



NSW Environmental Trust ANNUAL REPORT 2013–14

Cover photographs:

1. Lord Howe Island weed team working on the slopes of Mount Gower. Image courtesy of Lord Howe Island Board.
2. The reform of native forestry regulations will improve the management of koala habitat within operational forests. Image courtesy of Lucy Morrell, OEH.
3. A landholder shows off his newly planted vegetation corridor established under the Tarabandra Ridgelines to Rivers project. Image courtesy of Local Land Services Riverina.
4. Ferns at Boonoo Boonoo Falls. Image courtesy of Michael Van Ewijk, OEH.

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The Honourable Rob Stokes MP
Minister for the Environment
52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 2013–14 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* for your presentation to the NSW Parliament.

The Trust has provided funding of around \$56 million this year for the delivery of environmental projects by community groups, schools, state and local government agencies, Aboriginal organisations and research centres.

More than \$6.9 million in contestable grants has been awarded for restoration and rehabilitation works, environmental education, and research into new and innovative technologies.

The NSW Government's new Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative commenced this year with the Trust awarding \$18.9 million worth of contestable grants to support new community recycling centres, expansion or upgrades to recycling facilities, local government organics programs and food waste education.

Significant conservation outcomes this year include the purchase of 1039 hectares of critical habitat corridors as part of the NSW Government's Green Corridor Reserves Program, the establishment of two new biobank sites at Orangeville and Ku-ring-gai through the Growth Centres and Linking Landscapes programs, and outstanding progress towards eradicating weeds on Lord Howe Island with an 82 per cent reduction in weed cover over two years.

Yours sincerely

Terry Bailey
Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust
October 2014

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 New South Wales. 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 Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) act alternately as members. In 2013–14 the Chief Executive Officer of the EPA 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. Further information on administration of the Trust and its membership is provided in the appendices of this report.

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

1. encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects in both the public and private sectors that will, or are likely to, prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation, of any kind, within any part of New South Wales
2. 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. 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. fund the acquisition of land for national parks and other categories of dedicated and reserved land for the national parks estate
 5. fund the declaration of areas for marine parks and related areas
 6. promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management (including funding enforcement and regulation and local government programs)
 7. fund environmental community groups
 8. 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, workforce diversity, multicultural policies and services, occupational health and safety etc.) refer to the OEH Annual Report and the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report for 2013–14.

Highlights of 2013–14



This year the Trust provided funding of approximately \$56 million to community groups, schools, state and local government agencies, Aboriginal organisations and research facilities to deliver a diverse range of environmental projects.

Acquiring land for conservation

\$5.03 million worth of strategic high conservation value land was purchased this year through the Land Acquisition Program. Twelve properties covering 1627 hectares will help to create more resilient and effective national parks as well as protect critical corridors and landscapes. Three of these properties, covering a combined area of 1039 hectares, were purchased specifically to deliver the NSW Government's commitment to Green Corridor Reserves.

Supporting restoration and rehabilitation

Two years into their six-year projects, grantees in the Community Bush Regeneration Program have contributed to the establishment of 58,604 hectares of terrestrial, riparian and wetland vegetation communities and have completed weeding of over 2500 hectares of degraded bushland.

The Private Land Conservation Program has provided financial support for weeding and rehabilitation work on 49 private properties to improve and protect biodiversity on private land.

Contestable grants worth more than \$4.5 million were awarded to community groups, government organisations and Aboriginal communities to fund new rehabilitation projects across New South Wales.

Two years of restoration work on Lord Howe Island has resulted in a dramatic 82 per cent reduction in weed cover and abundance of adult weeds with 343 hectares of habitat now treated for key invasive weeds.

One kilometre of aging galvanised steel railings have been removed from Jenolan Caves and replaced with stainless steel to protect the sensitive cave environment.

Phase 2 of the Snowy River restoration program has this year revegetated 5.5 hectares of degraded river banks and continued to build community partnerships as environmental flows down the river increase.

Supporting environmental education and research

Over \$1.3 million worth of new projects have been funded this year to deliver environmental education programs through schools, community groups and government organisations. This includes \$382,000 for 132 Eco Schools and Food Gardens in Schools projects that will engage school students in environmental learning.

Eight new research projects were awarded to the value of \$1.1 million.

Protecting green corridors

The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative continues to bring together a broad range of local, state and national organisations to deliver collaborative projects throughout the Great Eastern Ranges. Membership now includes eight regional partnerships, ten national conservation organisations and 145 NSW organisations including state and local government, Local Land Services, conservation groups, Landcare, industry bodies, universities and Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program is now providing permanent protection for 453 hectares of significant native vegetation. The establishment of a new 38-hectare biobank site at Orangeville and the purchase of biodiversity credits from a biobank site at Mulgoa this year will both protect critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and other threatened communities.

Another biobank site, established through the Linking Landscapes through Local Action initiative, will protect 99 hectares of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest and endangered Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest which are part of a three-kilometre long urban bushland corridor.

Promoting waste avoidance and sustainability

The NSW Government's new Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative commenced this year with \$18.9 million worth of contestable grants awarded to support new community recycling centres, expansion or upgrades to existing recycling facilities, local government organics programs and food waste education.

The Trust provided \$4 million for a range of government programs that support sustainable businesses and communities including the Sustainability Advantage program that is now helping 548 businesses and organisations reduce their resource use and lower operating costs by \$86.5 million a year.

The Trust approved a new procedure to respond to large-scale emergency pollution events that are beyond the financial scope of the Trust's existing Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program. The new procedure allows for the release of funds of up to \$2 million to deal with the containment or clean-up of such emergency situations.

Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism is a new program that provides \$4.8 million to raise awareness of national parks in New South Wales, encourage sustainable growth in visitor numbers, and build support for nature and conservation.

The Trust commenced a \$3-million program to deliver major reform of the environmental regulation of native forestry in New South Wales. This includes major improvements in the identification and management of threatened ecological communities and koala habitat in state and private forests.

Trust Programs and Achievements



Land Acquisition Program

Through section 7(d) of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* the Environmental Trust is able to fund the acquisition of land for national parks and other categories of dedicated and reserved land for the national parks estate.

In 2013–14 the Land Acquisition Program supported \$5.03 million worth of strategic high conservation value land purchases administered by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). These acquisitions focused on two important conservation themes: *creating more resilient and effective parks and protecting critical corridors and landscapes*. This second theme included \$3.0 million specifically allocated to deliver the Green Corridor Reserves element of the NSW Government's four-year Green Corridors Program. Some 891 hectares falls within the Great Eastern Ranges corridor and will help deliver government–community conservation outcomes through the Great Eastern Ranges partnership program.

Twelve properties covering 1627 hectares were acquired through a voluntary acquisition process. All of the properties that were acquired this year adjoin existing national parks and reserves. These purchases are aimed at making land management more efficient and responsive with respect to implementing conservation actions, especially on-ground management of wildfire and the control of pest and weed species.

Improving the resilience and effectiveness of parks

NPWS has a program of incrementally acquiring land either within or on the perimeter of some parks to specifically improve their conservation management effectiveness or efficiency. This year eight properties totalling 355 hectares were purchased to achieve this objective. These lands are largely naturally vegetated and provide biodiversity habitat. Importantly, they also support park management outcomes and optimise associated costs by securing legal or practical access to the park, allowing a more holistic approach to pest and weed management, and provide clearer park boundaries to foster better relations with neighbours.

Private inholdings were acquired from within Nangar National Park (32 hectares), Capertee National Park (18 hectares), South East Forests National Park (102 hectares), Yengo National Park (65 hectares), Nattai National Park (49 hectares), Camerons Gorge Nature Reserve (32 hectares) and Tuggerah State Conservation Area (0.1 hectares). Bushland acquired on the periphery of Woomargama National Park (57 hectares) was already effectively fenced into the park. Its acquisition better delineates the park boundary for land managers.

Green Corridor Reserves – protecting critical corridors and landscapes

This year four properties totalling 1272 hectares were acquired for their contribution to developing green corridors or landscape linkages to support conservation of biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services. Three of these properties,



Everlasting Swamp is one of the largest remaining coastal floodplain wetlands in NSW.

covering a combined area of 1039 hectares, specifically deliver the NSW Government's Green Corridor Reserves commitment as detailed below.

New England National Park is located 45 kilometres south-west of Dorrigo. This year 460 hectares was acquired to strategically connect New England National Park with Cunnawarra National Park. The purchased property lies within the Mid North Coast Escarpment – Barrington Climate Change corridor and forms part of the Great Eastern Ranges corridor. It contains high quality remnant vegetation including old-growth forest, key wildlife habitat and five threatened animal species including the stuttering frog and red-legged pademelon.

Nightcap National Park is located 28 kilometres north of Lismore. The 78-hectare property known as 'Wompoo Gorge' links the eastern section of Nightcap National Park and the western boundary of Goonengerry National Park. The narrow gorge between the parks contains remnant lowland subtropical rainforest and forms part of a significant wildlife corridor. The property contains eight nationally listed threatened plant species and 17 vulnerable animal species including the pouched frog, Stephens' banded snake, Albert's lyrebird and wompoo fruit-dove.

Everlasting Swamp is located on the Clarence River floodplain on the NSW North Coast about 15 kilometres west of Maclean. It is considered a nationally important wetland and internationally significant waterbird habitat. This floodplain area links the Lower Clarence coastal corridor with the Richmond Range corridor, providing for movement of species. The 501 hectares acquired in 2013–14 together with the 876 hectares acquired in 2012–13 contain a variety of habitats for wetland birds, featuring large deep pools, broad areas of shallow water, large stands of rushes and casuarina forest. The swamp includes the largest concentrations of brolga in the Clarence floodplain. This species is listed as vulnerable in New South Wales and this site has supported some of the largest flocks seen in New South Wales in recent years.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

The Restoration and Rehabilitation Program provides funds to community organisations and government entities for projects that enhance and restore the environment and reduce pollution and environmental degradation.

Contestable grants offer a total of \$2 million in funding to community groups, \$2 million in funding to government organisations and up to \$500,000 in funding to Aboriginal organisations for projects that enhance and restore the environment.

In December 2013 the Trust approved a new stream of funding under the Restoration and Rehabilitation Program that focuses on sites listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. Many semirural and rural heritage-listed properties have grounds that contain significant natural heritage values, however the focus is often on restoring and maintaining the cultural values of the site. This program aims to build the capacity of heritage site managers to maintain natural heritage on their properties and begin the restoration of these values. Grants of up to \$75,000 will be offered for projects of up to three years. The new funding stream will commence in 2014–15 and be trialled for two years.

Achievements

Many of the restoration and rehabilitation projects completed this year have sought to enhance native habitat for wildlife corridors, threatened species and endangered ecological communities. Here are just a few of the notable outcomes that have been achieved by grantees this year:

- restoration of high conservation value ecosystems on properties near the World Heritage-listed rainforest reserves in New England. Key wildlife corridors that were threatened by significant weed infestations have been restored through partnerships between environmental groups and landholders. The restored areas provide habitat for threatened plants, animals and ecosystems, and sites for community education
- rehabilitation of 1.2 hectares of degraded and highly visible endangered River-flat Eucalypt Forest vegetation on the banks of Parramatta River. The site contains culturally significant heritage trees, and is used by the grey-headed flying-fox, a listed vulnerable species. Invasive weed species have been removed and the site enhanced by the planting of 3000 native trees, shrubs and groundcovers
- rehabilitation of an area in the Southern Tablelands that had been farmed intensively since the 1800s. Pockets of rare or threatened remnant vegetation on farms and travelling stock reserves were protected and over 9500 native trees and shrubs were planted to enhance habitat for threatened plants and animals
- restoration of native vegetation along the dunes and headland at Sharky Beach in the Illawarra. Around 20,000 square metres of habitat was weeded to protect an important endangered species found in the area, restoring the integrity of the native vegetation communities and improving their resilience to future change
- protection of the Coastal Saltmarsh endangered ecological community in Wolli Creek. The local community was engaged in protecting and restoring local bushland by forming an additional group of volunteers from Wolli Creek Preservation Society members.

A further two projects that have delivered successful restoration and rehabilitation outcomes are profiled in the following case studies.

Restoration and Rehabilitation outcomes

With many 2010 grants now at or nearing completion it is great to see these grants are generally meeting and in some cases exceeding their projected restoration targets. Grants awarded in 2010 have collectively regenerated 1630 hectares of native plant communities and established 200 hectares of newly planted habitat (Table 1). The outcomes of these grants have enhanced habitat for 21 threatened species and 23 endangered ecological communities including White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodlands, Themeda Grassland on Seaciffs and Coastal Headlands, and Littoral Rainforest. So far over 9300 people have been engaged in project activities exceeding initial projections by over 35 per cent. This includes 2185 volunteers who have contributed over 45,468 hours.

Grantees awarded grants in 2011 submitted their first progress reports in 2013 and appear to be well on their way to meeting program targets. Nearly 50,000 native plants have been planted with a target of around 140,000 at the completion of all projects and nearly 400 hectares have been regenerated. Thirty-five threatened species are expected to benefit from the combined efforts of these projects including the eastern freshwater cod, squirrel glider, yellow-bellied glider, sooty owl, superb parrot and koala. Some 4355 people have been engaged in project activities this year including 916 volunteers who have so far contributed more than 33,000 hours to project activities. Better land management practices have been adopted by 130 organisations or stakeholders; this is already exceeding the projected outcome of 71 organisations.

Table 1

Restoration and Rehabilitation outcomes 2010–11

Project measures	2010 Projected	2010 Actual	2011 Projected	2011 Actual
Threatened species benefitting from the project	29	21	35	19
Endangered ecological communities enhanced or protected	28	23	31	17
Organisations or stakeholders adopting improved land management practices	278	294	71	130
Area regenerated (hectares)	2,093	1,630	1,342	399
Area revegetated (hectares)	202	200	72	18
Number of new plantings	101,119	74,991	140,069	49,998
Number of individuals engaged	6,822	9,327	10,187	4,355
Number of volunteers	2,382	2,185	1261	916
Number of volunteers hours	65,511	45,468	73,029	33,607
Percentage of grants for which data is available	Year 2 progress reports: 93%		Year 1 progress reports: 96%	

■ CASE STUDY

Ridgelines to Rivers

The Tarabandra Hills Ridgelines to Rivers – Riverina Highlands Box Gum project brought together a dedicated group of landholders who have restored 25 hectares of degraded woodland habitat and created nearly 35 hectares of new wildlife habitat across 13 adjoining properties.

These endangered Box–Gum Grassy Woodlands south of Gundagai comprised White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*), Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) and Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*). They had become highly fragmented through land clearing and were recently described as one of the most degraded Box–Gum Grassy Woodlands in New South Wales.

Together, landholders and the community have provided a network of habitat corridors running from the ridgelines of the Tarabandra Hills to the riparian corridors of the Murrumbidgee and Tumut rivers. Landholders have signed 16 landholder agreements developed by the Riverina Highlands Landcare Network. Over 16 kilometres of new fencing has been installed to protect 18,000 new tubestock planted in locations with no remnant bushland.

The Riverina Highlands Landcare Network engaged Landcare NSW, Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Primary Industries to provide technical support. A well-respected local farmer championed the project, and this important local connection encouraged neighbouring landholders to participate. Landholders attended a cross-property planning workshop to better understand the principles of landscape function and connectivity, and then worked together to prioritise sites for action, fill gaps and create linkages across the landscape.

The group evaluated the project every 12 months to discuss how to improve on-ground outcomes and identify gaps, with more landholders becoming involved each year as the benefits of the project became apparent. As a follow-on to the project, the local Landcare nursery now has a regular group of volunteers who supply tubestock for local revegetation works.

Landcare Australia has awarded the group with two years of additional funding to extend the reach of the project, in light of the successes achieved through the Environmental Trust grant.



A participant in the Ridgelines to Rivers project

■ CASE STUDY

Gills Bridge Creek rehabilitation

Gills Bridge Creek is a small tributary of the Macleay River at Kempsey. Despite being degraded by surrounding industrial and urban land uses, the area contains several endangered ecological communities and is home to koalas, sugar gliders, microbats and black cockatoos.

Kempsey Shire Council successfully applied for a Restoration and Rehabilitation grant to build upon the successes of a previous three-year Trust-funded project in the area. Despite delays caused by major flooding, the council has enhanced key habitat values through weed control, bush regeneration and the revegetation of 5860 square metres of the riparian zone.

The first stage of revegetation was completed during a council-organised planting day, with 50 local primary school students planting 350 native tubestock.

Contractors planted a further 300 native tubestock in an area that was not showing signs of natural regeneration. Most of the tubestock were grown by school students at the South Kempsey Community Garden from seed collected within the riparian zone. The remaining plants were sourced from local nurseries using locally collected seed stock, thereby maintaining the genetic integrity of the site.

The final stage of the project involved enhancing habitat for native animals. The council installed seven nest boxes: two for squirrel gliders, three for small parrots and two for possums or black cockatoos. The nest boxes, which include microbat roosts at the base, will assist threatened species and help compensate for the scarcity of natural tree hollows.

In addition, 85 koala food trees propagated at the community nursery from locally collected seed have been planted in strategic locations across the site.

The council has successfully extended weed control to almost 10,000 square metres in adjacent areas, which has enhanced the overall resilience of the project site.

The project has encouraged strong partnerships between Kempsey Council, Macleay Landcare, South Kempsey Community Garden and local schools, and has sparked interest in conducting similar activities along other parts of Gills Bridge Creek.



Local primary school students help in the rehabilitation of Gills Bridge Creek.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants

Each year the competitive Restoration and Rehabilitation Program offers grants of up to \$100,000 to community organisations (total of \$2 million) and government agencies (total of \$2 million) for projects that enhance and restore the environment.

The level of interest in both programs has been growing consistently for the past few years. In particular there has been a steady growth in applications for community grants since the level of funding was increased in 2011,

with 111 applications received in 2013 (compared to 74 in 2012 and 63 in 2011). The level of interest in the state and local government program was also slightly higher than in previous years, with 89 applications received in 2013 (compared to 82 in both 2012 and 2011).

The Trust approved funding for 26 community projects to the value of \$2,002,229 (Table 2). Twenty-five projects were funded in the government program to the value of \$2,036,298 (Table 3).

