



NSW Environmental Trust  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2012–13



**Cover photographs:**

1. Mt Sebastapol. Photo courtesy of Karen Eardley, OEH.
2. Friends of the Colo use rafts to monitor and control weeds in remote sections of the Colo River.  
Photo courtesy of Gary Roberts, Friends of the Colo.
3. The Dissemination Program has educated land managers about the endangered Leafless Tongue Orchid.  
Photo courtesy of Barry Collier.

**Published by**

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OEH 2013/0764

ISSN 1445-3177

October 2013



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The Honourable Robyn Parker MP  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 2012–13 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*.

This year the Trust provided grant funding of around \$39 million to community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, industry and state and local government to support a wide range of diverse environmental outcomes.

The Trust awarded more than \$4.7 million for new contestable restoration and rehabilitation projects across NSW and \$2.1 million for new contestable environmental education and research projects.

The Trust's Community Bush Regeneration Program, now into its second year, has already resulted in the rehabilitation of over 1400 hectares of degraded bushland. Further conservation outcomes are being achieved through the NSW Government's Green Corridors Program. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is now improving habitat and linkages across 9642 hectares of the Great Dividing Range, while four new biobank sites will provide permanent protection for endangered ecological communities through the Growth Centres and Linking Landscapes programs.

The three-year Riverina Red Gums Program concluded this year. Projects developed through the highly successful Regional Employment and Community Development Fund have created approximately 370 direct jobs and 279 indirect jobs and resulted in capital investment of around \$22 million in the Riverina region.

Yours sincerely

**Barry Buffier**  
**Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust**  
**October 2013**



# 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 projects that will enhance environmental values in NSW. Funding is provided through a diverse range of programs including the Trust's annual contestable grant programs, major projects, and various NSW Government initiatives.

The Trust is chaired by the NSW Minister for the Environment. The Director General of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet has deputised both the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to act alternately as a member. In 2012–13 the Chief Executive of OEH was a member. The Trust also comprises representatives from Local Government NSW, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and NSW Treasury.

The Trust generally meets four times annually and is administered by OEH within the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. Further information on 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.

The Trust's support staff are employed within the Grants section of the Regional Operations Group of OEH. For issues of compliance (such as disability plans, equal employment opportunity, multicultural policies and services, occupational health and safety etc.) refer to the OEH section within the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report for 2012–13.



# Highlights of 2012–13



## Acquiring land for conservation

Through the Land Acquisition Program 12 properties covering 5875 hectares have been added to the national park estate, including two properties on the North Coast that contain important Aboriginal heritage sites, and two properties that will protect critical corridors and landscapes as part of the NSW Government's Green Corridors Program.

## Supporting restoration and rehabilitation

In the second year of the Trust's new Community Bush Regeneration Program over 1400 hectares of degraded bushland have been weeded by community groups.

A second round of funding under the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife Private Land Conservation Program has provided 54 landholders with financial support for conservation on private land.

Over \$4.7 million in funding was granted to community groups, Aboriginal communities and State and local government for 62 new contestable restoration and rehabilitation projects across NSW.

## Promoting environmental education

Over \$1.1 million has been provided to community groups, schools and government agencies to deliver environmental education programs. This includes \$117,500 for the Eco Schools Program and \$87,500 for the Trust's new Food Gardens in Schools Program.

## Supporting environmental research

Over \$1 million in funding was granted to support 13 new environmental research projects.

## Protecting green corridors

Three new regional partnerships are extending the reach of the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative to protect critical habitat corridors. GER partners are now working to improve the management of native habitats and connecting

vegetation across 9642 hectares of land along the Great Eastern Ranges.

Two new biobank sites supporting endangered woodland communities were established through the Growth Centres Program. A 50-hectare site at Mulgoa and a 22-hectare site at Razorback will be restored and permanently managed to conserve Cumberland Plain woodland and other significant communities.

Significant coastal habitats at Narrawallee Inlet and Lake Macquarie will be conserved through further biobanking agreements established through the Linking Landscapes through Local Action initiative.

## Promoting waste avoidance and sustainability

The Trust announced a new Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up Program to commence in 2013–14 to address the increasing number of asbestos claims being made through the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program.

A new major waste program was announced in February 2013. As part of the NSW Government's new Waste Less, Recycle More initiative the Trust will deliver programs worth \$160 million over four years from 2013–14 to support community drop-off facilities, new and upgraded infrastructure, and recycling initiatives.

## Supporting regional communities

The three-year Riverina Red Gums program concluded this year. Projects developed through the Regional Employment and Community Development Fund have created approximately 370 direct jobs and 279 indirect jobs and resulted in capital investment of around \$22 million in the Riverina region.



# Trust Programs and Achievements







# Land Acquisition Program

Since 2000, the Land Acquisition Program has contributed to the acquisition of 142 properties covering 452,000 hectares of land. In 2012–13 the Land Acquisition Program contributed to the strategic purchase of high conservation value parcels of land focusing on three important conservation themes: creating more resilient and effective parks, protecting Aboriginal cultural values, and protecting critical corridors and landscapes.

A total of \$5.03 million was granted for land acquisition which contributed to the purchase of 12 properties covering 5875 hectares. This included \$3 million for the purchase of two properties which were acquired through the NSW Government's Green Corridors Program.

Five properties covering a total of 288 hectares, acquired in previous years with Trust funds, were formally gazetted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. This included the significant addition of 85 hectares to Goonengerry National Park which supports endemic flora and habitat for over 24 threatened fauna species including Albert's lyrebird and the red-legged pademelon.

## Improving the resilience and effectiveness of parks

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has a program of incrementally acquiring land either within or on the perimeter of reserves to improve the effectiveness of park management practices. This year eight properties totalling 3554 hectares were purchased to achieve this objective. These lands will support park management and optimise associated costs by securing legal or practical access to the park; allowing a more holistic park approach to pest and weed management; and providing clearer park boundaries to foster better relations with neighbouring property owners.

## Protecting Aboriginal cultural values

Two properties totaling 978 hectares were acquired on the NSW North Coast to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and places of significance. These lands will be added to Chambigne Nature Reserve and Wombat Creek State Conservation Area. These special places contain art and tool scatters which reflect a legacy of land use and custodianship by traditional owners. The incorporation of this land into the public reserve system will allow for the protection of these artefacts and associated Country for local Aboriginal communities and future generations.

## Green Corridor Reserves – protecting critical corridors and landscapes

Two properties totalling 1343 hectares were acquired to protect critical landscapes through the Green Corridor Reserves Program. One property is located on the Clarence River floodplain and was purchased to protect nationally important wetland habitat. The second is located along the Great Eastern Ranges west of Kempsey and adjoins Willi Willi National Park. This 468-hectare property known as 'Mt Sebastapol' was acquired for its unique geological, scenic and natural features. It contains over 70 kilometres of navigable caves, pristine creeks, old growth rainforest and eucalypt bushland. The iconic Sebastapol cliff face provides views over the Macleay Valley to the ocean.

The property forms part a contiguous 80-kilometre long corridor of cavernous limestone known as the Macleay Karst Arc which is unique to NSW. This property forms one of a limited number of hotspots for subterranean karst invertebrate species in NSW. Above ground, several vegetation communities are of regional, State and potentially national significance due to their rarity or composition.



# Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

The Restoration and Rehabilitation Program provides funds to community organisations and State and local government organisations for projects that enhance and restore the environment and reduce pollution, waste and environmental degradation. It incorporates a number of contestable grant programs – for the community, government and Aboriginal organisations – as well as ongoing rehabilitation programs that address contaminated land and pollution incidents.

## Achievements

The Trust funds a diverse range of restoration and rehabilitation projects that enhance and restore natural environments. Some of the notable environmental outcomes achieved by grants concluding this year include:

- restoration of degraded habitat on private land at Wallaga Lake that supports a population of endangered potoroo. An innovative monitoring program included remote cameras and sand plots to detect fauna using the site
- conservation of the bush stone-curlew in the Murray region, including a very successful captive breeding program at Jindera and Moulamein
- continuation of a long-term willow and weed control program by Friends of the Colo which has resulted in significant eradication of willows from the Colo River catchment
- restoration of two kilometres of river banks to support local platypus populations and increase public awareness about platypus in the Bombala region

- restoration of more than 19 hectares of endangered and critically endangered ecological communities of Sydney turpentine ironbark and blue gum high forest on public and private lands across Hornsby Shire
- implementation of a habitat creation project by Friends of Tom Thumb Lagoon which saw local residents and industry working together to help the endangered green and golden bell frog. The discovery of green and golden bell frogs using the new breeding, foraging and dispersal corridors that were created demonstrates the success of the project.

Further information on two of these projects can be found in the following case studies.

## Restoration and Rehabilitation outcomes since 2009

The Trust, through its current monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework, has been collating restoration and rehabilitation outcomes on its contestable grants since 2009. During this time 2009 and 2010 grantees have planted over 247,000 trees, shrubs and grasses and rehabilitated 2872 hectares of land. These outcomes have been achieved through the work of more than 7500 people, including 3348 volunteers and 2842 students. These figures represent the 75 per cent of 2009 grants and 61 per cent of 2010 grants for which final data is available (Table 1).

Table 1

### Restoration and Rehabilitation outcomes since 2009

Project measures	2009 Grants	2010 Grants	Total
Area regenerated (hectares)	1,270	1,602	2,872
Number of plantings	191,435	56,161	247,596
Number of individuals engaged	4,908	2,649	7,557
Number of volunteers	1,439	1,909	3,348
Number of volunteer hours	95,142	41,211	136,353
Number of students (primary/secondary/tertiary)	2,097	745	2,842
Number of student hours	19,890	24,667	44,557
Percentage of grants for which data is available	75%	61%	68%



## ■ CASE STUDY

### Keeping our platypus happy and healthy

The Bombala and Delegate rivers in southern NSW are home to one of the largest populations of platypus in NSW. Bombala Council (which has adopted the platypus as its council emblem) has recently completed a two-year restoration and rehabilitation project which has enhanced two kilometres of riparian habitat and raised community awareness about platypus populations in the region.

Key platypus habitats along the Delegate and Bombala rivers were chemically treated for blackberries and willows and a program of replanting was undertaken using long-stemmed tube stock. Between March 2011 and March 2012 approximately 1500 local native trees, shrubs and grasses were planted to help stabilise and enhance the river banks at both sites.

Platypus burrows and a colony of rare Cunningham skinks have been mapped and are regularly monitored by volunteers. A range of facilities and educational materials have enhanced visitor experiences at the two sites making it easier to spot the resident platypus and other native wildlife. Two bird hides, a viewing platform and interpretive signage have been installed at the Platypus Reserve on the Bombala River. Further signage has been installed at the Delegate River where a self-guided nocturnal walk encourages visitors to look and listen for wildlife such as possums, owls and frogs.

A monthly program called 'Out and About in Platypus Country' features information sessions on the platypus, Cunningham skink and the importance of the river systems. These sessions are delivered by members of Platypus Pals, a local community group supported by Bombala Council. Over 250 visitors attended these information sessions during the life of the project, including three coach tours who specifically visited the area to view the platypus.

An educational program focusing on river health was delivered to four local primary schools and the local high school including the development of student activity booklets for different age groups. Community awareness of the project, the platypus populations and the importance of healthy rivers has been raised through numerous community events, the local media, and a community website. A postcard-style brochure featuring the local platypus has been extremely popular with visitors as has an informative 'Hints and Tips' brochure and a bumper sticker which are all available from the Bombala Visitors Centre.



New signage and viewing platform at Bombala Platypus Reserve.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### The Colo River – maintaining a willow-free wilderness

Members of Friends of the Colo are no strangers to the Trust's Restoration and Rehabilitation Program having been monitoring and treating willows on the Colo River since 2000. Substantial sections of the river are now willow-free thanks to the work of this dedicated group of adventurers who often travel to very remote parts of the Wollemi National Park as part of their monitoring.

Their 2009 grant allowed the group to adopt a strategic approach to tackle some of the other riparian weeds along the river such as cape ivy, tree of heaven, lantana and *Gleditsea*. This took the form of a twice-yearly event, the 'Colo Colossus', which was designed specifically for this project. Energetic volunteers spent seven days hiking the length of the Capertee and Wolgan rivers and the upper parts of the Colo River to monitor willow emergents and remove riparian weeds.

Friends of the Colo conducts regular trips along the Colo River in Wollemi National Park under their 'Willows out of Wollemi' program. Two of these trips were conducted with funds from the project. The group has traditionally

used helicopters to fly in large rafts to this remote area; however, during this project the group trialled the use of small inflatable rafts that can be carried in by backpack. This was found to be a more cost-effective method and means that the group no longer needs to rely on a third party to conduct these trips.

Regular activities were held in the lower reaches of the Colo River to control lantana and cape ivy, and several one-off activities were held in non-remote parts of the catchment such as Newnes and Capertee National Park. These events were specifically designed to attract volunteers who may not be interested or available to take part in the longer more remote trips.

Over three years, the project held a total of 33 successful activities involving 64 volunteers (45 of whom had no previous involvement with Friends of the Colo). In each year of the project around 100 kilometres of river were monitored and treated for weed infestations.

*"Though our band of regular volunteers is small, we are committed to continuing the work as long as our energy permits and as long as there is a realistic chance of achieving long-term control."*

Friends of the Colo



Participants in the March 2011 Colo Colossus expedition.



# Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

In 2012–13 the competitive Restoration and Rehabilitation Program offered grants of up to \$100,000 available to community organisations (total of \$2 million) and State and local government organisations (total of \$2 million) for projects that enhance and restore the environment.

As in previous years, both the community and government grants were highly competitive. The Community Grants Program received 74 applications (11 more than the previous year) and funded 26 projects to the value of \$2,071,607 (Table 2). The State and Local Government Grants Program received 82 applications (the same number as last year) and funded 23 projects to the value of \$2,025,373 (Table 3).

Five workshops and two webinars were hosted during July and August 2012 attracting 132 participants. Workshops were held in Cessnock, Wagga Wagga, Nowra, Coffs Harbour and Sydney. The workshops aimed to give potential applicants the opportunity to meet with representatives from relevant government agencies at a regional level (including the Trust, OEH and CMAs) and learn about the grant program, effective project planning, tools for monitoring and evaluation, and best practice in environmental restoration.

Table 2

## Restoration and Rehabilitation community grants awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bankstown Bushland Society Inc.	Protection and enhancement of Milperra Wetlands complex	Bankstown	\$54,400
Barragal Landcare Group Incorporated	Regenerating Cumberland Plain woodland in Barragal Lagoon catchment	Wollondilly	\$99,060
Bellinger Landcare Inc.	Plans to practice – bush regeneration Wenonah Head to Oyster Creek	Bellingen	\$72,943
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group Inc.	Rehabilitating critically endangered lowland subtropical rainforest	Byron	\$100,000
Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.	From farm to forest: integrating land use and habitat restoration	Byron	\$98,750
Bundagen Co-Operative	Bundagen littoral rainforest and Senna acclinis protection project	Coffs Harbour	\$79,218
Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc.	Vegetation management for threatened woodland birds – Stage 2	Armidale–Dumaresq	\$99,979
Coleambally Landcare Group Inc	Enhancing Coleambally biodiversity	Murrumbidgee	\$99,800
Congewai Valley Landcare Inc.	Congewai Creek riparian restoration – river flat eucalypt endangered ecological community	Cessnock	\$100,000
EnviTE Inc.	Bruxner Park and Ulidarra National Park restoration project	Coffs Harbour	\$95,788
EnviTE Inc.	Restoration of Clarence estuary Nature Reserve endangered ecological communities at Yamba	Clarence Valley	\$100,000
Friends of Coffs Creek	Protecting the endangered ecological communities of Coffs Creek	Coffs Harbour	\$15,060
Grassy Head Dune Care	Restoring Grassy Head dunes and rainforest	Kempsey	\$34,705
Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare	Green Point foreshore reserve threatened species regeneration	Lake Macquarie	\$47,080
Kooragang Volunteers	Adaptive action protects threatened habitats in Hunter River estuary	Newcastle City	\$81,297
Linnaeus Landcare	Broken Head high conservation value coastal wetland sclerophyll and rainforest restoration	Byron	\$99,993



Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Macleay Landcare Network Inc.	Kempsey koala corridors	Kempsey	\$80,075
Manning Landcare Inc.	Browns Creek restoration – Stage 1	Greater Taree	\$86,505
Numeralla and District Landcare Inc.	The Badja River – a blackberry free zone	Cooma–Monaro	\$22,505
Pandanus People Inc.	Propagate species to regenerate endangered ecological communities recovering from weed control	Kempsey	\$60,545
Singleton Shire Landcare Network Inc.	Glendonbrook catchment remnants and riparian restoration project	Singleton	\$100,000
The Goulburn Group Inc.	Goulburn wetlands restoration and reconstruction – Stage 2	Goulburn–Mulwaree	\$99,116
Tregeagle Landcare Group	Tregeagle koala habitat restoration and corridor connections	Lismore	\$100,000
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	Hunter estuary koala habitat rehabilitation	Port Stephens	\$99,500
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	Mid North Coast saltmarsh recovery project	Various	\$100,000
Wolli Creek Preservation Society NSW Inc.	Wolli Billabong extensions – Stage 1	Rockdale	\$45,288
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,071,607</b>



Table 3

**Restoration and Rehabilitation State and local government grants awarded in 2012–13**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ballina Shire Council	On the edge – Lennox Head and Ballina littoral rainforest recovery	Ballina	\$99,250
Bathurst Regional Council	Headcut to stability – Hawthornden Creek rehabilitation	Bathurst	\$100,000
Bathurst Regional Council	Racing to save the Mount Panorama woodlands	Bathurst	\$72,790
Canada Bay Council	Native habitat recovery in the Parramatta River catchment	Various	\$99,238
Coffs Harbour City Council	Bush regeneration in Coffs Creek western tributaries	Coffs Harbour	\$100,000
Deniliquin Council	Restoration of threatened fish species wetland habitat	Deniliquin	\$65,000
NSW Environment Protection Authority	Faeces versus species – the impact of sewage overflows on biodiversity	Various	\$83,824
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Long Beach coast wattle management	Eurobodalla	\$52,692
Gilgandra Shire Council	Railway Street stormwater wetland and community education program	Gilgandra	\$100,000
Griffith City Council	Restoration and rehabilitation of the Tharbogang Swamp	Griffith	\$62,991
Hunter–Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	African olive containment in Dungog local government area, Hunter Valley	Dungog	\$99,868
Hunter's Hill Council	Restoring endangered ecological communities along the Lane Cove River estuary	Hunters Hill	\$99,888
Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	Cleaning up Crookwell – river restoration project	Upper Lachlan	\$100,000
Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	Joining the links to improve the water we drink	Boorowa	\$100,000
Lismore City Council	Improving genetic flow between Lismore koala populations	Lismore	\$100,000
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Northern Rivers Aboriginal green teams working on Country	Various	\$87,450
Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet	Restoration of endangered woodland to Dananbilla Nature Reserves	Young	\$71,458
Parramatta City Council	Duck River riparian corridor rehabilitation and stabilisation project	Parramatta	\$100,000
Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust	Building resilient landscapes following African olive invasion	Camden	\$99,453
Shoalhaven City Council	Swan Lake estuary environmental and cultural restoration project	Shoalhaven	\$63,290
Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Reconnecting Muddy Island wetlands by restoring tidal flow	Eurobodalla	\$68,300
Tweed Shire Council	Protecting and linking high conservation value habitats from coast to Burringbar Ridge	Tweed	\$99,881
Western Catchment Management Authority	Vegetation regeneration and improving ecosystem resilience	Various	\$100,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,025,373</b>



# Community Bush Regeneration Grants

Now into its second year of operation, the Community Bush Regeneration Program is a \$10-million program that funds large-scale regeneration of degraded bushland, including river banks, urban bushland and degraded waterways. The program allows community groups working at a regional scale to achieve enduring environmental outcomes over a longer time frame than is possible under the three-year Restoration and Rehabilitation Program grants. A second component of the program provides funding to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife to encourage bush regeneration and conservation on private land.

