to help small and medium enterprises assess their waste disposal and recycling. The tool will take businesses through three steps to conduct a simple waste audit of their operations and provide an action plan to reduce resource use and increase recycling. Flexibility is the advantage of this tool. Business owners can undertake the assessment themselves or be assisted by a waste educator or industry representative. This spreadsheet-based tool is currently being finalised, and will be available online in 2010-11.

### Recycled Organics

The Recycled Organics program spent \$255,000 in 2009–10 working in partnership with local government, winemakers and the recycled organic industry to promote the use of mulch and compost. Research studies and trials use compost to show how soil, vineyard and turf quality can be improved leading to greater yield, lower water use and less sporting injuries.

Research into the use of compost on playing fields was carried out at a trial site in Marks Park in Bondi. The results from this work have led to the specification for a compost mix suitable for top dressing sandy playing fields. This will mean playing fields that not only save water but reduce ground compaction and sporting injuries.

The Hunter Valley is world-renowned for producing premium quality Semillon, much of this from low-yielding, dry-grown vineyards. Research has revealed that Semillon is a variety that continues to function throughout both evenings and heat stress events. Trials showed that the application of composted mulch had an immediate effect on buffering soil temperature. All sites commenced the season with a full profile of soil water after good winter rains fell across the Hunter Valley region. Mulch application in the early spring helped to reduce evaporation from the soil surface, therefore enhancing the retention of the available soil water. This meant that several irrigations could be withheld in mulch-treated vines.

The viticulture industry has reacted with interest to the results of these trials so far, and is keen to support ongoing work in the field. In a future constrained by climate change, compost might prove to be the saviour of this iconic variety in the Hunter region.

### Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up

The Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Program addresses the social and environmental impacts of illegal dumping on Aboriginal-owned lands. The program supports partnership projects between LALC and councils that:

- clean up and prevent illegal dumping on Aboriginal-owned lands
- increase resource recovery
- strengthen relationships between Aboriginal communities and local councils
- improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal communities
- increase LALCs' capacity to manage waste in a sustainable manner.

Six projects that received funding in 2008-09 were implemented during 2009–10. So far these projects have resulted in the reuse of 456 tonnes, recycling of 325 tonnes, and appropriate disposal of 196 tonnes of illegally dumped waste. Grant recipients have identified many additional positive outcomes including strengthened relationships between the local Aboriginal community and local government, increased community pride, and safer communities.

- Warren Macquarie LALC and Warren Shire Council have cleaned up illegal dumping and undertaken fencing and revegetation work at Beemunnel, a culturally significant parcel of land in Warren. Training opportunities in conservation and land management were also provided for community members.
- Deerubbin LALC and Penrith City Council have undertaken the second stage of cleaning up illegally dumped waste including asbestos on Deerubbin land at Penrith. Fencing, restricting access and surveillance by council rangers will prevent future dumping on the site.
- Booroongen Djugun College partnered with Thungutti LALC and Kempsey Shire Council to clean up and prevent illegal dumping in and around the Bellbrook community. Education and training opportunities were provided to the local community, and the local school, men's group and residents all contributed to the project.



## Sustainable Schools

The Sustainable Schools NSW (SSNSW) program enables school communities and the organisations that work with them to plan and implement environmental activities that enhance student learning and reduce the school's environmental impact. SSNSW is also part of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative and the national partnership statement across all states, territories and the Commonwealth.

1,369 schools are registered with Sustainable Schools NSW which represents 38 per cent of all NSW schools spread across 126 local government areas. Schools are developing and implementing action plans relating to environmental and grounds management, and environmental curriculum, including whole-of-school planning and school community participation.

During 2009–10 SSNSW facilitated 15 professional learning workshops around NSW which were attended by 262 teachers. The workshops are accredited with the NSW Institute of Teachers and they help teachers to develop School Environmental Management Plans and integrate sustainability education within the curriculum. Seventy per cent of registered schools currently have a School Environmental Management Plan or are preparing one.

## Who Cares about the Environment in 2009?

The *Who Cares about the Environment?* research series is a core part of the DECCW social research program. Conducted every three years since 1994, the *Who Cares?* research provides a point-in-time snapshot and tracks changes and trends in the environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of the people of NSW.

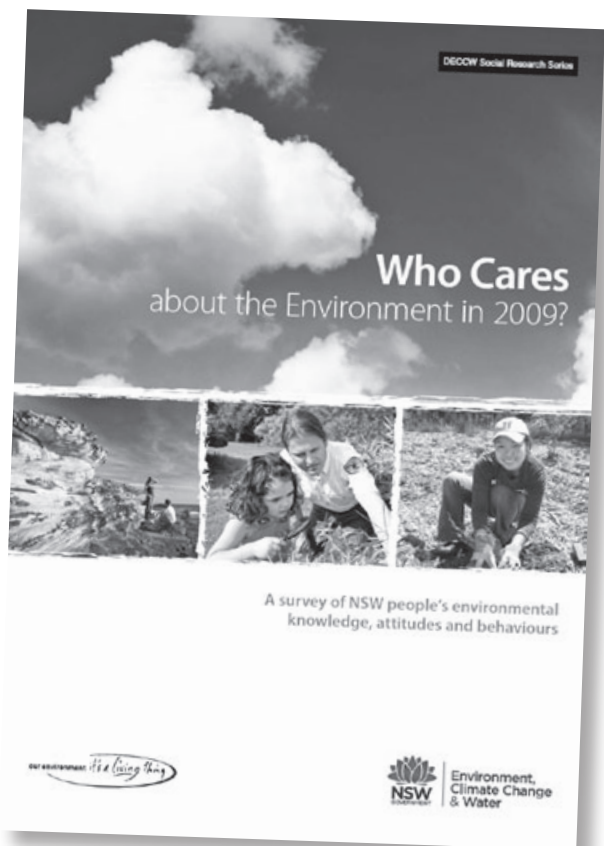
The 2009 research included a telephone survey with over 2,000 NSW residents in June–July 2009 and a more in-depth qualitative component conducted with seven focus groups in metropolitan and regional NSW in early December 2009. The focus groups helped to gain a deeper understanding of the quantitative results and to enhance understanding of different community segments.

This sixth survey found that more than three-quarters of the population were concerned about environmental problems, and that there has been a marked growth in people's knowledge and concerns about climate change, with more than two-thirds supporting urgent action on this issue. While water (management and conservation) was still the most important environmental issue, interest in this issue declined from the 2006 results across several questions in the survey. The survey also found the community making increased efforts to reduce energy consumption and use alternatives to plastic bags while there were generally more positive views about the state of the environment on a range of indicators compared to 2006.

The report of the survey findings was launched in February 2010, along with a summary brochure of the key findings. Both the report and the brochure were published in print and online. The report of the qualitative research will be published online in late 2010, along with a range of topic-based fact sheets and data tables for those who wish to explore the research further.

Following the publication and launch of the 2009 research, nine seminars were conducted across NSW in March and April 2010. A total 475 people attended these events, with all attendees receiving a copy of the printed report. The research has been distributed to all councils in NSW, as well as a range of other stakeholders and interested people.

The report can be found on the DECCW website ([www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares2009.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares2009.htm)).



The 2009 *Who Cares?* report was launched in February 2010



# Lead Environmental Community Groups Program

Introduced in 2006, this program assists lead environmental community organisations in NSW by contributing towards their administrative costs. This is the only Trust program to offer assistance of this nature.

In 2009–10 the Trust committed funds of \$1.8 million to be spent over three years for a second round of the Lead Environmental Community Grants Program. Thirty-five applications were received requesting grants totalling \$4,707,944, of which 21 were funded (Table 12).