Table 2

Restoration and Rehabilitation community grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.	Capacity building in provenance issues for restoration	Statewide	\$27,911
Australian River Restoration Centre	Rivers of carbon – Yass River linkages	Yass Valley	\$97,000
Broulee-Mossy Point Dunecare	Controlling the environmental weed threats to Eurobodalla's endangered ecological communities	Eurobodalla	\$99,400
Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.	Broken Head coastal corridor restoration project	Byron	\$98,700
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group Inc.	Targeted remnant linkage enhancement across the Big Scrub	Lismore	\$99,260
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group Inc.	Restoring critically endangered lowland subtropical rainforest	Ballina	\$100,000
Byron Creek Catchment Landcare Group Inc.	Riparian restoration in Byron Creek's upper catchment	Byron	\$49,671
Captains Flat and District Landcare Group	Woody weed removal in upper Molonglo	Palerang	\$99,912
Constables Point Bushcare Group	Restoration of Kurnell Dune Forest at Maianbar	Sutherland	\$16,498
Craigie Park Landcare	Rehabilitation of Craigie Park foreshore swamp oak forest	Wyong	\$56,070
Dirawong Reserve Trust	Beat the bitou at Dirawong Evans Head	Richmond Valley	\$9,016
Dundundra Falls Reserve Trust	Restoration and rehabilitation of riparian zones and Dundundra Falls endangered ecological community	Warringah	\$92,940
EnvITE Inc.	Restoration of Bogal corridors and endangered ecological communities by improving habitat links	Richmond Valley	\$100,000
EnvITE Inc.	Restoration of Newry golden wattle habitat near Bellingen NSW	Bellingen	\$100,000
Friends of Lane Cove National Park	Restoration and rehabilitation of endangered ecological communities on the Lane Cove River	Ryde	\$99,000
Greening Australia - National Office	Revegetating migratory habitat for the regent honeyeater and swift parrot	Wingecarribee	\$86,450
Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group	Glossy black-cockatoo habitat project	Bland	\$43,090
Little River Landcare Group Inc.	Protecting the purple patch	Cabonne	\$99,977

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Maclean Landcare Group Inc.	Maclean forest linkages: high conservation corridors restoration	Clarence Valley	\$99,970
Minyumai Land Holding Aboriginal Corporation	Restoration of floodplain wetland endangered ecological communities at Minyumai Indigenous Protected Area	Richmond Valley	\$86,129
Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve Trust	Stage 2: restoration and rehabilitation Norah Head Headland	Wyong	\$38,435
Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project Inc.	Pambula Wetlands Heritage Project restoration and rehabilitation on Panboola Wetlands	Bega Valley	\$93,070
Riverina Highlands Landcare Network	Paddock trees – restoring the keystone feature of south-west slopes	Tumut	\$51,750
Southern New England Landcare Ltd	Moths, magpies and marsupials – promoting on-farm biodiversity	Armidale-Dumaresq	\$99,898
Upper Molong Creek Landcare Group	Riparian restoration of Upper Molong Creek	Cabonne	\$58,282
Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare Inc.	Wilsons Creek – Huonbrook strategic coral tree management	Byron	\$99,800
Total			\$2,002,229

Table 3

Restoration and Rehabilitation state and local government grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian National University	Restoration for functional connectivity in Box–Gum Woodlands	Statewide	\$71,500
Bathurst Regional Council	Restoring regent honeyeater habitat in the Bathurst region	Bathurst	\$65,510
Bega Valley Shire Council	Bringing Natural Resource Management to town – Bega urban floodplain wetlands restoration	Bega Valley	\$99,400
Blayney Shire Council	Revive! Rehabilitation of the Belubula River at Pound Flat	Blayney	\$54,377
Blue Mountains City Council	Applying water-sensitive urban design at a property scale to protect shale-based endangered ecological communities	Blue Mountains	\$99,000
Byron Shire Council	Byron Bay dwarf graminoid clay heath restoration project	Byron	\$64,166
Byron Shire Council	Land for Wildlife – restoring rainforest in a biodiversity hotspot	Byron	\$99,900
Clarence Valley Council	Stage 1 – Clarence River channels habitat protection and rehabilitation	Clarence Valley	\$94,760
Goldenfields Water County Council	GWCC 500	Bland	\$97,692
Gosford City Council	Restoration of sand dunes at Wamberal, Putty and Umina beaches – Gosford	Gosford	\$94,610
Great Lakes Council	Gereeba Island wetland conservation and restoration project	Great Lakes	\$96,318
Hunter Councils Inc.	Buffering the Worimi conservation lands from external impacts	Port Stephens	\$99,641
Hunter Councils Inc.	On-ground works to regenerate important roadside endangered ecological communities in the Hunter	Port Stephens	\$99,436
Inverell Shire Council	Restoring balance – serrated tussock control in the Upper Macintyre	Inverell	\$32,107

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Ku-ring-gai Council	Stage 1: Ku-ring-gai flying-fox reserve canopy restoration project	Ku-Ring-Gai	\$70,095
Lake Macquarie City Council	Restoring the headwaters of Jewells Wetland	Lake Macquarie	\$83,844
Maitland City Council	Strategic African olive control throughout Maitland NSW	Maitland	\$42,510
Office of Environment and Heritage	Brinerville restoration project	Bellingen	\$100,000
Office of Environment and Heritage	Detection and control of alpine weeds with community engagement	Snowy River	\$98,000
Penrith City Council	Kingswood Park rehabilitation project, North Penrith	Penrith	\$80,000
Pittwater Council	Restoring Pittwater's coastal headland ecosystems	Pittwater	\$100,000
Port Stephens Council	Improving Spotted Gum–Ironbark Forest on public lands at Glen Oak	Port Stephens	\$31,042
Richmond River County Council	Protecting the Richmond	Richmond Valley	\$94,765
Southern Councils Group	Boneseed eradication and biodiversity protection	Various	\$67,881
Water Research Laboratory, University of New South Wales	Stage 3: On-ground remediation works at Tomago Wetlands, Hunter River	Port Stephens	\$99,744
Total			\$2,036,298

Community Bush Regeneration Grants

Since commencing in 2012 the Community Bush Regeneration Program is allowing community groups to work together and strategically tackle restoration programs at a regional scale. This \$10-million program funds large-scale regeneration of degraded bushland, including river banks, urban bushland and degraded waterways. The program allows community groups to achieve enduring environmental outcomes over a longer time frame than is possible under the Restoration and Rehabilitation grant program where funding is awarded for a maximum of three years.

A second component of the program provides funding to the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife to encourage bush regeneration and conservation on private land covered by conservation agreements.

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 plants and animals
- 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 33 large-scale community projects in 2011–12, and one further project in early 2012–13. All of these projects are now two years into their six-year life span. Feedback from grantees indicates the six-year commitment to funding is highly valued and seen as an important way of ensuring long-term and enduring outcomes at the project sites.

During this second year of funding, grantees have removed weeds from a total of 2582 hectares of degraded bushland. In areas where a viable native seed bank was not present, a total of 28,774 tubestock have been planted to restore native habitat. These activities have contributed to the establishment of 58,604 hectares of connected vegetation across terrestrial, riparian and wetland vegetation communities.

The on-ground achievements during this second year of the program have been made possible by the efforts of over 1500 people including 1381 volunteers who have given over 57,000 hours of their time to restoration projects. Funding through this program has also enabled grantees to employ 219 professional contractors who have provided over 32,000 hours toward bush regeneration-related activities.

The progress and outcomes of two successful projects are featured in the following case studies.

Private Land Conservation Program

The Trust has provided the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife with \$2 million to enhance its existing Private Land Conservation Grants Program. Since its inception in 2008 the original grant program has delivered over \$1,000,000 to landholders with conservation covenants on their properties, to help them with the maintenance and enhancement of the valuable natural attributes of their properties. This conservation program is designed to complement the national park system by creating wildlife corridors between national parks and other protected areas to improve their resilience and integrity.

This is the third year of enhanced funding from the Trust. The 2014 funding round attracted 63 applications from private landowners seeking over \$420,000 to improve and protect the biodiversity of their land.

Forty-nine successful projects were announced in June 2014 totalling \$315,646. These grants were made up of the following:

- Thirty-two grantees have in-perpetuity conservation protection agreements on their land and were therefore able to seek up to \$5000 per year for three years.
- Thirteen 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.fnppw.org.au. Of funds requested, 92 per cent will be used for weed management and eradication.

Grants awarded in June 2013 have so far resulted in the regeneration of 161 hectares of bushland, revegetation of 33 hectares using more than 3700 local provenance tubestock plants and weeding of 285 hectares. Landholders have installed more than 5 kilometres of new or upgraded fencing to protect natural areas.

■ CASE STUDY

Deua River riparian restoration project

The Deua River is on the far south coast of New South Wales. Its tributaries flow from the Deua wilderness area, home to a large diversity of plants and animals. However, land disturbances as a result of farming and logging have reduced the resilience of the native bushland and resulted in an invasion of threatening weeds including privet, willow, tree of heaven, blackberry, Cape ivy and Japanese honeysuckle. These weeds pose a threat to the native biodiversity of the region, including loss of habitat and food sources, competition for nutrients and light, and soil instability.

The Trust awarded Deua Rivercare a grant of \$223,993 to restore native riparian plant communities along a 42-kilometre stretch of the riparian zone over a six-year period. Eurobodalla Shire Council has funded a Project Manager to oversee delivery of the grant.

Now progressing into its third year, the project is delivering strong outcomes with 236 hectares of land so far treated for weeds. This is more than 50 per cent of the total project target of 420 hectares of regenerated land. Eighteen volunteers, including 12 new recruits, have joined professional bush regeneration contractors and private landholders who are working together on the project. Native, bank-stabilising vegetation is now beginning to regenerate, thanks to the removal of shallow-rooted weeds which were strangling the deep-rooted native plants such as casuarinas. The treatment of climbing weeds such as Cape ivy is restoring the open forest and allowing a healthy understorey to regenerate, ensuring that animals like the endangered southern brown bandicoot can better find food and suitable nest sites.

In June 2013 Deua Rivercare received the Champions of the catchment award from Eurobodalla Landcare for its work in protecting the Deua River.

'The six-year timeframe gives us the luxury of staging weed control and being selective in how we tackle infestations, rather than doing a blanket sweep with less predictable results. Landholders get to see the results on neighbouring properties, and the reticent ones are more likely to participate.'

Emma Patyus, Project Manager, Eurobodalla Shire Council



Volunteers planting on the banks of the Deua River.

■ CASE STUDY

Enhancing the resilience of endangered ecological communities in South West Rocks

The South West Rocks Dunecare Group is successfully enhancing the resilience of a 12-kilometre stretch of coastline, despite being only two years into their six-year, \$249,000 Community Bush Regeneration project.

The Trust-funded program is helping the group consolidate and expand previously ad hoc weed control projects across a 600-hectare project area containing endangered ecological communities such as Littoral Rainforest and *Themeda* Grassland on Sea Cliffs and Coastal Headlands.

The grant has allowed for 2229 contractor hours to reduce fast-growing and prolifically seeding bitou bush and lantana, in itself an outstanding outcome. Bitou bush is a Weed of National Significance, and covers in excess of 80 per cent of the NSW coastline. The project compliments the NSW threat abatement plan for bitou bush and gives native flora and fauna the chance to reclaim the site.

The group had initially planned to undertake weed control over 45 hectares. In the first two years alone they have treated 242 hectares, thanks largely to their proactive and innovative recruitment program. This includes providing local accommodation for large groups who spend their mornings volunteering and their afternoons enjoying the local coastline.

The Dunecare Group has smashed its target of 95 volunteers and 295 hours worked, with 143 volunteers and a staggering 2414 hours worked. These contributions are delivering significant bush regeneration outcomes within this sensitive coastal site.



South West Rocks Dunecare has so far enhanced 242 hectares of scenic coastline by controlling weeds such as bitou bush and lantana.

'The long-term nature of this project is allowing us to achieve significant environmental benefits. The native vegetation is now more resilient, with sapling and banksia regrowth evident. One of our members has identified 97 bird species, including the glossy black-cockatoo, and we believe this is due in part to the improvements in the health of the endemic vegetation through the removal of invasive weed species.'

Ian Burnett, President of South West Rocks Dunecare

Major Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects

The Trust is currently funding a range of major projects that are consistent with the objectives of the Restoration and Rehabilitation Program. These major grants are provided to projects that fall outside the scope of the contestable grants program. In 2013–14 there were five major projects that were in progress from previous years and one new project relating to climate change that was awarded this year (Table 4).

Weed eradication on Lord Howe Island

This three-year project is helping protect Lord Howe Island's terrestrial ecosystems from the threat of key invasive weeds. The project combines search and control efforts, remote area surveillance, community engagement, project promotion and monitoring.

In its second year of restoration work the project has searched and treated 343 hectares for key invasive weeds, bringing the total area treated to over 700 hectares. Staff funded by the Lord Howe Island Board and the Trust contributed 10,704 hours over 11.5 months, and removed 74,000 weeds. Volunteer support was again strongly demonstrated by the Friends of Lord Howe Island, with paying guests working 1261 hours, four external volunteers working 560 hours and six local residents collectively contributing 176 hours.

The entire island has been divided into a grid system to allow bush regenerators to systematically treat, remove, record and monitor weeds. In line with recognised best practice for eradication programs, the project collects a range of data in order to monitor the effectiveness of the weed eradication efforts and native species recovery. This includes collecting and analysing weed distribution and density mapping from four landscape units to identify areas for treatment; producing permanent photo points; recording the number of weeds removed per life stage and hours of effort; capturing grid search efforts on a GPS track log to report the extent of search efforts and marking GPS waypoints of isolated mature weeds.

Data collected through these methods has demonstrated a dramatic 82 per cent reduction in weed cover and the abundance of mature weeds. In practical terms, 69 juvenile and mature weed plants were encountered by the average weeder per hour in 2005, compared to 12 juvenile and mature weed plants per hour in 2014. This is a clear sign of progress towards eradication.

Following a review of noxious weeds under *Noxious Weeds (Weed Control) Order 2014*, 62 species are now listed as noxious for the Lord Howe Island Control Area. Although around 30 species are very limited in distribution, listing newly emerging or potential weeds before they become widespread is an important early intervention action identified as a priority action in the *2007 Lord Howe Island Biodiversity Management Plan*.

Steep and remote terrain such as the north face of Mount Gower remains a challenge. The loss of helicopter services in the second year of the project has limited surveillance, search and control in remote areas, however, alternative helicopter services are being investigated.

The program is now at a critical stage and it is crucial that efforts are sustained to provide long-term protection. As an island ecosystem of local and global significance, the success of the Lord Howe Island weed program to date is heartening, and is an informative example for other island communities facing similar challenges.



The Lord Howe Island weed team are using digital technology to map and monitor their weed eradication efforts.

Rodent eradication on Lord Howe Island

This project aims to remove the last introduced predators on Lord Howe Island through a comprehensive baiting program. Ship rats have been on Lord Howe Island for nearly 100 years and house mice for over 150 years. Both species are having a major impact on the island's species and ecosystems.

Ship rats are implicated in the extinction of at least five endemic bird species and at least 13 invertebrates, as well as disrupting natural processes by predated up to 100 per cent of the seeds of some tree species. Rats on Lord Howe Island are recognised as a key threatening process under both NSW and Commonwealth legislation.

Captive management trials on Lord Howe Island woodhen and currawong have been completed by Taronga Zoo because these two endemic species are recognised as being at high risk from baiting. Twenty woodhen and 10 currawong were taken into captive management, held for three months, and then released back into the wild in good condition.

Staff from OEH Science Division have undertaken toxin resistance trials on the island to confirm that the proposed toxin, Brodifacoum, will work as required. The trials found that while the rats showed no significant tolerance, it would take approximately five times a normal lethal dose to kill the mice. As this tolerance is genetic, it will only increase with the ongoing use of the rodenticides which are currently being used on the island, making the current eradication program even more crucial. The tolerance exhibited by the mice means that bait will need to be made available to every mouse for a longer period than would otherwise have been required.

While it was originally planned to carry out the eradication baiting in winter 2015 an unexpected level of opposition from some of the island's 350 residents has required some revision to the project and additional community consultation

will occur in 2014–15. A higher level of community support is required for this eradication than for most other eradication projects because it is vital to have access to all properties and ongoing support to prevent reinvasion.

To accommodate the community concerns, the project was formally split into two stages in 2013–14. Stage 1 comprises community consultation along with improving the island's biosecurity system, which is a priority regardless of whether the eradication proceeds or not. Stage 2 will involve the implementation of the baiting and eradication program, and will only proceed if the consultation process is successful in raising community support to the required level.

Independent community consultation specialists will undertake the additional community consultation to identify the main issues and work with the community to find ways to manage them. The consultation process aims to deliver factually correct information on both the risks and impacts of doing the eradication, as well as on the implications of not doing it, so that residents can make an informed decision on the project.

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

This project is delivering comprehensive regional-scale mapping of native vegetation communities across New South Wales and improving the existing NSW plant community types classification through a process of review and refinement. The maps produced through this project will provide information that directly supports the NSW Government's understanding of the nature of vegetation across the State and will help it to determine priorities for conservation and investment.

The coastal and tableland bioregions of New South Wales are the areas that are under the most pressure for economic development and land-use change. Historically these regions have a large amount of vegetation data, however, it tends to be geographically disjunct, overlapping and of variable quality. This project has already completed the mapping and classification of all the coastal and adjoining tablelands regions. This information is currently being collated and analysed into a database to ensure consistency.

Survey work this year has focused on western New South Wales and the upper Murray region. The western bioregions suffer from a lack of suitable vegetation data, and achieving a fully quantitatively defined set of plant community types will require long-term ongoing effort to increase the amount and representativeness of vegetation data. This project has so far completed over 1861 rapid field surveys and 437 full floristic surveys to fill data gaps in these regions.

The Vegetation Information System 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 being transferred into the system. New floristic data has been loaded for the North Coast, Namoi, Gwydir, Central West and Lachlan regions. Work has also commenced on a web viewer and map-edit tagging to support internal and external map review.

Eighty per cent of the work has now been completed for western and coastal bioregions and 50 per cent for the South Eastern Highlands and Australian Alps bioregions.