## Community Bush Regeneration Program

The objectives of the Community Bush Regeneration Program large-project stream are to:

- regenerate degraded natural areas, including bushland, riverbanks, degraded waterways and rare and endangered ecosystems
- improve the health and resilience of important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna
- improve ecological connectivity within and between natural areas
- improve the capacity of local community groups to protect, restore and enhance the environment by strengthening those organisations whose primary purpose is to undertake environmental works in their local area.

The Trust awarded competitive grants of between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to 34 large-scale community projects in 2011–12, and one further project in 2012–13 (Table 4). These projects are currently one year into their six-year life span. Already grantees have removed weeds from a combined total of 1438 hectares of degraded bushland. In areas where a viable native seedbank was not present, a total of 8817 tube stock have been planted to restore native habitat. These activities have contributed to establishing 2524 hectares of connected vegetation across terrestrial, riparian and wetland vegetation communities.

The on-ground achievements during this first year of the program have been made possible by the efforts of over 1500 people including 1015 volunteers who have given over 32,000 hours of their time to engage with projects across this program.

Two projects which have achieved some great environmental outcomes in their first year are highlighted in the following case studies.

## Private Land Conservation Program

The Trust has committed \$2 million over six years to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife to expand its existing Private Land Conservation Grants Program. This program aims to improve the quality of high-value conservation areas on private land and to encourage private landholders to participate in bush regeneration.

This was the second year of enhanced funding from the Trust. The 2013 funding round attracted 102 applications requesting \$730,000 for conservation and bush regeneration activities.

Fifty-four applications were approved for approximately \$315,000. These grants were funded from the Trust's previous payment to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife in 2011–12:

- 28 grantees have in-perpetuity conservation protection agreements on their land and were therefore able to seek up to \$5000 per year for three years
- 22 grantees have less binding conservation agreements and have been granted up to \$1000 per year for three years
- four projects received funding for training, education and field days in land conservation.

A complete list of grant recipients is available on the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife website: [www.fnpw.org.au](http://www.fnpw.org.au).

As in previous years, the majority of the funds requested will be used for weed management and eradication. Problems identified by applicants include infestations of weeds coming from neighbouring, non-conservation properties; difficulties in maintaining gains previously achieved as the landowners age; and the impact of recent heavy rains.

Grants awarded in 2012 have so far seen the regeneration of 110 hectares of bushland and revegetation of eight hectares using more than 2000 local provenance tube-stock plants. Landholders have installed more than eight kilometres of new or upgraded fencing to protect natural areas. Volunteers have contributed 5470 hours of their time to help achieve these outcomes.

The Trust has established a valuable partnership with the Foundation and would like to thank the Foundation for its excellent work in delivering this program.

Table 4

## Community Bush Regeneration grant awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Pope's Glen Bushcare Group	Pope's Glen swampland and bush regeneration project	Blue Mountains	\$233,132
Total			\$233,132



## ■ CASE STUDY

### Rehabilitating and restoring endangered lowland subtropical rainforest

Lowland rainforest in north-eastern NSW provides habitat for no fewer than 70 threatened species. This critically endangered ecological community now covers less than one per cent of its pre-1750 extent.

Big Scrub Landcare has been working on the North Coast for 20 years to facilitate bush regeneration within lowland subtropical rainforest. In 2012 the group was awarded a grant of \$249,900 for a six-year project under the Community Bush Regeneration Program to address weed threats across 640 hectares of rainforest. The project is being delivered in partnership with Bangalow River Landcare and land managers including NPWS and Rous Water.

Weeding and restoration activities are focused on two main sites within the Nightcap National Park which have until now received very little attention.

In the project's first year, professional bush regenerators and volunteers completed 55 days of weed control to treat eight hectares of badly infested habitat at Rocky Creek Dam, part of the Rous Water Rainforest Reserve. Bush regenerators from Rous Water worked side by side with Trust-funded regenerators to clear the thick lantana which is now reduced by at least 90 per cent. Pioneering native species such as bleeding heart have been recorded regenerating throughout the site.

Tree planting as part of the annual Big Scrub Rainforest Day in September 2012 saw the establishment of 620 local provenance trees and 200 *Lomandra longifolia* at Bangalow under the supervision of Bangalow River Landcare. Project activities such as these are building the capacity of Landcare members and the community. Over 400 people participated in training events or field visits on Big Scrub Rainforest Day. Landholders and community members gained a better understanding of the significance of lowland rainforest while workshop participants had the opportunity to develop practical skills to restore lowland rainforest.

*"The working partnership with Rous Water is proving to be very productive. The Rous Water bush regeneration team would not have had the capacity to commence restoration work in the project area without support from the Trust."*

Big Scrub Landcare



Bush regenerators beginning lantana control at Rocky Creek Dam.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Macquarie River Protect – Repair – Connect

Led by Dubbo Macquarie River Bushcare, this six-year project aims to assist the recovery of the endangered trout cod and other listed aquatic species by enhancing priority habitat areas along a 100-kilometre reach of the Macquarie River (part of the Lowland Darling River endangered ecological community).

As well as the trout cod, the project aims to enhance aquatic habitat for freshwater catfish, silver perch, Macquarie perch, purple-spotted gudgeon, olive perchlet and river snail (all threatened), as well as iconic species such as platypus and water rats. Weed removal and rehabilitation of riparian zones will also assist in re-establishing a habitat corridor for threatened species such as the barking owl.

Weed control has been the major focus of working bees, with over 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> of weeds removed in the first year. A local adult disability group has been working with Bushcare members three mornings a month to support the project, and this has generated extensive media coverage.

Removal of large woody debris is listed as a key threatening process in NSW watercourses. In 2012 the Bushcare group commenced the re-snagging of the Macquarie River at Pilchers Reserve using seven large dead trees removed from a mine site.

One of the main challenges has been getting private landholders to engage with the project. A small but committed number of landholders that wish to participate in riparian improvements have been identified. On one of these properties 200 metres of fencing has been installed to restrict stock access to the river banks. The second phase of activity at this site will involve tube-stock planting and direct seeding to enhance the riparian habitat.

The local community and stakeholders in Dubbo have enthusiastically embraced the recovery project which in its first year has already generated much positive feedback for the on-ground work that is being carried out.

*"News of the Environmental Trust grant, the media generated from this and the enthusiasm of current and new members has provided impetus for invigorated members to demonstrate and promote their commitment to riparian and aquatic habitat restoration on the Macquarie River."*

Dubbo Macquarie River Bushcare



Returning snags to the Macquarie River at Pilchers Reserve.



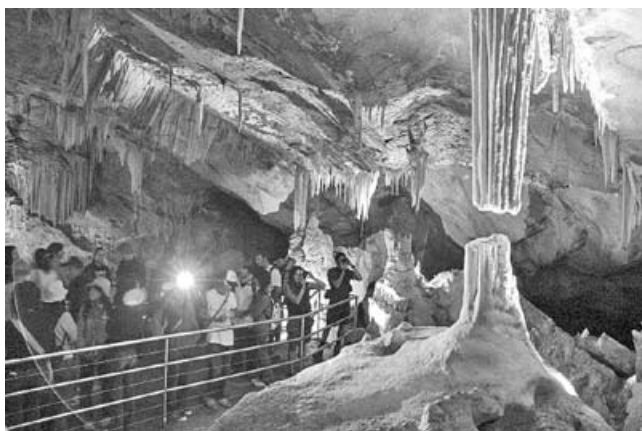
# Major Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects

Through the Restoration and Rehabilitation Program the Trust has the capacity to fund major long-term projects that are outside the scope of the contestable grants program. Two new projects were approved for funding this year.

## Jenolan Caves

A grant of \$743,718 was awarded to Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust to progressively replace galvanised steel materials in the cave systems with stainless steel. The aging galvanised steel is detrimental to both cave formations and cave biota through the leaching of toxic chemicals and rust staining. The project seeks to achieve long-term protection of the cave environment and ecosystems and prevent further environmental degradation. The removal of the steel will substantially reduce the need for ongoing maintenance activities that impact on the sensitive cave environment.

As part of this grant, the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust has committed to a 10-year environmental education program which is to be funded through the maintenance savings resulting from the project. This offset will enhance the current educational and interpretation programs at the caves and further raise environmental awareness and promote conservation principles at one of the most highly visited environmental tourist destinations in NSW.



Ageing metalwork in Jenolan Caves will be replaced with stainless steel.

## Psyllid impacts on the Cumberland Plain

A grant of \$400,000 was approved for the University of Western Sydney to carry out research into a previously unknown species of psyllid which is posing a critical risk to the Cumberland Plain woodland community in Western Sydney. Widespread defoliation of grey box in the critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodlands is resulting in extensive canopy dieback and tree mortality. The defoliation is caused by a previously undescribed native lace lerp (*Cardiaspina* sp.), a member of the Psyllidae family (jumping plant-lice). This research project will characterise the genetic diversity of grey box for the first time, with the aim of improving the conservation and management of the Cumberland Plain woodland. The analysis of psyllid population dynamics and genetics will provide information on

the ecology and origin of this new species and evaluate its expansion potential. This is particularly important as there are significant stands of grey box in other parts of NSW.

A number of major projects approved in 2011–12 have now completed their first year of project activities. Following are some of the achievements of these projects which are progressing well towards their environmental goals.

## Eradicating rodents from Lord Howe Island

Jointly funded by the Trust and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, this project aims to remove the last introduced predators to Lord Howe Island. Rats on Lord Howe Island are recognised as a key threatening process under both State and Commonwealth legislation, and have been implicated in the extinction of at least five endemic bird species and at least 13 invertebrates. They are recognised as a serious threat to many other plant and animal species on the island.

2012–13 was the first year of the Trust's \$4.5 million commitment to this project. An island-based project manager is working with the community, Lord Howe Island Board and a steering committee to deliver the project. A scientific and technical advisory committee has also been established to provide technical support to the project. This committee consists of national and international experts in a range of fields including eradications and wildlife management.

Captive management trials are being conducted by Taronga Zoo for Lord Howe Island woodhens and currawong, which are the two non-target species deemed to be at significant risk from the operation. Purpose-built enclosures have been erected for both species and trial capture of the birds is complete. This trial is crucial to show that the planned captive management program will protect both species for the duration of the baiting operation. Further research and monitoring support for the project is being provided by OEH. This has included pre-operational monitoring of seabirds, assisting with the captive management project and starting toxin resistance trials.

Extensive community consultation has been required to respond to community concerns about human health and potential impacts of the project on local tourism, and this work is ongoing. A consultant has been working with local businesses to identify the major concerns and issues and work out how to address these. A community liaison group has been established to provide a conduit for communication between the community and the Board. The group consists of a range of community members, from strong supporters of the project to those who are strongly opposed. There have been four meetings to date and the group believes that it is making good progress on informing the community about the project and working through issues of concern.





Lord Howe Island woodhens will be captured while baiting occurs.

## Weed eradication on Lord Howe Island

This three-year project aims to protect Lord Howe Island ecosystems from the threat of key invasive weeds and is part of a long-term weed eradication program that commenced in 2004. The project comprises search and control programs for various target weed species, remote area surveillance, community engagement, and monitoring.

A total of 362 hectares of oceanic rainforest has been systematically treated for key invasive weeds with over 10,000 person hours completed during the first year of the project. This has been achieved with a combination of existing field staff funded by the Lord Howe Island Board and new staff funded by the Trust. The injection of new Trust-funded staff (including a Bush Regeneration Supervisor and a number of staff qualified in bushland restoration) has helped to drive a more thorough search effort for the target weeds.

The main landscapes managed under this project include the northern flanks of Mount Lidgbird, Intermediate Hill, Transit Hill, Malabar and remote area searches on Mount Gower. Helicopter operations in October 2012 were constrained by unfavourable weather; however, over a two-day period up to 27 people were winched onto Mount Gower where a patch of 371 mature cherry guavas (*Psidium cattleianum*) was found.

The threat of ground asparagus (*Asparagus aethiopicus*) on Lord Howe Island has been significantly reduced through the ongoing treatment of a 20-hectare infestation at Transit Hill. All mature infestations have been depleted with only regrowth seedlings requiring ongoing treatment.

Specialist rope-access bush regenerators undertook systematic search and control for target weeds across the cliff face on Mount Lidgbird. Approximately one kilometre of cliff line was treated with 47 mature ground asparagus and 41 mature bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) plants being removed. This work was co-funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

The island community was invited to attend a series of presentations on the weed eradication program which were positively received. Up to 64 people attended the events which included case studies of specific weed threats on the island, before and after photos, and information on the program and data management. A short video of remote area

helicopter work gave the community a preview of 'Weed Whacking Lord Howe Style'.

Up to 28 noxious weed inspections were undertaken during the year to address priority weeds within the settlement. A noxious-weed inspector from the mid North Coast assisted in these inspections to help raise community awareness about the legal requirements to remove noxious weeds under NSW legislation.

## Classification and mapping of regional-scale native vegetation communities of NSW

The vision of this \$4.5 million project is to provide government and the NSW community with a consistent plant community classification across NSW, which is mapped to a standard resolution and accuracy, and is available online to the public. The project has made good progress towards its overall objectives of raising the quality and consistency of baseline plant community information and describing the distribution of these plant communities across NSW through a specifically designed geodatabase.

A review of the NSW plant community type classification has commenced with mapping products in different areas being 'harmonised' or classified according to consistent types. Over 4000 rapid field surveys have been completed to fill critical data gaps in strategic areas such as the Border Rivers, Lachlan, and Murrumbidgee regions. Another 480 full floristic surveys have been completed to fill data gaps in the Lachlan region.

A critical assessment of mapping and classification user needs has been completed including the preparation of User Analysis and Options Papers for Regional and Fine Scale Mapping in NSW.

Baseline vegetation data is being incrementally prepared for regions of NSW in preparation for implementing the agreed method for mapping and classification. The final methodology will use a mix of traditional manual interpretive and semi-automated methods and will be decided by September 2013. The mapping methodology and classification will be subject to peer review by an external scientific advisory committee.

OEH's Vegetation Information System (VIS) is the key facility for managing vegetation information and making it available to government and the community. All floristic site data collected as part of the project is routinely transferred to the NSW VIS. Data download is currently possible through a range on internal and external platforms.

Development has commenced on options for an online system for all digital vegetation information.



## Snowy River Rehabilitation Stage 2

The first year of implementing Stage 2 rehabilitation work on the Snowy River has been successfully completed, with good progress being made towards achieving the project objectives of:

- community engagement
- river rehabilitation
- science and biological recovery
- communication and public involvement
- river access.

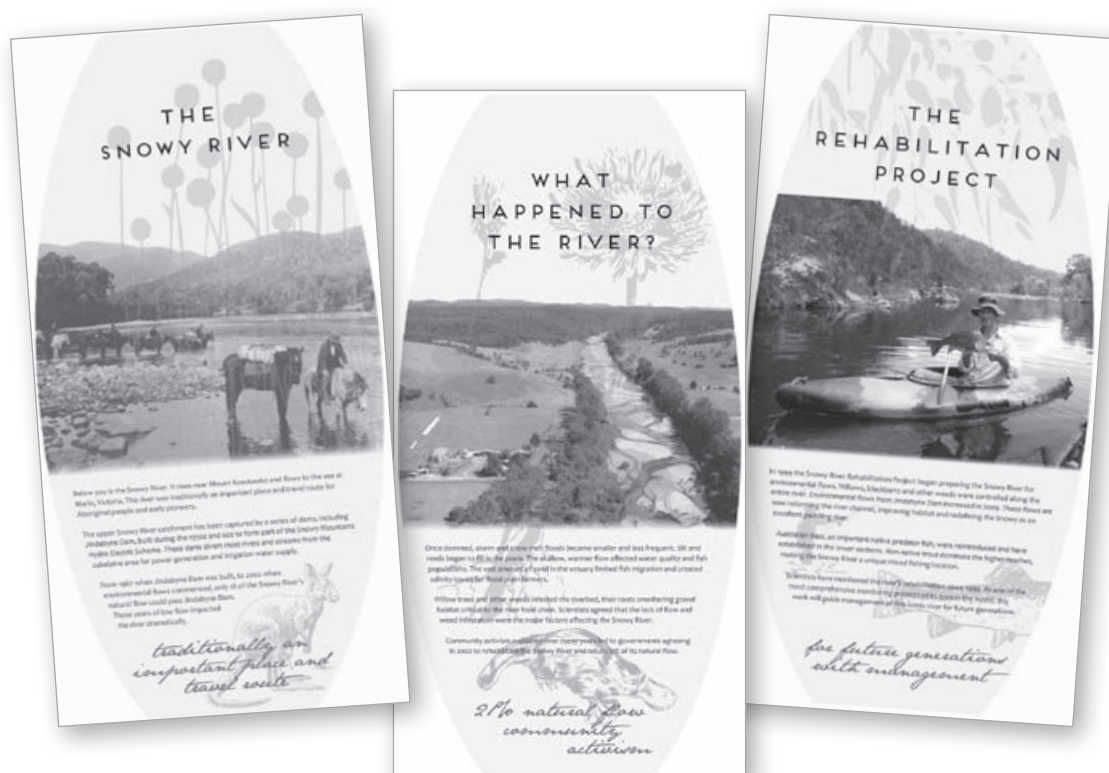
The project has been integrated into the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority's suite of existing programs and projects and works are complementing and adding value to existing restoration activities. Building productive relationships has been a focus in this first year, particularly with groups and individuals that may not have been effectively engaged in the past. This has involved fostering key partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders and organisations including tourism providers, local indigenous communities, community volunteers, the scientific community and local landholders.

This year has seen the completion of an important cultural and environmental resource, *Ngarigo Plant Use of the Snowy Catchment*, which was developed through a successful partnership with the Ngarigo community. The collaboration between Aboriginal communities to produce this plant guide proved to be a very positive and productive experience.

The breadth and depth of knowledge remaining about the Ngarigo people and their use of natural resources in the Snowy region exceeded all expectations. Engagement in the development of the book has encouraged custodianship of the Snowy catchment. Elders had the opportunity to share their knowledge of Country, and significant images of totem and important animals of country have been recorded.

River rehabilitation work has focused on the control of over 250 hectares of woody weeds including willows and blackberry from a 41-kilometre reach of the river below Jindabyne. Revegetation work planned for this year was unable to occur due to the generally wet conditions that would have significantly hampered survival rates. However, site preparation has occurred, plants have been ordered and contractors engaged to commence revegetation in spring 2013.