In line with the program guidelines the Trust decided to allocate grants to as many eligible organisations as the program funding would allow, taking into account issues such as even distribution of funds across similar organisations, state and regional needs and interests, the profile and funding history of the organisation, and the benefit for the natural environment. Prior to calling for applications, changes

were made to the program guidelines to better define what is considered to be a Lead Environmental Community Group.

The objective of this program is to provide administrative assistance to organisations that 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, and gathering information on, environmental issues with a view to bringing about behavioural change across the community
- being effective advocates in expressing the community's environmental concerns
- being actively involved in program and policy development initiatives with governments.

Table 12

## Lead Environmental Community Groups grants awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Amount
Australian Association for Environmental Education (National)	\$45,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.	\$45,000
Conservation Volunteers Australia	\$75,000
Australian Conservation Foundation Inc.	\$120,000
Bicycle New South Wales Inc.	\$75,000
Earthwatch Institute Australia	\$15,000
Environmental Defenders Office Ltd	\$180,000
Greening Australia NSW	\$15,000
Inland Rivers Network (IRN)	\$30,000
Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW)	\$135,000
Landcare NSW Inc.	\$75,000
Nature Conservation Council of NSW Inc.	\$240,000
National Parks Association of NSW Inc.	\$210,000
WIRES, NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Inc.	\$60,000

## Lead Environmental Community Groups grants awarded in 2009–10 (cont)

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services Inc.	\$37,500
Total Environment Centre Inc.	\$240,000
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc.	\$10,000
Community Environment Network Inc.	\$36,000
Friends of the Koala Inc.	\$10,000
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	\$71,500
The Wilderness Society Sydney Inc.	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,800,000</b>

# Climate Change Fund



The Climate Change Fund is a \$700-million five-year initiative of the NSW Government that is helping all sectors of the NSW community to address the causes and impacts of climate change. The Trust is contributing \$4.5 million over three years to support programs that are consistent with the Trust's objectives.

The Climate Change Fund provides financial support to households, businesses, communities, schools and government to save energy and water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It aims to overcome one of the key barriers to improved water and energy efficiency by helping to cover the upfront costs of investing in water and energy savings.

The Trust's contribution is split between two programs, the Schools Energy Efficiency Program and the Public Facilities Program, which have both received a total of \$2.25 million over three years. 2009–10 was the last year of funding for these programs.

## Schools Energy Efficiency Program

This program is implemented through a partnership between DECCW and the Department of Education and Training NSW. It provides \$20 million for lighting upgrades in up to 150 high schools in NSW and \$5 million for a Climate Clever Energy Savers Fund which allows schools to implement energy and greenhouse gas saving projects linked to the NSW curriculum.

Lighting upgrades were completed for 30 schools in 2009–10. It is expected that these upgrades will generate overall energy savings of around 14 per cent for each school (totalling about 1,600 megawatt hours per year, equivalent to 1,700 tonnes of carbon).

Fifty-one high schools have now been upgraded since the inception of the program with total energy savings to date estimated at 2,500 megawatt hours per year. The program is on track to meet its target of 5,660 megawatt hours per year.

## Public Facilities Program

This program aims to overcome financial barriers to improving water and energy efficiency in NSW schools and public facilities. The program is open to councils, schools, NSW government agencies and non-government organisations providing public or educational facilities on a non-profit basis.

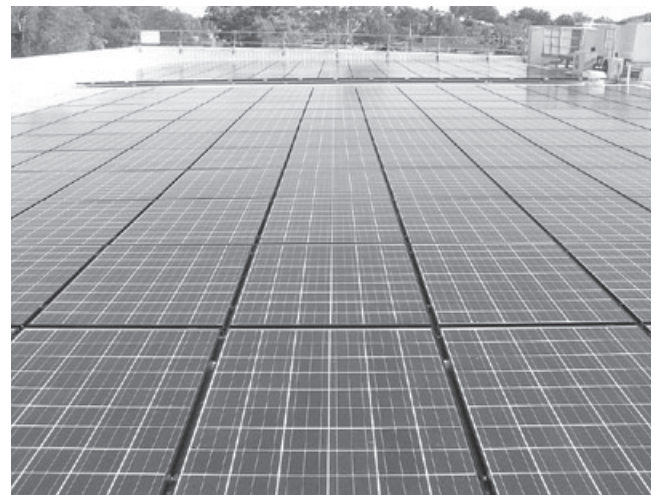
Projects for the first round of funding under the Public Facilities Program were announced in September 2008.

Great progress has been made on the following four projects which are funded by the Trust.

### Rigby House retrofit, Coffs Harbour City Council

This project, which received \$735,000 from the Trust, will deliver the first solar-powered public building in the Coffs Harbour region. It involves the retrofit of Rigby House which houses the two busiest public facilities in Coffs Harbour – the Regional Art Gallery and the City Library. Solar panels on the roof are designed to supply up to half of the building's energy requirements and save more than 120 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

Council has completed the installation of 654 solar panels and associated inverters for the 100-kilowatt photovoltaic rooftop grid-connected system and the system is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2010.



*Solar panels on the roof of Rigby House*

### Bland Shire Council

The Trust has provided \$510,000 to Bland Shire Council to help drought-proof the town of West Wyalong and restore a degraded wetland to a waterbird sanctuary. Council is building a major stormwater harvesting system to irrigate several of its public facilities, including sports fields, parks, gardens and street landscaping, which will save 15 million litres of water a year. The project is being achieved through a partnership between Bland Shire Council, Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, Lachlan CMA, local schools and the Tidy Towns Committee.

The first phase of the project involved the desilting and enlargement of a dam in McCann Park at West Wyalong

which now provides greater water storage during rain events. The surrounding areas have been landscaped and water tanks installed at Redman Oval and West Wyalong Cemetery. Design of the wetland is completed with construction anticipated to start in August 2010. A number of education initiatives including water monitoring, school curriculum and community education programs will be implemented once the wetland is complete.

### University of New South Wales (UNSW)

The Lowy Cancer Research Centre will be a world-class research facility for the Children’s Cancer Institute Australia and cancer researchers from the UNSW Faculty of Medicine. The Trust has provided \$500,000 to the project for the installation of a gas-fired cogeneration unit on the roof of the Centre. This work was completed in April 2010. The unit will

provide hot water and electricity for the building and heat for an absorption chiller. The cogeneration unit will reduce peak power demand by 770 kilowatts and save 1,700 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

### Mogo Zoo

The Trust has provided \$499,000 to Mogo Zoo for a major water savings program that will capture, treat and reuse wastewater to clean animal enclosures. A water treatment system was installed to recycle wastewater for cleaning and irrigation, and rainwater tanks now provide water for use in toilets, the laundry and hose taps. A power upgrade by Country Energy is expected to be completed by the end of 2010. Work is continuing on the development of an education program to showcase the water recycling facilities to schools, local businesses and other visitors.

## Table 13

### Climate Change Fund payments in 2009-2010

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



# Private Native Forestry Program



This five-year program supports the implementation of the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice (the PNF Code). This code will see the private native forestry industry deliver sustainable timber resources through improved silvicultural and environmental practices.

Applications for the Private Native Forestry (PNF) Industry Assistance Program closed in May 2009. The amount of assistance applied for was less than anticipated and in November 2009 the program was reduced from \$37 million to \$10.1 million based on the level of demand. A revised business plan incorporates the new funding arrangements and outlines the work program until 2012.