Jenolan Caves

Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust has replaced almost a kilometre of old galvanised steel hand railings in the show cave system with stainless steel. The galvanised steel was having a detrimental impact on both cave formations and cave biota through the leaching of toxic chemicals and rust staining. Stainless steel is a non-reactive material that is resistant to corrosion within the caves and is expected to have a life span of more than 50 years. The replacement of the galvanised steel is nearing completion, with work due to be completed in November 2014.

The new stable stainless steel hand railings not only protect the sensitive cave environment but also eliminate the ongoing costs of maintaining the infrastructure and mitigating the impacts on the cave system. It is estimated this would have had a cumulative cost in excess of \$700,000 over the next 10 years.

Maintenance savings have been redirected into a 10-year environmental offset program that will allow the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust to undertake weed management in and around the cave's systems, as well as other environmental projects such as the installation of energy-efficient lighting to reduce energy consumption and heat impacts on the cave formations.

Some funds will also be used to enhance the cave's education program. Conservation principles and environmental education will be delivered to a broad audience through online media and existing interpretive activities to promote behavioural change. The education program is expected to engage with more than 200,000 visitors annually.



New stainless steel railings in the Jenolan Caves.

Snowy River rehabilitation stage 2

This year the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority underwent a structural transition into South East Local Land Services. While the transition resulted in some delays to works, this second year of the project has continued to build on existing mechanisms and networks to support local groups in achieving outcomes for the Snowy River. Building productive relationships based on trust has been a focus this year, particularly providing a continuity of service and information with groups and individuals during this time of change.

Favourable autumn planting conditions allowed the project to catch up on all of the Year 1 revegetation targets (not achieved due to wet conditions) as well as exceeding the original projected area of planting for Year 2. Five riparian sites covering 5.5 hectares were revegetated with native trees and shrubs, including a substantial reach of 1.2 kilometres of river bank on one property.

The Stage 2 rehabilitation project has strengthened its connection with riverfront landholders as the visual impacts of the environmental flows become more apparent and the releases from Jindabyne Dam are sustained throughout the year. Existing community partnerships have continued and a number of new project partnerships have been established. The Platypus Pals Initiative is a community monitoring program that has begun with the support of the University of Canberra, Bombala Council and the Australian Platypus Conservancy. The NPWS Adventurous Volunteer program is engaging with local paddling and outdoor groups to carry out follow-up riparian weed control work. Local school children and the school community participated in the project through bug watch and a platypus talk, which was greatly enjoyed by the children.

A breeding trial for river blackfish has begun, as well as a habitat preference survey for this reclusive native fish. The river blackfish project, which works with NSW Fisheries, includes a whole-of-catchment focus with East Gippsland in Victoria supporting the NSW efforts.

Australian bass fingerlings were again released into the lower reaches of the Snowy River between the locality of Paupong and the Pinch River. Previous releases which began in 2007 appear to be supporting a healthy bass population, with anglers and riverfront property owners reporting catch and release of bass right up into Beloka Gorge.

Building resilience to climate change

This year the Trust awarded \$500,000 in funding for OEH to develop and deliver a devolved grants program to address regional and sectoral climate risks and vulnerabilities in New South Wales.

The project aims to build resilience to climate change by helping key industries and communities to make informed decisions and implement actions that minimise financial losses, address threats and capture opportunities posed by a changing climate. Early planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in local communities will reduce long-term economic, social and environmental costs.

The grant program will provide grants of up to \$80,000 and will be managed by Local Government NSW on behalf of OEH. Activities eligible for funding include implementing adaptive strategies, incorporating climate data into adaptive management frameworks or building regional capacity to implement adaptation. Round 1 of the grants program opened in August 2014.

Local government has been identified as a key player in climate change adaptation. The grant program will address the constraints of local government in implementing adaptation actions by providing funding for the implementation of options or treatment of climate risks. This will increase adaptive capacity skills and knowledge within the NSW local government sector and promote local government collaboration and coordination, by encouraging regional or sectoral alliances.

Table 4

Major Restoration and Rehabilitation project awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Office of Environment and Heritage	Building resilience to climate change	Various	\$500,000
Total			\$500,000

Protecting Our Places Grants

Since 2002 the Protecting Our Places (POP) Program has been providing Aboriginal organisations with the opportunity to apply for funding to support projects that:

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

The Trust currently allocates \$500,000 per year for the POP Program with grants of up to \$35,000 available. The program received 39 applications in 2013–14, significantly more than in recent years, seeking \$1,243,866 worth of funding. The Trust awarded 16 grants in principle totalling \$497,327. One applicant later withdrew, leaving the Trust funding a total of 15 grants worth \$492,327 (Table 5).

Recipients of the 2013–14 grants have estimated their projects will rehabilitate or restore approximately 190 hectares of land of which 15 hectares are designated as Aboriginal-owned or culturally sensitive land. The projects are expected to deliver 46 training events and generate some 118 educational products with over 1500 people sharing or receiving traditional knowledge and Caring for Country.

Ten workshops were held across New South Wales and four webinars were offered before the close of applications for the 2014–15 grants program in May 2014. These workshops and webinars attracted over 50 participants, providing them with information on how to submit an application.

Table 5

Protecting our Places grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Dharriwaa Elders Group Incorporated	Walgett Caring for Country walk	Walgett	\$34,245
Gugin Guddaba Local Aboriginal Land Council	Restoring the biodiversity of 'Nyarelin', Carwongla Waterhole	Kyogle	\$28,119
Gully Traditional Owners, The	Riparian weed control in an Aboriginal Place in Katoomba – The Gully	Blue Mountains	\$35,000
Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council	Brobenah Winhangara	Narrandera	\$34,884
Madhima Gulgan Community Association Inc.	Restoration works to trail and bora rings at Billinudgel Nature Reserve	Byron	\$34,982
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council	Protecting our bush from bikes	Warringah	\$30,000
Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation	Mayinygu Marragu weed project	Lithgow	\$35,000
Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council	Building on riparian restoration works in Mogo	Eurobodalla	\$34,975
Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council	Banyam-Baigham revegetation project of Zone 3	Lismore	\$35,000
Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council	Tucki Tucki environmental restoration project	Lismore	\$35,000
South West Rocks Aboriginal Corporation	Protecting cultural sites amongst the sand dunes of Smoky Beach	Kempsey	\$35,000
Tweed/Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council	Engaging the Aboriginal community in Fingal Spit restoration works	Tweed	\$34,992
Waduayn Gunggu Barrunggin	Wurruyi Bandu (bush food)	Kempsey	\$34,980
Wiradjuri Wellington Town Common Committee (Aboriginal Corporation)	Wellington restoration and rehabilitation	Wellington	\$20,000
Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Halt the advancing pine army on the western front	Port Stephens	\$30,150
Total			\$492,327

Achievements from two of the POP projects completed in 2013–14 include:

- restoration of more than 50,000 square metres of degraded land to control noxious and threatening weeds at Clybucca Historic Site. The project has restored an area of degraded farmland back to its original cultural landscape and educated the community about the connection and significance of the site to Aboriginal people
- research and production of a richly illustrated book on traditional bush medicines of the Illawarra region. An accompanying teachers guide is helping school students to learn about the value of these plants to indigenous Australians (see case study).

Projects that were awarded grants in 2010 have so far rehabilitated or restored approximately 15 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land which has been enhanced by the planting of 4890 native trees, shrubs and groundcovers (Table 6). Over 1000 people have participated in training or other events designed to raise awareness, and 86 partnerships have been formed with community or government organisations (far exceeding the 28 partnerships that were originally expected).

Grant recipients from 2011 have so far restored or rehabilitated 103 hectares of Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land and planted over 3200 plants. More than 22,000 people have participated in the giving or receiving of traditional Aboriginal knowledge.

Table 6

Protecting our Places outcomes 2010–11

Project measures	2010 Projected	2010 Actual	2011 Projected	2011 Actual
Area of Aboriginal/culturally significant land restored or rehabilitated (hectares)	22	15	284	103
People sharing traditional Aboriginal knowledge	1,143	837	36,570	22,670
Area regenerated (hectares)	21	15	271	19
Number of plantings	6,200	4,890	8,125	3,227
Training and awareness events	140	48	194	83
Number of event participants	1,084	1,048	750	941
Number of partnerships	28	86	17	21
Percentage of grant data submitted to date	Year 2 progress reports: 80%		Year 1 progress reports: 94%	

■ CASE STUDY

Bush medicines of the Illawarra

Much of the knowledge about bush medicines in south-east Australia has been lost over the past 200 years. A Protecting Our Places grant enabled Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation to produce an engaging, 131-page full colour book on the traditional medical uses of common plants in the Illawarra region and to educate the community and school students about the value of these plants to indigenous Australians.

Author Terry Rankmore and the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation worked closely with a local Dharawal language expert and a local botanist to ensure the cultural and scientific accuracy of the book. The book contains the botanical and family names of plants as well as the Dharawal name. Fine attention to detail has ensured that the book is a valuable historical document detailing Aboriginal plant science, and records an important cultural interpretation of Australian native plants.

One thousand copies of *Bush Medicine Plants of the Illawarra* have been distributed to local schools, libraries and community groups. A digital copy is available on the Shellharbour City Council website. Thanks to high quality photographs and excellent graphic design, the book is a beautiful and easy-to-use guide to bush medicine.

Bush Medicine Plants of the Illawarra is complemented by an accompanying Teachers Guide, which introduces teachers to the complexities of medical ethno-botany and helps them engage their students with the content. The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation worked with the Illawarra

Environmental Education Centre to develop three teacher workshops, with 84 attendees. The *Teachers Guide* and accompanying workshops have ensured that *Bush Medicine Plants of the Illawarra* is a living scientific, cultural and educational resource.

As part of the grant agreement, the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation also worked with Shellharbour City Council and Blackbutt Bushcare volunteers to revegetate a degraded area. Council's bush regeneration team prepared a vacant site at Oak Flats and the community and schools planted 5450 native trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses during National Tree Days in 2011, 2012 and 2013, more than doubling the original target.

One thousand copies of Bush Medicine Plants of the Illawarra have been distributed across the Illawarra community.



Contaminated Land Management Program

Contaminated sites are usually a historical legacy of poor waste management and industry practices from the past. They can pose a major risk to human health and the environment. Unless they are effectively managed with controls, they can be a source of ongoing pollution of aquifers and waterways, degrade habitats, preclude beneficial use of natural resources, prevent the development of land and threaten water security.

The Contaminated Land Management Program allows for the remediation of contaminated sites that may pose a major risk to human health and the environment. The program has three components, the Innocent Owners Program, the Council Gasworks Program and the Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Program. Up to \$2 million was available in 2013–14 to investigate and remediate contaminated sites. The Trust awarded \$900,000 in grants across the Contaminated Land Management Program (Table 7).

The Trust has approved funding for a further three years for the Contaminated Land Management Program making funding now available until 2017. The Trust has been providing funding support to the program since 2001 and is committed to providing financial assistance for the remediation of significant contamination. The new funding for 2014–17 will be expanded to include education and prevention programs that will focus on capacity building for regional councils and landowners responsible for contaminated sites.

Innocent Owners Program

The Innocent Owners Program assists owners of land who have unwittingly found themselves legally responsible for contamination when they had no knowledge that the land was contaminated prior to purchase. Grantees have no previous association with the polluting activities on the land, and it is often the case that the polluter who caused the contamination cannot be found or is unable to fund the required site remediation.

This year there were no requests for funding and so no grants were awarded.

Council Gasworks Program

The operation of former gas manufacturing plants throughout New South Wales has left a legacy of contamination in soil and groundwater and, in several cases, adjoining sites. The Council Gasworks Program typically assists regional councils to remediate former gasworks sites which present the greatest risk of harm to human health or the environment. Trust funding assists councils with investigating and remediating works which mitigate the harm from serious contamination.

To date this program has funded 38 grants totalling more than \$7 million. This year the program awarded \$500,000 to Wagga Wagga City Council for remediation of a degraded drainage line on a property adjacent to the former Wagga Wagga gasworks.

Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Pilot Program

Underground petroleum storage sites comprise approximately half of all contaminated land notified to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under the *NSW Contaminated Land Management Act 1997*. The Underground Petroleum Storage Systems Pilot Program began in 2011 to investigate and remediate derelict rural underground petroleum storage systems. The program also seeks to identify the possible solutions for a range of sites in different settings and circumstances with the objective of developing a statewide solution for managing derelict underground petroleum storage systems. To date 10 local councils have participated in this program and 50 sites have been investigated with five remediation projects being funded.

In 2013–14 two grants were awarded. One will fund the second stage of preliminary investigations by the EPA while the other will fund remediation of five contaminated sites managed by Gunnedah Shire Council.

Table 7

Contaminated Land Management Program grants awarded in 2013–14

Program	Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Council Gasworks	Wagga Wagga City Council	Remediation of Wagga Wagga Gasworks creek line	Wagga Wagga	\$500,000
Innocent Owners				\$0
Underground Petroleum Storage Systems	Environment Protection Authority	Stage 2 preliminary investigation UPSS Pilot Program	Various	\$200,000
	Gunnedah Shire Council	Remediation of five sites in Gunnedah LGA	Gunnedah	\$200,000
Total				\$900,000
Program administration costs	Environment Protection Authority	Contaminated Land Management Program administration costs		\$290,000

Pollution Clean-up Programs

Councils and other land managers can apply to the Trust's Pollution Clean-up programs where the polluter cannot be identified, or where there is uncertainty about the prospect of clean-up costs being paid for by the responsible party. Nominated officers from the NSW EPA have the power to approve spending of Trust funds under these programs.

In February 2014 the Trust's long-running Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program was replaced by two separate programs, one for emergency pollution and one for asbestos and other orphan waste. This year the Trust also approved a new emergency clean-up procedure to assist with large-scale pollution incidents.

Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program

The Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program (formerly the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program) provides up to \$500,000 each year for the removal, dispersal or mitigation of emergency pollution events.

Thirty-five payments were made in 2013–14 to address emergency pollution incidents with a total value of \$198,759 (Table 8). This included 18 payments for illegally dumped asbestos that were granted prior to the start of the new asbestos clean-up program in February 2014.

Twelve payments totalling \$121,146 were provided for the collection and disposal of firewater caused by a fire at a waste-handling facility at Chester Hill. Further funding for this incident was provided to the EPA under the Trust's new large-scale emergency pollution clean-up procedure.

Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up Program

In recent years the Trust has provided a high number of payments through the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program for the clean-up of dumped asbestos. In September 2012 the Trust agreed to establish a separate program to address this issue funded through the Waste and Environment Levy. This program commenced in February 2014 and provides up to \$500,000 each year. For the period July 2013 to January 2014 asbestos grants continued to be approved through the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program.

The Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up Program provides for the removal and management of illegally dumped asbestos. Funds may be provided for clean-up actions including sampling, analysis and identification of waste; assessments of risk to human health or the environment; and removal, storage and disposal of the waste.

During 2013–14 there were 48 payments approved for the clean-up of asbestos and other orphan waste. Eighteen of these payments with a total value of \$59,938 were paid from the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program (Table 8) while an additional 29 grants totalling \$186,037 were funded under the new asbestos program (Table 9).

Guidelines for the Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up Program were released in January 2014 and are available on the Trust's website.

Table 8

Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up payments in 2013–14

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program (July 2013 – January 2014)			
Blacktown City Council	Asbestos – Park Road, Marsden Park	Mar 12	\$9,951.60
Blacktown City Council	Asbestos – Petal Parkway, The Ponds	Aug 12	\$17,446.30
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Orphan waste – Tranquil Bay Place, Rosedale	Feb 13	\$4,425.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Arrawatta Close, Edensor Park	Jul 13	\$836.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Baragoola Street, Fairfield West	Jul 13	\$826.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Cecil Road, Cecil Park	Mar 13	\$1,472.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Hurstville Street, St Johns Park	Jul 13	\$936.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Kamira Circuit, Villawood	Jul 13	\$973.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Kosovich Place, Horsley Park	Mar 13	\$876.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Kurrara Street, Lansvale	Aug 13	\$1,140.00

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Larra Street, Yennora	May 13	\$2,030.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – The Promenade, Yennora	May 13	\$2,100.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Asbestos – West Portland Road, Lower Portland	Sep 12	\$6,156.00
Liverpool City Council	Asbestos – Blamfield Oval Community Centre, Cartwright Avenue, Sadler	Jan 13	\$690.90
Liverpool City Council	Asbestos – Childs Avenue, Chipping Norton	Mar 13	\$630.00
Liverpool City Council	Asbestos – Heathcote Road, Holsworthy	Apr 13	\$1,080.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Bells Line of Road, Blue Mountains National Park	Sep 12	\$7,550.00
Penrith City Council	Asbestos – Fire Trail Road, Londonderry	Jun 12	\$2,904.90
Strathfield Municipal Council	Asbestos – Courallie Avenue, Homebush West	Aug 13	\$2,340.00
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Orphan waste – firewater – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Jan 13	\$12,448.10
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Orphan waste – firewater – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Jan 13	\$3,155.00
Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program (February – June 2014)			
Enviromanage Systems Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$16,932.50
Forestry Corporation of NSW	Orphan waste – Ridge Road, Orara West State Forest	Jan 14	\$2,639.55
Great Lakes Council	Orphan waste – The Lakes Way, Tuncurry	Jun 13	\$8,000.00
Sita Environmental Solutions	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$42,987.87
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Chemical spill – Walu Avenue, Halekulani	Sep 13	\$1,561.17
Transpacific Industrial Solutions	Drums – Woodpark Road, Smithfield	Nov 13	\$1,048.80
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$3,168.40
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$11,824.00
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$6,885.60
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$3,178.00
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$6,144.80
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$3,017.20
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$8,838.80
Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd	Fire water – Miller Road, Chester Hill	Feb 14	\$2,566.00
Total			\$198,759

Table 9

Illegally Dumped Asbestos Clean-up grants awarded in 2013–14 (February – June 2014)