A range of educational products and promotional events has increased knowledge and awareness of the Snowy River and the benefits of environmental flows. More than 50 people attended the annual Snowy River Day at Dalgety and listened to presentations on the benefits of environmental flows and riparian restoration. Interpretive signs have been installed at Jacks Lookout which overlooks the Snowy River in Kosciuszko National Park and at riparian project sites on the Snowy River at Ironmungy, and the Moonbah River at the Barry Way. Posters illustrating the Snowy River before and after environmental flows have also been produced and distributed statewide.



New interpretive panels installed at Jacks Lookout above the Snowy River.



# Protecting Our Places Grants

Protecting Our Places (POP) is a competitive restoration and rehabilitation program that provides an opportunity for Aboriginal communities to restore or rehabilitate Aboriginal-owned land, or other land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people. It also funds projects that seek to educate Aboriginal and other communities about the local environment and the traditional values Aboriginal communities place on their natural environment.

## Achievements

Achievements from some of the POP projects that were completed in 2012–13 include:

- A mid North Coast Aboriginal Corporation has measured its carbon footprint and implemented methods to reduce and hopefully neutralise its greenhouse gas emissions. This innovative project involved a range of environmental activities encompassing flora and fauna survey techniques, measuring carbon footprints and ecological restoration techniques.
- Critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodland and river flat forest at Domain Creek in Parramatta Park has been rehabilitated. An interpretive trail along the creek promotes the Aboriginal connection to the land and provides information on the uses of native plants found on the trail.
- Ground and woody weeds and exotic plants were removed to enable natural native plant regeneration at an old camping ground in Deniliquin on Crown and Local Aboriginal Land Council land. Illegally dumped waste was also removed.
- Rehabilitation, revegetation and creek bank stabilisation was undertaken in riparian, grassland and tall open-forest communities at Katoomba. A group of Conservation Land Management certified Aboriginal and high school students carried out the work and increased their knowledge of traditional plant uses.

- Aboriginal bush regenerators revegetated Cubawee Aboriginal Place and Leycester Creek near Lismore including the installation of interpretive signs.

## POP grants

The Trust awarded 10 grants totalling \$321,141 from the 2012–13 round of applications to the program. To utilise all available funds a second round of applications opened in November 2012. Instead of a broad call for applications, the technical committee sought approval from the Trust to approach 13 Local Aboriginal Land Councils that had previously worked with OEH to develop a Management Plan through the Trust-funded Land Alive Program – Aboriginal land management for biodiversity. These Local Aboriginal Land Councils were invited to submit a proposal for funding up to \$50,000. Two grants totalling \$100,000 were awarded in this second round (Table 5).

Ten workshops across NSW and four webinars were conducted during the call for applications for the 2013 grants program. These workshops and webinars attracted 51 participants, providing them with information on how to submit an application.

## POP outcomes since 2009

The Trust has been collecting information on the outcomes of POP projects since 2009. Grantees in the 2009, 2010, and 2011 round have together restored or rehabilitated 51 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land and planted over 7700 native plants. This figure represents the 35 per cent of grantees for which data is available. The Trust continues to work with POP grantees to improve the quality of environmental reporting within the program.

Table 5

### Protecting our Places grants awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation	Guardian gateway – seeding the future	Wollongong	\$31,342
Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council	Natural rest	Murray	\$35,000
Gunawirra Limited	Gunawirra and boomerang puppets talk with kids about land and culture	Statewide	\$35,000
Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council	Mogo Creek back to life – its restoration and rehabilitation Stage 2	Eurobodalla	\$35,000
Moree Local Aboriginal Land Council	Who let the dogs out program	Moree Plains	\$35,000



Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Muda Aboriginal Corporation	Indigenous bush culture educational awareness project	Bourke	\$9,900
Muli Muli Ladies Aboriginal Corporation	Proud places	Kyogle	\$34,899
Nyngan Local Aboriginal Land Council	Warrigal rehabilitation	Bogan	\$35,000
The Gully Traditional Owners Inc.	Garguree Swampcare Stage 2	Blue Mountains	\$35,000
Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre	Yarrawarra lowland rainforest restoration at Sherwood Nature Reserve	Coffs Harbour	\$35,000
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protecting Tallong's NRM values	Goulburn-Mulwaree	\$50,000
Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council	Ngunya Jargoan waste management and rubbish removal	Ballina	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$421,141</b>

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Burramatta Aboriginal Landscape Trail

Parramatta Park is located in an area that is the traditional home of the Burramatta Clan of the Darug People. Working in partnership with the Parramatta Park Trust, the Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group used its 2007 grant to rehabilitate an area of endangered Cumberland Plain woodland and river flat forest along Domain Creek within the park. An interpretive trail educates visitors about traditional land management practices and use of bush plants.

Volunteers from Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare carried out primary weed control, installed temporary fencing around the site and participated in community planting days. Parramatta Park Trust supported the initial weed control effort by including the area in the park's ongoing bush regeneration program which is carried out by experienced contractors. This has ensured that the site has remained relatively weed-free.

More than 6900 plants were planted along the trail over four community planting days. These plants represent 28 species that are either locally extinct or poorly represented at the site. All species were used by local Aboriginal people as a raw material for food or medicine, or have some other importance for Aboriginal people's relationship with the environment.

The interpretive trail runs for 700 metres on the eastern side of Domain Creek. The interpretation strategy and signage for the site was developed by a consultant following consultation with various stakeholders and Parramatta Park Trust. The trail begins with a Welcome to Country and proceeds along a path with three information signs that introduce aspects of local Aboriginal history, and 20 plant identification signs. A complementary trail brochure is available from the Park Visitor Centre and from the Parramatta Park Trust website.



*The Burramatta trail was launched in September 2012 by Parramatta Park Aboriginal Trustee Jackie Puckeridge (second from left).*

During the life of the project the status of the Cumberland Plain woodland was changed to critically endangered, highlighting the continued and increasing threats to this ecological community. This project has helped to protect, rehabilitate and interpret this important community within Parramatta Park. The improved species diversity has enhanced fauna habitat while demonstrating bush resources for traditional food and medicine.

*"Wuru mi mittiga gurum baurruk dumul"*

*"Hello friends it's good to see you in this friendly place"*

Burramatta Aboriginal Landscape Trail Brochure



# Contaminated Land Management Program

The Contaminated Land Management Program allows for the remediation of contaminated sites that may pose a major risk to human health and the environment. It is delivered by the Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health Branch of the NSW EPA on behalf of the Trust. The program is guided by a Trust subcommittee which comprises representatives from industry, non-government organisations and local and State government.

The Trust approved funding for the Contaminated Land Management Program for three years until 2013–14, with up to \$2 million available per year to investigate and remediate contaminated sites.

The Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Program is a pilot program that commenced in 2011–12 to investigate and remediate derelict rural underground petroleum storage systems. It is intended that the Trust-funded program will trial implementation procedures for the eventual roll-out of a long-term program. The EPA is also exploring a long-term funding solution for this major issue outside the Trust.

Five grants totalling \$1,050,000 were awarded this year under Round 2 of the program (Table 6). Four of these grants fund the remediation of sites previously investigated in Round 1 and identified as suitable for remediation. As with last year, the Trust also funded the EPA to undertake preliminary investigations at a further 25 sites to prioritise them for detailed investigations and remediation.

The Contaminated Land Management Program has been assisting local councils in the investigation and remediation of former gasworks sites for many years. This year the

Council Gasworks Program awarded \$120,000 for further investigations at the former Deniliquin gasworks (Table 6). These gasworks functioned from 1887 to 1913 although the precise location is unknown (historical information provides an approximate location only). Soil vapour and groundwater tests conducted during an initial investigation funded in 2011–12 revealed high concentrations of contaminants, but did not provide enough information to determine a suitable course of remediation. This second grant will enable Deniliquin Council to take full groundwater samplings across the entire area, conduct further soil sampling, and conduct vapour analysis and assessment in surrounding buildings.

The third element of the Contaminated Land Management Program is the 'innocent owners' scheme which provides funds to landowners who unwittingly find themselves responsible for the remediation of serious land contamination (when the polluter cannot be found or no longer exists). In some circumstances, where the owner is unable to undertake the works themselves, the EPA will undertake the contract and project management on their behalf. Additional funding was required this year for the former battery recycling site in Young, which saw the remediation completed by the EPA on behalf of two owners (Table 6).

This year the Trust also provided a one off grant payment of \$700,000 to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for the investigation and remediation of a former antimony site at Urunga. This site was transferred from private ownership to DPI as part of the remediation and funding plan.

Table 6

## Contaminated Land Management Program grants awarded in 2012–13

### Council Gasworks

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Deniliquin Council	Stage 2 investigation at former Deniliquin Gasworks	Deniliquin	\$120,000
Total			\$120,000

### Innocent Owners

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Mrs Marcia Milne & Mrs Jill Finn	Remediation of former battery recycling site at Young NSW – Stage 2	Young	\$240,723
Total			\$240,723



## Underground Petroleum Storage Systems

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Dungog Shire Council	Remediation of former Modern Motors Service Station, Dowling Street, Dungog	Dungog	\$200,000
Greater Taree City Council	Remediation of Central Garage, Isabella Street, Wingham	Greater Taree	\$200,000
Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Remediation of former Wallabadah Service Station, Coach Street, Wallabadah	Liverpool Plains	\$200,000
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Remediation of 1623 Golden Highway, Sandy Hollow	Muswellbrook	\$200,000
Environment Protection Authority	Underground Petroleum Service Station (UPSS) Investigations Round 2	Statewide	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,050,000</b>

## Other contaminated sites

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Investigation and remediation of former antimony processing site at Urunga	Bellingen	\$700,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$700,000</b>

## Program administration costs

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Environment Protection Authority	Program Administration Costs	Various	\$290,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$290,000</b>



# Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program

The Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program is a long-running program that provides for the clean-up or mitigation of emergency pollution events and the removal of illegally dumped waste. Nominated EPA officers have the power to approve spending of Trust funds under this program.

Forty-five payments were made in 2012–13 to address emergency or orphan waste pollution incidents with a total value of \$187,669 (Table 7). Just under half of this funding (\$91,069) was for the clean-up of dumped asbestos waste while \$30,317 was spent on the continued removal of poisoned trees at Girraween which commenced last year. The sale of an abandoned semitrailer at Smithfield returned \$11,704 to the program to offset a clean-up payment made to Fairfield City Council.

Due to the high number of payments which have been provided in recent years for asbestos clean-up, in September

2012 the Trust agreed to establish a separate program to address this issue. The new Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up Program will offer up to \$500,000 a year specifically for asbestos clean-up. The Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program has been renamed the Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program. It will also offer up to \$500,000 a year for emergency pollution events.

Councils and other land managers can apply to either of these programs for 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.

The Trust has developed external guidelines (for applicants) and internal guidelines (for EPA officers assessing the technical merits of applications) for both clean-up programs. These guidelines were developed in close consultation with the EPA and Local Government NSW. The EPA intends to undertake capacity building for applicants in 2013–14.

Table 7

## Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program payments in 2012–13

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Angophora Consulting Arborist	Arborist assessment reports on herbicide-poisoned trees in Girraween	Apr 11	\$1,800.00
Angophora Consulting Arborist	Arborist assessment reports on herbicide-poisoned trees in Girraween	Apr 11	\$1,800.00
Arbor Barber Tree Services P/L	Removal of herbicide-poisoned tree, Oramzi Road, Girraween	Apr 11	\$545.45
Ashfield Council	Clean-up of asbestos at St John's Anglican Church	Mar 13	\$4,785.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Riverstone Parade, Riverstone	Mar 13	\$2,630.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Shane Park Road, Shanes Park	Dec 08	\$1,132.73
Dolomatrix Aust P/L	Removal of aluminium phosphate at Mona Vale Fire Station	Feb 13	\$614.45
Fairfield City Council	Removal of liquid waste from a semitrailer parked at Chifley Street, Smithfield	Jan 13	\$45,550.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Make Peace Park, Vine Street, Fairfield	Sep 07	\$838.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Eliza Street, Fairfield	Feb 13	\$1,812.00
Fairfield City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at East Parade, Fairfield	Jan 13	\$3,644.00
General Forest Tree	Removal of herbicide-poisoned tree at Toongabbie Road, Toongabbie	Apr 11	\$4,800.00
General Forest Tree	Removal of herbicide-poisoned trees at Pamela Place, Girraween	Apr 11	\$800.00
General Forest Tree	Removal of herbicide-poisoned tree at Palm Street, Girraween	Apr 11	\$2,850.00
General Forest Tree	Removal of herbicide-poisoned tree at Masters Place, Girraween	Apr 11	\$950.00



Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at corner Stuarts Lane and McKinnons Road, Freemans Reach	May 12	\$760.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Joshua Road, Freemans Reach	May 12	\$660.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Railway Road South, Mulgrave	Aug 12	\$6,030.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Old Kurrajong Road, Richmond	Oct 12	\$1,510.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Brandon Road, Vineyard	Jan 13	\$1,620.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Fairey Road, Windsor	Dec 12	\$1,560.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Comleroy Road, Wheeny Creek	Mar 13	\$990.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Campbelltown Road, Edmondson Park	Sep 10	\$5,451.00
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Cowpasture Road, West Hoxton	Sep 10	\$19,623.60
Liverpool City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Cowpasture Road, Cecil Hills	Sep 10	\$10,012.40
Mary Ruston	Removal of herbicide-poisoned tree at Carinya Road, Girraween	Apr 11	\$1,280.00
Mainheim Pty Ltd	Sale of abandoned semitrailer parked at Chifley Street, Smithfield	Jan 13	-\$11,704.54
Namoi Wastecorp	Removal of orphan waste from Kamilaroi Highway, Narrabri	Feb 13	\$870.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Clean-up of asbestos from Deadmans Trail at Werekata National Park, Cessnock	Aug 12	\$3,376.12
Office of Environment and Heritage	Clean-up of asbestos at Eagleton Road, Columbey National Park	Dec 12	\$7,300.00
Ryde City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at East Parade, Eastwood	Apr 13	\$4,835.00
Shoalhaven City Council	Clean-up of asbestos at Erowal Bay Road, Worrowing Heights	Mar 13	\$12,500.00
Sydney Metro Tree Services Pty Ltd	Removal of herbicide-poisoned tree at Oklahoma Avenue, Toongabbie	Apr 11	\$1,560.00
The Hills Shire Council	Clean-up of hydrocarbon at Spur Street, Beaumont Hills	Jun 12	\$5,625.20
The Tree Doctor	Removal of a herbicide-poisoned tree at Tungarra Road, Girraween	Apr 11	\$1,150.00
The Tree Doctor	Removal of a herbicide-poisoned tree at Toongabbie Road, Toongabbie	Apr 11	\$950.00
The Tree Doctor	Removal of a herbicide-poisoned tree at Carinya Road, Girraween	Apr 11	\$2,100.00
The Tree Doctor	Removal of herbicide-poisoned trees at Tungarra Road, Girraween	Apr 11	\$4,618.18
The Tree Doctor	Removal of a herbicide-poisoned tree at Normac Road, Girraween	Apr 11	\$1,450.00
The Tree Doctor	Stump grinding of a herbicide-poisoned tree at Toongabbie Road, Toongabbie	Apr 11	\$77.28
Transpacific Industrial Solutions Pty Ltd	Clean-up of contaminated fire water at Loftus Street, Riverstone	Oct 12	\$20,558.85
Transpacific Industrial Solutions Pty Ltd	Removal of aluminium phosphide tablets from Kempsey Hospital	Feb 12	\$20.00
Transpacific Industrial Solutions Pty Ltd	Removal of orphan waste from Kamilaroi Highway, Narrabri	Apr 13	\$1,236.00
Transpacific Industrial Solutions Pty Ltd	Removal of orphan waste from Kamilaroi Highway, Narrabri	Feb 13	\$3,511.77
Tree Cutting	Removal of herbicide-poisoned trees at Palm Street, Girraween	Apr 11	\$3,586.54
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$187,669.03</b>



# Environmental Education Program

The Environmental Education Program aims to build community skills and knowledge in environmental management and encourage the community to act in a sustainable way. These aims are achieved by funding a range of educational projects that can demonstrate positive environmental outcomes.

## Achievements

Some achievements from the 24 contestable environmental education projects that concluded this year include:

- development of educational resources on the sustainable management of groundwater
- launch of an extensive online learning program to prepare caravan parks for sustainable practice
- an innovative community education program that invited multicultural communities in Sydney's west to create their own digital story about sustainable living
- development of a new interpretive volunteer guide program which is increasing knowledge and awareness of biodiversity in the Coffs Harbour region and adoption of sustainable behaviours
- completion of guidelines that will assist childcare centres to educate for sustainability
- completion of a behavioural change program which has educated people on how to reduce edible food waste
- establishment of a rural women's group in north-western NSW which is encouraging women to take a more active role in natural resource management
- a new mobile education program by the Australian Museum that provides mini exhibits for display by community organisations across NSW. Six portable hands-on display modules include practical learning resources and collections that highlight issues around sustainability, climate change and biodiversity.

The following case studies showcase two of these successful education projects.

## Program review

The Trust commissioned an independent evaluation of its Environmental Education Program during 2011–12 with the final report and recommendations received in September 2012. The Environmental Education Program is considered by grantees to be a highly valued source of funding that supports projects that may not be funded through other environmental grant programs. However, the program has been running since 1990 and the review noted that it was difficult to align the program with the current government policy and frameworks. While the grant application and assessment process has evolved over the past 23 years, there has been no change in the program aims, objectives and desired outcomes, in response to policy shifts. The

review therefore recommends a revision of the hierarchy of outcomes to determine program logic, and definition of the relationship between the program and current policy including NSW 2021.

Feedback from grantees and unsuccessful applicants has confirmed that the two-stage application process is a good approach that encourages applicants. The review acknowledged the extra support the Trust has provided to applicants in recent years and recommended continuing this support, including workshops and use of project management contractors, which the Trust will continue to build on.

The review made a number of recommendations aimed at demonstrating educational outcomes (such as review of monitoring and evaluation project measures and follow-up beyond the life of the grant). In particular there was a perception among grantees that many of the project measures which need to be reported on do not adequately assess environmental education outcomes. The review also pointed to knowledge sharing, including making it a requirement for projects to establish steering committees and project partnerships.

The Education Steering Committee has considered the results of the evaluation and the practicality of implementing the recommendations, some of which lacked sufficient analysis to provide a clear direction. Following further analysis, the committee has made a number of revised or additional recommendations to address some of the issues raised in the evaluation. These recommendations will be implemented in 2013–14.

## Environmental Education outcomes since 2009

The Trust has been monitoring the educational outcomes of this program since 2009. During this time the 2009 and 2010 grantees have engaged over 24,000 people in environmental education activities. This includes 8699 people who have attended 283 training sessions, 820 volunteers and over 8400 school and tertiary students (Table 8).