Funding comprises:

- \$1.22 million for an industry assistance program that assists businesses that become unviable, or workers made redundant due to the introduction of the PNF Code
- \$4.20 million for certification, training and accreditation of forest managers, landowners and logging operators
- \$4.68 million to support implementation of the PNF Code and package by DECCW and Industry & Investment NSW.

Ten applications for industry assistance were received from businesses and seven from individuals. Three sawmills that were immediately affected by the regulation of the industry were provided with early exit assistance. To date \$557,263 has been paid to businesses wanting to exit the industry, \$290,000 for support to business owners, \$21,305 to assist workers to exit the industry and \$6,847 for re-training.

Twenty training sessions, 'Sustainable Private Native Forestry', were held in 2009–10 across ten different locations. Sessions included soil and water protection, silviculture, biodiversity protection and cultural heritage management. An online training module in occupational health and safety for forestry workers is also available. Twenty-four participants have so far received their Statement of Attainment in Sustainable Private Native Forestry.

A 'Private Native Forestry Operations Planner' course is also running through TAFE NSW for contractors and landholders

planning their own PNF operations. Five courses attended by 43 participants were delivered by TAFE NSW between January and June 2010 on the NSW North Coast. Based on the high demand a further eight courses are scheduled across NSW between July and December 2010.

Field days are important events to increase awareness of the PNF Code and promote interest in PNF as part of a farm business. Landholder field days developed by Industry & Investment NSW commenced in September 2009. A total of 22 field days attended by 307 participants were delivered across NSW in 2009–10.

Under the PNF Code, the harvesting of timber for the purposes of private native forestry now requires a property vegetation plan. Up to 30 June 2010 the PNF Code has resulted in 1,290 PNF property vegetation plans being approved covering approximately 300,000 hectares of private native forest. A total of 158 monitoring inspections have been completed representing 13 per cent of approved PNF property vegetation plans. As at 30 June 2010 two penalty infringement notices totalling fines of \$6,600 have been issued and one Local Court action (\$5,500 fine plus costs) has been taken.

The PNF program also administers two previous components of the Native Vegetation Assistance Package which concluded on 30 June 2009 – Farmer Exit Assistance and Sustainable Farming Grants.

Four properties were previously purchased in 2008-09 under the Farmer Exit Assistance Package. The 850-hectare property of Kewilpa near Casino was sold in November 2009 for \$1.2 million after placing protective covenants over the property that will conserve its biodiversity. The remaining properties of Hartwood, Carwell Station and Estuary Creek are on the market.

A total of \$200,000 was available for Sustainable Farming Grants. Four applications were received in 2009–10 but none were considered as meeting the grant criteria. Funding has been carried over to 2010-11 allowing for a total of \$400,000 in Sustainable Farming Grants for the coming year.

Table 14

**Private Native Forestry payments in 2009–10**

<b>Lead organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	\$2,100,000
Industry & Investment NSW	\$720,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,820,000</b>

Table 15

**Sustainable Farming payments in 2009–10**

<b>Lead organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

# Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program



The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program aims to permanently protect some of the best remaining bushland in western Sydney and surrounding regions. It is doing this by acquiring land for new reserves and funding biobanking agreements with landowners to permanently conserve their land.

This protected land is being provided by the NSW Government to offset the negative impacts on biodiversity that will be caused by the development of the North West and South West Growth Centres in western Sydney. The offset arrangements occur through the biodiversity certification of the Growth Centres under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The certification established a \$530-million conservation fund to protect areas of biodiversity value.

Funding will be derived over the next 30 to 40 years from a special infrastructure contribution that applies within the Growth Centres as well as from general government revenue. Three-quarters of the conservation fund (\$397.5 million) is used to implement the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. For the first four years (until 2011-12) funding for the program will be provided through a grant from the Trust. In 2009-10, the Trust provided \$1,778,000 to DECCW for the second year of the program (Table 16).

In May 2010 a major historical conservation gain was achieved, with the program funding the first biobanking agreement in NSW at St Mary's Tower, Douglas Park. The agreement was signed between the NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who own the property. The 80-hectare site protects some of the best Cumberland Plain woodland remaining in private ownership, as well as shale sandstone transition forest, another threatened community.

The site will be permanently protected by a biobanking agreement on the title of the land and the funds have been paid into the BioBanking Trust Fund to ensure that the land will be permanently managed for conservation in the future. This is a significant outcome in a landscape which is rapidly changing through land clearing and the invasion of weeds. Opportunities to conserve and actively manage vegetation remnants on the Cumberland Plain of a similar size and condition to this one are limited.

The program also carried out urgent fencing works that were required at a new conservation reserve at Cranebrook. The 181-hectare Cranebrook property was purchased in 2009 with funds from the program and other sources, including the Australian Government. The 4.2 kilometres of fencing of all road frontages protects this valuable bushland from illegal rubbish dumping and other forms of vandalism.

Table 16

## Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset payments in 2009-10

Program area	Amount
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW	\$1,778,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,778,000</b>



## ■ CASE STUDY

### Regenesi

The Regenesi project commenced in 2006 and is a unique partnership between a rural and urban council. With the assistance of a \$1,998,800 Urban Sustainability grant, Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council have developed a process tailored for local government that allows the establishment of accredited carbon forests.

The primary objective of the project is to sequester carbon through plantings in Blacktown and Liverpool Plains local government areas using Catchment Action Plans and existing biodiversity frameworks to guide these planting works. The project is acting on climate change at a grassroots level, allowing people to get their hands dirty while empowering them to learn more about what they can do to reduce their own impacts on climate change.

Nearly 10,000 people have participated in the project so far, resulting in the revegetation of over 92 hectares of land and the establishment of over 99,000 new plants. A wide range of groups have been engaged in planting events, including corporate businesses, schools, bushcare groups and the general community. Forest plantings have occurred on both public and private land, with a 100-year covenant placed on land titles to 'lock up' the carbon forest sites.

Regenesi is the first carbon sequestering project in Australia that has been initiated by local government, and the project is paving the way for other councils to implement similar carbon projects. A system for establishing a local government carbon sequestration scheme has been developed including processes for identifying appropriate planting sites, brokering for offsets through the Regenesi program, and establishing a council-based carbon management system.

Draft guidelines covering the establishment of biosequestration forests on Crown land have also been developed, as well as a carbon-based Biodiversity Strategy. The Regenesi Toolkit contains all of the resources developed during the project to enable all councils to implement similar schemes.



Planting trees at Quipolly Dam

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Restoring watercourses, wetlands and coastal lakes on the North Coast

This \$1.9-million project is implementing actions for the sustainable management of 12 regionally significant watercourses, wetlands and coastal lakes across the Northern Rivers region. The project is an initiative of six Northern Rivers councils (Tweed, Richmond River, Clarence Valley, Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, and Greater Taree), the Northern Rivers CMA, the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network and other major stakeholders.

Through a range of on-ground works and community involvement the project is addressing a number of land management issues including stormwater pollution and nutrient runoff, acid sulfate soils, erosion, wetland degradation and loss of aquatic habitat.

The project is working to improve environmental outcomes at 22 sites across the six local government areas.

Sustainable land management plans are being developed for each site in consultation with landowners and other stakeholders. Environmental achievements include:

- decommissioning of a number of constructed drainage lines
- protecting and regenerating wetland, riparian and bushland habitats, including endangered ecological communities
- reshaping existing drainage networks in acid sulfate soil areas
- developing a community environmental awareness facility
- reducing litter and sediment entering environmentally sensitive areas via stormwater runoff
- restoring fish passage
- constructing water retention structures in previously drained wetlands
- controlling aquatic weed infestations.