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
City of Ryde	Asbestos – Meadow Park near Adelaide Road, Meadowbank	May 13	\$4,635.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Abbotsbury Drive, Horsley Park	Jun 13	\$2,016.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Chandos Road, Horsley Park	Aug 13	\$1,068.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Market Street, Smithfield	Jul 13	\$692.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Makepeace Oval, Vine Street, Fairfield	Aug 13	\$1,128.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Prospect Road, Canley Vale	Mar 14	\$2,976.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos – Tangerine Street, Villawood	Aug 13	\$1,140.00
Forestry Corporation of NSW	Asbestos – Vulcan, Hampton and Jenolan state forests	unknown	\$6,392.00
Gosford City Council	Asbestos – Old Pacific Highway, Mount White	Apr 13	\$16,860.15
Gosford City Council	Asbestos – various streets in Woy Woy	Dec 13	\$22,548.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Asbestos – Breakaway Cricket Fields, Freemans Reach	Nov 13	\$1,560.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Asbestos – Oakford Place, Grose Wold	Apr 13	\$1,600.00
Lake Macquarie City Council	Asbestos – Freemans Drive, Freemans Waterhole	Feb 14	\$9,097.00
Lake Macquarie City Council	Asbestos – Hawke Mount Road, Dora Creek	Dec 13	\$8,262.80
Lake Macquarie City Council	Asbestos – Rosina Road and Wakefield Road, Wakefield	Jan 14	\$21,747.40
Liverpool City Council	Asbestos – Bapaume Road, Moorebank	Nov 13	\$2,610.00
Liverpool City Council	Asbestos – Corner York and Wattle roads, Casula	Mar 13	\$910.00
Liverpool City Council	Asbestos – Rickard Road, Chipping Norton	Oct 13	\$22,870.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Abermain Fire Trail, Werakata State Conservation Area	May 13	\$963.64
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Abermain Fire Trail, Werakata National Park	Jun 13	\$1,740.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Archery East Road and Wakefield Road, Sugarloaf State Conservation Area	Jul 13	\$2,500.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Archery Road and Wakefield Road, Sugarloaf State Conservation Area	5 March and 13 April 2013	\$13,127.26
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Meroo and Conjola national parks	May 13	\$4,310.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Montiflore Street, Catherine Hill Bay	Jan 14	\$12,425.00
Office of Environment & Heritage	Asbestos – Pelton Trail, Werakata State Conservation Area	May 13	\$2,700.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Pelton and Boundary Trail, Werakata State Conservation Area	Aug 13	\$1,200.00
Office of Environment and Heritage	Asbestos – Sugarloaf Range Road, Sugarloaf State Conservation Area	Oct 12	\$10,068.18
Port Stephens Council	Asbestos – Deimars Road, Salamander Bay	Feb 14	\$7,281.00
Strathfield Municipal Council	Asbestos – Madeline Street, Strathfield South	Sep 13	\$1,610.00
Total			\$186,037

Large Scale Emergency Pollution Clean-up Grants

In May 2013 the Trust approved the trial of a new funding procedure to respond to large-scale emergency pollution events requiring containment or clean-up, beyond the financial scope of the Trust's Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program (EPCUP). It allows for the release of funds of up to \$2 million to deal with such emergency situations.

The procedure was activated in March 2014, when the EPA sought a total of \$2 million in funding to arrange for

the removal and disposal of waste from a waste facility at Chester Hill as a result of a fire (Table 10). The funding covered the costs associated with the clean-up of the site after 1 April 2014. Some costs incurred before that date associated with the collection of contaminated fire water from the site were claimed under the Trust's Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program (see Table 8).

The EPA will be pursuing cost recovery from the polluter or occupier, or both, and any reimbursement received will be returned to the Trust.

Table 10

Large Scale Emergency Pollution Clean-up grant awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Environment Protection Authority	Chester Hill Waste Facility	Bankstown	\$2,000,000
Total			\$2,000,000

Environmental Education Program

The Environmental Education Program provides competitive grants to community groups and state and local government organisations for projects that change behaviours, promote environmental learning and address specific environmental problems through education. The program builds community skills and knowledge in environmental management by funding a range of educational projects that can demonstrate positive environmental outcomes.

Achievements

Twenty-one environmental education projects concluded this year. Some of the notable achievements are highlighted below.

- a multi-faceted biodiversity training program that has educated landholders, community groups and schools in Byron Shire about managing and protecting local ecosystems
- a series of sustainability workshops and community forums on climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation; the project has had exceptional results in improving strategic planning on climate change and building the capacity of local government to engage residents in decision-making
- development and launch of a sustainable certification tool for the early learning sector which will be embedded within the National Quality Standards for Early Years
- a sustainability project that has increased the production and consumption of locally grown food in the Southern Highlands while promoting environmental sustainability and health
- a community guide and workshops to educate the community about the mining industry in NSW and how to engage with regulators and mining companies to achieve more sustainable environmental outcomes

- an education strategy targeting recreational boaters and fishers to encourage sustainable behaviour that will protect coastal and marine areas
- establishment of a trained incident response network along the NSW coast for rescuing native animals affected by oil spills. The network of trained volunteers enhances the capacity of wildlife organisations that provide support under the State Disaster Plan incident control system
- a Marine Park education kit for primary school students which links to the NSW curriculum and promotes care of the NSW marine environment.

Two further projects that have successfully achieved their environmental outcomes are highlighted in the following case studies.

Environmental Education outcomes

The progress reports from Environmental Education grants awarded in 2010 show that collectively these projects have exceeded all of the major education outcomes they set out to achieve (Table 11). Projects from 2010 have together engaged nearly 16,800 people in workshops and other events that raise environmental awareness, far exceeding the initial projection of 9480 people. Over 6300 school and tertiary students have been involved in educational activities, again almost double the initial projections. Collectively these students have spent 8180 hours involved in environmental projects. Grantees have established 260 partnerships with community and government organisations and spread their environmental messages through 190 educational products.

Grant projects awarded in 2011 are also close to achieving their projected outcomes with 562 events having been held to date (and at least 596 expected once all projects are complete). At least 619 educational products have been delivered and 214 partnerships established (already exceeding the 180 initially expected).

Table 11

Environmental Education outcomes 2010–11

Project measures	2010 Projected	2010 Actual	2011 Projected	2011 Actual
Number of training events	384	399	596	562
Number of people trained	9,480	16,788	2,950	3,549
Number of education products	150	190	636	619
Number of volunteers	180	270	254	238
Number of volunteer hours	3,423	4,020	4126	3074
Number of students (primary, secondary, tertiary)	3,658	6,377	1143	670
Number of student hours	8,066	8,180	4,556	15,681
Number of partnerships with community/government	172	260	180	214
Percentage of grant data submitted to date	Year 2 progress reports: 86%		Year 1 progress reports: 80%	

■ CASE STUDY

Managing vegetation in travelling stock reserves

Travelling stock reserves (TSRs) are areas of Crown land that play an important role as supplementary grazing areas in times of drought, bushfire and flood. TSRs have been an integral part of rural Australia for more than 150 years and are often home to remnant vegetation communities.

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) was awarded a Trust grant to improve biodiversity conservation on TSRs, focusing particularly on White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland, an endangered ecological community. The ANPC developed a series of six, two-day workshops to train rangers and other land managers in managing remnant native vegetation within TSRs. They consulted rangers on their training needs and developed the content in consultation with 42 experts from a range of agencies who presented sessions during the workshops.

The workshops were held around the state and included two comprehensive course modules on remnant vegetation management and plant identification. Field visits to Box-Gum Woodland sites were an important addition to the theoretical and practical activities covered.

Registrations were slow in the first year, so the ANPC broadened the workshop to include remnant vegetation in general to expand the range of potential attendees. After the fourth workshop, the ANPC realised that many TSR managers struggled with plant identification and find this a major barrier to effective management. In response, they shifted the focus of the workshops to plant identification and experienced a considerable increase in attendance during the last two workshops, particularly for the target audience of TSR rangers.

In total, 179 staff from Local Land Services, local government, NSW Rural Fire Service, Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Primary Industries, various community groups and consulting companies completed the training.

The second module on plant identification in Box-Gum Woodland communities has been particularly successful and the ANPC plans to further extend the delivery of this module into other areas of Australia in 2014.



Field visit to a Box-Gum Woodland community on a TSR near Guyra

■ CASE STUDY

Supporting the health of the Great Lakes through sustainable business practices

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Trust, Great Lakes Shire Council has helped 34 local businesses to reduce resource use, save money and help the environment.

Through a savvy marketing campaign including face-to-face visits, local media coverage and sustainable business partner branding, Great Lakes Shire Council has encouraged a time-poor business community to embrace sustainability.

The council arranged energy assessments for participating businesses through OEH's Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program. This, along with water and waste assessments, provided a snapshot of businesses' current resource consumption. The council used this data to help each business develop an action plan tailored to their premises and operations.

The council maintained regular contact with businesses to encourage them to implement their action plans, and provided on-site assistance in recycling methods to deliver better resource recovery. Business owners turned out in force at a number of council sustainability workshops on topics such as Greening Your Supply Chain and Green Marketing.

Businesses smashed the original target of a five per cent reduction in energy and water use. Instead they achieved a 23 per cent reduction in energy use and a 19 per cent reduction in water. Businesses reduced their waste by between 5 and 14 per cent, considering variations caused by business type. Over 340 individual sustainable actions have been implemented as a result of the project, and as an additional benefit, eight businesses have undergone refits through the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program.

The project has achieved fantastic results in a short period and with relatively little funding. Importantly, it is well regarded by business owners and the community and the project was Highly Commended in the Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards.

The council has produced 15 YouTube videos profiling participating businesses, and is continuing the momentum through the Great Lakes Sustainable Business Magazine and by sponsoring the Forster Tuncurry Chamber of Commerce Environmental Sustainability award. As well as recruiting new participants to the program, these communication channels are showcasing the work of existing participants and helping to continue the positive environmental impact of the project for the Great Lakes business community.



Tea Gardens Club Inn is embracing sustainability through the Great Lakes Sustainable Business Program.

Environmental Education Grants

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

- 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 2013–14, with \$500,000 available to community organisations and \$500,000 available to government entities.

The Trust received 185 expressions of interest for the Environmental Education Program, 121 of which were from community organisations. Thirty-eight organisations were

invited to submit full applications. 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.

Nine community projects were funded for a total of \$442,787 (Table 12) and eight government projects were funded for a total of \$481,552 (Table 13).

It is anticipated that grant projects awarded this year will provide training for almost 10,000 people through some 1064 different training events. This includes education initiatives involving around 5200 school students and 410 tertiary students. Grantees expect to generate 85 educational products and publications.

Table 12

Environmental Education community grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
1 Million Women	1 Million Women NSW community network	Sydney City	\$78,400
Australian Hairdressing Council Limited	Sustainable Salons	Statewide	\$54,000
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc.	Changing domestic dog owners' behaviour to save shorebirds	Various	\$53,140
Centre for Sustainability Leadership	Regional environmental leaders program	Statewide	\$50,000
Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	Brush-tailed rock-wallaby: growing resilience in our local community	Shoalhaven	\$47,240
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Tadpole kits for schools program	Various	\$12,450
NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN)	Eco smart for family day care	Statewide	\$29,980
Take 3 Inc.	Take 3 surf life-saving initiative – 'sand soldiers' program	Statewide	\$68,028
Youth Express Association Inc.	Woodberry community, culture and caring	Maitland	\$49,549
Total			\$442,787

Table 13

Environmental Education state and local government grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust	Bush OOSH - a pilot study of bush schools for OOSH groups	Various	\$76,400
GreenWay Program	Implementing the GreenWay primary schools sustainability program	Various	\$19,750
Queanbeyan City Council	Engaging Googong in sustainable housing	Queanbeyan	\$99,758
Rous Water	Hands on for H2O - our water lab	Various	\$24,548
Southern Cross University	Climate change and me: empowering children and young people	Various	\$74,903
University of Western Sydney	Bee aware of your native bees	Various	\$58,693
Waverley Council	Join the energy revolution	Various	\$40,000
Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)	Advancing sustainability leaders	Various	\$87,500
Total			\$481,552

Eco Schools Grants



The Eco Schools Program offers small contestable grants of \$2500 that give schools the opportunity to incorporate environmental projects and outcomes into their school curriculum. The program encourages strong student involvement and the development of links with the wider community to address environmental issues within the school grounds or the local community.

With kitchen gardens now covered by the Food Gardens Program, 2012–13 Eco Schools grantees achieved a diverse range of environmental outcomes this year including:

- new native garden beds to enhance school grounds and biodiversity habitat at Bonnyrigg High School, Forestville Public School, Herons Creek Public School, Maitland Grossmann High School and Wollondilly Public School
- the design and construction of outdoor learning areas at Lindfield East Public School and Maroota Public School
- a new bush tucker garden and outdoor classroom for learning about Aboriginal culture at Mannering Park Public School
- bush regeneration of remnant forest at St Philips Christian College Cessnock and a degraded creek line at Pleasant Heights Public School
- regeneration of a dusty oval at Manly Vale Public School into a new sustainable sports field with automatic irrigation system, water tanks and ongoing student monitoring of water use, solar energy production and lawn and soil health
- survey, enhancement and monitoring of koala habitat within the grounds of Soldiers Point Public School (see case study)
- new green waste recycling and composting facilities at St Josephs Regional College at Port Macquarie and St Michaels Primary School at Thirroul
- the establishment of an Enviro Club at Wyong High School to assist with caring for the school grounds and plant propagation.

Grants awarded in 2013–14

Last year there was a significant reduction in applications due to the commencement of the Food Gardens in Schools program. However, this year the level of interest in the Eco Schools Program again returned to that of previous years. The Trust received 134 Eco Schools applications (double the number received in 2012–13), requesting a total of \$335,000 in funding. Although only 60 grants were offered initially, the Trust recognised this strong demand and awarded an additional 20 grants, resulting in 80 projects totalling \$200,000 being approved (Table 14).

Eco Schools grants awarded in 2013–14 are expected to involve over 9800 primary school students and nearly 1700 high school students, who will together spend around 34,000 hours engaged in environmental learning. Teachers are planning to develop or update around 260 teaching modules to support environmental learning while student activities will result in the regeneration or replanting of over 62,000 square metres of habitat and measurable improvements in water use and waste disposal.

The Trust published further case studies and best practice guidelines on its website to coincide with the opening of the 2014 round of Eco Schools grants. New resources were developed to help schools to implement the National Curriculum in 2014. 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. It also showcases some of the successes achieved through the program in schools around New South Wales.

■ CASE STUDY

Soldiers Point Public School protects koala habitat

Staff and students at Soldiers Point Public School have created a 'safe house' for koalas within their school grounds by protecting existing koala trees and increasing habitat through replanting.

Their 2012–13 Eco Schools grant aimed to develop students' knowledge about koalas by studying the local koala population and the factors contributing to their decline. Students learned about the needs of koalas in the local community and with assistance from the Australian Koala Foundation and Port Stephens Council, they set about identifying, mapping and labelling significant koala trees within the school grounds. Previous records of koala sightings within the school helped the students determine which areas would benefit the most from new tree plantings.

Part of the project involved designing changes to the school playground to support the koala population. One tree in particular has provided a home to several koalas over the past four years. Students established a passive playground in this part of the school where equipment such as balance beams, climbing poles and a sandpit have been constructed using natural materials. A wooden deck provides an area for sitting, reading or quiet games which will not disturb the koalas in residence. Forty square metres of new koala habitat was planted with tubestock, and students were actively involved in the planting, mulching and monitoring of the new plants.

A student blog has provided a great way for students to communicate the outcomes of the project with the wider community and document the movements of the school's resident koalas. Each morning different students survey the three main habitat areas in the school and daily posts are added to the site. While their Eco Schools project has now concluded, the blog has been maintained throughout 2014 to provide evidence that koalas are regularly using the school playground as habitat.

Student blog: mrsegan22.edublogs.org/



Teacher Mrs Egan and students with the new koala sign outside their school.