Table 8

## Environmental Education outcomes since 2009

Project measures	2009 Grants	2010 Grants	Total
Number of people trained	6,073	2,626	8,699
Number of training sessions	164	119	283
Number of individuals reached	52,475	243,735	296,210
Number of individuals engaged	16,724	7,485	24,209
Number of volunteers	665	155	820
Number of volunteer hours	9,321	2,773	12,094
Number of students (primary/secondary/tertiary)	4,882	3,553	8,435
Number of students hours	15,700	5,422	21,122
<b>Percentage of projects for which data is available</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>80%</b>

## ■ CASE STUDY

**Coffs Ambassadors show off local biodiversity**

The City of Coffs Harbour has a new program of free walking tours that are helping to educate visitors and residents about the biodiversity of the local area. With assistance from a 2008 Environmental Education Grant, 13 volunteer 'Coffs Ambassador' guides have taken over 800 residents and visitors on interpretive tours of coastal and bushland habitats since the program commenced in 2010. Coffs Ambassadors are local people who are passionate about the environment and want to share their knowledge of special places in the region.

A Coffs Ambassador training module was developed by NPWS through their Discovery Rangers program. Volunteers received training in tour guiding, Aboriginal cultural awareness, first aid and occupational health and safety, as well as being provided with resources for flora and fauna identification. The first eight volunteer guides graduated from the program in December 2009 and a further five graduated in April 2011. Further recruits since completion of the grant have brought the current number of guides to 15, with each offering their own personalised tour of Coffs Harbour's rainforests, estuaries, headlands, beaches and bushland.

Response to the tours has been overwhelmingly positive from both visitors and locals alike. Ninety-three per cent of participants rated their tour as either 'excellent' or 'very good' and 85 per cent said they finished the tour with a better knowledge of local biodiversity. As well as learning from the tour guides each participant is given a brochure which outlines ten simple ways of protecting biodiversity in Coffs Harbour. Three to six months after their tour 90 per cent of participants said they had made one or more of these simple changes to their daily life.



*Coffs Ambassador volunteer tour guides.*

The tours are advertised through the Coffs Harbour City Council website, local media and the Coffs Harbour Visitors Centre. A visitor-friendly online booking system makes reserving a spot easy. The success of the program has led to the council committing funds through its Environment Levy and in-kind contributions from council's Environmental Education staff to ensure the program continues into the future. Coffs Ambassadors Tours won two awards at the 2012 NSW Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards.

*"I've lived here for 26 years and I never knew about this walk."*

Coffs Harbour tour participant



## ■ CASE STUDY

### 'Living Green' in many languages

Living Green is a multimedia community education program that has explored a range of environmental issues with the culturally and linguistically diverse communities of Auburn, Fairfield, Parramatta, Bankstown, Liverpool and Blacktown. The two-year project by the Auburn Community Development Network culminated in the production of the *Living Green Enviro Kit*, a multimedia resource that explores the major themes of climate change, water, energy, waste and recycling, and food and gardening. The kit features a DVD of digital stories (short films) produced by participants, a 15-page booklet in six languages, and a teacher resource kit with activities and lesson plans. Over 350 copies have been disseminated across Western Sydney to schools, community organisations, welfare agencies, TAFE campuses and cultural groups. The kit is also available online from the Living Green website.

A partnership with Granville TAFE resulted in 15 community members completing accredited training in community environmental education. The graduates then assisted in facilitating education within their own communities using the Living Green resource kit.

Community education workshops were completed with a large number of groups in diverse settings ranging from formal workshops for specific language groups to informal but highly successful 'Tea Salon' workshops at Auburn Markets. The 'Tea Salon' is a model of community engagement that has been developed by Auburn Community Development Network. Lounges and culturally familiar décor create an intimate and inviting space where people can participate in informal conversations about environmental issues while having a cup of tea or joining in creative arts activities. The Tea Salons were found to be effective ways to encourage further participation in the project, especially for those keen to develop a digital story.

The project originally intended to hold a number of digital storytelling workshops; however, after limited responses to the first two workshops, it was decided that working one-



*The Living Green project brought together many cultures to share environmental experiences.*

on-one with storytellers was a more effective approach. This was because many participants were older people who didn't have the computer skills or access to technology required to produce their own story. The majority of digital stories were therefore generated through individuals working directly with project facilitators and artists. The two-minute films were made in various languages with English subtitles.

For people who are not literate in English, the Living Green program has provided alternative methods for learning such as storytelling, cultural exchange and arts. This has provided women and elders in particular with an opportunity to teach others in the community about their responsibilities towards the environment.

***"I gained skills in how to tell my story to other people to get them involved in sustainability."***

Living Green project participant



# Environmental Education Grants

The Environmental Education Program provides competitive grants to community groups and State and local government organisations for projects that:

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

As in previous years a total of \$1,000,000 was offered in 2012–13, with \$500,000 available to community groups and \$500,000 available to State and local government organisations.

There was a very high level of interest in the Environmental Education Program again this year, with the Trust receiving 184 expressions of interest. Thirty-three organisations were invited to submit full applications; however, five applicants declined the offer to apply. Nine community projects were funded for a total of \$472,201 (Table 9) and six State and local government projects were funded for a total of \$433,695 (Table 10).

The Environmental Education Program guidelines were redesigned in 2012 to present them in a clearer, more logical order. 'Plain English' language and consistent terminology has been adopted across the grant application resources. In addition to this change, a separate application form was developed for smaller projects requesting between \$5000 and \$20,000.

The Trust held nine workshops during 2012 aimed at improving the quality of applications to the Environmental Education Program in 2012. These workshops were attended by 140 potential grantees.

All applicants selected from the expression-of-interest stage were required to consult with a project management contractor engaged by the Trust, to assist them in scoping and developing their projects. The Trust also ran webinars in February and March 2013 for successful grantees to assist them with the preparation of their Monitoring and Evaluation Plans.

Education projects awarded in 2012–13 are expected to deliver environmental training to approximately 2791 people through 196 training sessions. Through these projects 250 educational projects will be developed that will be disseminated to more than 431,000 people.

Table 9

## Environmental Education community grants awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Fishing Trade Association	Tackle shops taking on the fish habitat challenge	Statewide	\$52,400
BirdLife Australia	Birds in schools	Auburn	\$97,222
Bundanoon Community Association Inc.	Grow our own food for environmental sustainability and health	Wingecarribee	\$19,920
Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc.	Enhance community knowledge about changes in the marine environment	Statewide	\$22,120
Earthwatch Institute Australia	Marine climate change monitoring by citizen scientists	Various	\$85,460
Motor Traders Association of New South Wales	Green Stamp Plus: sustainability for the automotive industry	Statewide	\$100,000
Murrumbidgee Landcare Association Incorporated	Connecting young people and farming communities	Wagga Wagga	\$53,639
Permaculture Hunter Incorporated	Permaculture workshop and Permablitz program	Newcastle City	\$10,940
Skillset (Central West Group Apprentices Ltd)	Natural landscape function for small rural lifestyle farmers	Bathurst	\$30,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$472,201</b>



Table 10

**Environmental Education State and local government grants awarded in 2012–13**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Access Macquarie Limited	Habitat stepping stones	Ku-Ring-Gai	\$77,390
Canterbury City Council	Sustainability in the CALD business community	Canterbury	\$100,000
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Building community sustainability	Eurobodalla	\$70,620
Griffith City Council	Get SepticSmart	Griffith	\$16,000
Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust	Supporting public engagement in plant conservation using new media	Camden	\$74,000
Shellharbour City Council	Growing minds greening communities	Shellharbour	\$95,685
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$433,695</b>



# Eco Schools Grants

The Eco Schools Program offers competitive grants of \$2500 for students to develop and implement environmental projects within their school or community. These projects aim to develop knowledge and awareness about environmental sustainability, and to allow students to identify, design, implement and monitor solutions that improve the quality of the school and local environment. The program encourages a whole-of-school approach to sustainable management and the development of links with the wider community to address local environmental issues.

The inception of the new Food Gardens in Schools Program (approved by the Trust in 2011–12) resulted in reduced competition for this year's Eco Schools grants. The Trust received 67 applications to the Eco Schools Program requesting a total of \$167,500 in funding. Forty-seven projects totalling \$117,500 were funded (Table 11), and remaining available funds were transferred to the Food Gardens program, where competition was stronger.

Eco Schools grants awarded in 2012–13 are expected to involve over 5700 primary school students and nearly 1200 high school students who will together spend around 17,400 hours engaged in environmental learning.

This year the Trust published a range of case studies and best practice guidelines on the Trust's website to coincide with the opening of the next round of Eco Schools grants. This new online resource has been developed around the eight Eco Schools project categories and includes 24 case studies, hints and tips, and links to other relevant resources. This new web content aims to provide potential grantees with ideas on what can be achieved and how to develop a successful Eco Schools project.

## Program evaluation

The Eco Schools Program was the subject of an independent evaluation in 2012 as part of the Trust's ongoing evaluation of its programs. While the program is considered to represent a low-risk investment for government which engages a broad audience of students, teachers and parents for a small financial expenditure, there were a number of recommendations that the Trust has approved.

The evaluation found that funding was often used for the delivery of physical infrastructure while the intended program outcomes relate to student learning, capacity building for teachers, improved organisational management practices, and community engagement. As such it was considered that the Trust may need to review the relative importance of learning and capacity building outcomes versus the delivery of infrastructure.

The review also recommended that the grant application and assessment processes should be strengthened to ensure funding is allocated to projects that are clearly targeted towards environmental outcomes. The Trust has worked with the chair of the Eco Schools Technical Committee to strengthen and simplify application materials for the next funding round. The Trust also trialed a 'phone a friend' service to give potential grantees guidance on project planning, capacity building and possible learning models.

In regard to disseminating the results of completed projects, the review concluded that significant opportunity exists to consolidate project resources and outputs to facilitate knowledge sharing and reduce duplication of effort. This recommendation has been partially addressed with the publication of best practice examples, tips and resources on the Trust website in March 2013 to coincide with the 2013 call for applications. The Trust will monitor the use of the case studies and web content and continue to look at other ways to assist schools with dissemination of their projects.

Table 11

## Eco Schools grants awarded 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA
Aldavilla Primary School	Kids chicken coop	Kempsey
Allambie Heights Public School	The discovery trail	Warringah
Alstonville Public School	Giving a fig about playground erosion	Ballina
Annandale Public School	Annandale Public School rethink rubbish challenge	Leichhardt
Bilgola Plateau Public School	Scrap wrap	Pittwater
Blaxland Public School	Little Blaxland's native habitat garden	Blue Mountains
Blessed Mary MacKillop College, Albury	Blessed Mary MacKillop outdoor learning and reflection place	Greater Hume
Bligh Park Public School	Green team storage shed	Hawkesbury
Blue Mountains Steiner School	Blue Mountains Steiner sustainable living garden	Blue Mountains
Bonnyrigg High School	Cabramatta Road bush garden	Fairfield



Organisation	Title	LGA
Bungwahl Public School	Education through the environment	Great Lakes
Caringbah High School	Caringbah High School outdoor learning centre	Sutherland
Cronulla Public School	Chicken coop/run at Cronulla Public School	Sutherland
Forestville Public School	Bush regeneration and outdoor learning space provision	Warringah
Glendore Public School	Our environment is in our little hands	Newcastle City
Herons Creek Public School	Let our senses run wild	Port Macquarie–Hastings
Kentucky Public School	Kentucky school waste reduction and organic recycling program	Uralla
Kiama Public School	Organic waste recycling hub	Kiama
Kincumber Public School	Installation and monitoring of fauna nest boxes in trees	Gosford
Lakeside School	Chook Coop	Lake Macquarie
Lindfield East Public School	To design and create a seated area as part of an outdoor classroom	Ku-Ring-Gai
Magdalene Catholic High School	Journey through time	Camden
Maitland Grossmann High School	Save the school environment through improving biodiversity	Maitland
Manly Vale Public School	Oval overhaul at Manly Vale Public School – dustbowl to a sustainable surface	Warringah
Manly Village Public School	Recreating our Farmer Brown community garden	Manly
Manning Park Public School	Kurung Karni	Wyong
Maroota Public School	Bundaluck's Nest	The Hills
Menai High School	Tree planting to reduce water logging and salinity on school agriculture plot	Sutherland
Mount Keira Public School	Regenerate land (indigenous flora) – create outdoor learning area	Wollongong
New Lambton South Public School	New Lambton South Public School outdoor learning hubs	Newcastle City
Oxley High School	Warruwi parent and community involvement: cultural and garden project	Tamworth
Pleasant Heights Public School	School environmental project creating outdoor learning area	Wollongong
Richmond Public School	Waste watch	Hawkesbury
Soldiers Point Public School	Koala habitat protection and rehabilitation	Port Stephens
St Joseph's Regional College Port Macquarie	Green waste recycling and composting	Port Macquarie–Hastings
St Michael's Primary School Thirroul	The green scene at St Michael's	Wollongong
St Philip's Christian College Cessnock	Remnant forest revegetation project	Cessnock
St Raphael's Catholic School	School biodiversity enhancement	Cowra
Tamworth West Public School	Sustainable action	Tamworth
Thornton Public School	Creating a frog pond on school grounds	Maitland
Tweed River High School	Jump start program – sustainable living	Tweed
Turrumurra Public School	Indigenous garden and sensory bush trail	Ku-Ring-Gai
Villa Maria Primary School	Villa Maria garden project	Hunters Hill
West Wallsend High School	West Wallsend heritage garden	Lake Macquarie
Wollondilly Anglican College	The recycling of biomass using local fungi and insects	Wollondilly
Wollondilly Public School	Wollondilly native garden	Goulburn–Mulwaree
Wyong High School	Enviro club	Wyong
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$117,500</b>



## ■ CASE STUDY

### **Building environmental leadership and biodiversity at Colo High**

Staff and students of Colo High School were looking for ways to increase school participation in environmental initiatives and improve the school grounds. Assisted by their 2011 Eco Schools Grant the students have established a school Landcare Group which has restored 800 square metres of remnant bushland to increase the diversity of native birds in the school grounds.

Initial investigations by a team of students found that nutrient rich run-off was contributing to the growth of weeds in the woodland. The students conducted a survey of the native plant species still present in the school grounds and worked closely with Greening Australia to identify suitable species for replanting.

Four Landcare teams involving 110 students have participated in the restoration program since it commenced in 2011. The grant was used to purchase tools and equipment and to fund a professional bush regenerator to supervise the project. Large privet trees and extensive areas of cape ivy were removed from the woodland and 400 native shrubs, herbs and grasses were planted along a small drainage line to restore the degraded understorey.

A complementary project through the Hawkesbury Environmental Network has seen 12 students work with experts from the Bird Discovery Centre and Cumberland Bird Observers Club to conduct ongoing bird surveys at the site.

These surveys have identified 22 native species using the woodland including parrots, wrens, bellbirds, and waterbirds. A number of bird boxes have also been installed to provide additional nesting habitat within the woodland.

Landcare will continue to operate on Thursday afternoons as a school sport activity for Years 8–10. The group will continue to remove weeds which enter the site from neighbouring areas. The students have already noticed new native plants germinating and so further planting may not be required.



*Students from Colo High are working to enhance remnant bushland.*



# Food Gardens in Schools Grants

The Trust established this new program in response to the growing demand for funding for food garden projects. Food gardens are an ideal way for children to develop knowledge and practical skills in garden maintenance, environmental monitoring, organic recycling and food production. The program provides opportunities for students, teachers and other members of the school community to learn about healthy sustainable living through growing and harvesting food in school gardens. Practical activities in designing, creating, growing and harvesting from food gardens can be linked to a range of curriculum areas including science, arts, literacy, and numeracy.

The Trust is trialling the Food Gardens in Schools Program over two funding rounds. Twenty grants of \$3500 each are available for kitchen garden projects over a two-year period. An evaluation and monitoring program will be managed by staff from the Trust and OEH to establish the program's effectiveness and inform decisions about its future.

The first round of competitive grants under the Food Gardens in Schools Program closed in May 2012. Eighty-one applications were received requesting a total of \$283,500. The number of applications received demonstrates the popularity of this activity in schools. The transfer of available funds from the Eco Schools Program enabled a further five grants to be awarded, and 25 grants totalling \$87,500 were approved (Table 12).

Grants awarded in 2012–13 are expected to involve 3460 primary school students and 400 high school students who together will spend around 21,800 hours engaged in hands-on learning about sustainable food production.



*The new food gardens program teaches students about sustainable gardening.*

Table 12

## Food Gardens in Schools grants awarded 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA
Barker College	Soil-less food production – overcoming land degradation issues	Hornsby
Bega Valley Public School	Bega Valley Public School grows: fruit, vegetable and traditional bush tucker	Bega Valley
Bellambi Public School	Bellambi living classroom	Wollongong
Drummoyne Public School	Veg-U-Cation	Canada Bay
Glenvale School	Glenvale's veggie patch	Wyong
Hanwood Public School	Hanwood's market school garden	Griffith
Hilltop Road Public School	Smart sprouts in the secret garden	Holroyd
Jilliby Public School	Jilliby food garden	Wyong
Kentucky Public School	Kentucky Public School food garden program	Uralla
Mount St Patrick Primary School Murwillumbah	Mount St Patrick Primary School food gardens for education	Tweed
Mullaley Public School	Mullaley Public School food garden	Gunnedah
Narwee Public School	From seed to feed	Canterbury
Newcastle High School	The i.D.I.G. project – i Dig, I grow	Newcastle City
Nundle Primary School	Small schools Kitchen to Garden Expo	Tamworth



Organisation	Title	LGA
Peakhurst South Public School	Peakhurst South community sustainability garden	Hurstville
Peel High School	Sustainable kitchen garden project	Tamworth
Plumpton High School	Food for thought	Blacktown
St James Primary School	Vegetable and sensory garden extension and development	Newcastle City
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	Growing healthy kids in our food garden	Griffith
St Pius X High School Adamstown	Learning to grow and growing to learn	Newcastle City
St Therese Catholic Primary School	Happy little veggie patch	Wollongong
Stella Maris College	Stella Maris food garden	Manly
Taverners Hill Infants School	Taverners Hill from source to table vegetable garden and chicken coop	Marrickville
Wauchope High School	Wauchope High School special needs food garden project	Port Macquarie–Hastings
Young Public School	Growing Young health and sustainability	Young
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$87,500</b>



# Environmental Research Program

The Environmental Research Program has become an important funding source for many researchers working in the field of environmental management. It provides funds for projects that investigate solutions to environmental problems, reduce the environmental impact of major industries, increase our knowledge about environmental issues and improve the assessment of environmental degradation. It also provides small seeding grants that allow researchers to trial new theories, techniques or indicators before embarking on a major research project.

## Achievements

Twenty-two research grants were acquitted this year. A number of these projects have made significant contributions to the field of water resource management, particularly in relation to contaminated groundwater. Researchers at Macquarie University have found that fungi can be used as a potential toxicity bioindicator of groundwater contamination, while researchers from OEH have defined a range of advanced analytical techniques that can be used for tracking the source of petroleum contamination in groundwater. Researchers from the University of Sydney have developed an innovative dehumidification system that can generate fresh water from ambient air, providing a sustainable and renewable fresh water source for regional and urban communities.

Other concluding projects have contributed to better knowledge of biodiversity and climate change. Researchers at the University of Wollongong have used environmental gradients in rainfall, temperature and rainfall seasonality across south-eastern Australia to develop a model that predicts changes in bushfire fuel conditions and behaviour resulting from climate change. The model will be a useful tool for those working in fire ecology and management. Researchers at OEH have improved our understanding of ecological processes on coastal floodplains and developed a system for monitoring vegetation change in endangered coastal floodplain communities.