Since commencing in 2008 the project has resulted in the regeneration of 974 hectares of public and private land, the remodelling of 1.2 kilometres of drains to prevent erosion and acid sulfate soil problems, and the creation of 322 hectares of vegetation corridors to connect major vegetation habitats.

Target species for restoration and enhancement of habitat include lowland rainforest riparian vegetation and *Melaleuca* and *Casuarina glauca* forest, along with a range of threatened animal species including the koala, Eastern quoll, squirrel glider, Queensland blossom bat, rose-crowned fruit dove, black-necked stork, osprey and wallum froglet.



Waterview wetland restoration site

Table 17

## Urban Sustainability seeding grants awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Armidale Dumaresq Council	Extension and integration of New England Sustainability Strategy	Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla, Walcha	\$50,000
Fairfield City Council	Sustainable Fairfield Council Action Plan	Fairfield	\$20,000
Griffith City Council	Development of Griffith Sustainable Environment Strategy	Griffith	\$19,000
Holroyd City Council	Living sustainably, Living Holroyd	Holroyd	\$20,000
Kogarah Council	Kogarah Council's Environmental Sustainability Plan	Kogarah	\$12,450
Parkes Shire Council	NetWaste central subregion Sustainability Plan	Blayney, Cabonne, Forbes, Lachlan, Parkes, Weddin, Wellington	\$50,000
Parramatta City Council	Phase II of Council's EfS Environmental Plan – implementation, promotion and final review	Parramatta	\$20,000
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings journey to sustainable excellence	Hastings	\$20,000
Shore Regional Organisation of Councils	Integrating sustainability into a strategy for the SHOROC region	Manly, Mosman, Pittwater, Warringah,	\$50,000
Sutherland Shire Council	Sutherland Shire Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Sutherland	\$14,090
Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils	Western Sydney Urban Sustainability and Wellbeing Strategy	Various	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$325,540</b>



Table 18

## NSW RiverBank payments in 2009–10

Catchment	Water access licence type	Unit shares	Funding	Amount
Lachlan River	High security	1,000	Fully funded	\$1,600,000
Macquarie River	General security	300	Fully funded	\$375,000
Macquarie River	General security	1,637	Pay final balance	\$2,062,549
Macquarie River	General security	1,296	Fully funded	\$1,632,960
Macquarie River	General security	400	Fully funded	\$500,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	972	Fully funded	\$1,190,700
Murrumbidgee River	General security	486	Fully funded	\$583,200
Murrumbidgee River	General security	972	Fully funded	\$1,166,400
Murrumbidgee River	General security	150	Fully funded	\$180,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	200	Fully funded	\$240,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	60	Fully funded	\$72,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	1,684	Fully funded	\$1,528,200
Murrumbidgee River	General security	1,918	Fully funded	\$1,740,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	1,455	Fully funded	\$1,320,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	441	Fully funded	\$400,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	555	Fully funded	\$666,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	500	Fully funded	\$600,000
Murrumbidgee River	General security	2,253	Fully funded	\$2,703,600
<b>Total licences purchase funds</b>				<b>\$18,560,609</b>
<b>Administration and other grants</b>				<b>\$2,125,000</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,685,609</b>





## Pygmy perch habitat rehabilitation

This project, conducted by Industry & Investment NSW and Richmond Valley Council, brought together 24 participants at a workshop on the management of stormwater drains for habitat values. Four fact sheets were produced which are available for download from the Industry & Investment NSW website. The fact sheets encourage land managers to manage drainage systems to maintain aquatic habitat.

## Rural partnerships

Fourteen councils were trained and equipped with the skills to develop rural partnerships and to assist regional councils with their bush regeneration practices. Based on a highly successful model between North Sydney Council and Boorowa Council, this project not only delivered a workshop but has developed guidelines on developing strong and productive partnerships. Over 50 people have requested copies of the guide. Twelve councils also took up the opportunity to participate in a weekend trip to Boorowa to get first-hand experience of what the volunteer trips to Boorowa achieve and how they are run.

## Sustainable tourism

The University of Western Sydney built upon two earlier grants (Environmental Management Training for Tourism Businesses conducted in Manly, and the Challenging Barriers to Sustainability Practice in the NSW Caravan and Camping Industry program by the Caravan & Camping Industry Association) to develop a step-by-step guide and training course to assist councils to implement an environmental management training program for local tourism businesses.

## Bush stone-curlew conservation enhancement

This project, conducted by a highly enthusiastic community group called Nature Conservation Working Group, has conducted five successful workshops across NSW. Around 90 participants attended the workshops to learn about the endangered bush stone-curlew and its open woodland habitat. In addition to the workshops, a brochure and stickers were produced which are available through the Environmental Trust. These resources were available to over 180 participants at the 2009 Leeton Bird Fair. Articles on bush stone-curlew conservation will also appear soon in the magazines *Wingspan* and *Burke's Backyard*.

Table 19

## Dissemination projects awarded in 2009–10

Organisation	Title	Project description	Amount
University of New South Wales	Enhancing awareness of fauna co-extinction	This project will conduct five half-day workshops with CMAs and other land managers on co-extinction risks of fauna, such as insects on threatened plant species.	\$26,325
Biobrokers Pty Ltd on behalf of DECCW	Extending and applying the knowledge of the Better Knowledge Better Bush project	This project will continue to enhance the data captured in the original grant by incorporating it in to a Biodiversity Incentive Tool and promoting the tool to land managers across NSW.	\$27,000
Botanic Gardens Trust	Minimising and managing the spread of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>	This project will develop and distribute an educational flyer and posters to areas with high visitation from bushwalkers, and will work with land managers to try to minimise future spread of this deadly root-rot fungus.	\$28,155
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Preventing the further degradation of freshwater mussel populations	This project will work with coastal CMAs to raise awareness of the importance of catchment management in order to protect vulnerable mussel populations. Mussel populations are very susceptible to catchment disturbances and can act as an indicator species for population health.	\$15,000
Pittwater Council	Foreshore Erosion field day and interactive learning package	Pittwater Council will make available to other land managers the systems, processes and lessons learned while rehabilitating the foreshore at Rowland Reserve. This will be achieved through a field day, educational signage, fact sheet and through an online interactive site tour and blog.	\$30,000
SD Environmental Management	Sustainable futures for small businesses	This program engaged two shopping centre organisations (Stockland and GPT) to integrate environmental sustainability into their centres. Tenants will be educated about ways they can reduce their electricity and water consumption and the amount of waste discarded.	\$35,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$161,980</b>

# BioBanking Trust Fund



This fund is an element of the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking Scheme) which is designed to reduce the loss of biodiversity in the landscape by supporting investment in private land conservation. It allows for the negotiation of long-term conservation agreements (biobanking agreements) between landowners and the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

The Trust was appointed as the Fund Manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund in July 2008 for a period of two years. The Trust Fund holds and invests financial assets to pay for the future management of biobank sites. Funds are invested within TCorp's Hour Glass Facilities. TCorp is the central financing authority for the NSW public sector, and is a leading issuer of semi-government securities in the Australian market.

In May 2010 the first biobanking agreement was signed with the Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who own a property called St Mary's Tower near Douglas Park in Sydney's south-west. The biobank site consists of 80 hectares of high quality Cumberland Plain woodland. The society will be paid \$1.7 million for 607 biodiversity credits, with \$555,543 of this being paid into the BioBanking Trust Fund to provide for annual payments in exchange for satisfactory performance of a land management agreement (Table 20).

The credits were purchased with funds from the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program which will be used to

offset the impacts of urban development within the North West and South West Growth Centres over the next 30 to 40 years.