Table 14

Eco Schools grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA
Albion Park High School	Installing WaterSave smart water meter and irrigation system	Shellharbour
Appin Public School	Appin's environmental 3 R's – reduce, re-use, recycle	Wollondilly
Arranounbai School	A sense of place for all	Warringah
Ashfield Public School	Ashfield Public School harmony garden and outdoor learning space	Ashfield
Ashtonfield Public School	Waste not – want not: food scraps waste management project	Maitland
Balgownie Public School	Weed removal and biodiversity enhancement	Wollongong
Beckom Public School	Regeneration of old sandpit area into a native garden	Coolamon
Beverley Park School	Visit earth project	Campbelltown
Birrong Boys High School	Outdoor learning area: native and cultural garden	Bankstown
Blakebrook Public School	Being environmentally aware is more than turning off a light!	Lismore
Bongongo Public School	Reducing waste at Bongongo	Gundagai
Bulahdelah Central School	Waste watchers program	Great Lakes
Casula High School	Organic recycling project: worms, compost and carp	Liverpool
Central Coast Rudolf Steiner School	Outdoor nature gym	Wyong
Chester Hill High School	Mirriburu bush tucker garden	Bankstown
Cobbitty Public School	Cobbitty bush tucker	Camden

Organisation	Title	LGA
Coledale Public School	Waste wise Coledale	Wollongong
Croydon Park Public School	Recycling rocks!	Canterbury
Croydon Public School	Native habitat garden	Burwood
Currans Hill Public School	Create a worm farm oasis	Camden
Dorchester Education and Training Unit	Lyrebird Learning Centre	Campbelltown
Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre	Widjabul bush tucker garden	Lismore
Dubbo College Delroy Campus	Delroy meeting place	Dubbo
Dunoon Public School	Butterfly outdoor learning scape	Lismore
East Hills Girls Technology High School	Biodiversity native garden walk	Bankstown
Elderslie Public School	Waste not want not	Camden
Elizabeth Macarthur High School	The salt bush solution	Camden
Evans River K–12 Community School	Keeping your fishing spot clean	Richmond Valley
Forbes North Public School	Propagating environmentally sustainable students	Forbes
Francis Greenway High School	The return of the endemic flora biodiversity to the school grounds	Newcastle City
Glendale Technology High School	Glendale's floating salad bar	Lake Macquarie
Glenroy Public School	Bush camp classroom	Albury
Great Lakes College Tuncurry Senior Campus	Diversity garden and outdoor learning facility	Great Lakes
Hawkesbury Independent School	Bushland regeneration	Hawkesbury
Humula Public School	Humula Public School environmental education outdoor learning area	Wagga Wagga
Killarney Heights High School	Bushland regeneration – a community endeavour	Warringah
Kororo Public School	Bush tucker and sensory garden	Coffs Harbour
Ladysmith Public School	Do not fear the animal savers are here!	Wagga Wagga
Lomandra School	Visit Earth project	Campbelltown
Londonderry Public School	Londonderry public frog habitat and possum nesting boxes	Penrith
Lurnea High School	Support environmental learning area	Liverpool
Main Arm Upper Public School	Outdoor learning area – native bees and their native food sources	Byron
Mayfield East Public School	MEPS Waste Busters	Newcastle City
Meadow Flat Public School	Purple copper butterfly ecosystem	Lithgow
Minerva School	Sensory garden improvements	Sutherland
Mortlake Public School	Creating a natural pathway to friends	Canada Bay
Moruya Public School	Water-wise kids: teaching students water management skills	Eurobodalla
Mount Hunter Public School	Sensory garden and interactive learning space	Wollondilly
Newcastle Senior School	Recycle, reduce and re-use project	Newcastle City

Organisation	Title	LGA
Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School	Reduce, re-use and recycle rubbish at Northmead CAPA	The Hills
Oatley Public School	Oatley Public School's sustainable swales and sensory area	Kogarah
Oxley College	Oxley College water awareness program	Wingecarribee
Pacific Palms Public School	Bushland walk, bush tucker garden and 'Yalawanyi' (sitting space)	Great Lakes
Pennant Hills Public School	Small bird haven	Hornsby
Point Clare Public School	Reconciliation bush tucker sensory garden	Gosford
Rydalmere Public School	A sensory garden for learning	Parramatta
Ryde Secondary College	The recycle and waste management project	Ryde
Sofala Public School	Sofala saves energy	Bathurst
St Francis De Sales Regional College	St Francis College energy awareness project	Leeton
St Joseph's Primary Kempsey	Changing our behaviour – reducing and re-using our non-organic waste	Kempsey
St Joseph's Primary Leeton	Aboriginal education garden	Leeton
St Michael's Catholic Primary Nowra	The animal park playground	Shoalhaven
St Paul's Primary School Rutherford	St Paul's striving for sustainability – waste reduction	Maitland
Summer Hill Public School	The waste not organic recycling program	Ashfield
Swansea High School	Swansea High School Murabun bush tucker garden project	Lake Macquarie
Taree High School	Aboriginal bush tucker garden	Greater Taree
Timbumburi Public School	We've got worms!	Tamworth
Trangie Central School	TCS bush tucker garden and Aboriginal culture	Narromine
Tumut High School	Lighting Tumut	Tumut
Tweed Heads Public School	Tweed Heads Public School waste watchers	Tweed
Waniora Public School	Waniora bush regeneration and bush tucker project	Wollongong
Waratah Public School	A greenhouse for the garden group	Newcastle City
Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre	Habitat for learning	Warrumbungle
Westmead Public School	Native regeneration of grounds	Holroyd
Whalan Public School	Building community through a sustainable indigenous garden	Blacktown
Windsor High School	Creating wildlife habitat	Hawkesbury
Winmalee Public School	The Dharug bush tucker journey	Blue Mountains
Wollongong West Public School	Bush tucker learning garden	Wollongong
Woollooware Public School	Endangered ironbark propagation	Sutherland
Yanco Agricultural High School	Yanco riparian restoration	Leeton
Total		\$200,000

Food Gardens in Schools Grants

The Food Gardens in Schools grant program was established in 2012 in response to the growing demand for food garden projects. The program aims to increase the capacity of schools to provide environmental education and teach about healthy sustainable living through establishing food gardens. These projects provide opportunities for students, teachers and members of the school community to develop knowledge and practical skills in garden maintenance and develop teaching resources across curriculum areas including science, arts, literacy and numeracy.

Grants of \$3500 each are available for kitchen garden projects over a two-year period. While the program was initially established as a two-year pilot program, the Trust approved funding for a third round of grants in December 2013 before a review of the program commences in late 2014. An evaluation and monitoring program is being managed by staff from the Trust and OEH to review the effectiveness of the program and inform decisions about its future.

Gardening is an engaging activity for all children, however, it can be especially beneficial as a learning experience for children with special needs. Gardens provide real life examples and experiences that stimulate learning for students who may struggle in a conventional classroom environment. In December 2013 the Trust approved a new funding stream for Food Gardens in Schools projects targeting students with special needs. Funding of \$262,500 over four years was approved for a total of 75 grants, and the first grants will be offered in 2014. The following case study highlights some outstanding outcomes that have been achieved by children with special needs as a result of a 2012 food gardens grant.

Grants awarded in 2013–14

The second round of competitive grants under the Food Gardens in Schools Program closed in May 2013 with 177 application received by the Trust. This was more than double the previous year, demonstrating the popularity of this activity in schools. A total of \$619,500 in funding was sought. Although only twenty grants were offered initially, the Trust recognised the strong demand for funding and awarded an additional 32 grants, resulting in 52 grants totalling \$182,000 being approved (Table 15).

Grants awarded in 2013–14 are expected to involve more than 7200 primary school students and over 700 high school students, who together will spend around 32,000 hours learning about healthy sustainable living. Nearly 500 volunteers from the school and local community are expected to assist students with building and maintaining around 11,500 square metres of food gardens in schools.



Wauchope High 2012–13 Food Gardens project.

Table 15

Food Gardens in Schools grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA
Annandale Public School	The connected garden	Leichhardt
Ashtonfield Public School	From kitchen to the chicken to the egg to the kitchen waste project	Maitland
Bangalow Public School	Gardening to learn	Byron
Batlow Technology School	Batlow Technology School market garden	Tumut
Berry Public School	An edible Berry – growing in knowledge and knowledge in growing	Shoalhaven
Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula School	The sustainable wholefood garden project	Tweed
Bonnyrigg High School	Medieval food garden	Fairfield
Bossley Park Public School	Organic vegetable bush tucker garden	Fairfield

Organisation	Title	LGA
Bowen Public School	Bowen's Bounty – the garden that keeps on giving	Orange
Broken Hill Public School	BHPS vegetable garden	Broken Hill
Bullimbal SSP	Bullimbal's eggcellent recyclers	Tamworth
Capertee Public School	Capertee Public School – garden kitchen program	Lithgow
Chatswood Intensive English Centre	From the blue gum forest to the multicultural plate	Willoughby
Chrysalis School for Rudolf Steiner Education Ltd	Edible Chrysalis; growing, learning, eating and celebrating!	Bellingen
Colyton High School Trade School	Greenworks food garden	Penrith
Condell Park Public School	Vegetable patch	Bankstown
Coogee Public School	The Coogee kitchen garden	Randwick
Coonabarabran Public School	CPS food garden	Warrumbungle
Dubbo College Delroy Campus	Delroy meeting place garden	Dubbo
Faulconbridge Public School	Munch 'n' Mulch: growing together at Faulconbridge	Blue Mountains
Georges River College Hurstville Boys Campus	Student organic independent learning (SOIL)	Hurstville
Gorokan Public School	To contain run-off and to irrigate our vegetable garden	Wyong
Grafton High School	Relish this – Grafton High School support unit gardens	Clarence Valley
Hebersham Public School	Hebersham Public School's Pacifica/Maori food garden	Blacktown
Hinterland Christian College	Hope for a sustainable future	Byron
Hurstville Public School	Hurstville Public School's food and sensory garden	Hurstville
Karangi Public School	Karangi 'wicking' kitchen garden	Coffs Harbour
Kenthurst Public School	Kenthurst Public School food garden – from our paddock to our plate	The Hills
Lakelands Public School	Bush tucker everywhere	Wollongong
Lane Cove West Public School	Making sustainable connections with the curriculum in the garden	Lane Cove
Lismore High School	Lismore High School aquaponics centre	Lismore
Main Arm Upper Public School	Growing up green – seedlings and chicks	Byron
Mowbray Public School	Greening our classrooms – living sustainably at school	Willoughby
Mulyan Public School	Mulyan Public School veggie garden	Cowra
Murrumbidgee Public School	Murrumbidgee Public School creating and sustaining a productive kitchen garden	Leeton
North Gosford Learning Centre	Raised garden beds	Gosford
North Nowra Public School	The garden gate and forest of food	Shoalhaven
Nowra Christian School	Sustainable food garden rejuvenation project	Shoalhaven
Oxley High School	Oxley High sustainable organic food garden project	Tamworth
Parramatta North Public School	Parramatta North Public School's fabulous food garden	Parramatta
Rankins Springs Public School	The Springs sustainable school garden	Carrathool
Rocky River Public School	Rocky River school garden project	Uralla
Shell Cove Public School	Our garden, watch us grow	Shellharbour

Organisation	Title	LGA
Shellharbour Public School	Food forest	Shellharbour
Southside Montessori School	Southside sustainable solutions	Hurstville
St Brigid's Primary School Raymond Terrace	The cultivating food, enriching people and the environment project	Port Stephens
St Fiacre's Catholic Primary School	Fiacre's food garden	Leichhardt
St Francis Xavier Primary School	From little things, big things grow	Lachlan
Tambar Springs Public School	Healthy living and garden program	Gunnedah
Tanja Public School	Tanja's hens and harvests	Bega Valley
The Pocket Public School	A pocket full of produce	Byron
Windang Public School	Grow a healthy community	Wollongong
		Total \$182,000

■ CASE STUDY

Food for thought at Mount Druitt Tutorial Centre

Thanks to a Food Gardens in Schools grant, the Mount Druitt Tutorial Centre has helped students with behavioural issues to improve their gardening skills, develop leadership skills and make healthier food choices.

Students in years 9 to 12 were involved in planning, building and working a food garden. They assumed responsibility for researching and devising planting schedules, were involved in contacting suppliers and organising quotes, and made valuable contributions to the design and construction of the garden beds.

The garden now boasts a wide variety of vegetables, including heirloom varieties, and a range of herbs. Many of the students have experienced a surge in self-confidence, and have taken home practical skills and knowledge in growing and preparing their own food.

The project has presented some significant professional development opportunities for teachers, who used their professional development days to improve their knowledge of gardening and learn how to incorporate practical experiences in the garden into more creative teaching programs. Group planning sessions held during staff meetings helped staff become much more confident in their ability to guide student learning outside the classroom.

One of the primary aims of this project has been to educate students in growing food and preparing healthy meals, with the hope they will then share their knowledge and skills with their families. The Tutorial Centre holds weekly cooking lessons and the students are currently compiling a recipe book of meals they have prepared from the garden. Many of the centre's students were unable to identify common

vegetables before being involved in the program. Now most of the students are regularly taking fresh produce home with them and are more open to trying new foods and vegetables.

'One of the most beneficial outcomes of the project to date is that it gave ample opportunity for authentic and cooperative learning and allowed students who struggle in classroom contexts to shine and experience real success.'

Brigitte Herrmann, Mount Druitt Tutorial Centre



Silverbeet and other vegetables grown by students of Mount Druitt Tutorial Centre

Environmental Research Program

Since 2003 the Environmental Research Program has been providing around \$1 million each year to support research projects that help address environmental issues in New South Wales. The program aims to:

- generate new information that will help solve environmental problems
- discover innovative methods and technologies that will reduce environmental impacts of business and industry
- support assessments of environmental degradation
- increase general awareness of environmental issues.

Achievements

Thirteen research projects concluded this year. Three of these projects have resulted in better understanding and improved strategies for managing significant ecosystems in New South Wales. Researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) have developed integrated strategies for restoring degraded understoreys in endangered grassy woodland communities, including assessing the effectiveness of different native grasses in resisting further weed invasion. This information will be valuable to community groups and other land managers who are restoring these degraded woodlands. Another CSIRO project has carried out a biodiversity assessment on the impact of mistflower, an invasive riparian plant that is affecting biodiversity in remnant rainforest. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) has provided new information on food webs in arid-zone wetlands, specifically the Macquarie Marshes, to better understand the ecological impacts resulting from the delivery of environmental flows.

Environmental Research seeding projects have developed a number of new technologies this year. Researchers at

the University of Wollongong have explored the benefits of carbon nanotubes (membranes) for purifying industrial and urban water supplies. UNSW analysed stable isotopes in soils to compare the water-use efficiency and nutrient cycling processes of invasive *Pittosporum* with other plant species to gain a better understanding of why it has a competitive edge in urban bushland. The University of Technology tested the operation of a newly developed hybrid solar air-conditioning system to determine how to best optimise its performance and energy consumption. The research concluded that optimising refrigerant temperature in solar air-conditioners can result in significant power savings.

An evaluation of the Environmental Research Program was undertaken in 2013–14. The results of this review will be considered by the Trust in late 2014 and the findings reported in next year's annual report.

Environmental Research outcomes

Environmental Research grants awarded in 2010 have so far generated 20 different innovative technologies or new approaches to previously known work, with these advances being presented at 23 scientific conferences or other events (Table 16).

Progress reports from 2011 Environmental Research grants show another 13 new technologies or methods resulting from these projects, with this number expected to increase to 21 once all projects have been completed. Presentations have so far been delivered at 81 scientific or technical conferences and other events, and the findings of these projects published in 21 journals and other scientific publications.

Table 16

Environmental Research outcomes 2010–11

Project measures	2010 Projected	2010 Actual	2011 Projected	2011 Actual
New technologies or methods developed	24	20	21	13
Number of partnerships established	24	25	28	25
Conferences or events where research is presented	31	23	92	81
Publications and educational resources	49	34	30	21
Number of people contributing to the project (incl. non-Trust funded)	116	102	179	161
Number of hours contributed	68,843	52,987	73,843	42,375
Percentage of grant data submitted to date	Year 2 progress reports: 78%		Year 1 progress reports: 100%	

■ CASE STUDY

Bioremediation of organochlorine-contaminated groundwater

Thanks to a Trust Environmental Research grant, the University of Sydney has successfully investigated the ability of bacteria to biodegrade dichloroethane (EDC), which is an organochlorine found at sites associated with plastics manufacture. Organochlorine pollutants pose a threat to the environment and human health.

Focusing on EDC-contaminated groundwater beneath the Botany Industrial Park, researchers at the University investigated the ability of bacteria to clean up samples from the groundwater treatment plant. After identifying the microbial communities in the groundwater they identified which of the bacteria's genes were involved in biodegrading the harmful contaminant.

These genes are known as *dhIA* and *dhIB*. The *dhIA* gene is the first step in EDC biodegradation because it splits the compound into other compounds that react with water.

Researchers developed a DNA-based tool (or quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction), which can rapidly and sensitively detect the *dhIA* genes in the bacteria. Previously, scientists have had to conduct microcosm tests and wait

weeks to determine whether bacteria are suitable for bioremediating EDC-contaminated sites. However, the chain reaction for the *dhIA* gene in these bacteria takes only a few hours to provide accurate data, allowing scientists to quickly and accurately assess whether a site can be bioremediated.

Once the detection method was successfully developed and tested, researchers used this to survey and quantify these bacteria in complex and diverse microbial communities present in groundwater.

The bacteria used during the bioremediation process are non toxic and can be safely and legally released into the environment. While the local bacterial population's capability to metabolise organochlorines at the Botany Industrial Park is encouraging, the DNA-based methods that have been developed as part of this project are compelling because of their great potential for monitoring in-situ bioremediation of organochlorine-contaminated groundwater. The *dhIA* gene can be used to track bioremediation at close to real time, which provides increased confidence in the bioremediation process.

Major project

Psyllid-induced dieback of grey box on the Cumberland Plain

The University of Western Sydney received a grant of \$400,000 in 2012–13 for research which aims to address extensive dieback which is occurring in Cumberland Plain woodlands in western Sydney. The defoliation is caused by a native lace lerp species (*Cardiaspina* sp.) of the family of *Psyllidae* (jumping plant-lice).

Surveys of the psyllid populations on the Cumberland Plain have revealed that the species in question occurs exclusively on grey box. Researchers have sampled specimens from half of the 25 recorded *Cardiaspina* species in Australia including all species that are known to cause defoliation on other eucalypt species. Genetic analysis has revealed that the grey box *Cardiaspina* is closely related to other *Cardiaspina* species from western New South Wales and South Australia and it is possible that the grey box *Cardiaspina* represents a population of a species (or species group) that is able to colonise a number of closely related eucalypt species with disjunct ranges throughout south-eastern Australia.

Similar investigations into the genetic diversity of grey box have commenced. Leaf and seed samples from grey box

within and outside the Cumberland Plain have been collected and will be used for DNA extraction in parallel to the psyllid population genetic study.

Ongoing surveys of the psyllid populations on the Cumberland Plain have revealed that the psyllids have disappeared from many areas of previously heavily infested woodland in the core of the outbreak region. Some previously defoliated trees are showing signs of recovery, although there is still a significant level of tree mortality throughout the region. Scientists are using this opportunity to compare DNA from recovered trees versus dead trees to test if there is a genetic factor that makes some trees more susceptible to attack and dieback.

The survey of the psyllid populations has revealed a number of natural enemies including three different parasitic wasp species, hoverfly larvae (*Syrphidae* family) and small spiders. At one survey site, it appears that syrphid larvae may have contributed to the decline of psyllid nymphs and this will be investigated further in the coming year. No fungal or bacterial pathogens have yet been detected.

Environmental Research Grants

In 2013–14 the Environmental Research Program offered grants for research relating to any of the four priority areas from the NSW State Plan NSW 2021. These four categories were:

- threats to the environment (pests and weeds, fire, coastal erosion and coastal inundation)
- biodiversity and native vegetation (habitat restoration and threatened species)
- pollution (air quality or waste recovery)
- rivers, wetlands and coasts (environmental water or wetland and catchment health).

Eligible organisations were able to apply for up to \$150,000 to fund projects relating to any of these priority areas. Grants were awarded through a competitive two-stage application process for projects of up to three years.

The Environmental Research Program is one of the most competitive grant programs funded by the Trust. There was a very high level of interest in the program this year,

with the Trust receiving 188 expressions of interest. The Environmental Research Technical Committee invited 28 full applications, and received 26 applications, which were peer reviewed by scientific experts in the relevant field. Eight research projects were awarded to the value of \$1,108,099 (Table 17).