The following case study highlights one of the successful projects that concluded this year.

## Research outcomes since 2009

The Trust has been monitoring research outcomes through its Monitoring and Evaluation Program since 2010. Grantees in the 2010 round have so far committed over 7300 hours of research to the development of 17 innovative technologies, written 31 scientific publications and presented their findings at 20 technical or scientific forums. These figures represent the 67 per cent of projects which have submitted progress reports.

## Major project

### East Coast Lows

This three-year project is providing \$750,000 to OEH for research that will increase our understanding of East Coast Lows (intense low pressure systems) and how their frequency and intensity may alter with climate change. The project is working on a number of project-based outputs.

The Eastern Seaboard Climate Hazard Tool will link historical East Coast Low (ECL) events with information on their impacts (e.g. location and intensity of heavy rainfall, severe winds, extreme waves and storm surge). Modelling of ECL events has been verified against a subjective database of ECL events between 1970 and 2006 with less than five per cent of subjective ECL events being missed, and no major events being missed. A database of ECL events since 1950 has now been produced and this is being verified against data held in the NSW Maritime Low Database. It is also being assessed using the Australian Water Availability Project daily gridded rainfall data.

Paleoclimate data is being used to examine whether ECLs have been a long-term phenomenon in NSW over the past 1000 years. Paleoclimate reconstructions have been completed at 50-year resolution from 900 to 1550 CE and at 20-year resolution for the period 1550 to 1850 CE. The analysis of this data is contributing to a number of important outcomes including:

- diagnosis of key climatological features that precede East Coast Cyclone (ECC) events which will be useful for advance storm forecasting
- development of a forecast system to provide 'probability of occurrence' for extreme coastal storm events at lead times of weeks to months
- development of an automated cyclone detection and tracking algorithm for identification of ECC storms
- development of a storm classification scheme for ECC storm types.



## ■ CASE STUDY

### **New methods for tracing hydrocarbons in groundwater**

Leaking underground petroleum storage systems are one of the most frequent causes of groundwater contamination in NSW. A two-year research project by scientists at OEH has made a significant contribution to identifying the source of fuel spills and tracking them through groundwater systems. This work will allow regulators and managers of contaminated sites to identify the source of the petroleum and how long it has been there, and therefore determine who is responsible for clean-up of the site.

Current site assessments use gas chromatography methods that have limited ability to match spills to their sources, particularly where gasoline or diesel is involved. One of the major disadvantages is their inability to identify some fuel additives and non-volatile compounds which greatly assist in matching fuels to their source. This project has used a range of advanced chromatography and mass spectrometry techniques to chemically fingerprint and characterise different gasoline samples. By analysing isotopic ratios and identifying key marker compounds within the fuels, scientists were able to differentiate between different brands and different grades of fuels.

Through experiments on a laboratory soil column, scientists determined that different fuel components move through the

soil column at different rates. Benzene and ethylbenzene are the fastest components to move through the soil column, while toluene and xylene move at a slower rate. Scientists investigated the impact of weathering on fuel leaks using a series of soil microcosms (experimental tanks). After a period of six months, marker compounds which identified the different fuels could still be detected. An interesting outcome was the formation of biofilms in gasoline and biodiesel microcosms within three days of contamination, indicating that bacteria in the soil and groundwater are able to grow on hydrocarbons present in these fuels. The growth of biofilms on diesel fuel was much slower, possibly due to the use of biocides that are often added to diesel fuel.

To assess the suitability of the analytical methods for contaminated site assessments, two case studies of contaminated sites were undertaken. In both cases the type and grade of fuel was successfully identified based on the detection of trace compounds. At one site which is under active remediation, marker compounds were still present and identifiable three years after the fuel leak. These studies confirmed that these marker compounds are resistant to weathering and can be used successfully several years after a contamination event, making them ideal candidates for identifying fuels.



# Environmental Research Grants

The Environmental Research Program provides around \$1 million annually to support research that meets one or more of the program 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.

As for the previous two years, climate change was designated as the major area of research with 60 per cent of this year's funding allocated to this category. Grantees were able to apply for up to \$200,000 to fund projects relating to climate change. The balance of funding was split between two minor grant categories, these being biodiversity and conservation, and resource efficiency and sustainability.

Grants of up to \$100,000 were offered under both of these minor categories.

Grants were awarded through a competitive two-stage application process for projects of up to three years. The Trust received 120 expressions of interest for the major and minor grant categories. The Environmental Research Technical Committee invited 19 full applications which were peer reviewed by scientific experts in the relevant field. Eight research projects were awarded to the value of \$938,138 (Table 13).

Seeding grants of up to \$20,000 were available for small projects that seek to test the viability of a research idea. The program received 48 applications requesting a total of \$921,128 in funding. Five research seeding projects were funded totalling \$92,750 (Table 14).

Grant projects awarded in 2012–13 are expected to contribute to the development of 20 innovative technologies and involve over 6200 hours of research by 23 research staff.

Table 13

## Environmental Research grants awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
CSIRO – Centre for Biodiversity Research	Polyploidy and the adaption of native plants to climate change	Statewide	\$45,517
CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship	Green infrastructure for climate adaptation in Western Sydney	Statewide	\$199,915
CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research	Vegetation dynamics and changing fire regimes in South East NSW	Goulburn–Mulwaree	\$95,784
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Potential use of animal waste for biofuel production	Orange	\$99,200
Office of Environment and Heritage	Grassland islands as a key to survival for Bristlebirds in North East NSW	Kyogle	\$99,227
Office of Environment and Heritage	Do the Piliga Forests contain functioning refuges of koala?	Tamworth	\$99,028
University of Sydney	Physiological effects of climate change stress on adults and offspring	Statewide	\$199,955
University of Wollongong	Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) for frog conservation	Statewide	\$99,512
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$938,138</b>

Table 14

## Environmental Research seeding grants awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Museum	Invasive and non-invasive lineages in the mussel <i>Xenostrobus securis</i>	Statewide	\$19,700
Office of Environment and Heritage	Testing methods for estimating carbon sequestration in wetlands	Statewide	\$20,000
University of New South Wales	Using stable isotopes to understand weed invasion processes	Various	\$13,650
University of Sydney	Metabolic profiling as an indicator of ecosystem function and health	Statewide	\$19,400
University of Technology, Sydney	Hybrid solar air-conditioning systems: modelling and control	Statewide	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$92,750</b>



# Green Corridors Program

This has been the second year of this \$40-million government initiative. The program brings together a number of projects designed to protect strategic areas of high conservation value vegetation and ensure more green spaces across NSW.

Part of this initiative, the Green Corridor Reserves program, is being delivered by the Trust's existing Land Acquisition Program. The Trust provided \$3 million to OEH for the purchase of two properties in 2012–13 for the protection of critical corridors and landscapes. Further information on these properties is provided under the Land Acquisition Program earlier in this report.

The progress and highlights of the other component projects follow.

## Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Phase 2

Greening Australia has been awarded \$4.4 million over four years to expand the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) conservation corridor within NSW and respond to the increasing demand from other groups to become involved. Phase 1 of the initiative successfully built many linkages between existing natural reserves and isolated remnants of bushland on public and private land, establishing itself as one of the leading examples of collaborative large-scale conservation programs in Australia.

Through 2012–13 the momentum of the program has been maintained with the preparation of new projects and partnerships for delivering on-ground conservation within the GER corridor. Two new regional partnerships have been established with Trust funding, in the Coffs Harbour–Bellingen region and the Illawarra–Shoalhaven region. A third new regional partnership, the Kanagra Boyd to Wyangala corridor in the upper Lachlan catchment, has been funded by OEH's Biodiversity Fund. This brings the current number of regional partnerships to eight.

Through these partnerships there are now 163 organisations actively engaged in conservation. The GER program provides opportunities and a framework for organisations to work together and contribute to the bigger picture, and this is often cited by groups as the reason for their commitment to the initiative.

GER partners are now working to improve the management of native habitats and connecting vegetation across 9642 hectares of land. To June 2013 this included:

- strategic acquisition of 14 properties totalling 1824 hectares to protect biodiversity and habitat values of existing reserves in the NSW national parks estate
- targeted negotiation of Conservation Agreements by OEH and Trust Agreements by the Nature Conservation Trust of New South Wales which will protect 2308 hectares of high conservation value vegetation
- increase in membership of the Land For Wildlife program, with 94 new properties participating in the GER comprising 3211 hectares of high quality habitat and more than 2299 hectares of habitat under active regeneration.

A key component of the Trust's investment is focused on 13 on-ground projects that are being delivered by the regional partnerships. Some of the varied activities that have been completed this year include:

- building habitat on private land for endangered glossy black cockatoo (Kosciusko to Coast partnership). This project generated a high level of community engagement and was so successful that the demand for plantings from landowners exceeded the available supply
- rehabilitation of indigenous land at Mount Panorama in Bathurst (Greening Australia). This project has had significant outcomes for indigenous engagement and building connections with Country
- expansion of a planting program for recovery of the regent honeyeater (Conservation Volunteers Australia). Four weeks of concentrated work resulted in 2565 native trees being planted over 5.5 hectares, with maintenance and weeding of another 600 existing trees.

Beyond NSW, progress has been made to establish the GER Initiative as a leading interstate program. Cross-border project proposals have been developed with the ACT Government and new regional partnerships have been established in central Victoria from the Grampians to the Victorian Alps, and in the Sunshine Coast hinterland in Queensland. New interstate partnerships have also been established with non-government organisations, namely Trust for Nature (Victoria), and Queensland Trust for Nature.

## Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program was an existing program of the Trust that is now helping to deliver the Green Corridors Program. Since commencing four years ago the program has achieved some significant conservation outcomes and now protects 398 hectares of land. The program aims to permanently protect some of the best remaining bushland in western Sydney and surrounding regions to offset the potential construction of 180,000 housing lots that will be released in these areas over the next 30–40 years.

The Trust provided \$5.427 million to OEH in 2012–13 for the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. In addition, the program received a grant of \$4.11 million from the Australian Government to assist with protecting the Mulgoa biobank site, and an additional \$1.19 million from OEH to enable the program to meet conservation targets set by the Australian Government under the Sydney Growth Centres Strategic Assessment Program.

Key conservation outcomes achieved in 2012–13 include the establishment of a 50-hectare biobank site at Mulgoa and a 22-hectare site at Mount Hercules, Razorback.

The Mulgoa site protects over 38 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodland. It directly adjoins Mulgoa Nature Reserve and will enhance the long-term viability of the habitats and species within the reserve. As well as providing habitat for many common terrestrial





*A Landholder, Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker and Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies at the launch of the Mulgoa biobank site in August 2013.*

mammals and birds, the reserve is known to provide habitat for five threatened bats, two threatened owls, an endangered land snail and a number of woodland birds that are declining in NSW.

The Mount Hercules biobank site permanently protects three threatened vegetation types – critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodland, endangered Cumberland moist shale woodland, and endangered Western Sydney dry rainforest. The vegetation on the site is currently threatened by the invasion of the woody weed African olive. Ongoing funding through the BioBanking Trust Fund will remove the African olive and regenerate the native vegetation. The property is considered to provide habitat for numerous threatened animals including the Commonwealth and state-listed swift parrot, powerful owl and grey-headed flying-fox.

The conservation outcomes being achieved through this program demonstrate how the loss of small, degraded fragments of vegetation within the Sydney region can be turned around and can contribute to a substantial conservation gain.

## Linking Landscapes

Linking Landscapes through Local Action is a \$10-million component of the Green Corridors Program which is focused specifically on enhancing vegetation corridors within the Sydney Basin. This is primarily achieved by assisting councils and other public land managers to establish biobank sites on their land. Ongoing annual payments through the BioBanking Trust Fund allow the land managers to manage weeds, feral animals and other threats on their land.

July 2012 saw the launch of a grant program aimed at councils and public land managers. The 56 expressions of interest received through this process were assessed using a purpose-built decision support tool which ranked sites against the Linking Landscapes project criteria. Thirteen sites were selected for further consideration and two biobank sites were subsequently established.

A biobanking agreement with Shoalhaven City Council will help manage 66 hectares of ecologically rich bushland at the Narrawallee Inlet near Milton. A second biobank site covers 42 hectares of the significant Jewells Wetlands at Lake Macquarie. The biobanking agreement will provide ongoing funds to help Lake Macquarie City Council control the aquatic weeds at the site to improve its ecological condition.

A second round of funding closed in March 2013 with 9 expressions of interest received. Organisations not funded during Round 1 will also be reconsidered during this round.

A second component of the project will identify habitat linkages within the Cumberland Plain and one other priority area in the Sydney Basin Bioregion. Extensive consultation has occurred both internally and outside OEHS to review past efforts, assess the needs of stakeholders and identify opportunities for collaboration. A scoping paper has been prepared and the project team is currently seeking endorsement of the proposed approach.

The third component is the development of a spatial database of lands across the State with conservation commitments. An online mapping application will provide access to the spatial information, queries and reports related to conservation commitments in NSW. A project plan has been developed to scope the project requirements and budget, and data collection is proposed to begin by September 2013.



*A new biobanking agreement will protect important bushland adjoining Narrawallee Inlet.*



# Waste and Sustainability Program

## A new waste program for NSW

While the overall recycling rate in NSW has increased from 45 per cent to 63 per cent from 2002–03 to 2010–11, the amount of waste generated has also increased from 11.8 million tonnes in 2002–03 to 17.1 million tonnes in 2010–11.

In January 2012 the Minister for the Environment announced the first ever independent review of the waste levy system in NSW, in order to reduce waste generation and disposal to landfill, and encourage increased recycling. The review delivered 17 key recommendations for a revised waste and recycling initiative to deliver economic, employment and environmental benefits for local communities.

The new Waste Less, Recycle More initiative commits \$250 million over five years for targeted but wide-ranging funding that includes drop-off centres, food and garden organics processing, new and renovated infrastructure to support communities, as well as support for businesses to increase on-site recycling. The package supports a range of programs that will be managed between the EPA and the Trust.

The Trust will be delivering the contestable grants component of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative. This \$160-million component will be rolled out over four years from 2013–14 and includes programs that will address community drop-off facilities, new and upgraded infrastructure, recycling innovation and business recycling. The EPA will have responsibility for managing non-contestable programs including illegal dumping and littering.

The Trust is working with the EPA to develop the program design and governance, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. A technical review committee will be established by the Trust to oversee this new program.

## Achievements

In 2012–13 the Trust provided \$4 million to OEH to undertake a range of sustainability projects delivered by OEH Regional Operations and Heritage in partnership with local and State government, industry and community organisations (Table 15).

## Sustainability for Business

Over the past 12 months the Sustainability for Business Program has invested \$1.785 million to help over 850 businesses and not-for-profit organisations reduce their resource use, lower costs by \$82.5 million and deliver strong environmental outcomes.

The Sustainability Advantage Program continues to be the flagship program for assisting businesses to reduce their environmental impacts while increasing the efficiency and the competitiveness of their operations. This year membership in the Sustainability Advantage Program grew from 630 to 684 organisations across NSW, with more than 50 per cent of these members now located outside Sydney. Over the past 12 months these regional organisations

achieved savings of \$51.6 million or 63 per cent of the program total.

In partnership with the EPA, a new 'resource efficiency' package for small and medium-sized businesses was introduced under the Sustainability Advantage Program. This includes energy, water and waste assessments and support for implementation, incorporating the EPA's Bin Trim waste audit tool, with energy efficiency and water assessment tools developed by OEH. By the end of June 2013, 170 businesses had received support from the new resource efficiency package.

A successful partnership with the aged care sector is demonstrating the potential of a strategic 'sector approach' to drive innovation and competitiveness. The program actively worked on sustainability initiatives with 22 aged care providers who between them are responsible for over 200 facilities. Ten waste assessments were completed, and energy audits on 18 facilities identified average annual savings of \$18,000 per facility. A total of 153 aged care facilities participated in the OEH-developed benchmarking tool to track their energy, water and waste. A highly successful Aged Care Sustainability Forum was also held in August 2012, attracting 72 attendees.

## Household and Community Education and Engagement

During 2012–13, the Household and Community Education and Engagement programs invested \$1.94 million to support 21 partnerships engaging regional communities, multicultural and aboriginal communities, schools and early childhood centres.

This year \$350,000 was invested into a new Smarter Choice program to encourage home and garden users to make cost-effective purchases that have less impact on the environment. The program covers a wide range of product categories including mulch and compost, solar water heaters, insulation, draught proofing, and lighting. Smarter Choice field teams made more than 1500 monthly visits to home and garden stores and quarterly visits to electrical appliance stores to provide point-of-sale material and conduct staff training. The program has been introduced in over 60 Bunnings Warehouse outlets throughout NSW.

Trust funding allows OEH to work with many sectors of the community to reduce resource use and to become more actively engaged in protecting the local environment. This year's partnerships have included the:

- Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW, to provide multicultural environmental education workshops and events to 1100 households from diverse communities across Sydney
- NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network, to assist early childhood facilities in Albury, Wollongong, Lismore and North Sydney integrate sustainability into their operations and educate families about sustainable living
- Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW, to reach parents from NSW Government schools with information about sustainability in schools and at home





Smarter Choice  
buyer guides



Who Cares about the Environment in 2012?

- Hunter Wetlands, to engage communities across the region to become actively involved in protecting their local environment
- NetWaste in western NSW, to implement waste education programs with Aboriginal communities and local government
- Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, and catchment management authorities, to implement education about water and catchments with Aboriginal communities
- EPA, to support community education programs for the Aboriginal Lands Clean-up Program.

This year saw the publication of *Who Cares about the Environment in 2012?*. This report is part of a long-running social research program that examines the environmental knowledge, views, attitudes and behaviour of people in NSW and tracks how these have changed over time. The 2012 research was based on a telephone survey with a cross-section of over 2000 NSW residents and nine discussion groups in Sydney and regional locations. The report is available online at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares.htm).

## Government Resource Efficiency

OEH has a key role in providing leadership and practical assistance on government sustainability and the efficient use of environmental resources. This year the Sustainable Government program assisted 27 government agencies to overcome barriers to sustainability and achieve energy, water and waste reductions. Specific outcomes have included:

- seed funding and business case development for large-scale energy efficiency upgrades, including lighting retrofits at the Downing Centre Law Courts and Lidcombe Laboratory, and energy efficiency upgrades at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens
- technical advice and specialist review for three NSW Health business cases for large-scale energy efficiency upgrades to hospitals
- a 'We Do Sustainability' government sustainability prompts and poster campaign rolled out to 16 government agencies. The campaign will extend to businesses and local councils in 2013–14
- the Sustainability Advantage program has assisted 31 government agencies to complete 79 sustainability advantage modules

## Major projects

### Alternative waste treatment – mixed waste compost trials

This project aims to better understand the nature of mixed waste-derived organic inputs and their potential impact on the environment, including agricultural land. The project has four investigative components that will assess:

- the impacts of physical contaminants on the soil environment (Project 1)
- the impacts of mixed waste compost using field trials (Project 2)
- the toxicity of mixed waste compost leachate (Project 3)
- the behaviour of mixed waste compost on different soils in NSW (Project 4)



For the second year of this project, progress to date has focused on Projects 3 and 4. Leachate trials are being conducted at mixed waste facilities at Kemps Creek and Eastern Creek. Several new protocols and methods have been developed and validated for the testing and leaching of mixed waste compost. The preliminary testing has shown that invertebrates in the soil column are very sensitive to the leachate, plants are less sensitive, and soil microbial respiration appears to be the least adversely affected component. Leachate at Kemps Creek has been found to have greater toxicity than the leachate generated from Eastern Creek and it is likely that the volatile components of the mixed waste leachate are an important factor in determining toxicity.