To date more than 35 landowners have registered interest in providing biodiversity credits under the BioBanking scheme. Training for private consultants to assess biobank sites has continued in 2009-10 with over 50 BioBanking assessors now accredited.



DECCW staff assessing NSW's first biobank site at St Mary's Tower

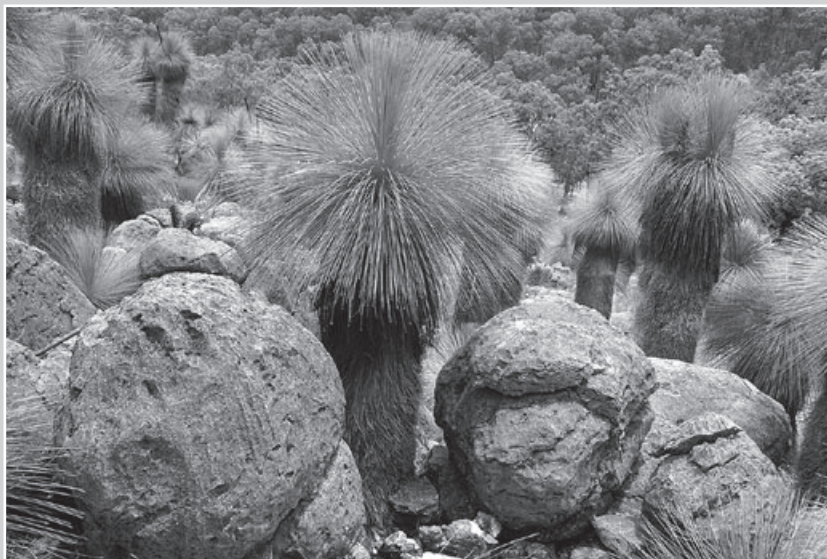
## Table 20

### BioBanking Trust Fund 2009-10

<b>Cash balance at beginning of financial year</b>	-
Receipts by the BioBanking Trust	\$555,543.00
Return on invested funds (loss)	-\$2,748.73
Annual management payment	-\$52,792.00
Management fee (DECCW)	-\$1,122.00
<b>Balance invested in the Trust Fund</b>	<b>\$498,880.27</b>



# Finance





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 statements of the Environmental Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows 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 statements:

- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- are in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010

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

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

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are 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 statements 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 statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, 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 statements 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 statements.

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
- 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
- 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 2010  
SYDNEY

## Environmental Trust

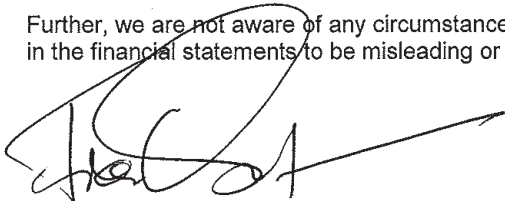
### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

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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 statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2010 and the transactions for the period then ended, and
- b) the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010*, 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.



**Frank Sartor MP**

*Chairperson*

19 October 2010



**Lisa Corbyn**

*Secretary*

15 October 2010



**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

**START OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	Notes	Actual 2010 \$'000	Budget 2010 \$'000	Actual 2009 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	1,749	1,483	1,919
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	77,471	91,883	89,647
<b>Total Expenses excluding losses</b>		<b>79,220</b>	<b>93,366</b>	<b>91,566</b>
Less:				
Revenue				
Investment revenue	3(a)	1,396	562	1,239
Other revenue	3(b)	2,574	300	1,017
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>3,970</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>2,256</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>				
<b>75,250</b>				
<b>92,504</b>				
<b>89,310</b>				
Government Contributions				
Recurrent appropriation	4	78,368	94,588	86,792
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<b>78,368</b>	<b>94,588</b>	<b>86,792</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>				
<b>3,118</b>				
<b>2084</b>				
<b>(2,518)</b>				

**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010**

	Notes	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2009</b>		<b>11,444</b>	<b>11,444</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		3,118	3,118
<b>Balance at 30 June 2010</b>		<b>14,562</b>	<b>14,562</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2008</b>		13,962	13,962
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year		(2,518)	(2,518)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2009</b>		<b>11,444</b>	<b>11,444</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Actual 2010 \$'000	Budget 2010 \$'000	Actual 2009 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	15,063	16,166	14,082
Receivables	7	2,174	1,387	1,387
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>17,237</b>	<b>17,553</b>	<b>15,469</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>17,237</b>	<b>17,553</b>	<b>15,469</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	8	2,675	4,025	4,025
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,675</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>4,025</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,675</b>	<b>4,025</b>	<b>4,025</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>14,562</b>	<b>13,528</b>	<b>11,444</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Accumulated funds		14,562	13,528	11,444
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>14,562</b>	<b>13,528</b>	<b>11,444</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Notes	Actual 2010 \$'000	Budget 2010 \$'000	Actual 2009 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Grants and subsidies		(78,853)	(91,883)	(88,643)
Other		(4,525)	(1,733)	(4,387)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(83,378)</b>	<b>(93,616)</b>	<b>(93,030)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Interest received		1,910	562	1,482
Grants and Subsidies		-	-	-
Other		4,081	550	4,381
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>5,991</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>5,863</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Government</b>				
Recurrent appropriation	4	78,368	94,588	86,792
<b>Net Cash Flows from Government</b>		<b>78,368</b>	<b>94,588</b>	<b>86,792</b>
<b>NET CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	13	<b>981</b>	<b>2,084</b>	<b>(375)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>				
Opening cash and cash equivalents	6	14,082	14,082	14,457
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>15,063</b>	<b>16,166</b>	<b>14,082</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL DIRECTIVES

	2010			2009		
	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000
<b>Original budget Appropriation/expenditure</b>						
Appropriation Act	94,588	90,857	-	88,695	86,792	-
Additional Appropriations (Mini Budget)	-	-	-	-	-	-
s21A PF&AA – special appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-
s24 PF&AA – transfers of functions between departments	-	-	-	-	-	-
S26 PF&AA – Commonwealth specific purpose payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>94,588</b>	<b>90,857</b>	-	<b>88,695</b>	<b>86,792</b>	-
<b>Other Appropriation/expenditure</b>						
Treasurer's advance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 22 – expenditure for certain works and services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to / From Another Agency (section 28 of the Appropriations Act)	(16,215)	(12,489)	-	(1,167)	-	-
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>78,373</b>	<b>78,368</b>	-	<b>87,528</b>	<b>86,792</b>	-
<b>Amount drawn against appropriation</b>		<b>78,368</b>			<b>86,792</b>	
<b>LIABILITY TO CONSOLIDATED FUND</b>		-			-	

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

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

## 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.

In July 2008, the Environmental Trust was appointed by the former Minister for Climate Change and the Environment as the Fund Manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund pursuant to section 127ZY(1) of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) for a period of two years effective from the date of commencement of the BioBanking Scheme. The BioBanking Trust Fund is an element of the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking Scheme) established under Section 127A of the TSC Act.

These financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Environmental Trust during October 2010.

### (b) Basis of Preparation

The Trust's financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board;
- the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Regulation;
- 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 statements.

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

### (c) Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

### (d) Insurance

The Trust's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) Scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past claim experience.

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

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

- 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 and
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office are classified as operating cash flows.

### (f) Income recognition

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

Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

#### (i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions

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*.

**(g) 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. Any changes are accounted for in the operating statement when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

**(h) Investments**

Investments are initially recognised at fair value. The Trust determines the classification of its financial assets after initial recognition and, when allowed and appropriate, re-evaluates this at each financial year end.