Successful grantees are together expecting to contribute 14 innovative technologies or new approaches to current methods and spend over 40,000 hours working on their research projects. Scientific findings will be disseminated through the publication of at least 41 scientific journal articles and presentation at 41 technical and scientific conferences.

Funding for Research Seeding grants was suspended for the 2013–14 grants round, pending the recommendations of a program evaluation. The program evaluation was completed by the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer in June 2014 for consideration by the Trust in September 2014.

Table 17

Environmental Research grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Fenner School of Environment & Society (ANU)	Quantifying effectiveness of on-farm environmental management	Various	\$150,000
Macquarie University	Engaging youth in 'inspiring the next generation' for nature	Statewide	\$148,644
Macquarie University	Rapid detection of pathogens in recreational environmental waters	Various	\$149,193
Office of Environment and Heritage	NSW beach-dune erosion and inundation under severe coastal storms	Statewide	\$150,000
Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)	Towards restoration of missing underwater forests	Statewide	\$138,451
University of Newcastle	OvoControl contraception as a myna management tool	Statewide	\$73,751
University of New England	Cost-effective environmental water for NSW wetlands and rivers	Statewide	\$149,848
University of Wollongong	Maximising return from environmental plantings in flammable systems	Statewide	\$148,212
Total			\$1,108,099

Green Corridors Program

The NSW Government is committed to working with landholders to revegetate and improve land through its strategic ten-year plan, *NSW 2021*. A priority action under Goal 22 of the plan is to protect strategic areas of high conservation value and ensure there are more green spaces across Sydney and New South Wales through the \$40 million Green Corridors Program.

Now into its third year of operation, the Green Corridors Program is supporting expansion of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, and protecting significant bushland habitat and endangered ecological communities through the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program and Linking Landscapes through Local Action program.

A fourth component of the initiative is the Green Corridor Reserves Program, which is being delivered by the Trust's existing Land Acquisition Program. Further information on properties purchased to support green corridors is provided under the Land Acquisition Program earlier in this report.

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative Phase 2

The Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative is bringing people and organisations together to protect, link and restore healthy habitats over 3600 kilometres from western Victoria through New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to Far North Queensland. Since it commenced seven years ago the GER Initiative has established itself as one of the leading examples of collaborative large-scale conservation programs in Australia and built many linkages between existing natural reserves and isolated remnants of bushland on public and private land.

This second phase of the GER Initiative funded by the Trust is allowing Greening Australia to expand the conservation corridor within New South Wales and respond to the increasing demand from community groups to become involved.

Throughout 2013–14 the GER Initiative has continued to expand its reach by bringing together a broad range of local, state and national organisations to combine their skills, knowledge and resources to deliver collaborative projects and achieve the GER Initiative vision locally.

Membership of the GER Initiative now includes:

- 10 national organisations (including Australian Conservation Foundation, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Greening Australia)
- 5 NSW organisations (including National Parks Association of NSW, Nature Conservation Trust and OzGREEN), as well as five Victorian and Queensland organisations
- 8 NSW regional partnerships, as well as one in Victoria and one in Queensland
- 140 other NSW organisations involved as members of the regional partnerships or other active contributors. These include state government agencies, local councils, Local Land Services, Landcare, industry bodies, conservation groups, academia and local Aboriginal land councils.

GER Initiative has been able to leverage the Trust's support with significant funding from the Australian Government and partner support. This year \$120,000 was received from the Australian Government to more closely align the GER Initiative with the principles of the National Wildlife Corridor Plan. This has allowed investment in the development of new programs and a website.

2013–14 also saw the establishment of the GER Science Panel, made up of pre-eminent researchers, which will oversee the future research and science initiatives that underpin the GER Initiative. The development of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan is another significant achievement which will be vital in assessing the project's future on-ground success.

This year the GER Initiative provided \$350,000 in support for regional projects which have achieved a range of private land conservation, pest management, Aboriginal engagement and restoration and research outcomes in priority areas for the GER Initiative. A further \$350,000 of funding will be allocated for regional projects in 2014–15 as well as an additional \$100,000 for Landcare projects. This new program was announced in March 2014 to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Landcare movement.



Wildlife survey of sugar gliders at Woomargama as part of the GER Initiative's Slopes 2 Summit 2013 Bioblitz.

Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program has achieved some significant conservation outcomes, protecting 453 hectares of native vegetation since it commenced in 2008. The program aims to offset the potential construction of 180,000 housing lots in new release areas of Greater Sydney by permanently protecting significant bushland habitats in western Sydney and surrounding regions.

The Trust provided \$6.5 million to OEH in 2013–14 for managing the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program. The key conservation outcomes for the year were the establishment of a 38.2-hectare biobank site at Orangeville and the purchase of biodiversity credits from Fernhill East biobank site at Mulgoa.

Orangeville

The Orangeville biobank site was established in June 2014 and protects 38.2 hectares of remnant bushland, including 27.7 hectares of threatened vegetation, on private property in the Wollondilly local government area. It is the latest of four biobank sites established near Camden in south-west Sydney. The 'Camden cluster' of biobank sites protects almost 140 hectares of remnant and regenerating bushland, including:

- 104 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland
- 15 hectares of endangered Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest
- 7 hectares of endangered River-flat Eucalypt Forest
- 4 hectares of endangered Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest.

See the case study for further information on this significant conservation achievement.

Fernhill East, Mulgoa

Fernhill Estate is a 648-hectare private property at Mulgoa that adjoins the Blue Mountains National Park. The estate contains large areas of remnant bushland. Biobanking is being used by the landholder as part of plans to protect the biodiversity of the Estate in perpetuity.

The Fernhill East biobank site was established in January 2014 independently of the Growth Centres Program but within the program's first priority area. It protects 128 hectares of a diverse range of remnant and regenerating woodland and forest types.

The establishment of the Fernhill East biobank site created 1316 biodiversity credits for eight vegetation types, including five threatened ecological communities. Funds from the Growth Centres Program were used to purchase 173 biodiversity credits for the protection of 16 hectares of critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland on the site. Ninety-four per cent of the site contains endangered ecological communities, which are home to threatened species such as the Cumberland Plain land snail and the varied sittella.



Endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland at the Orangeville biobank site.

■ CASE STUDY

Orangeville biobank site enhances Camden conservation cluster

Conservation on private land plays an important role in supporting public reserves, particularly in areas where vegetation communities have been highly cleared and are not well-represented in the public reserve system. The Orangeville biobank site is the latest of four biobank sites near Camden that will provide long-term protection for remnant bushland and endangered woodland communities in private ownership.

The Orangeville biobank site is located within a 125-hectare grazing property in the Wollondilly local government area. In 2012, the landowner and OEH agreed to establish a biobank site to permanently protect 38.2 hectares of remnant bushland along a 2.4-kilometre stretch of Wattle Creek at the rear of the property. The biobank site was established on 4 June 2014.

The establishment of the biobank site created 449 biodiversity credits. All of these credits have been purchased with funds from the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program and will be retired so they cannot be used for any other offsets. These funds have been deposited in the BioBanking Trust Fund to cover the cost of managing the site in perpetuity. The landholder also received an establishment payment as an 'opportunity cost' for forgoing other possible uses of the land.

Much of the bushland on the Orangeville biobank site is currently in poor health and infested with the invasive woody weed, African olive. Intensive and sustained bush regeneration efforts are needed to improve the condition of the site. Through the BioBanking Trust Fund the property owner will receive annual payments to cover the cost of managing the biodiversity on the site. This includes employment of bush regeneration contractors to control the African olive, removal of rubbish, installation of new fences and control of feral animals.

Three of the four vegetation communities present at the site are listed as threatened. The biobanking agreement protects 8.9 hectares of Cumberland Plain Woodland, 4.1 hectares of Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest and 14.7 hectares of Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest. Currently only 10 hectares of the threatened communities are considered in reasonable condition and are included in reporting against the program's conservation targets for Commonwealth-listed communities. With active management delivered through the biobanking agreement it is expected that an additional 12 hectares of vegetation will eventually meet the condition criteria for listing under Commonwealth legislation.

Linking Landscapes through Local Action

This \$10-million program assists councils and other public land managers within the Sydney Basin to link vegetation corridors through the creation of biobank sites. It provides ongoing annual payments through the BioBanking Trust Fund for the management of weeds, feral animals and other threats to enhance vegetation corridors.

In May 2014, Ku-ring-gai Council established a 99-hectare biobank site along part of a 3-kilometre long urban bushland corridor. The site, which stretches from the Pacific Highway in Pymble to Lane Cove National Park in South Turramurra, protects critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest, endangered Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest, and numerous threatened plant and animal species.

A grant of \$1,601,382 from the program will be deposited into the BioBanking Trust Fund for the site to ensure that its important values are maintained in future. Ku-ring-gai Council has committed to contribute an additional \$469,000 over three years to the BioBanking Trust Fund.

The BioBanking Trust Fund will provide the council with indexed management payments averaging around \$100,000 a year for the first 20 years of the agreement and then indexed payments of approximately \$37,000 a year thereafter.

All biodiversity credits created at the biobank site will be transferred by council to OEH in return for the grant funding.

The program will also see development of a spatial database of lands across the State with conservation commitments. An online mapping application will provide access to the spatial information and enable reporting on the number, area and types of conservation commitments in New South Wales. Initial scoping has commenced and a user requirements analysis has been undertaken.



Endangered Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest in Sheldon Forest.

Lead Environmental Community Groups Program

The Lead Environmental Community Groups (LECG) program is aimed at helping eligible lead environmental community organisations by contributing towards their administrative costs. Funding is available to organisations operating in New South Wales for the benefit of the NSW environment. Groups must be significantly involved with the community through their activities, and directly contribute to the NSW Government's 2021 objectives.

The program offered a total of \$600,000 in funding for 2013–14, with grants of up to \$80,000 available to eligible organisations for administrative assistance. Applications to the program closed in May 2014 with 21 applications received requesting a total of \$1,099,637.

Following assessment and recommendation from the independent Technical Committee, the Trust awarded 19 grants with a total value of \$600,000 (Table 18).

Program evaluation

The LECG program was independently evaluated during 2012–13 with the recommendations considered by the Trust during 2013–14. This was the first review of the program since it was introduced in 2006.

All of the grant recipients who participated in the review indicated that the LECG program has enabled them to fulfil their professional administration requirements to meet statutory obligations and effectively undertake a range of administrative tasks such as managing databases, newsletters, websites and coordinating forums and events.

The review found that the LECG program complies with the seven best practice principles of grant administration and represents value for money for the NSW Government because it is appropriate, effective and efficient (to the extent that environmental values can be measured). It concluded that funds are properly used by grantees and that the way in which the program is governed is highly regarded by non-government environmental organisations. The program is appropriately targeted to available recipients and has appropriate risk management for the volume of funds provided.

Some recommendations of the review include splitting the funding stream to better address the different needs of large versus small organisations, amending the objectives to preclude organisations which undertake explicit coordination of political activity, and the development of guidelines to help the Technical Committee assess applications and determine what constitutes a 'Lead Environmental Organisation'.

Table 18

Lead Environmental Community Groups grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Amount
Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter Inc.	\$3,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc.	\$17,500
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc.	\$2,500
Community Environment Network Inc.	\$33,000
Conservation Volunteers Australia	\$10,000
EDO NSW	\$80,000
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	\$45,000
Friends of the Koala Incorporated	\$12,000
Inland Rivers Network Inc.	\$5,000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NSW)	\$25,000
Landcare NSW Inc.	\$37,000
National Parks Association of NSW	\$70,000
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	\$80,000
Planet Ark Environmental Foundation	\$10,000
Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services	\$5,000
The Wilderness Society Sydney Inc.	\$45,000
Total Environment Centre Inc.	\$60,000
WetlandCare Australia Pty Ltd	\$10,000
WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information Rescue & Education Service)	\$50,000
Total	\$600,000

Sustainability Program

OEH has received Trust funding to deliver sustainability initiatives for a decade. In this time, OEH has not only established and delivered successful programs, but has also built long-term partnerships, networks and knowledge.

The 2013–14 year has seen the establishment of a new internal structure for OEH and this provided the opportunity to review the work it has delivered through the Trust funding to date. This process revealed a range of opportunities to strengthen the existing sustainability programs and deliver greater outcomes through more cost-effective approaches.

In 2013–14 the Trust provided \$4 million for delivery of the following sustainability programs (Table 19).

Sustainability for business

Sustainability Advantage Program



Recognition plaques awarded to Sustainability Advantage Program gold, silver and bronze partners.

The Sustainability Advantage Program continues to be the flagship program through which OEH is helping businesses to reduce their environmental impacts while increasing the efficiency and the competitiveness of their operations. Sustainability Advantage invested \$1.785 million in 2013–14 to help 548 businesses and not-for-profit organisations reduce their resource use, lower costs by \$86.5 million annually and deliver strong environmental outcomes.

Over the past 12 months, membership of Sustainability Advantage has increased by 27 organisations. Key members to come on board this year include QANTAS, Sydney Water, Ocean Shore Country Club, Goulburn Mulwaree Council, GrainCorp Limited and Bega Cheese.

A major opportunity for engaging with program members is the Sustainability Advantage recognition event where members are recognised as Bronze, Silver, or Gold partners by the Minister for the Environment. Eighty-eight partners attended this year's event in November 2013 with 46 more organisations being recognised as Bronze, Silver or Gold partners.

OEH continues to help partners and members move forward on their sustainability journey. Throughout the year

partners completed 130 individual training modules which were delivered through a panel of sustainability consultants. These modules covered topics such as business planning for sustainability, staff engagement, supply chain and resource efficiency.

Household and community education and engagement

Community education

OEH partners with various agencies to work with schools, local government and community groups to reduce resource use, and encourage sustainable behaviour and participation in protecting the environment. Some of the key education achievements this year include:

- a 20 per cent increase in the number of suppliers listed in the Sustainable Choice online database which has been developed in partnership with Local Government NSW. The database now lists 300 suppliers offering 950 sustainable goods and services. See www.lgnsw.org.au/sustainablechoice/
- delivery of 157 multicultural Sustainable Living workshops to more than 2000 participants across five language groups, through the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW. Topics included natural cleaning, composting, recycling, managing waste, avoiding food waste, saving power and biodiversity
- delivery of Our Place community forums in Albury, Holbrook and Deniliquin through the Regional Centre for Sustainable Development at Charles Sturt University. Forum participants developed plans for small on-ground, environmental and sustainability projects to address local environmental problems
- participation by 1887 schools in the Sustainable Schools NSW (SSNSW) program, representing nearly 57 per cent of all schools in New South Wales. The SSNSW website acts as an open hub, linking teachers and stakeholders to the latest sustainability-related teaching and learning information and resources. The SSNSW newsletter is now sent to 3300 teachers and schools and has increased from four to eight newsletters a year. See www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/.

Smarter Choice Program

The Smarter Choice Program is encouraging home and garden users to make cost-effective purchases that have less impact on the environment. This year the number of participating stores increased from 55 to 188, extending the program across regional and rural New South Wales. Danks Group (Home Hardware and Thrifty Link), together with a number of independent stores, joined Bunnings Warehouse as program partners. Over 2000 retail staff were trained this year to help their customers make better choices for the environment.

Government resource efficiency

The Sustainable Government Team works to equip key government agencies with the skills and information to manage their energy use and identify and implement energy efficiency upgrade projects. Major achievements for this year include:

- developing a Hospital Energy and Water Benchmarking Tool for use across the health portfolio which will allow energy managers to rate energy and water performance in NSW public hospitals. NSW Health will be the first organisation in Australia to use an energy and water benchmark in public hospitals
- working with the Department of Police and Justice to review a number of heritage-listed regional courthouses. Opportunities to install energy-efficient lighting have been identified while maintaining the heritage characteristics of the buildings. Recommended options will be trialled in 2014–15
- providing support and advice to specialist OEH sites such as the Royal Botanic Gardens and Lidcombe laboratories. Permanent submetering was used to analyse energy consumption and develop a better business case for upgrades.

OEH has been active in a number of awareness campaigns. This year the organisation worked with the Premier's Council for Active Living (PCAL) and NSW Health to adapt existing We Do Sustainability artwork for a joint health and sustainability message to government staff. The Take the Stairs poster was adapted with six health messages to promote the use of stairs and encourage staff to 'burn kilojoules not electricity'. In 2014, the Take the Stairs campaign received over 1600 hits on the PCAL website and the NSW Government's 8700 website (8700 kilojoules per day).



One of the posters from the Take the Stairs initiative.

Regional sustainability support

The Trust provides support for regional programs in the Illawarra and Hunter regions to deliver sustainability initiatives in these areas. Key achievements this year include:

- implementing the Fleet Heavy program in the Illawarra which helps operators of heavy vehicle fleets to identify and trial fuel efficiency measures. Eight fleet operators participated in the program. Four of these fleets received a tailored fleet improvement plan while two operators have implemented vehicle modifications and installed data loggers to monitor fuel use and quantify savings
- working with a local coffee business in the Illawarra to improve environmental, economic and social benefits at every point in the supply chain. Options for carbon neutral self-accreditation and private third party accreditation were developed
- developing a suite of coordinated resources in the Hunter Central Coast region to support the delivery of sustainability programs to local communities.

This included a community engagement trailer which will allow regional staff to deliver program information, seminars, IT based resource efficiency tools and clean energy demonstrations in a safe, engaging and efficient way to regional business, government and community organisations.

Table 19

Sustainability Program grant awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Program	Amount
Office of Environment and Heritage	Sustainability Program	\$4,000,000
Total		\$4,000,000

Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative

Waste Less, Recycle More is a NSW Government initiative that has committed \$465.7 million over five years for a range of support packages that will help communities and businesses reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. The initiative is being delivered in collaboration between the Trust and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The Trust is responsible for managing the contestable grants component of the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative. Grants will be delivered through six different funds, providing \$158.5 million over four years.

Improved Systems for Household Problem Wastes (\$11.77 million)

This fund supports the construction of community recycling centres that will facilitate the appropriate disposal of household 'problem' wastes including paints, motor oils, cooking oils, household batteries, car batteries, fluorescent lighting, gas cylinders, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. These wastes can present a significant management issue for the environment and from a handling or human health perspective. Equally as important, the community will be making their own homes safer and cleaner.