Project 4 is being conducted through greenhouse trials at the University of New England. About 500 soil columns have been completed, representing a variety of soils from across northern and central NSW. A number of key soil parameters including soil pH, texture and soil organic matter are being measured to investigate the behaviour of waste compost following land application.

## UV Tanning Disposal Scheme

In February 2012 the Minister for the Environment announced the NSW Government would ban commercial UV tanning services for cosmetic purposes from 31 December 2014. The Government indicated that it would provide assistance to industry to dispose of unwanted UV tanning units safely.

In 2012 the Trust agreed to fund \$425,000 for the UV Tanning Disposal Scheme which will be managed through the EPA for three years starting in 2012–13. The primary objective of the scheme is to ensure that unwanted tanning units are disposed of in an environmentally responsible way. Tanning lamps contain phosphors and mercury while tanning units also contain polymethyl methacrylate (a special UV-transmitting plastic), e-waste and recyclable metals. The EPA will contract a suitable licensed waste company to collect and safely dispose of tanning units.

In addition, because of the cancer-causing effects of UV tanning, the NSW Government wants to ensure that UV tanning units are not transferred into the domestic or interstate markets. The scheme includes a \$1000 incentive payment per machine to encourage tanning businesses to take up the offer of disposal rather than selling the units.

Table 15

### Waste and Sustainability Program funds in 2012–13

Organisation	Program area	Payment
Environment Protection Authority	Programs to increase recycling to meet the 2014 NSW waste recycling targets (Goal 23)	\$1,950,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	Sustainability for business program	\$4,000,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,950,000</b>



# Riverina Red Gums Program

The Riverina Red Gum Regional Employment and Community Development Fund (known as the Riverina Red Gums Program) comprised a number of packages designed to assist the timber industry, businesses and local communities in the Riverina to adjust to changes that have occurred as a result of the incorporation of large areas of river red gum forest into national parks, regional parks and indigenous protected areas. Some of these packages were administered by the Trust under amendments to the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*.

## Regional Employment and Community Development Fund

Through two funding rounds, the Regional Employment and Community Development Fund has supported 68 projects designed to create additional employment opportunities across the Riverina region. All funding has now been allocated and no new projects were funded this year. Forty-nine projects have successfully completed their projects, eight projects are nearing completion and eleven projects are still active.

As of June 2013 the Community Development Fund has created approximately 370 direct jobs and 279 indirect jobs and resulted in capital investment of around \$22 million in the Riverina region. The program spent approximately \$11.96 million of the \$12 million originally committed, supporting a range of worthwhile projects such as:

- upgrading business premises and facilities
- establishment of medical centres and community centres
- new agricultural processing factories
- new tourist trails such as the Back Roads Trail, Long Paddock Touring Route and a nature trail
- new small businesses and a farmers' market
- the provision of training services, marketing and tourism information
- new cultural attractions including a sculptural tribute to the region's timber industry.

Two of these projects are highlighted in the following case studies.



*New sculptures on the Long Paddock Touring Route pay tribute to the timber industry in the Riverina.*



## ■ CASE STUDY

### Fresh juice at Kurnnung Estates

Kurnnung Estates is a family-owned business in Barham that consists of a 290-acre citrus orchard and associated packing shed. The business is a licensed fruit exporter which distributes oranges, grapefruits, lemons and limes to both domestic and international markets.

As part of their 10-year business plan Kurnnung Estates identified an opportunity to move into the fresh juice market. With their 2011 grant of \$199,410 from the Riverina Regional Employment and Community Development Fund, Kurnnung Estates has now completed its new on-site juicing facility which commenced operation in May 2012. Up to 12,000 litres of juice a week has been produced by the factory, although it is intended that future production will increase to 30,000 litres per week.

When an initial agreement to supply bulk orange juice to a processing company failed due to lack of a suitable bottling facility, Kurnnung Estates decided to turn this setback into another opportunity for the business. They commenced work on their own bottling plant in September 2012 and the first juice was bottled in January 2013. The company is currently supplying a major buyer in Melbourne while they design their own label which will be branded 'The Great Australian Squeeze'.

Over the past two years citrus growers in Australia have been suffering from the high Australian dollar, which is giving large companies the ability to cheaply import both fresh fruit and orange juice concentrate. The new juicing and bottling plant will enable Kurnnung Estates to offset these lost sales by selling bottled juice to domestic markets as well as selling the juice directly from the farm gate. The operation of the juicing and bottling plant will create an extra 2–3 full time jobs for the local economy and has allowed the company to maintain its staff for packing first grade fruit which may not have been possible otherwise.

*"Without our juice plant operating we would not have had a market for at least 1000 tonnes which we have processed to date."*

Philip Williamson, Kurnnung Estates



Oranges being processed in the new juicing facility.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### The Backroads Trail

A new tourist trail in the Riverina is encouraging visitors to 'turn off the highway and open your eyes' to discover a range of cultural and heritage sites, farm producers and artists that can be found along the country roads of the Riverina. Developed by Murray Shire Council, the trail promotes the area's rich cultural heritage and natural landscapes while enhancing opportunities for local businesses to market their food, wine and cultural activities.

The idea for the trail originated in 2007 when local farmer Don Hearn was disheartened by the long-running drought and the closure of many small farming enterprises in the district. Don and his wife began collecting stories from the local region and linking up with other farm gate businesses, and the idea for the trail began to grow.

In 2008 Murray Shire Council employed a consultant to conduct research and community consultation to develop the idea further, and a scoping plan and implementation plan were prepared. A grant of \$85,000 from the Riverina Regional Employment and Community Development Fund provided the council with the opportunity to finally turn the ideas into reality.

The sign-posted trail leads visitors along the backroads between Moama, Barham and Deniliquin. Nineteen interpretive panels along the trail provide information, stories and historic photos relating to various sites of interest. Twenty-two businesses and attractions introduce visitors to the food and wine producers of the area, as well as artists, bed and breakfast providers and cultural attractions.

The trail was launched in October 2012 at Perricoota Station on the banks of the Murray River. Various promotional items (a map, brochure, postcards, posters, stickers) advertise the trail to visitors while a website provides further information about the trail and the people and businesses that it supports. A successful familiarisation tour aimed at tourism operators and visitor centre staff was held in December 2012 featuring special tastings and demonstrations at a range of Backroads Trail attractions.

In the long term the Backroads Trail is expected to generate the equivalent of 12 new jobs in the region as a result of increased visits and business at trail attractions.

*"The trail is a fantastic addition to our broadacre farming area, and an extra reason to live here."*

Don Hearn, Riverina farmer and creator of the Backroads Trail



MEET TIM AND KATRINA MYERS  
From Barham Avocados on the  
**Backroads Trail**  
"We like to know where all our fruit goes, and our seconds fruit is sent to our friends at Bundarra Berkshires who feed the avocados to their free range pigs and  
**THEY LOVE THEM.**  
We think that's the key to why their pork is soooooo tasty..."

A series of postcards introduce some of the food and wine producers along the trail.



# Devil Ark and Flying-fox Programs

Through the Waste and Environment Levy funding, the Trust is supporting two separate projects that will deliver important biodiversity conservation outcomes over a four-year period.

## Devil Ark

Devil Ark is a special breeding facility that is helping to conserve the endangered Tasmanian devil. Located on a heavily timbered property in the Barrington Tops, Devil Ark now comprises the largest breeding population of devils on mainland Australia. The facility is managed by the Australian Reptile Park in partnership with the Zoo and Aquarium Association and the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species. The Trust is providing funds of \$150,000 a year for four financial years from 2011–12 to support the free-range captive breeding program.

Forty joeys were born during the 2012 breeding season, bringing the current number of animals housed on the property to 140. With the completion of three successful breeding seasons and consistent observations of 'normal' social behaviours within the population, the Devil Ark initiative is meeting all the hoped-for expectations – a flexible and cost-effective breeding program, a near-absence of injuries, and retention of wild ecology and behaviour. In September 2012 Devil Ark received the Innovation Award from the Zoo and Aquarium Association for pioneering work in saving a species. Devil Ark is being recognised as a model that can be used for species recovery worldwide.

In March this year work began on an interpretation centre at the site which is due to open in October 2013. The centre will help to increase visitor attractions in the Upper Hunter region by providing a nocturnal 'Devils in the Wild' experience, as well as raise awareness of the plight of the Tasmanian devil, and the role of Devil Ark in ensuring its survival.

Devil Ark has been building an archive of footage to record the early efforts of the project and the breeding program. This footage has been compiled into a documentary which will be aired Australia-wide, across the Nine Network in September/October 2013.



*Devil Ark is breeding a disease-free population of Tasmanian devils on the mainland.*

## Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program

The Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program commenced in 2011–12 and provides up to \$5 million in subsidies for the installation of exclusion netting on commercial orchards in 17 local government areas in and around the Sydney Basin and Central Coast. The objective of the program is to support the phasing out of licensed shooting of flying-foxes which currently occurs as a crop protection measure. The program is overseen by OEHL with input from a technical subcommittee, with day-to-day management and administration of the program being delegated to the NSW Rural Assistance Authority.

Uptake of the program by orchardists has been lower than expected. Poor fruit prices and the likely retirement of some growers from the industry appear to be limiting the ability or desire of orchardists to invest in capital improvements to their properties. Accordingly in September 2012 the Trust approved an extension to the project timetable so that assistance is now available up to 30 June 2016.

There have been 13 successful applications to date, with assistance approved totalling \$494,983. The scheme has so far netted a total area of 32.88 hectares of orchards. Five applications were approved in 2012–13 for a total amount of \$270,994.

In June 2013 a promotional day was held at the Richmond Club, followed by an afternoon field trip to two orchards at Bilpin. The morning session included presentations by a panel of representatives comprising OEHL, a local orchardist, NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Rural Assistance Authority and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. The NSW Farmers also presented information on industrial relations, fruit fly control and new fruit varieties.



# Lead Environmental Community Groups Program

This competitive grant program assists eligible environmental community groups in NSW by contributing to their administrative expenses. It is the only Trust program to offer assistance of this nature. Since it commenced in 2006 the program has awarded \$3.3 million in competitive grants to 31 non-government organisations. Eligible community organisations must demonstrate that they value, conserve and protect the natural environment and are required to meet specific criteria outlined in the Lead Environmental Community Groups (LECG) guidelines.

In 2012–13 an independent review of the program commenced, based on extensive stakeholder consultation. The results of this review are currently being considered by the Trust and will be available in 2013–14.

Previously the Trust has offered three-year grants through this program, however this year the Trust offered funding for one year only pending the outcome of the review. A total of 22 applications were received requesting \$1,428,426, and the Trust awarded 18 grants totalling \$600,000 (Table 16).

Table 16

## Lead Environmental Community Groups Program grants awarded in 2012–13

Organisation	LGA	Amount
Australian Association for Environmental Education (NSW Chapter) Inc.	Hornsby	\$5,000
Australian Conservation Foundation Inc.	Statewide	\$30,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.	Statewide	\$22,000
Community Environment Network Inc.	Wyong	\$20,000
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Greater Taree	\$20,000
Earthwatch Institute Australia	Statewide	\$10,000
EDO NSW (Environmental Defenders Office)	Sydney City	\$74,000
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	Sydney City	\$45,000
Friends of the Koala Incorporated	Lismore	\$12,000
Inland Rivers Network Inc.	Sydney City	\$10,000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NSW)	Parramatta	\$30,000
Landcare NSW Inc.	Armidale-Dumaresq	\$40,000
National Parks Association of NSW	Sydney City	\$74,000
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Sydney City	\$74,000
Planet Ark Environmental Foundation	Sydney City	\$35,000
The Wilderness Society Sydney Inc.	Sydney City	\$37,000
Total Environment Centre Inc.	Sydney City	\$52,000
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	Ballina	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$600,000</b>



# Dissemination Program

Now in its ninth year of operation, the Dissemination Program works with grantees to extend the knowledge and experience gained from successfully completed projects to a wider audience. A total of 1030 organisations have been engaged in dissemination projects and over 4000 people have received training through various events funded by the program.

This year the program hosted a range of events including education sessions on traditional land management techniques, sustainability workshops for early childhood centres, field days and training sessions. Five new projects were developed this year (Table 17).

## Completed projects

### **Mentoring – expanding sustainability knowledge**

This project expanded upon a successful mentoring program for regional councils in NSW and developed resources and guidance materials to support peer-to-peer mentoring. Six mentees from councils in regional NSW were provided with access to consultants to mentor them in sustainability and enhance their ability to deliver sustainability initiatives in their council area. The mentors and mentees committed over 60 hours each to the process over a six-month period and gained a better understanding of how to approach council management to achieve their sustainability goals.

The new peer-to-peer mentoring guide provided a step-by-step process for carrying out a mentoring program and templates to assist with the implementation of each stage of the program.

### **Predicting and preserving preferred habitat**

This project promoted an ecological model that can be used to predict the likely habitat of a threatened orchid species (leafless tongue orchid). Six articles have been published in relevant journals, magazines and newsletters, including *Australasian Plant Conservation*, *Consulting Ecology* (the journal of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Inc.) and the *LandLink* Newsletter.

A fact sheet for land managers was distributed to 170 people from catchment management authorities, councils and other consent authorities. This provided land managers with information on determining whether or not cryptic orchid species are present during conservation assessments. The predictive mapping and vegetation profiles developed through this project will enable consent authorities to predict with greater certainty the potential habitat for threatened orchid species which are often ignored in current environmental assessments as they are not visible for much of the year.



*Leafless tongue orchid.*

## Regeneration

Regeneration engages with communities and businesses to plant locally native vegetation to enhance biodiversity, sequester carbon and enable the trading of carbon certificates through carbon emission trading schemes. It is established using the Kyoto Protocol.

This dissemination project took the resources from the very successful Urban Sustainability Program grant (a partnership between Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Council) and developed a three-tiered implementation model to allow other councils and landholders to set up future revegetation works that will be eligible for carbon trading.

Seven workshops across the State attracted 107 participants, with 96 per cent of participants reporting that the workshop gave them a good understanding of the Regeneration project. Staff delivering the workshops also reported positive outcomes from the project, with the interactions with a range of community sectors enhancing their approaches to carbon sequestration.



Table 17

**Dissemination Program grants awarded in 2012–13**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Title and description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc.	Wild about seabirds Volunteers from at least 16 animal rescue organisations will be provided with up-to-date information on appropriate capture and care techniques for oiled, sick and entangled seabirds. Training courses, a 'how to' guide and an online video will be developed to deliver this information.	\$49,500
Environmental Management	Aged care: caring for the environment This program will assist aged care providers to engage management and staff in sustainability and long-term behavioural change. The project will combine resources produced through the original education grant with a guide on how to implement a sustainability program in an aged care organisation.	\$35,625
Illawarra Environmental Education Centre	Switched on energy conservation in NSW This project will further the outcomes of the Illawarra Environmental Education Centre's Eco Schools grant which developed a mobile classroom to engage students and teachers in learning about energy conservation. The trailer will visit 50 schools across NSW to deliver energy-wise materials and training, and provide support to other environmental education centres for delivering similar energy programs.	\$34,550
Office of Environment and Heritage	Koala movement and use of regenerated bushland This project aims to close the knowledge gap in NSW about how koalas move through the environment and dispel some long-held myths about koalas. It is based on a successful restoration and rehabilitation project that looked at how koalas used regenerating woodland habitats near Gunnedah.	\$33,500
Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers	Securing a sustainable food future This project will develop a local government toolkit that will draw on successful food-related projects completed through the Urban Sustainability Program. The resources will highlight a range of options that councils can use to encourage the development and promotion of local food supply chains. Six workshops across NSW will convey the key messages on food security and promote the new toolkit.	\$69,065
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$222,240</b>



# BioBanking Trust Fund

The Trust has been appointed as the fund manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund until July 2015. This Fund is part of the Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme (also known as the BioBanking scheme) which allows for the negotiation of long-term conservation agreements (biobanking agreements) between landowners and the Minister for the Environment.

The Fund currently holds investments for 19 biobank sites, 14 of which commenced in 2012–13. Each biobank site has an individual account in the Fund which provides an annual payment to the landowner. These payments enable them to carry out the management actions defined in their biobanking agreement.

Funds are invested with TCorp's Hour-Glass Investment Facilities in three investment options (cash; medium-term growth; and long-term growth). An operating account is also held with Westpac to receive deposits and make payments. As at 30 June 2013 the total funds held within the BioBanking Trust Fund were \$17,572 million (includes funds in both TCorp and Westpac).

The BioBanking Trust Fund provided an investment return of over \$1.024 million for the financial year and provided \$1.062 million in payments to landowners for management of their properties (Table 18).

In May 2012, the Minister for the Environment announced a review of the BioBanking scheme and submissions were invited on the scheme until 9 July 2012. The review will be completed following development of the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for major projects which will complement the BioBanking scheme. The BioBanking review is expected to be finalised in late 2013.

Table 18

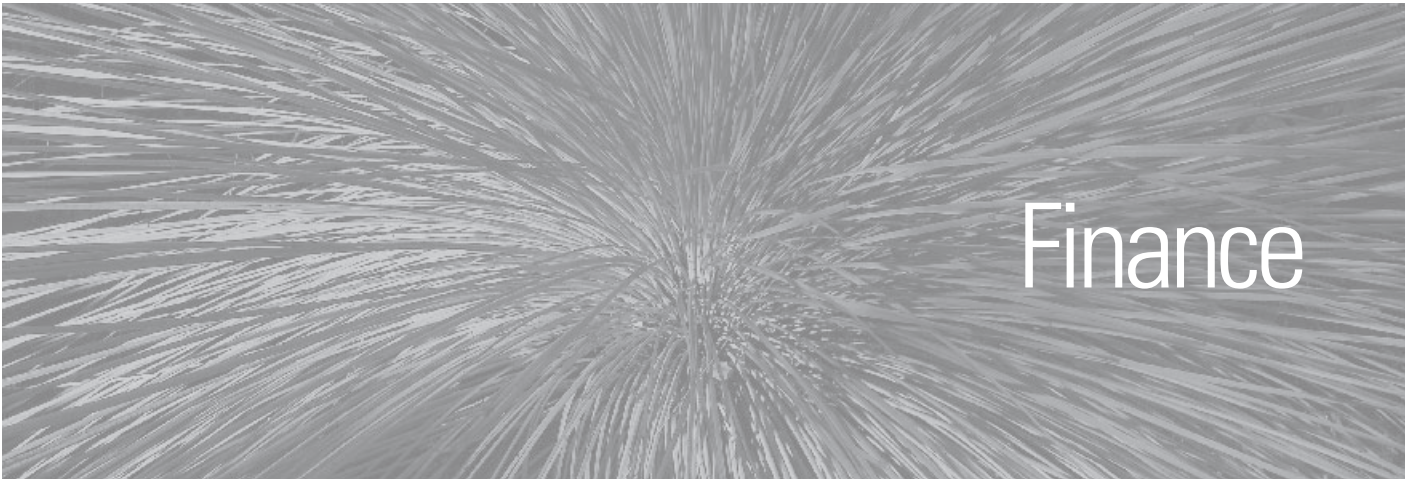
## BioBanking Trust Fund 2012–13

Details	Amount
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	\$6,007,445.53
Receipts by the BioBanking Trust Fund (no GST)	\$11,634,400.20
Return on invested funds	\$1,024,546.90
Annual management payments (GST exclusive)	-\$1,062,092.55
GST paid on management payments – to be recovered in July 2013	-\$16,568.00
Management fee (OEI)	-\$9,416.00
Administration fee (NSW Environmental Trust)	-\$6,276.38
<b>Cash balance invested in the Trust Fund</b>	<b>\$17,572,039.70</b>









# Finance







## 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 comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and service group statements for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2013, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- 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 of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the PF&A Act and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view and that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### 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. Those Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 control relevant to the Trust's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control. 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 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 control
- about the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial statements
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements

#### **Independence**

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical pronouncements. 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 roles by the possibility of losing clients or income.