The Hour-Glass Investment Facilities are designated at fair value through profit or loss using the second leg of the fair value option; i.e. these financial assets are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented DECCW's risk management strategy, and information about these assets is provided internally on that basis to the Trust's key management personnel.

Designation at fair value through profit or loss is consistent with DECCW's Financial Arrangements and Investment Risk Policy.

The movement in the fair value of the Hour-Glass Investment facilities incorporates distributions received as well as unrealised movements in fair value and is reported in the line item 'investment revenue'.

**(i) Impairment of financial assets**

All financial assets are measured at fair value and are not subject to an annual review for impairment. An allowance for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due.

**(j) De-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities**

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire; or if the Environmental Trust transfers the financial asset:

- Where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred; or
- Where the Environmental Trust has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, but has not retained control.

Where the Environmental Trust has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Department's continuing involvement in the asset.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged or cancelled or expires.

**(k) Payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to ET and other amounts. 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.

**(l) 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).

**(m) 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 statements, if any, in the period of their initial application. The assessment concluded that there will be no material impact.

**(n) 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 and Water. The fair value of such services is charged to the Environmental Trust.

## 2. EXPENSES

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>(a) Other operating expenses:</b>		
Auditor's remuneration (audit or review of the financial statements)	28	28
Stores and minor assets	8	5
Information dissemination	42	55
Personnel services	1,656	1,812
Travel	15	19
	<b>1,749</b>	<b>1,919</b>
<b>(b) Grants and subsidies:</b>		
Federal Government	412	418
State and Local Governments	71,551	76,836
Community/school groups	3,539	8,706
Consolidated Fund for initiatives under the <i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995</i>	1,969	3,687
	<b>77,471</b>	<b>89,647</b>

## 3. REVENUES

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>(a) Investment revenue</b>		
Interest on bank account	1,396	1,239
	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,239</b>
<b>(b) Other revenue</b>		
Other	2,574	1,017
	<b>2,574</b>	<b>1,017</b>

## 4. APPROPRIATIONS

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>Recurrent appropriations</b>		
Total recurrent draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	78,368	86,792
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	-	-
	<b>78,368</b>	<b>86,792</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>		
Recurrent appropriations (per Statement of Comprehensive Income)	78,368	86,792
	<b>78,368</b>	<b>86,792</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

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	965	585
Cash at T-Corp	14,098	13,497
Closing Cash or cash equivalents (as per Statement of Cash Flows)	<b>15,063</b>	<b>14,082</b>

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

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Current</b>		
Debtors	11	-
Accrued Income	250	-
Interest receivable	515	243
GST	1,398	1,144
	<b>2,174</b>	<b>1,387</b>

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

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

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<b>Current</b>		
Creditors	47	285
Accrued expenses	2,628	3,740
	<b>2,675</b>	<b>4,025</b>



## 9. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

### (a) Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 30 June 2010 (2009 - nil).

### (b) Operating expenditure commitments

The Trust's commitments totalling approximately \$49.5 million (2009 - \$127.2 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:

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
<b>Not later than one year *</b>		
State and Local Government Grants	38,625	60,573
Community Grants and Other	3,437	2,785
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>42,062</b>	<b>63,358</b>
<b>Later than one year but not later than five years *</b>		
State and Local Government Grants	6,454	63,181
Community Grants and Other	994	692
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>7,448</b>	<b>63,873</b>
	<b>49,510</b>	<b>127,231</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 \$2,399,000, which represents commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised in the statements as liabilities.

## 10. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2010 (2009 – nil).

## 11. BUDGET REVIEW

### (a) Net cost of service

The actual net cost of services was \$75.3 million compared to a budget of \$92.5 million. The variance of \$17.2 million was primarily due to a number of government decisions regarding the Trust's grant program, which reduced the Trust's expenditure during the financial year by \$16.215 million. Slight delays in expenditure also occurred.

### (b) Assets and Liabilities

Net assets were higher than the budget by \$1.03 million. This variance was primarily due to lower than budgeted current liabilities (year-end accruals).

### (c) Cash Flows

The net decrease in cash holdings was \$1.1 million lower than the budget. This variance was primarily due to higher than budgeted current receivables and lower than budgeted current payables, partly offset by slight delays in expenditure during the year.

## 12. BIOBANKING TRUST FUND

In July 2008, the Environmental Trust was appointed by the former Minister for Climate Change and the Environment as the Fund Manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund pursuant to section 127ZY(1) of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) for a period of two years. The BioBanking Trust Fund is an element of the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (BioBanking Scheme) established under Section 127A of the TSC Act. The scheme provides long term arrangements for biodiversity conservation on private lands through agreements between the Minister for Environment and the Climate Change and land owners. The BioBanking Trust Fund holds and invests financial assets to pay for the future management of BioBanking sites.

The role of the Environmental Trust as the Fund Manager of the BioBanking Trust includes:

- Act as a trustee of money vested in the BioBanking Trust Fund;
- Invest funds held in the BioBanking Trust Fund to generate return into the future; and
- Administer the accounts and make payments to the biobank site owners.

BioBanking Trust funds are excluded from the financial statements of the Environmental Trust as these cannot be used by the Environmental Trust for making any grants payments for the achievement of its objectives.

In 2009–10 the first BioBanking agreement was transacted.

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	-	-
Add: receipts by the BioBanking Trust	556	-
Interest on invested BioBanking Trust funds	(3)	-
Less: annual management payment	(53)	-
Less: management fee-DECCW	(1)	-
<b>Balance invested in the Trust Fund</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>-</b>

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

	<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Net cash used on operating activities	981	(375)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	1,351	(1,038)
(Decrease)/increase in receivables	786	(1,105)
Cash Flows from Government appropriations	(78,368)	(86,792)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(75,250)</b>	<b>(89,310)</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 these financial statements.

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**

<b>Financial Assets</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Carrying Amount</b>
			<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Class :				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6	N/A	15,063	14,082
Receivables (1)	7	Receivables (at amortised cost)	776	243
			<b>15,839</b>	<b>14,325</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Carrying Amount</b>
			<b>2010 \$'000</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>
Class :				
Payables (2)	8	Financial Liabilities (at amortised cost)	47	285
			47	285

(1) Excludes Statutory Receivables (i.e. not within the scope of AASB7)

(2) Excludes Statutory Payables (i.e. not within the scope of AASB7)

**(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.

<b>2010</b>	<b>total</b>	<b>Past Due but not Impaired</b>	<b>Considered Impaired</b>
< 3 Months Overdue	11	11	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
<b>2009</b>			
< 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

2010	Interest Rate Exposure	Maturity Dates		
	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
Payables:				
Creditors	N/A	47	-	-
<b>2009</b>				
Payables:				
Creditors	N/A	285	-	-

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 2009. 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>2010</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	15,063	(151)	-	151	-
Receivables	776	(8)	-	8	-
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	47	1	-	(1)	-

<b>2009</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,082	(141)	-	141	-
Receivables	243	(2)	-	2	-
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	285	3	-	(3)	-

#### 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	2010	2009
			\$'000	\$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 2 years	14,098	13,497

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)

	Change in unit price	Impact on profit/loss	
		2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility	+/- 4.46%	629	722

#### (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 statements.

**End of Audited Financial Statements**



# Appendices





# Administration of the Trust

## Statement of Affairs and Administration of the Trust

### Indicators of activity in administering the Trust

	2008-09	2009-10
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives*	\$86 million	\$75.5 million
Number of major programs	5	6
Number of grant programs running	13	14
Number of current major projects	6	7
Number of new grant projects approved and started	195	180
Number of applications/expressions of interest processed	551	561
Number of grant payments processed	416	362
Number of emergency pollution clean-ups funded	50	61

\* does not include spending on forestry restructuring under the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*.