This fund builds on the success of the CleanOut days conducted by the EPA. This fund will also support the development and trialling of innovative disposal solutions where a fixed facility is not practicable.

Grant programs include:

- Community Recycling Centres Program.

Organics Infrastructure (\$60.75 million)

This fund supports programs that encourage and support waste avoidance, re-use and recycling of food and organics from households and businesses.

Grant programs include:

- Local Government Organics Collection Systems Program
- Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program
- Food Waste Avoidance Education (also known as Love Food Hate Waste) Program.

Waste and Recycling Infrastructure (\$56.75 million)

The Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund is aimed at stimulating investment in recycling facilities and increasing the processing capacity of facilities in Waste Levy paying areas to meet the NSW 2021 recycling targets. The priority materials for recovery are paper, cardboard, timber, plastics, glass and metals from commercial and industrial and municipal waste streams. Projects may also be focused on processing, stabilisation and energy recovery from residual business and household waste.

Grant programs include:

- Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program (for existing facilities)
- Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Program (for new infrastructure).

Recycling Innovation (\$12.8 million)

This fund provides support for renovating infrastructure, research and development and increasing recovery of residual waste from recyclers.

Grant programs include:

- Innovation in Shredder Floc Management Program
- Priority Waste Infrastructure Program
- Recycled Materials Program.

Business Recycling (\$9.45 million)

This fund will provide rebates to small and medium enterprises to fund small-scale recycling infrastructure and equipment to help improve source separation of recyclables, reduce waste and increase recycling in the workplace. The Trust awarded the administration of this program to the EPA.

Grant programs include:

- Small Scale Recycling Infrastructure Rebate Program.

Supporting Local Communities (\$7 million)

This fund will provide financial support to regional and rural local councils for landfill consolidation and closure, and environmental improvements to small landfills serving rural communities.

Grant programs include:

- Landfill Consolidation Program.

Program establishment

The Trust has established a Waste and Recycling Subcommittee to oversee all programs funded through the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative. The Subcommittee approved business plans for all of the grant programs under the first three funds (Household Waste, Organics Infrastructure and Waste and Recycling Infrastructure). The first round of funds for these programs was offered in 2013–14. All other grant programs will commence in 2014–15.

In collaboration with the EPA, two series of workshops were conducted across New South Wales to launch the first round of Waste Less, Recycle More grants. Seven workshops covering the Community Recycling, Resource Recovery, Food Waste Avoidance and Organics Collections programs were conducted during November 2013 with 294 participants attending regional workshops in Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Maitland, Kiama and Armidale, and metropolitan sessions in Parramatta and Sydney. A further seven workshops were conducted in March 2014 covering the Organics Infrastructure

and Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure programs. The regional centres of Coffs Harbour, Kiama, Maitland, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga and metropolitan sessions in Parramatta and Sydney attracted 278 participants.

Attendees learned about the program objectives and how to prepare a sound application. Staff from the Trust were also present at EPA capacity-building and information sessions to answer grant queries during 2013–14.

The Trust approved 36 grants totalling \$4,581,547 (Table 20). Funded projects extend across the State from Albury in the south, Broken Hill in the west to Kyogle in the north. Metropolitan projects include Randwick, Hurstville and Holroyd.

First reports from these projects are due in 2014–15. Grantees estimate that over 571,000 households will benefit from the outcomes of these grants.

Grants awarded in 2013–14

Community Recycling Centres Program

Over four years this grant program will support the development of up to 86 community recycling centres across the State through three streams:

- enhancement or upgrade of an existing community recycling centre
- construction of a new community recycling centre
- development and trialling of innovative solutions where a fixed solution is not viable.

The first round of grants was offered to local government, however, future rounds will also be open to not-for-profit organisations and businesses.

The competitive Community Recycling Centres grant program attracted 60 applications requesting a total of around \$8.9 million. State and local government authorities were able to apply for funds of up to \$300,000 for fixed infrastructure or innovative recycling solutions.



The Minister for the Environment announces a Community Recycling Centre grant for Holroyd Council.

Table 20

Community Recycling Centres grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury City Council	Community Recycling Centre – Albury City Council	Albury	\$213,580
Armidale Dumaresq Council	Community Recycling Centre upgrading and modification	Armidale Dumaresq	\$223,240
Bathurst Regional Council	Community Recycling Centre – Bathurst Regional Council	Bathurst	\$37,796
Blue Mountains City Council	Community Recycling Centre – Blue Mountains City Council	Blue Mountains	\$65,627
Broken Hill City Council	Community Recycling Centre – Broken Hill City Council	Broken Hill	\$113,412
Coffs Harbour City Council	Coffs Harbour Community Recycling Centre	Coffs Harbour	\$48,000
Deniliquin Council	Deniliquin Community Recycling Centre	Deniliquin	\$200,000
Dubbo City Council	Community Recycling Centre – Dubbo City Council	Dubbo	\$86,932
Glen Innes Severn Council	Glen Innes and District Community Recycling Centre	Glen Innes Severn	\$238,300
Gloucester Shire Council	Gloucester Community Recycling Centre	Gloucester	\$49,500
Great Lakes Council	TWMC Masterplan Stage 1: Community Recycling Centre	Great Lakes	\$189,904
Greater Taree City Council	Taree Community Recycling Centre	Greater Taree	\$73,040

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Griffith City Council	Griffith Household Problem Waste Drop-off Centre	Griffith	\$247,000
Holroyd City Council	Special Waste Mobile Service	Holroyd	\$300,000
Hurstville City Council	St George Recycling Centre	Hurstville	\$164,655
Kempsey Shire Council	Kempsey Community Recycling Centre	Kempsey	\$107,300
Kempsey Shire Council	Kempsey Shire Council Mobile Community Recycling Centre	Kempsey	\$29,000
Kiama Municipal Council	Kiama Council Community Recycling Centre enhancement	Kiama	\$198,460
Leichhardt Municipal Council	Community Recycling Centre: 50–54 Moore Street Leichhardt	Leichhardt	\$193,080
Muswellbrook Shire Council	Problem wastes drop-off at Muswellbrook Waste and Recycling Centre	Muswellbrook	\$181,280
Nambucca Shire Council	Nambucca Community Recycling Centre	Nambucca	\$61,700
NetWaste	Gilgandra problem waste innovative solution	Orange	\$16,146
North East Waste	Maclean Community Recycling Centre – North East Waste regional CRC network	Clarence Valley	\$31,165
North East Waste (Lismore)	Lismore Community Recycling Centre – North East Waste regional CRC network	Lismore	\$88,102
North East Waste (Kyogle)	Kyogle Community Recycling Centre – North East Waste regional CRC network	Kyogle	\$104,935
North East Waste (Clarence Valley)	Grafton Community Recycling Centre – North East Waste regional CRC network	Clarence Valley	\$56,022
North East Waste (Richmond Valley)	Casino Community Recycling Centre – North East Waste regional CRC network	Richmond Valley	\$55,966
Palerang Council	Bungendore Waste Transfer Station - community recycling facility	Palerang	\$48,000
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Port Macquarie Hazardous Waste Centre upgrade	Port Macquarie-Hastings	\$29,955
Randwick City Council	Ridding Randwick of problem wastes	Randwick	\$236,215
Singleton Council	Singleton Community Recycling and Resource Recovery Centre	Singleton	\$155,000
Tamworth Regional Council	Tamworth Forest Road Community Drop-off Centre	Tamworth	\$83,040
Uralla Shire Council	Uralla Community Recycling Centre – household problem wastes	Uralla	\$102,480
Walcha Council	Aerodrome Road Community Drop-off Centre	Walcha	\$183,260
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Southern Highlands Community Recycling Centre	Wingecarribee	\$179,455
Wollongong City Council	Wollongong Community Drop-off and Recycling Centre	Wollongong	\$190,000
Total			\$4,581,547

Local Government Organics Collection Systems Program

The Local Government Organics Collection Systems Program provides funds to help councils implement new or enhance existing household kerbside collection services for organic waste. This includes collection systems for garden, food or combined food and garden organic waste. The objective of the program is to increase the diversion of separated household organics from landfill, resulting in less waste of resources and fewer greenhouse gas emissions from landfill.

The fund will provide additional bins, kitchen caddies and other systems to facilitate the diversion of organic material from general waste bins.

In 2013–14 grants up to \$1,300,000 were available for councils introducing new or enhanced kerbside organics bin collections. The Trust received 26 applications seeking a total of \$11.14 million. Twenty-one projects were funded to a total of \$6,519,811 (Table 21).

Grantees have estimated that around 19,206 tonnes of food and garden organics will be diverted from landfill as a collective result of the projects funded this year.

Table 21

Local Government Organics Collection Systems grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Ashfield Council	Ashfield Council Garden Organics Expansion Project	Ashfield	\$85,755
Bathurst Regional Council	Organics collection system	Bathurst	\$787,800
Blayney Shire Council	Organics collection system	Blayney	\$264,200
Cabonne Council	Organics collection system	Cabonne	\$284,371
Clarence Valley Council	Enhancement of existing food and garden organics collection service	Clarence Valley	\$167,500
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	Cooma organics collection kerbside service	Cooma-Monaro	\$235,499
Forbes Shire Council	Organics collection system	Forbes	\$262,415
Kempsey Shire Council	Kempsey Shire kitchen caddy rollout for compulsory FOGO diversion	Kempsey	\$89,712
Kiama Municipal Council	Organics Kiama	Kiama	\$211,230
Lane Cove Municipal Council	Lane Cove garden organic collection	Lane Cove	\$320,000
Leichhardt Municipal Council	Growing organics – enhanced food recycling in multi-unit dwellings	Leichhardt	\$60,409
Lismore City Council	Organics for rural villages	Lismore	\$126,235
Parkes Shire Council	Organics collection system	Parkes	\$362,375
Pittwater Council	Organics collection system improvement program	Pittwater	\$1,005,253
Port Macquarie-Hastings Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council organics collection service	Port Macquarie - Hastings	\$443,110
Randwick City Council	Food organics collection and processing in multi-unit dwellings	Randwick	\$914,519
Richmond Valley Council	RVC food organic and garden organic (FOGO) collection program	Richmond Valley	\$243,713
Strathfield Municipal Council	Food and garden organics (FOGO) roll-out to all single unit dwellings	Strathfield	\$118,307
Wellington Shire Council	Organics collection system	Wellington	\$221,360
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Organics collection – education and analysis	Wingecarribee	\$105,000
Young Shire Council	Young green waste and food organics kerbside service	Young	\$211,048
Total			\$6,519,811

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

The Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grants program encourages the re-use and recycling of source-separated organics from households and businesses through four streams:

- **Stream 1:** The establishment of new and enhanced infrastructure to process food, garden or combined food and garden organics from households and/or businesses
- **Stream 2:** On-site processing or pre-processing of organics at large businesses and not-for-profit institutions such as prisons, universities and aged-care facilities (available from 2014–15)
- **Stream 3:** Infrastructure to facilitate the collection and redistribution of food waste from businesses to people in need
- **Stream 4:** Compost bins and/or worm farms to enhance council organics waste management workshops and home composting programs.

Contestable grants were available for between \$25,000 and \$5,000,000, covering up to 50 per cent of the capital costs relating to infrastructure and equipment. Projects that requested more than \$1,000,000 were submitted as an expression of interest.

The Trust received 25 applications worth around \$8.4 million and funded 10 projects totalling \$3,203,332 across regional New South Wales and Sydney (Table 22).

Projects funded through Stream 1 are expected to divert over 40,000 tonnes of business and household waste from landfill, while projects funded under Streams 3 and 4 will collectively divert around 9200 tonnes of organic waste from landfill. More than 17,000 households will receive equipment such as worm farms or compost bins and around 4700 people will receive training in organic recycling techniques.

Fourteen expressions of interest worth \$37.3 million were received for large projects worth \$1 million or more. The Technical Review Committee invited eight organisations to submit a full application, and a decision on these applications is expected in late 2014.



The Organics Infrastructure program will help more than 17,000 households recycle their kitchen scraps.

Table 22

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) grants awarded in 2013-14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Stream 1			
Broken Hill City Council	Enhancement of local processing of green waste at Broken Hill	Broken Hill	\$36,000
Carbon Mate Pty Ltd	Carbon Mate organic recyclers – site relocation and expansion	Wagga Wagga	\$952,500
Soilco Pty Ltd	Construct processing building to include aerated storage bunkers	Wollongong	\$810,000
Transpacific Cleanaway Pty Ltd	Enhancement of Moree compost facility	Moree Plains	\$72,433
Stream 3			
Earth Recovery Australia Ltd	Blue Mountains food rescue	Blue Mountains	\$27,587
SecondBite	Growing SecondBite's rescue and redistribution of surplus fresh food	Botany	\$76,500
Stream 4			
Holroyd City Council	Gardens for balconies and backyards – healthy compost and worm farms	Holroyd	\$37,800
Singleton Council	Singleton waterwise compost gardens	Singleton	\$109,207
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)	ROCovering organics – organics recovery across the SSROC region	Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC)	\$998,555
The Hills Shire Council	The Hills Shire Council compost revolution	The Hills Shire	\$82,740
Total			\$3,203,332

Food Waste Avoidance Education Program (Love Food Hate Waste)

This program builds on the EPA's successful Love Food Hate Waste program with a four-year \$1.4-million grant program. The EPA delivered three rounds of the Love Food Hate Waste program between 2011 and 2013 before it was incorporated into the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative. The four-year Food Waste Avoidance Program aims to support food waste avoidance education and awareness projects with Love Food Hate Waste partners, including local councils, council groups, non-government organisations and community groups.

The first round of the Food Waste Avoidance Education (Love Food Hate Waste) program was awarded in late 2013–14.

Contestable grants of up to \$70,000 were available for the implementation of education projects that help households and businesses avoid food waste. The Trust received 36 applications worth approximately \$1.32 million with funding requests ranging from \$3000 to \$70,000.

Ten projects were approved for funding totalling \$356,797 (Table 23). The funded projects were distributed from Lord Howe Island to Bathurst in the west, Maclean in the north and Wollongong in the south. Grantees in the 2013–14 program have estimated that a total of 7183 kilograms of food waste will be avoided each week by around 1300 participating households and businesses.

Table 23

Food Waste Avoidance Education grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Canada Bay Council	Waste less, \$ave more – food waste avoidance for food businesses	Canada Bay	\$17,945
Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc.	Ethnic Communities' Love Food Hate Waste project	Statewide	\$26,400
FoodCare Orange Inc.	Love Food Hate Waste with FoodCare Orange Inc.	Orange	\$13,140
Hunter Councils Inc.	Better business through Love Food Hate Waste industry training	Hunter Councils	\$50,595
Lake Macquarie City Council	Bust your household food bills project	Lake Macquarie	\$69,998
Lord Howe Island Board	How to turn food waste around on Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island	\$20,509
North East Waste	North East Waste Love Food Hate Waste education and media program	Various	\$33,000
University of Technology, Sydney	Formal education initiatives and public events for TAFE and UTS students	Sydney	\$69,795
Wollongong City Council	Love Food Hate Waste workshops – aware, adapt, life changing skills	Wollongong	\$35,315
Wyong Shire Council	Eat well, spend less, save more – family food and reducing waste	Wyong Shire	\$20,100
Total			\$356,797

Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program

This four-year program is aimed at investment to expand or enhance existing recycling facilities. Enhancement projects will allow new or additional materials to be recovered from waste streams, while expansion projects will result in greater volumes of waste being processed through resource recovery processes.

The first grants were awarded in late 2013–14 with grants of between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 available. The Trust received 21 applications requesting \$10.68 million. Nine grants worth \$5.19 million were approved. One applicant subsequently declined the offer resulting in a total of \$4.19 million in approved grants (Table 24). Grantees in the 2013–14 program have estimated that together these projects will result in 79,649 tonnes of recyclable materials being diverted from landfill.

Table 24

Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement grants awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd	ANL C&D wood waste processing – Tea Gardens	Great Lakes	\$400,000
Global Renewables Eastern Creek Pty Ltd	Eastern Creek UR–3R facility metals recovery and clean-up	Blacktown	\$250,000
Handybin Waste Services	Upgrade glass plant to improve capacity and product quality	Coffs Harbour	\$100,000
Newcastle City Council	Summerhill small vehicle receival centre expansion	Newcastle City	\$1,000,000
SITA Australia Pty Ltd	Enhancement of C&I Chullora MRF	Bankstown	\$1,000,000
TES-AMM Australia Pty Ltd	Enhancements to Villawood electronic waste recycling facilities	Bankstown	\$206,482
Upper Hunter Shire Council	Scone recovery centre expansion	Upper Hunter	\$240,675
Visy Recycling	Recovery of commodities and RDF feedstock from MRF/mill waste	Holroyd	\$1,000,000
Total			\$4,197,157

Other Waste and Environment Programs

The Trust receives funds from the NSW Government's Waste Levy to manage a number of additional waste and environmental programs that focus on improving sustainability, protecting threatened species and enhancing biodiversity.

This year the Trust continued funding four programs established in previous years – Alternative Waste Treatment, UV Tanning Units Disposal Scheme, Devil Ark and the Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program. It also awarded funding for two new projects that focus on sustainable tourism in national parks, and the reform of forestry regulations (Table 25).

Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT)

Now into its third year, this research project aims to better understand the nature of mixed waste-derived organic inputs and their potential impact on the environment. Work this year has focused on three investigative components, with a fourth component (looking at the impacts of AWT contaminants) scheduled to commence next year.

Land application of AWT organic outputs

The first cropping season was successfully completed with a millet crop grown and harvested from each treatment plot. This provided data on herbage quality and yield for stock feed, and grain quality and yield. Millet and wheat will be established in a seasonal cropping rotation.

Two AWT organic outputs are being trialled. The first one gave a positive agronomic response compared to control treatments, but only at rates in excess of 60 dry tonnes per hectare. Application of the second AWT organic output appears to have suppressed plant growth. Other organic waste treatments gave positive agronomic responses at much lower application rates (20 dry tonnes per hectare).

The high application rate required to achieve a response in millet grain yield using the first AWT organic output, meant that the metal levels in the soil increased appreciably, although were still under guideline levels. The metals were readily taken up by the test plants although not to levels considered to be detrimental to plant growth.