Caroline Karakatsanis  
Director, Financial Audit Services

23 September 2013  
SYDNEY



## Environmental Trust

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

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 2013 and the transactions for the year 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.



Robyn Parker MP  
Chairperson



Sally Barnes  
in my capacity as Secretary  
at 30 June 2013



**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

**BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Notes	Actual 2013 \$'000	Budget 2013 \$'000	Actual 2012 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	2,284	1,857	2,316
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	37,650	73,139	56,341
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES</b>		<b>39,934</b>	<b>74,996</b>	<b>58,657</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Investment revenue	3(a)	1,286	1,173	1,387
Grants and Contributions	3(b)	35,164	71,792	58,047
Other revenue	3(c)	2,897	1,350	709
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>39,347</b>	<b>74,315</b>	<b>60,143</b>
<b>Net Result</b>		<b>(587)</b>	<b>(681)</b>	<b>1,486</b>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>(587)</b>	<b>(681)</b>	<b>1,486</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	Notes	Actual 2013 \$'000	Budget 2013 \$'000	Actual 2012 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	19,606	16,436	21,348
Receivables	6	649	1,947	1,360
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>20,255</b>	<b>18,383</b>	<b>22,708</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>20,255</b>	<b>18,383</b>	<b>22,708</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	7	1,359	2,448	3,225
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,359</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>3,225</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		-	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1,359</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>3,225</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>18,896</b>	<b>15,935</b>	<b>19,483</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Accumulated funds		18,896	15,935	19,483
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>18,896</b>	<b>15,935</b>	<b>19,483</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2012</b>	<b>19,483</b>	<b>19,483</b>
Net result for the year	(587)	(587)
Total comprehensive income for the year	18,896	18,896
<b>Balance at 30 June 2013</b>	<b>18,896</b>	<b>18,896</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2011</b>	17,997	17,997
Net result for the year	1,486	1,486
Total comprehensive income for the year	19,483	19,483
<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>	<b>19,483</b>	<b>19,483</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Notes	Actual 2013 \$'000	Budget 2013 \$'000	Actual 2012 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Grants and subsidies		(37,650)	(73,139)	(56,341)
Return of funds to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)*		(19,658)	-	-
Other		(3,772)	(2,107)	(13,699)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(61,080)</b>	<b>(75,246)</b>	<b>(70,040)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Interest received		1,224	1,173	1,492
Grants and Subsidies		53,902	71,792	58,497
Other		4,212	1,600	2,945
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>59,338</b>	<b>74,565</b>	<b>62,934</b>
<b>NET CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	12	<b>(1,742)</b>	<b>(681)</b>	<b>(7,106)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>		<b>(1,742)</b>	<b>(681)</b>	<b>(7,106)</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents		21,348	17,117	28,454
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	5	<b>19,606</b>	<b>16,436</b>	<b>21,348</b>

\* Funds returned as a result of Government decision

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements



**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

**SERVICE GROUP STATEMENT – STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Competitive Grants		Major Programs		Non attributable		Total	
	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
<b>ENTITY'S EXPENSES AND INCOME</b>								
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>								
Operating expenses								
Other operating expenses	1,053	1,102	1,231	1,214	-	-	2,284	2,316
Grants and subsidies	11,331	13,526	26,319	42,815	-	-	37,650	56,341
<b>Total Expenses excluding losses</b>	<b>12,384</b>	<b>14,628</b>	<b>27,550</b>	<b>44,029</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,934</b>	<b>58,657</b>
<b>Revenue</b>								
Investment Revenue	483	546	803	841	-	-	1,286	1,387
Grant from Department of Premier and Cabinet	10,534	13,907	24,630	44,140	-	-	35,164	58,047
Other Revenue	2,533	572	364	137	-	-	2,897	709
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>13,550</b>	<b>15,025</b>	<b>25,797</b>	<b>45,118</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,347</b>	<b>60,143</b>
<b>Net result/(loss)</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>(1,753)</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(587)</b>	<b>1,486</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>(1,753)</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(587)</b>	<b>1,486</b>

The names and purpose of each Service Group are summarised in note 4.



**ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

**SERVICE GROUP STATEMENT – STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

	Competitive Grants		Major Programs		Non attributable		Total	
	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
<b>ENTITY'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>								
<b>Current assets</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	8,979	7,573	10,627	13,775	-	-	19,606	21,348
Receivables	346	963	303	397	-	-	649	1,360
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>9,325</b>	<b>8,536</b>	<b>10,930</b>	<b>14,172</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,255</b>	<b>22,708</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>								
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>9,325</b>	<b>8,536</b>	<b>10,930</b>	<b>14,172</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,255</b>	<b>22,708</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>								
<b>Current liabilities</b>								
Payables	958	1,336	401	1,889	-	-	1,359	3,225
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>3,225</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>								
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>3,225</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>10,529</b>	<b>12,283</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,896</b>	<b>19,483</b>

The names and purpose of each Service Group are summarised in note 4.



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

### 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 initially 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 Environmental Trust's appointment has now been extended for a further two year period until July 2015. 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 on 23 September 2013.

#### (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; and
- 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 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 recognised in the net result for the year 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 Environmental Trust 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 Environmental Trust'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 Trust transfers the financial asset where substantially all the risks and rewards have been transferred, or where the Trust has not transferred substantially all the risks and rewards, but has not retained control.

Where the 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 Trust's continuing involvement in the asset.

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

**(k) Payables**

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Trust 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 original budgeted financial statements presented to Parliament in respect of the reporting period, as adjusted for section 24 of the PFAA where there has been a transfer of functions between departments. Other amendments made to the budget are not reflected in the budgeted amounts.

**(m) 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 Office of Environment and Heritage. The fair value of such services is charged to the Trust.

**(n) Comparative Information**

Except when an Australian Accounting standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

**(o) Early adoption of standards**

NSW public sector entities are not permitted to early adopt new Australian Accounting Standards, unless Treasury determines otherwise.

The following new Accounting Standards have not been applied and are not yet effective (NSW Treasury mandate TC 13/02):

- AASB 9, AASB 2010-7 and AASB 2012-6 regarding financial instruments
- AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements
- AASB 11 Joint Arrangements
- AASB 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities
- AASB 13, AASB 2011-8 and AASB 2012-1 regarding fair value measurement
- AASB 119, AASB 2011-10 and AASB 2011-11 regarding employee benefits
- AASB 127 Separate Financial Statements
- AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures
- AASB 1053 and AASB 2010-2 regarding differential reporting
- AASB 2010-10 regarding removal of fixed dates for first time adopters
- AASB 2011-2 regarding Trans-Tasman Convergence – RDR
- AASB 2011-4 removing individual KMP disclosure requirements
- AASB 2011-6 regarding RDR and relief from consolidation
- AASB 2011-7 regarding consolidation and joint arrangements
- AASB 2011-12 regarding Interpretation 20
- AASB 2012-1 regarding fair value measurement – RDR requirements
- AASB 2012-2 regarding disclosures – offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities
- AASB 2012-3 regarding offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities
- AASB 2012-4 regarding government loans – first time adoption
- AASB 2012-5 regarding annual improvements 2009-2-11 cycle
- AASB 2012-7 regarding RDR
- AASB 2012-9 regarding withdrawal of Interpretation 1039
- AASB 2012-10 regarding transition guidance and other amendments
- AASB 2012-11 regarding RDR requirements and other amendments

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.



## 2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

<b>(a) Other operating expenses:</b>	<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Auditor's remuneration (audit of the financial statements)	31	29
Payments to NSW Government agencies	1,821	1,674
Stores and minor assets	2	4
Information dissemination	76	131
Personnel related services	333	457
Travel	14	17
Other	7	4
	<b>2,284</b>	<b>2,316</b>

<b>(b) Grants and subsidies:</b>	<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Federal Government	356	243
State and Local Governments	28,047	44,695
Other	9,247	11,403
	<b>37,650</b>	<b>56,341</b>

## 3. REVENUE

<b>(a) Investment revenue</b>	<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Interest revenue from financial assets not at fair value through profit or loss	1,286	1,387
	<b>1,286</b>	<b>1,387</b>

<b>(b) Grants and contributions</b>	<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Recurrent funding from the NSW Government (DPC)	35,164	58,047
	<b>35,164</b>	<b>58,047</b>

<b>(c) Other revenue</b>	<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Other	2,897	709
	<b>2,897</b>	<b>709</b>

## 4. SERVICE GROUPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

### **Service Description: Competitive Grants**

This service group covers grant funding to community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, industry, research bodies, and state and local government agencies to undertake restoration and rehabilitation, education, research and urban sustainability initiatives.

### **Major Programs**

This service group covers grant funding to government agencies for programs addressing key environmental initiatives and government priorities.



## 5. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	3,451	5,767
Cash at T-Corp	16,155	15,581
Closing Cash or cash equivalents (as per Statement of Cash Flows)	<b>19,606</b>	<b>21,348</b>

Refer Note 13 for details regarding credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments.

## 6. CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Debtors	73	7
Accrued Income	19	6
Interest	393	331
GST	164	1,016
	<b>649</b>	<b>1,360</b>

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

## 7. CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Creditors	4	122
Liability to the NSW Government – recurrent funding	-	920
Accrued expenses	1,355	<b>2,183</b>
	<b>1,359</b>	<b>3,225</b>

## 8. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

There were no commitments as at 30 June 2013 (2012 – nil).

## 9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2013 (2012 – nil).

## 10. BUDGET REVIEW

### (a) Net result

The actual net result was (\$587,000) compared to a budget of (\$681,000). The favourable variance of \$94,000 was largely due to delays in expenditure relating to the Trust's grant program, which is partly offset by higher than budgeted revenue for grant refunds.

Lower than budgeted expenses and revenues are a result of Waste and Environment Levy decisions taken during the 2012/13 financial year.

### (b) Assets and liabilities

Net assets were higher than the budget by \$2.96m. This variance was mainly due to higher than budgeted cash, partly offset by increased current liabilities (accrued expenses).

### (c) Cash Flows

The net decrease in cash holdings was \$1.06 million higher than the budget. This variance was primarily due to payments of creditor accruals during the year.



## 11. BIOBANKING TRUST FUND

In July 2008, the Environmental Trust was initially 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 Environmental Trust's appointment has been extended for a further two years, until July 2015. 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 the Environment 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 grant payments for the achievement of its objectives..

Fourteen new site transactions occurred during the period 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013 bringing the total number of sites managed under the Fund to 19 sites.

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	6,008	1,761
Add: receipts by the BioBanking Trust	11,634	4,597
Add: Interest on invested BioBanking Trust funds	1,025	57
Less: annual management payment	(1,090)	(406)
Less: management fee – ET Fund Manager fee	(5)	(1)
<b>Balance invested in the Trust Fund</b>	<b>17,572</b>	<b>6,008</b>

## 12. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET RESULT

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	(1,742)	(7,106)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	1,865	8,834
(Decrease)/increase in receivables	(710)	(242)
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>(587)</b>	<b>1,486</b>



### 13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

The Trustee has 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 Environmental Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Audit Committee on a regular basis.

#### (a) Financial Instrument Categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Class:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	N/A	19,606	21,348
Receivables (1)	6	Loans and Receivables (at amortised cost)	485	344
			<b>20,091</b>	<b>21,692</b>
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			<b>2013 \$'000</b>	<b>2012 \$'000</b>
Class:				
Payables (2)	7	Financial Liabilities (measured at amortised cost)	1,359	2,305
			<b>1,359</b>	<b>2,305</b>

#### Notes

(1) Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within the scope of AASB7)

(2) Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within the scope of AASB7)

#### (b) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of Environmental Trust's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to Environmental 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 Environmental Trust, including cash, receivables, and authority deposits. No collateral is held by Environmental Trust. Environmental Trust has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with Environmental 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 paragraph (d) below.

#### Receivables and Trade Debtors

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectability 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 Environmental Trust 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.

Environmental Trust is not materially exposed to concentrations of credit risk to a single trade debtor or group of debtors. No provision for doubtful debts.

The only financial assets that are past due or impaired are 'sales of goods and services' in the 'receivables' category of the statement of financial position.



		\$'000	\$'000
2013	Total <sup>1,2</sup>	Past due but not impaired <sup>1,2</sup>	Considered impaired <sup>1,2</sup>
< 3 Months Overdue	73	73	-
3 months - 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2012			
< 3 Months Overdue	-	-	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-

#### Notes

- Each column in the table reports 'gross receivables'.
- The ageing analysis excludes statutory receivables, as these are not within the scope of AASB 7 and excludes receivables that are not past due and not impaired. Therefore, the 'total' will not reconcile to the receivables total recognised in the statement of financial position.

#### Authority Deposits

Environmental Trust has placed funds on deposit with TCorp, which has been rated 'AAA' by Standard and Poor's. These deposits are similar to money market or bank deposits and can be placed 'at call' or for a fixed term. For fixed term deposits, the interest rate payable by TCorp is negotiated initially and is fixed for the term of the deposit, while the interest rate payable on at call deposits can vary. The deposits at balance date were earning an average interest rate of 2.52% (2012: 3.96%), while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 3.69% (2012: 4.90%) on a weighted average balance during the year of \$15.889m (2012: \$15.581m). None of these assets are past due or impaired.

#### (c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that Environmental Trust will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. Environmental Trust continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of overdrafts, loans and other advances.

During the current and prior year, there were no defaults of loans payable. No assets have been pledged as collateral. Environmental 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 NSW TC 11/12. For small business suppliers, where terms are not specified, payment is made not later than 30 days from date of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. For other suppliers, 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. For small business suppliers, where payment is not made within the specified time period, simple interest must be paid automatically unless an existing contract specifies otherwise. For payments to other suppliers, the Head of an authority (or a person appointed by the Head of an authority) may automatically pay the supplier simple interest. The rate of interest applied during the year was 12.5% (2012: 12.5%).

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

#### Maturity analysis and interest rate exposure of financial liabilities

	\$'000 Interest Rate Exposure	\$'000 Maturity Dates		
2013	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
Payables:				
Payables:	N/A	1,359	-	-
2012				
Payables:				
Payables:	N/A	2,305	-	-

#### Notes

- The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities based on the earliest date on which the entity can be required to pay. The tables include both interest and principal cash flows and therefore will not reconcile to the statement of financial position.



#### (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. Environmental Trust's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk on Environmental Trust's borrowings and other price risks associated with the movement in the unit price of the Hour Glass Investment Facilities. Environmental 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 Environmental 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 statement of financial position date. The analysis is performed on the same basis as for 2012. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through Environmental Trust's interest bearing liabilities. This risk is minimised by undertaking mainly fixed rate borrowings, primarily with NSW TCorp. Environmental 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. Environmental Trust's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

\$'000			\$'000		
		-1%		+1%	
	Carrying Amount	Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
<b>2013</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	19,606	(196)	(196)	196	196
Receivables	485	(5)	(5)	5	5
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	1,359	14	14	(14)	(14)
<b>2012</b>					
<b>Financial Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	21,348	(213)	(213)	213	213
Receivables	344	(3)	(3)	3	3
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	2,305	23	23	(23)	(23)

#### 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	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 1.5 years	16,155	15,581

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

NSW TCorp is trustee for each of the above facilities and is required to act in the best interest of the unit holders 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 and Strategic Cash Facilities and also manages the Australian Bond portfolio. A significant portion of the administration of the facilities is outsourced to an external custodian.

Investment in the Hour-Glass facilities limits Environmental 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 Investment facilities, using historically based volatility information collected over a ten year period, quoted at two standard deviations (i.e. 95% probability). 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). A reasonably possible change is based on the percentage change in unit price (as advised by TCorp) multiplied by the redemption value as at 30 June each year for each facility (balance from Hour-Glass statement).



		Impact on profit/loss	
		2013	2012
	Change in unit price	\$'000	\$'000
Hour Glass Investment – Cash Facility	+/- 3.69%	596	617

**(e) Fair value compared to carrying amount**

Financial instruments are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of the TCorp Hour-Glass facilities, which are measured at fair value. The value of the Hour-Glass Investments is based on Environmental 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.

## 14. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

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

### Indicators of activity of administering the Trust

	2011–12	2012–13
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives*	\$56 million	\$39 million
Number of major programs	5	3
Number of grant programs running	17	17
Number of current major projects	12	11
Number of new grant projects approved+	235	197
Number of applications / expressions of interest processed	929	702
Number of grant payments processed	477	437
Number of emergency pollution and orphan waste clean-ups funded	59	45

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

+ Does not include Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-ups.

The NSW Environmental Trust, under s.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 for the following grants:

- Blessed Sacrament Primary School – Worm (Worms Recreate Matter!)
- Upper Clarence Combined Landcare Inc. – Mallanganee Stepping Stones Connecting Regional Ecosystems
- Hunter Councils Inc. – Regional Sustainability Capacity Building and Education Program
- Office of Environment and Heritage – Rapid Assessment of Cumulative Stressors on Fish Populations
- Hunter Councils Inc. – C3E3 - Sustainable Solutions to Regional Environment Issues
- Wollongong City Council – Illawarra Biodiversity and Local Food Strategy for Climate Change
- Soldiers Point Public School – Cascading Biodiversity Garden
- Guyra Local Aboriginal Land Council – To Restore Our Land with Plant Species, Label them and Erect Totems
- Ebor Progress Association Inc – Ebor Villagelink Community Development Project 3
- NamoiROC – Namoi Sustainability in Action – Green is the new Black
- Fairfield City Council – Improving Prospect Creek’s Riparian Corridor for Water Quality and Habitat
- Dairy NSW Ltd – Dairy effluent management training in the Sydney catchments
- Office of Environment and Heritage – Remote sensing, biogeochemistry and optics of coastal algal blooms
- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority – Evaluating urban stream remediation techniques: Cooks River, Sydney
- Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc. – Wolgan River Valley, riparian regeneration and reconstruction
- Braeside Bushcare Group – Saving Braeside Blue Mountains Uplands Swamp from gorse and broom
- Department of Lands – Restoration of glossy black cockatoo habitat in the Riverina
- Port Stephens Council – Enhancing ecosystem resilience in the Williams Estuary
- Tweed Shire Council – Recovery of threatened species in priority implementation areas
- Sun Valley Australia Pty Ltd – Computerised dehydration system
- Jonesys Dairy Fresh Pty Ltd – Jonesys dairy fresh manufacturing facility
- KI Crump & JA Smith – Timber cutters museum and restaurant
- Rothiemay Pty Ltd – Construct a purpose-built shed for the engineering of coulters.