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

- Coolamon Landcare Group Inc. – Coolamon green belt project
- Corowa and District Landcare – Restore and rehabilitate priority ‘paper laneways’ in the Corowa Shire
- Hunter Council Incorporated – Regional sustainability capacity building and education campaign
- University of Wollongong – Diffuse gradients in thin films to quantify anionic metals
- CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems – Linking incentives to outcomes for natural resource management
- CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems – Integrated strategies for restoring grassy woodland
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – Vegetation change on endangered coastal floodplains
- The Hills Shire Council – A sustainable world in The Hills
- Campbelltown City Council – Getting it started: Planting seeds for a sustainable Georges River
- Lake Macquarie City Council – Making connections in Cocked Hat Creek
- Jetty Dunecare Group Incorporated – Coffs Coast State Park – Boambee Beach rehabilitation Stage 1.
- Camden Council – A Regional Approach to Education for Sustainability
- CENTROC – That’s a Good Idea – Reducing the Ecological Footprint of CENTROC
- SERROC – Sustaining Our Towns
- City of Sydney – Social Housing Sustainability Partnerships
- Lithgow City Council – Future of Lithgow: Forward to a Sustainable Future
- Lake Macquarie City Council – Building Sustainable Communities in Lake Macquarie



## Structure and Management of the Trust

The Trust is guided by the governance structures outlined in the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. It is comprised of three parts: Trust members, Trust committees, and support staff housed within the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW). The Trust funds the costs of administering the Trust's programs, including staff salaries, while DECCW 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 the Sustainability Programs Division of DECCW. The section's major functions are:

- promoting and managing the Trust's grant 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 making payments
- monitoring and acquitting funded projects
- disseminating and promoting successful Trust-funded projects
- managing the Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program
- reviewing and evaluating the Trust's programs and procedures.

## Grants Administration

All grants from the Trust have a number of conditions that must be met covering matters such as project timetable, payment schedule, progress and final project reports, financial reports, project variations and other administrative requirements. Some grants are also given additional special conditions that relate specifically to their project. 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 assess and recommend grant projects and 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.

**'The Environmental Trust's Grants Administration has always been approachable when various issues have arisen and have helped to resolve problems with understanding and constructive suggestions.'**

David Read, Wagga Wagga City Council

**'Trust people have been wonderful in the support, understanding and cooperation they have given us, which far exceeds that of any of the many other NRM organisations we have dealt with since the establishment of our group 18 years ago.'**

Tony Parkes, Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare

## Organisational Performance

Trust support staff are employed within DECCW and are therefore subject to the administration and organisational performance programs of the Department. These include occupational health and safety, ethnic affairs priorities, Aboriginal affairs priorities, action planning for women, equal employment opportunity and disability planning. Environmental programs that include waste reduction and purchasing, resource recovery and recycled material are also included. Further information on these issues and other organisational issues can be found in the DECCW Annual Report for 2009–10.

## 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. Further information on risk management can also be found in the DECCW Annual Report for 2009–10.

## External Reviews

The Trust is subject to a range of performance, internal and external audits, including annual review of its financial statements by the Audit Office of NSW. To ensure Trust funding is achieving the best possible results for the environment, the Trust has also implemented a five-year evaluation plan for each of its annual grants programs. This year three programs (Restoration and Rehabilitation, Protecting Our Places and Dissemination) were the subject of independent reviews. Further information on the outcomes of the Protecting our Places and Dissemination program reviews is provided within this report under the relevant programs. The results of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program review will be provided in 2010-11. The performance audit report prepared by the Audit Office of NSW, which looked at the administration of environmental grants, can be viewed at [www.audit.nsw.gov.au](http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au)

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Since 2008 all grantees have been required to report on a series of performance indicators that relate to measurable environmental outcomes. The indicators are consistent with the national Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework. They assist the Trust in reporting progress towards environmental goals on a statewide basis, and ensure that the Trust's programs are contributing towards NSW State Plan objectives.

This rigorous monitoring also assists grantees to track the progress of objectives and be able to measure and report on the effectiveness of their projects. In the past, many grantees have had difficulty in implementing appropriate monitoring strategies for their projects resulting in data that was of variable quality and limited use for the Trust's reporting requirements.

To assist grantees and allow more robust reporting the Trust appointed a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Officer in May 2010. This position will contribute to further development of the Trust's monitoring and evaluation program and provide data analysis and reporting on the environmental outcomes of Trust programs. The officer is also available to assist grantees in the development, review and implementation of project monitoring and evaluation plans. The position is funded until 2013.

The level of detail varies with the amount of funding received. All projects must report on some basic performance measures, while projects receiving over \$35,000 must also include some qualitative performance measures and demonstrate the use of appropriate scientific monitoring techniques. Large projects receiving over \$100,000 require a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan that includes adaptive project management.

The Trust collects a variety of performance data ranging from indicators of rehabilitation (such as areas restored or number of plants planted) to educational outcomes (such as the number of workshops held or people trained) and administrative information on the number of staff and hours employed in a project. As the program is relatively new, historical data on environmental outcomes is incomplete and of variable quality. The MER Officer is working to improve the completeness and accuracy of data being submitted by grantees.

Data collected from the 2009 round of the Environmental Education and Restoration and Rehabilitation projects shows a range of great outcomes can be expected including:

- restoration of nearly 1,000 hectares of land
- establishment of 216,000 new plants
- training of more than 11,000 people
- 130 training events
- the engagement of nearly 22,000 people in environmental projects (including over 6,000 students and 1,000 volunteers).

**'It has been great to work with a team who wants, with us, the best outcome for the project and is able to advise, support and allow the needed flexibility.'**

Carmel Wallis, ErinEarth

# Internal Audit and Risk Management Statement for the 2009–10 Financial Year for the Environmental Trust



I, Lisa Corbyn, am of the opinion that the Environmental Trust has internal audit and risk management processes in place that are, in all material respects, compliant with the core requirements set out in Treasury Circular NSW TC 09/08 Internal Audit and Risk Management Policy.

I, Lisa Corbyn, am of the opinion that the Audit and Risk Committee for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) [which has responsibility for oversight of DECCW programs including the Environmental Trust] is constituted and operates in accordance with the independence and governance requirements of Treasury Circular NSW TC 09-08. The Chair and Members of the Audit and Risk Committee are:

- Arthur Butler – Chair (appointment term January 2010 to December 2014)
- Gerardine Brus – Independent Member (appointment term April 2010 to March 2014)
- Joan Wilcox – Independent Member (appointment term April 2010 to March 2014)
- Simon Smith – Non-independent Member (appointment term calendar year 2010, after which the appointment will be reviewed and rotated, if necessary)
- David Harriss – Non-independent Member (appointment term – calendar year 2010, after which the appointment will be reviewed and rotated, if necessary).

These processes provide a level of assurance that enables the senior management of the Environmental Trust to understand, manage and satisfactorily control risk exposures.

**LISA CORBYN**

**Director General  
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water**

**Secretary  
Environmental Trust**

26/8/2010



# 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 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

## Publications

The following publications are available from the Trust:

- guidelines and grant application forms for all grant programs
- Environmental Trust Annual Reports from 1992-93 to 2009-10.

550 copies of the 2009-10 Annual Report have been produced at an external production cost of approximately \$19 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 1989*. 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 2009-10.

# Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust



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 (as 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 of NSW
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by the Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW.

The Trust met four times in 2009–10.

## Members of the Trust and Meeting Attendance

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

# Membership of Trust Subcommittees

The Trust had eight subcommittees in operation under S9(3) of the Act during 2009–10 to assist with the management of its grant programs and finances. Trust subcommittees provide input into the development of program business plans in consultation with external stakeholders, oversee program governance arrangements and provide ongoing advice to the Trust. Membership of each subcommittee is as follows.

## Waste & Sustainability Programs 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**

Former Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group, DECCW

### **Mr Bernard Carlon**

Divisional Director Sustainability Programs, DECCW

## Finance Subcommittee

### **Ms Lindsey Williams**

Director Natural Resources and Environment Branch, NSW Treasury

### **Mr Bernard Carlon**

Divisional Director Sustainability Programs, DECCW

## Native Vegetation and Private Native Forestry Subcommittee (ceased September 2009)

### **Mr Tom Grosskopf (Chairperson)**

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

### **Mr Tim Ferraro**

General Manager, Central West Catchment Management Authority

### **Mr Stephen Griffith**

General Manager, NSW Rural Assistance Authority

### **Dr Regina Fogarty**

Director Extensive Industries Development, NSW Department of Industry and Investment

### **Mr Bill Stanhope**

Principal Adviser, NSW State Treasury

### **Mr Rob Dunn**

Chief Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Trust of NSW

### **Mr Jim Adams**

Chief Executive Officer, Timber Communities Australia Ltd

### **Ms Phyllis Miller**

Convenor, Natural Resources Advisory Council

### **Mr Peter Dixon**

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, NSW Environmental Trust

## 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 Bill Stanhope**

Principal Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury

### **Mr Ian Hunter**

Assistant Director, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

### **Mr Digby Jacobs**

Manager River Works and Management, NSW Office of Water

### **Mr Austin Whitehead**

Director Water and Resources Policy, Industry and Investment NSW

### **Prof Richard Kingsford**

Professor of Environmental Science, University of New South Wales

### **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 Wame**

Chief Executive Officer, State Water

## Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Subcommittee

### Mr Tom Grosskopf (Chairperson)

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

### Dr Graeme Worboys

Vice Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

### Mr Norman Laing / Mr David Lee

Representing the NSW Aboriginal Land Council

### Ms Lorraine Cairnes

Representing the 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 Catchment Management Authority

### Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, NSW Environmental Trust

### Cr Jan Barham

Mayor, Byron Bay Shire Council

### Mr Ashley Love / Mr Roger Lembit

Representing the National Parks Association of NSW

### Ms Kathryn Jones

Central Region Manager (Forests), Industry and Investment NSW

### Ms Roz Hall

Director Business and Community Programs, DECCW

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

### Mr Tom Grosskopf (Chairperson)

Director Landscapes and Ecosystems Conservation, DECCW

### Mr Norman Laing

Former Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

### Ms Kathryn Ridge

Solicitor Director, Ridge and Associates

### Mr Norman Laing

Executive Director Cultural Heritage Division, DECCW

### Mr Brad Moggridge

Indigenous Water Research Project Officer, CSIRO Land and Water

### Ms Margaret Bottrell

Aboriginal Community Support Officer, Sydney Catchment Management Authority

### Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, NSW Environmental Trust

## Clean Air, Healthy Communities Subcommittee

### Ms Zoe De Saram (Chairperson)

Acting Director Climate Change Air and Noise Branch, 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 Association of NSW, and Mayor, North Sydney Council

### Mr Bruce Dowdell

Senior Environmental Specialist, NSW Roads and Traffic Authority

### Ms Joanna Quilty

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Transport

### Mr Michael Wright

General Manager StateFleet Services, NSW Department of Commerce

### Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, NSW Environmental Trust

### Mr Nathan Aust

Senior Policy Analyst, NSW Health

## Contaminated Land Management Subcommittee

### Mr Craig Lamberton (Chairperson)

Director Specialised Regulation, DECCW

### Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, NSW Environmental Trust

### Mr Jeff Smith

Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Defenders Office

### Mr Robert Verhey

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

### Mr Adam Capon

Manager Health and Risk Assessment, NSW Health

### Ms Kylie Lloyd

NSW Manager, Golder and Associates.

# Membership of Trust Technical Committees

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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 may also review progress and final project reports and provide guidance in implementation of the relevant program. The membership of each committee during 2009–10 is set out below.

## Eco Schools Program

**Mr Geoff Young (Chairperson)**

Manager, Community Education, DECCW

**Mr Kevin Butler**

Manager, Environmental Education, Department of Education and Training

**Ms Janelle Hatherly (deputy Kathy Pfleger)**

Community Education Manager, Botanic Gardens Trust

**Mr Gary Carey**

Archdiocesan Science Adviser, Catholic Education Office

**Ms Elizabeth Dark**

Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

## Environmental Education Program

**Ms Roz Hall (Chairperson)**

Director Business and Community Programs, DECCW

**Ms Corinne Cheeseman**

National Manager Technical Programs, Australian Water Association

**Mr Richard Davies**

Manager Visitor and Community Programs, DECCW

**Ms Niki Carey**

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

**Ms Sue Martin (alternate Ms Rebecca Jones)**

Senior Policy Officer, Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

**Ms Jane Smith**

Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

## Environmental Research Program

**Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)**

Director Environment and Conservation Science, DECCW

**Dr Derek Van Dyk**

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, NSW Environmental Trust

**Mr John Lennis**

Catchment Officer Aboriginal Communities, Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority

**Mr Mr Robert MacFarlane (Deputy Mr Dallas Wellington)**

Manager Operations and Coordination / Snr Cultural Programs Support Coordinator Country, Culture and Heritage Division, DECCW

**Mr Anthony Seiver**

Senior Policy Advisor, NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs

**Ms Margaret Bottrell**

Aboriginal Community Support Officer, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

**Mr Joe Woodward (Chairperson)**

Deputy Director General Environment Protection and Regulation Group, DECCW

**Mr Robert Verhey (deputy Ms Kirsty McIntyre)**

(Community Program)

Representing the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW

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

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

**Ms Lisa Roberts**

General Manager, Border Rivers-Gwydir Rivers Catchment Management Authority

**Ms Ellen O'Brien**

Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

**Mr Andrew McIntyre**

Manager Biodiversity and Conservation, DECCW

**Ms Sandra Morse**

Representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

**Mr Tim Baker**

Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators



## Urban Sustainability Program

**Ms Ann Trofa (Chairperson)**

Acting Director Local Government and Resource Recovery,  
DECCW

**Dr Wej Paradice AM**

Chair, Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority

**Dr Judy Henderson**

Chair, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

**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

## Lead Environmental Community Groups (LECG) Grants Program

**Mr Tony Richardson (Chairperson)**

Director Service Centre, DECCW

**Mr David Trewin**

Manager Business Partnerships, DECCW

**Ms Bianca Lewis**

Coordinator, NSW Department of Planning

**Mr Dev Murkhejee**

Senior Policy Officer, Council of Social Services of NSW

**Ms Judi Christie**

Regional Facilitator, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment  
Management Authority

## Shortened forms

CAHC	Clean Air, Healthy Communities
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
ECL	East Coast Lows
EEC	endangered ecological community
GER	Great Eastern Ranges
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEAP	Low Emissions Air Project
LGA	local government area
NRM	natural resource management
NSW	New South Wales
MER	monitoring, evaluation and reporting
PNF	private native forestry
POP	Protecting Our Places
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RID	Regional Illegal Dumping
ROC	Regional Organisation of Councils
SMILE	Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environment
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
UNSW	University of New South Wales
VRWG	Voluntary Regional Waste Group

## Photographs:

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