## 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 Trust staff who are housed within the Office of Environment and Heritage (part of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet). The Trust funds the costs of administering the Trust's programs, including staff salaries, while OEH provides all support services for the Trust such as finance, human resources and information technology. The fair value of such services is charged to the Trust.

Day-to-day management of the Trust's programs and activities is the responsibility of the Grants section within the Regional Operations Group of OEH. The section's major functions are:

- researching, developing and implementing new programs for the Trust
- promoting and managing the Trust's grant programs
- developing and managing governance arrangements for programs
- providing technical and other assistance to grantees
- coordinating assessments by the Trust's technical committees
- servicing Trust meetings, technical committees and subcommittees to facilitate good decision-making
- negotiating grants and agreements, project plans and making payments
- monitoring and acquitting funded projects
- disseminating and promoting successful Trust-funded projects
- managing the Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program and
- reviewing and evaluating the Trust's programs and procedures.

## Grants administration

All grants 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. Except where a project is of a short duration or small amount, the Trust either pays the grants in advance instalments or through milestone payments.

The Trust's Technical Committee representatives assess and recommend grant projects and review project progress and final reports. This process keeps the Trust progressively informed about the quality of the work and the outcomes of each project.

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

## Organisational performance

The Trust's support staff are employed within OEH and are therefore subject to the administration and organisational performance programs of that office. These include occupational health and safety, multicultural policies and services, Aboriginal affairs priorities, action planning for women, equal employment opportunity, disability planning and privacy management planning. Environmental programs that include waste reduction and purchasing, resource recovery and recycled material are also included. Further information on these policies and other organisational issues can be found in the OEH section of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2012–13.

## Assets

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

## 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. Grantees are also required to undertake a risk assessment as part of their monitoring and evaluation plan.

Further information on risk management policies and guidelines, insurance, fraud and corruption control strategies and internal audit programs applicable to the Trust can also be found in the OEH section of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2012–13.

## External reviews

The Trust is subject to a range of 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 also implements a five-year evaluation plan for each of its annual grants programs.

This year reviews were completed for the Environmental Education Program, Eco Schools Program and the Lead Environmental Community Groups Program. Further details on the Environmental Education and Eco Schools reviews are provided under the relevant program headings in this report. The results of the review on the Lead Environmental Community Groups Program will be released in 2013–14.



## Monitoring and evaluation

The Trust's Monitoring and Evaluation Program has been running since 2008. It aims to improve the Trust's ability to report on measurable environmental outcomes while at the same time assisting grantees to track the progress of their objectives and be able to measure and report on the effectiveness of their projects.

The Trust employs a full-time Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer to collect and analyse the reporting data, and to support grantees in the preparation of their monitoring and evaluation plans. All grantees in the competitive Restoration and Rehabilitation, Community Bush Regeneration, Protecting our Places, Education, Research, and Eco Schools programs are required to report on a number of key performance indicators relating to measurable environmental outcomes. These indicators are specific to each program.

The performance indicators have been chosen to be consistent with the national Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework. This enables the Trust to report progress towards environmental goals on a statewide basis, and ensure that the Trust's programs are contributing towards NSW 2021 objectives (the NSW Government's 10-year plan).

Some of the measured outcomes that have been achieved to date are included under the relevant program headings in this report.

### **Expected achievements from 2012–13 competitive grant programs**

The 2012–13 Environmental Education Program expects to train approximately 2791 people through 196 training sessions. The program also expects 250 educational products to be developed and disseminated to 431,335 people. Around 6925 primary and secondary school students will be involved in Eco Schools projects aimed at improving environmental awareness and sustainability.

Grantees in the 2012–13 Protecting Our Places Program will rehabilitate and/or restore approximately 248 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land.

Grantees in the 2012–13 Research Program are planning to present project findings at around 22 scientific or technical conferences and publish at least 23 related articles in journals and other scientific publications.



# Internal Audit and Risk Management Statement for the 2012–13 Financial Year for the NSW Environmental Trust



I, Sally Barnes Secretary, am of the opinion that the Environmental Trust has internal audit and risk management processes in operation 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, Sally Barnes Secretary, am of the opinion that the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Subcommittee to the Audit and Risk Committee for Department of Premier and Cabinet (which has responsibility for oversight of OEH 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 Subcommittee are:

- Independent Chair, Arthur Butler (January 2010 to December 2013)
- Independent Member, Gerardine Brus (April 2010 to March 2014)
- Independent Member, Joan Wilcox (April 2010 to March 2014)
- Non-independent Member, Tom Grosskopf (January 2012 to December 2012)
- Non-independent Member, Paul Elton (ongoing commencing from January 2013)

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

As required by the policy, I have submitted an Attestation Statement outlining compliance with the policy to Treasury.

Sally Barnes

Secretary

Environmental Trust

Chief Executive

Office of Environment and Heritage

Department of Premier and Cabinet

(Sign and Date)

  
16/8/13



# Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust

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

- Minister for the Environment (as Chairperson)
- Secretary of NSW Treasury
- Director General of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
- 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 Local Government NSW (previously LGSA).

The Trust met three times in 2012–13.

## Members of the Trust and meeting attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
The Hon Robyn Parker MP	(Chairperson) Minister for the Environment (statutory appointment)	2	3
Mr Philip Gaetjens	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)	0	3
Deputy: Ms Lindsey Williams (permanent deputy until 23 November 2012)	Director, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, NSW Treasury	0	1
Deputy: Mr David Buckland	Senior Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury	1	1
Deputy: Mr Bill Stanhope (permanent deputy from December 2012)	Principal Adviser, NSW Treasury	2	2
Mr Chris Eccles	Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet (statutory appointment)	0	3
Deputy: Ms Sally Barnes (permanent deputy to 30 June 2013)	Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage	2	3
Deputy: Mr Paul Elton	A/Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage	1	1
Mr Rob Pallin (to 30 June 2013)	Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW	3	3
Cr Keith Rhoades (to 30 June 2014)	Representing Local Government NSW	3	3

The Trust would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to Ms Lindsey Williams who retired on 23 November 2012 after serving over eight years as a member.



# Membership of Trust Subcommittees

During 2012–13 the Trust had five subcommittees in operation under s.9(3) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* 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 follows.

## Biodiversity and Green Corridors Subcommittee

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

Director Metropolitan Branch, OEH

### **Mr Geoff Hudson**

Senior Policy Officer NRM, Local Government NSW

### **Dr Richard Thackway**

Scientist

### **Mr Martin Denny (to April 2013)**

Consultant, Biodiversity Monitoring Services

### **Ms Elizabeth Scarlett (delegate Ms Adair Moar)**

Rural Services Manager, NSW Farmers Association

### **Mr Peter Dixon**

Senior Manager Environmental Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

### **Ms Susannah Bilous (delegate Ms Susan Johnston)**

Senior Environmental Officer, NSW Rural Fire Service

### **Mr Peter Turner**

Program Leader Weeds, OEH

### **Mr Tim Low**

Project Officer, Invasive Species Council

### **Mr Noel Kesby (to March 2013)**

General Manager, Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

### **Ms Karen Eardley**

Project Officer, Reserve Establishment and Land Information, Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

### **Mr Tom Celebrezze**

Senior Manager, Community, Compliance and Planning Services, OEH

## Contaminated Land Management Subcommittee

### **Mr Craig Lamberton (Chairperson)**

Director Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health, EPA

### **Mr Jeff Smith**

Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Defenders Office

### **Mr Robert Verhey**

Former Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government NSW

### **Mr Adam Capon**

Manager, Health and Risk Assessment, NSW Health

### **Ms Kylie Lloyd**

NSW Manager, Golder and Associates

### **Mr Peter Dixon**

Senior Manager Environmental Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

## Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program Subcommittee

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

Director Metropolitan Branch, OEH

### **Mr Stephen Griffith**

General Manager, NSW Rural Assistance Authority

### **Ms Alexia Wellbelove (delegate Ms Nancy Pallin)**

Senior Program Manager, Humane Society International

### **Mr Peter Comensoli**

Representing the NSW Farmers Association

### **Mr Murray Spicer**

Manager Horticulture Industry Development, NSW Department of Primary Industries

### **Mr Peter Dixon**

Senior Manager Environmental Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

## Growth Centres Program Subcommittee

### **Mr Tom Celebrezze (Chairperson) (delegate Mr David Trewin)**

Senior Manager, Community, Compliance and Planning Services, OEH

### **Ms Carolyn Cameron**

Assistant Secretary (Strategic Approvals and Legislation), Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

### **Mr Peter Dixon**

Senior Manager Environmental Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

### **Ms Elizabeth Kinkade**

Director, Land Release, Planning and Delivery, NSW Department of Planning

### **Ms Melinda Murray**

Manager Reserve Establishment and Land Information, Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH



**Mr Minh Nguyen**

Senior Financial Analyst, Natural Resource and Environment  
Branch, NSW Treasury

**Mr Neville Pavan**

Program Manager Implementation, Hawkesbury–Nepean  
Catchment Management Authority

## **Waste & Sustainability Programs Subcommittee**

**Ms Sally Barnes (Chairperson)**

Chief Executive OEH and Trust Secretary

**Dr Tony Wilkins**

Head of Environment, News Limited

**Professor Don White**

Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

**Mr Robert Verhey**

Former Strategy Manager Environment,  
Local Government NSW

**Mr Stephen Beaman**

Director Waste and Resource Recovery, EPA



# Membership of Trust Technical Committees

Under s.9(1) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust has established several technical committees. These committees assess and recommend grant applications, review progress and final project reports and provide guidance in implementation of the relevant program. The membership of each committee during 2012–13 is set out below.

## Eco Schools Program

**Ms Maria Rickert (alternate Sue Burton) (Chairperson)**  
Senior Team Leader, Sustainable Communities, OEH

**Mr Mark Caddey**  
Senior Development Officer, Sustainability, Department of Education and Communities

**Ms Janelle Hatherly**  
Community Education Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

**Ms Elisabeth Dark (deputy Janet Rannard)**  
Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

**Ms Anne Lanyon**  
Coordinator Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice, Columban Mission Institute

**Mr Brian Williams**  
Procurement Officer, representing the Catholic Education Office

## Environmental Education Program

**Ms Roz Hall (Chairperson)**  
Former Director Business and Community Programs, OEH

**Ms Fleur Johnson**  
Former Project Manager – School and Community Education, Australian Water Association

**Ms Kim Rendell**  
Education Program Coordinator, Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

**Ms Rebecca Jones (State and Local Government Program)**  
Senior Policy Officer, representing Local Government NSW

**Ms Sue Martin (Community Program)**  
Senior Policy Officer, representing Local Government NSW

**Ms Jane Smith**  
Executive Officer, Community Environment Network

## Environmental Research Program

**Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)**  
Director Environment Protection Science, OEH

**Dr Derek Van Dyk**  
Former Director, Innovation & Economic Analysis, NSW Office of Trade, Business and Industry

**Dr Graeme Batley**  
Chief Research Scientist, Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research, CSIRO Land and Water

**Professor Deirdre Lemerle**  
Director EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, Industry and Investment NSW

## Lead Environmental Community Groups (LECG) Grants Program

**Mr Tony Richardson (Chairperson)**  
Director Service Centre, OEH

**Mr David Trewin**  
Regional Manager, Greater Sydney, OEH

**Ms Kieran Thomas**  
Senior Planner, Strategic Regional Policy, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

**Ms Rhiannon Cook**  
Senior Policy Officer, Council of Social Services of NSW

**Ms Judi Christie**  
Regional NRM Facilitator, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

## Protecting Our Places Program

**Mr Peter Dixon (Chairperson)**  
Senior Manager Environmental Grants, NSW Environmental Trust

**Mr John Lennis**  
Catchment Officer Aboriginal Communities, Hawkesbury–Nepean Catchment Management Authority

**Mr Robert Macfarlane**  
Team Leader Procurement Accreditation, Strategy, Performance & Services Group, OEH

**Mr Anthony Seiver**  
Principal Policy Officer (Culture and Heritage), Department of Human Services, Aboriginal Affairs NSW

**Ms Margaret Bottrell**  
Indigenous Community Support Officer, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

**Yvonne Stewart**  
Secretary, Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation



## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

**Ms Monica Collins (Chairperson)**

Director North Branch, OEH

**Mr Robert Verhey (deputy Denise Anderson)  
(Community Program)**

Former Strategy Manager, Environment, Local Government NSW

**Mr Geoff Hudson (deputy Kirsty McIntyre) (State and Local Government Program)**

Senior Policy Officer NRM, Local Government NSW

**Mr Matthew Davidson**

Program Manager, Namoi Catchment Management Authority

**Ms Cilla Kinross**

Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

**Mr Andrew McIntyre**

Regional Manager, Hunter Central Coast, OEH

**Mr Marc Worner**

Representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

**Ms Mary-Lou Lewis**

Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

**Ms Susan Brunskill**

Formerly representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

## Riverina Red Gum Regional Employment and Community Development Fund

**Mr Richard Bull (Chairperson)**

Board Chair, Water for Rivers

**Mr Brian Mitsch**

Mayor, Deniliquin Council

**Mr Bruce Graham**

General Manager, Wakool Shire Council

**Ms Jennifer N Weller**

Business representative and Board Member of Regional Development Australia, Murray

**Ms Deanne Stevens**

Senior Private Native Forestry Officer, OEH

**Ms Heather Dearing**

Training Advisor, Department of Education and Communities

**Ms Phyllis Miller**

Mayor, Forbes Shire Council

**Ms Margaret O'Dwyer**

Regional Tourism Development Manager (Southern), NSW Trade & Investment

**Ms Jeanette Crew**

Chairperson, Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation



# 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 6  
10 Valentine Avenue  
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
- NSW Environmental Trust Annual Reports from 1992–93 to 2012–13.

The estimated cost for producing this annual report is approximately \$4000. This report is available to download from the Trust's website at [www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au).

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).

## Public access to NSW Government information

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) replaced the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* on 1 July 2010, and introduced a new system for the right to information. It relates to personal and non-personal information held by government.

There are four ways in which the Trust's information is made available.

**Mandatory release:** Via the website and other mechanisms, certain information must be disclosed free of charge. This includes policy documents, the current publication guide, disclosure log of information formally released under the

GIPA Act and register of government contracts. This is referred to as 'open access information'.

**Proactive release:** The Trust is required to proactively release as much government information as possible, in an appropriate way and free of charge (or at the lowest reasonable cost). Members of the public can also ask the Trust what information it will make available, in addition to the information contained on the website.

**Informal request:** Members of the public can ask for specific information on an informal basis. The Trust should release information without the need for a formal application, unless there are good reasons to require one.

**Formal application:** This is the last resort if a member of the public has not been able to get information in any other way. They can formally request specific information under the GIPA Act. In these circumstances, access to information will require a formal access application.

Under section 20 of the GIPA Act government agencies are required to make available an information guide which describes:

- their organisational structure and functions
- how the agency's functions (in particular, decision-making) affect the public
- how members of the public can participate in the agency's policy development and the exercise of its functions
- the types of information held by the agency
- the information the agency makes publicly available
- how members of the public can access information
- whether a charge is imposed for supplying information.

The OEH information guide (which incorporates the NSW Environmental Trust) was published in May 2013 and sets out the information identified above. It will be reviewed within 12 months of adoption in accordance with section 21 of the GIPA Act. The guide is available from the OEH website.

The Trust carries out regular proactive release of information through its website. This includes information relating to the management of grant programs such as announcing the opening of grant programs, providing grant applications, applicant guidelines and other supporting documents online, and publishing lists of successful grantees for each program. The Trust endeavours to release this information as soon as possible once it is available. The Trust also publishes other information on an intermittent basis throughout the year such as case studies of successful grant projects.

Schedule 2 of the GIPA Act requires government agencies to provide statistical information about access applications. All GIPA requests to the Trust are included with OEH reporting in the Premier and Cabinet annual report. The Trust received one formal request for information under the GIPA Act in 2012–13. The request was made by a member of the public for information regarding a previous Trust grant for rehabilitation work at Thirroul. Access was granted in part (personal information was withheld).



## Abbreviations

CE	Common Era
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
ECC	East Coast Cyclone
ECL	East Coast Lows
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
GER	Great Eastern Ranges
LECG	Lead Environmental Community Groups
LGA	Local Government Area
LGSA	Local Government and Shires Association (former)
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service (OEH)
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
POP	Protecting our Places Program
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
VIS	Vegetation Information System



## Photographs:

Page	Title and source
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3	A new biobank site at Mulgoa will permanently protect critically endangered Cumberland Plain woodland. Photo courtesy of Derek Stellar, OEH.
6	New signage and viewing platform at Bombala Platypus Reserve. Photo courtesy of Bombala Council.
6	Participants in the March 2011 Colo Colossus expedition. Photo courtesy of Friends of the Colo
11	Bush regenerators beginning lantana control at Rocky Creek Dam. Photo courtesy of Tony Parkes, Big Scrub Landcare
11	Returning snags to the Macquarie River at Pilchers Reserve. Photo courtesy of Libby McIntyre
12	Ageing metalwork in Jenolan Caves will be replaced with stainless steel. Photo courtesy of J Lin, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust
13	Lord Howe Island woodhens will be captured while baiting occurs. Photo courtesy of Nicholas Carlile, OEH
14	New interpretive panels installed at Jacks Lookout above the Snowy River. Photos courtesy of Southern Rivers CMA.
16	The Burrumatta trail was launched in September 2012 by Parramatta Park Aboriginal Trustee Jackie Puckeridge (second from left). Photo courtesy of Jessica Herder, OEH
22	Coffs Ambassador volunteer tour guides. Photo courtesy of Coffs Harbour City Council.
23	The Living Green project brought together many cultures to share environmental experiences. Photo courtesy of Auburn Community Development Network.
28	Students from Colo High are working to enhance remnant bushland. Photo courtesy of Colo High School.
29	The new food gardens program teaches students about sustainable gardening. Photo courtesy of Forster Public School.
35	A Landholder, Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker and Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies at the launch of the Mulgoa biobank site in August 2013. Photo courtesy of Janice Bagot, OEH.
35	A new biobanking agreement will protect important bushland adjoining Narrawallee Inlet. Photo courtesy of Shoalhaven City Council.
37	Smarter Choice buyer guides to help consumers make better environmental choices
37	Who Cares about the Environment in 2012?
39	New sculptures on the Long Paddock Touring Route pay tribute to the timber industry in the Riverina. Photo courtesy of Alison Maclean.
40	Oranges being processed in the new juicing facility. Photo courtesy of Kurrnung Estates.
40	A series of postcards introduce some of the food and wine producers along the trail.
41	Devil Ark is breeding a disease-free population of Tasmanian devils on the mainland. Photo courtesy of Devil Ark.
43	Leafless tongue orchid. Photo courtesy of Barry Collier.
47	Bombala Platypus Reserve is also home to a population of endangered skinks. Photo courtesy of Bombala Council.
65	Students at Buronga Public School are cultivating vegetables using hydroponics. Photo courtesy of Buronga Public School.