Assessing the toxicity of AWT organic outputs

Leaching experiments and ecotoxicology tests were conducted using both real leachates and column recirculated leachates, collected from soils that had been treated with AWT organic outputs. The leachates were found to be dominated by metals and major ions. Leachates from AWT organic outputs that were mixed with soil resulted in lower concentrations of contaminants and reduced toxicity, when compared with leachates from unblended AWT organic outputs. Toxicity analysis on the initial column leachate fraction found that pH sensitive chemicals including ammonia and sulphide, as well as high electrical conductivity, were the main toxicants.

Application to NSW soils

Laboratory trials spanning 10 soil types have been established to test the application of AWT organic compounds to soils in northern and central New South Wales. Soils have been sampled 6 and 12 months after establishment, and chemical analysis of metals is underway using a new ultrawave extractor. A number of other trials are also underway including a crop production trial using wheat plants, a soil column leaching trial, and a combined runoff and leaching trial with a rainfall simulator.

UV Tanning Units Disposal Scheme

This scheme aims to encourage businesses to transition away from ultraviolet (UV) tanning services ahead of a legislated ban on cosmetic UV tanning services which takes effect on 31 December 2014. The NSW Government is offering assistance to solarium businesses to dispose of unwanted UV tanning units safely. The scheme includes free pick-up and permanent disposal of tanning units and a \$1000 per unit incentive payment for machines collected under the scheme. The scheme opened to eligible NSW solarium businesses on 1 July 2013.

The Trust agreed to fund \$425,000 for the scheme which is being managed by the EPA. The primary objective is to ensure that unwanted tanning units are disposed of in an environmentally responsible way. Tanning unit lamps contain

Table 25

Other waste and environment projects awarded in 2013–14

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Office of Environment and Heritage	Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism	Various	\$4,800,000
NSW Environment Protection Authority	Forestry Reform and Mapping	Various	\$3,000,000
Total			\$7,800,000

phosphors and mercury while tanning units also contain polymethyl methacrylate (a special UV-transmitting plastic), e-waste and recyclable metals.

To ensure the safe, permanent disposal of tanning units, the EPA has contracted a licensed waste company to collect and dispose of units. The specialist contractor will also maximise the recovery of recyclable materials in 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 \$1000 incentive payment per machine aims to encourage tanning businesses to take up the offer of disposal rather than selling the units.

The scheme is voluntary and take-up to date has been modest, however, the EPA expects this to pick up as the deadline of 31 December 2014 approaches. After that date it will be an offence for businesses to offer UV tanning services.

Devil Ark

Devil Ark is a special breeding facility that is helping to conserve the endangered Tasmanian Devil through free-range captive breeding. The breeding program, on a remote property in the Barrington Tops, aims to minimise human interaction with the devils so that one day they can be re-introduced into the wild.

The facility has continued its successful breeding program, with 28 juvenile devils successfully weaned by December 2013. The first pouch checks of 2014 took place in May with 35 joeys expected from 15 female devils.

The facility is also undertaking concept trials which look at social dynamics, stocking densities and reproductive outputs in enclosures for reproductive, non-recommended and post reproductive devils. To date the trials have been successful, with post-reproductive devils (retirees) housed in mixed-sexed groups of up to 15 individuals without injury, as well as successfully housing single-sexed groups of reproductively aged devils in groups of up to 10. This is the first time such group dynamics have been housed and it has resulted in greater efficiencies in management.

To further improve efficiencies, the facility has purchased and installed a commercial freezer and cool room onsite for food storage. This will allow devils to be fed on a weekly basis with a whole or part carcass, as opposed to daily feeding. This is not only reducing the amount of interaction keepers have with the devils, but also more closely reflects their natural feeding habits in the wild.

Devil Ark celebrated the opening of an interpretive centre in October 2013 and a 'Devils in the Wild Tour' commenced in December 2013. The tour gives a small group of participants a chance to take in some devil enrichment; a special form of feeding which encourages wild behaviour, interaction with joeys and a rare chance to become immersed in the devil's habitat by entering one of the free range enclosures



One of the baby devils born last season.

to witness Devils in the Wild. The tour has operated monthly and has had 100 visitors so far.

Devil Ark has featured in the media through a documentary which aired nationally on Channel 9 in September 2013. The facility has also been featured six times on popular television programs such as Bondi Vet, and The Wild Life of Tim Faulkner, to a combined audience of 600,000 viewers.

Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program

The Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program provides up to \$5 million in subsidies for the installation of exclusion netting on commercial orchards in and around the Sydney Basin and Central Coast. The program aims to eliminate the need for licenced shooting of flying-foxes (particularly grey-headed flying-foxes) which is currently used as a crop protection measure.

Once a netting subsidy has been received, the orchardist is no longer eligible for a shooting licence for the netted area of the property. Funding is available to eligible growers to cover 50 per cent of the cost of installing netting. The project is administered by the Rural Assistance Authority, and is overseen by a technical subcommittee.

Participation in the program continues to be lower than expected. In recognition of the slow take-up and recent levels of unprecedented damage to crops outside the Sydney Basin, the Trust agreed to extend the program to include the installation of throw-over netting (as an alternative to full canopy netting) and to broaden the geographic scope to the whole of New South Wales. These extended criteria will apply to orchards established before 1 July 2011 and where potential damage to crops from significant numbers of flying-foxes can be demonstrated.

Five applications were approved in 2013–14 for a total amount of \$214,000. This brings the total number of successful applications to 18, with total assistance of \$709,383 being provided. Since beginning in 2011–12 the scheme has netted a total area of 45.29 hectares of orchards.

Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism

Funding of \$4.8 million over 4 years has been awarded to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to raise awareness of national parks in New South Wales and the range of nature-based experiences available, encourage sustainable growth in visitor numbers, and build a community of support for nature and conservation.

The program consists of three components:

1. Growing Demand will raise the profile of nature based experiences on offer
2. Improving Supply will develop new nature-based experiences at iconic destinations
3. Creating the Nature Tourists of Tomorrow is aimed at engaging children in nature.

Planning for component 1 Growing Demand is currently underway. This component will see the development and implementation of a campaign strategy, designed to engage younger people (aged 25–35) with nature and the environment. The campaign will be delivered over multiple years through a staged approach designed to build upon previous phases. The campaign will align with the NPWS framework for experience development and marketing activity, focusing on iconic natural and cultural landscapes and experiences, such as World Heritage Areas and Australia's National Landscapes, to also leverage national and international marketing platforms and activity.

Components two and three of the program are currently being scoped and will commence in 2014–15.

Forestry Reform and Mapping

The Trust awarded funding of \$3 million over three years to the EPA to deliver major reform of the environmental regulation of native forestry in New South Wales. This project supports the reform of the regulatory frameworks on state forests and private land to ensure they are efficient, effective, outcome-focused and consistent across tenures where appropriate. It will also result in major improvements in the identification and management of threatened ecological communities in forestry operations as well as improve the identification and management of koalas and their habitat particularly in private native forestry but also in state forests.

The project will be delivered through five key components:

1. delivery of four new Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals for coastal New South Wales
2. a comprehensive remake of the private native forestry codes of practice
3. setting of minimum competencies for harvest and haulage contractors in NSW native forests
4. improvements to the identification and management of koala habitat on private and public land in NSW
5. mapping of priority threatened ecological communities in native forestry areas.

Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) were established a decade ago to integrate the environmental approvals (for the protection of soil and water, threatened species and threatened fish) of forestry operations on public land and to provide the community and the forest industry with confidence in the regulation of private native forestry. IFOAs have proved to be challenging licensing frameworks, being highly complex, prescriptive and with limited scope for enforcement.

This project will remake the four coastal IFOAs to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. The IFOAs will be redesigned as outcomes-based licences. The licence conditions will also be clearly enforceable, removing much of the ambiguity of the current IFOAs.

There has also been a strong community interest in the protection of koalas and the need to improve the mapping of habitat and its consideration in private native forestry approvals. This project will refine the approach to koala habitat mapping for the purposes of private native forestry regulation.

Mapping of priority threatened ecological communities will also occur, at a fine scale where possible, and a field guide will be developed for use where mapping is not comprehensive or possible. Only the highest priority threatened ecological communities will be able to be mapped during this project.

There is little barrier for individuals to enter the timber industry, and while this might promote the efficient movement of labour in and out of the sector, it also does little to ensure contractors operating in native forests understand and meet environmental standards. Investigations into potential accreditation and certification approaches for private harvest and haulage contractors will be undertaken and support offered for its implementation.



The reform of native forestry regulations aims to improve environmental standards and forestry operations on public and private land.

Dissemination Program

In operation since January 2005, the Dissemination Program extends the success, knowledge and tools produced by successfully completed grant projects across New South Wales. Encompassing a wide variety of approaches, stakeholders and geographical locations, the Dissemination Program has trained more than 4130 people and collaborated with well over 1000 organisations to add value to Trust-funded programs.

Completed projects

Coastal Ambassadors – Protecting our Coast

Pittwater Council delivered the highly successful Coastal Ambassadors environmental education program to 13 surf club members from nine regional areas at a two-day workshop held in Sydney, as well as to 57 participants on the far north coast and the Central Coast. The program helps volunteers to deliver local initiatives that will encourage the community to care for the coastal zone. Participants learn about the importance of coastal and marine environments, natural processes, biodiversity, and issues that impact the environment along the coast.

Pittwater Council has assisted four regions in establishing initiatives to protect the coastal environment in their local area, including an initiative from Coalcliff Surf Life Saving Club which saw them win the 2013 Surf Life Saving NSW Community Education Program of the Year award. The Coastal Ambassadors project itself won the Local Government Award at the 2013 Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards.

Sharing the Knowledge – Traditional Burning

Through this project the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) has developed and delivered workshops on fire and land management to other LALCs in the Hunter and Central Coast regions. Controlled burning is an underused land management tool, and the project helped LALCs to improve their knowledge and implement a fire management plan.

Extending the outcomes of the NSW Rural Fire Service and Nature Conservation Council's Hot Spots program, Darkinjung LALC worked with a range of government agencies to develop and deliver four workshops. This is the first time these agencies have collaborated with LALCs to address landholder responsibility in promoting the health of land through fire.

The Hot Spots workshops were attended by 25 people. Actions identified in the management plans included burning to regenerate the native seed bank, managing weeds to reduce wildfire intensity, and protecting cultural sites by reducing surrounding fuel loads. Six months of mentoring from the Darkinjung LALC ensured that the participating LALCs were supported in implementing their fire management plan.



Participants at a Hot Spots workshop at Mullion Creek.

More Little Green Steps

The Trust engaged the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) to deliver More Little Green Steps, a project which builds upon the City of Canterbury's original Little Green Steps.

Early childhood services are assessed and rated against National Quality Standards, which require them to take an active role in caring for their environment and contributing to a sustainable future. By developing and promoting a resource kit, establishing childcare centre networks and delivering training sessions and meetings, ECEEN has supported early childhood educators and families to embed sustainability values into the operation and curriculum of their services.

Training sessions were attended by 108 participants from 58 early childhood services across Parramatta, Hornsby, Penrith and the Hunter region. All participants reported an improvement in their knowledge and skills, especially in identifying priorities for action, generating new ideas for improving sustainability and more confidence in educating children, families and staff. Childhood services enthusiastically shared their progress during follow-up mentoring, which gave them an opportunity to access further support.

BioBanking Trust Fund

The BioBanking Trust Fund has been established to manage funds invested as part of the BioBanking Scheme. Funds from each biodiversity credit sale are deposited into the Fund and invested in TCorp Hourglass facilities. Annual management payments are made to biobank site owners from these investments to improve the biodiversity values of their land.

The Trust has been appointed as the fund manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund until July 2015. As at 30 June 2014, the Fund held investments for 27 biobank sites, including eight new sites that commenced in 2013–14.

Funds are invested in three investment options (Cash Facility, Medium Term Growth Facility and Long Term Growth Facility). An operating account is also held with Westpac to receive deposits and make payments. As of 30 June 2014 the total funds held within the BioBanking Trust Fund totalled \$31 million. In 2013–14 the fund provided over \$1.487 million in payments to property owners for the management of biodiversity on their land (Table 26).

Review of the BioBanking Scheme

A statutory review of the BioBanking Scheme commenced in 2012. The aim of the review was to identify the scheme's strengths and challenges and evaluate ways of improving it to ensure it achieves credible environmental outcomes and is practical to use. OEH conducted meetings with key stakeholders, surveyed participating landholders and invited public submissions as part of the review.

Fifty written submissions were received which raised a range of technical, policy and administrative issues. A summary of submissions was released in May 2014 to provide an overview of the key issues raised. The summary report is available on the OEH website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/bbreview.htm. A final BioBanking Review Report is being prepared which will set out the recommended changes to the scheme.

Table 26

BioBanking Trust Fund 2013–14

Details	Amount
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	\$17,572,040
Receipts by the BioBanking Trust Fund (no GST)	\$13,354,949
Return on invested funds	\$1,580,148
GST paid on management payments – recovered in July 2013	\$16,593
Annual management payments (GST exclusive)	-\$1,487,821
Management fee (OEH)	-\$16,402
Administration fee (NSW Environmental Trust)	-\$10,106
Cash balance invested in the BioBanking Trust Fund	\$31,009,402

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 2014, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows for the year then ended and service group statements, 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 2014, 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 entity'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 entity'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 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

22 September 2014
SYDNEY

Environmental Trust

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

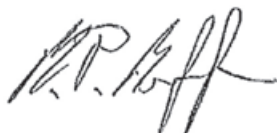
For the year ended 30 June 2014

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 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the applicable clauses of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010, Australian Accounting Standards, the Financial Reporting Code for NSW General Government Sector Entities and the Treasurer's Directions;
- b) the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Trust; and
- c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Rob Stokes MP
Chairperson



Barry Buffler
In my capacity as Secretary
at 30 June 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Notes	Actual 2014 \$'000	Budget 2014 \$'000	Actual 2013 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	2,851	3,106	2,284
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	53,828	78,575	37,650
TOTAL EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES		56,679	81,681	39,934
Revenue				
Investment revenue	3(a)	1,016	1,173	1,286
Grants and Contributions	3(b)	52,347	76,327	35,164
Other revenue	3(c)	2,674	3,500	2,897
Total Revenue		56,037	81,000	39,347
Net Result		(642)	(681)	(587)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(642)	(681)	(587)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Notes	Actual 2014 \$'000	Budget 2014 \$'000	Actual 2013 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	19,085	19,066	19,606
Receivables	6	2,134	1,587	649
Total Current Assets		21,219	20,653	20,255
Non-Current Assets				
Total Non-Current Assets		-	-	-
Total Assets		21,219	20,653	20,255
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	7	2,965	2,532	1,359
Total Current Liabilities		2,965	2,532	1,359
Non-Current Liabilities				
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-	-
Total Liabilities		2,965	2,532	1,359
Net Assets		18,254	18,121	18,896
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds		18,254	18,121	18,896
Total Equity		18,254	18,121	18,896

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Accumulated Funds \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2013	18,896	18,896
Net result for the year	(642)	(642)
Total comprehensive income for the year	18,254	18,254
Balance at 30 June 2014	18,254	18,254
Balance at 1 July 2012	19,483	19,483
Net result for the year	(587)	(587)
Total comprehensive income for the year	18,896	18,896
Balance at 30 June 2013	18,896	18,896

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Notes	Actual 2014 \$'000	Budget 2014 \$'000	Actual 2013 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	(53,828)	(78,575)	(37,650)
Return of funds to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)		(1,413)	-	(19,658)
Other		(4,482)	(3,129)	(3,772)
Total Payments		(59,723)	(81,704)	(61,080)
Receipts				
Interest received		1,080	1,173	1,224
Grants and Subsidies		53,760	76,327	53,902
Other		4,362	3,523	4,212
Total Receipts		59,202	81,023	59,338
NET CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	12	(521)	(681)	(1,742)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH		(521)	(681)	(1,742)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		19,606	19,747	21,348
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5	19,085	19,066	19,606

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

SERVICE GROUP STATEMENT – STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

	Competitive Grants		Major Programs		Non attributable		Total	
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
ENTITY'S EXPENSES AND INCOME								
Expenses excluding losses								
Operating expenses								
Other operating expenses	1,426	1,053	1,425	1,231	-	-	2,851	2,284
Grants and subsidies	23,495	11,331	30,333	26,319	-	-	53,828	37,650
Total Expenses excluding losses	24,921	12,384	31,758	27,550	-	-	56,679	39,934
Revenue								
Investment Revenue	474	483	542	803	-	-	1,016	1,286
Grant from Department of Premier and Cabinet	22,848	10,534	29,499	24,630	-	-	52,347	35,164
Other Revenue	365	2,533	2,309	364	-	-	2,674	2,897
Total Revenue	23,687	13,550	32,350	25,797	-	-	56,037	39,347
Net result/(loss)	(1,234)	1,166	592	(1,753)	-	-	(642)	(587)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(1,234)	1,166	592	(1,753)	-	-	(642)	(587)

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 2014

	Competitive Grants		Major Programs		Non attributable		Total	
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
ENTITY'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES								
Current assets								
Cash and cash equivalents	9,340	8,979	9,745	10,627	-	-	19,085	19,606
Receivables	1,891	346	243	303	-	-	2,134	649
Total current assets	11,231	9,325	9,988	10,930	-	-	21,219	20,255
Non-current assets								
Total non-current assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	11,231	9,325	9,988	10,930	-	-	21,219	20,255
LIABILITIES								
Current liabilities								
Payables	413	958	2,552	401	-	-	2,965	1,359
Total current liabilities	413	958	2,552	401	-	-	2,965	1,359
Non-current liabilities								
Total non-current liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	413	958	2,552	401	-	-	2,965	1,359
NET ASSETS	10,818	8,367	7,436	10,529	-	-	18,254	18,896

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 2014

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.

Since July 2008, the Environmental Trust has been the Fund Manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund pursuant to section 127ZY(1) of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act). The Environmental Trust's current appointment as BioBanking Trust Fund Manager concludes in 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. This scheme provides a robust framework for private land conservation and offsetting, providing long term arrangements for biodiversity conservation on private land. Each BioBanking site has a legal agreement between the Minister for the Environment and the BioBanking site land owner(s). The BioBanking Trust Fund holds and invests financial assets to pay for the future management of BioBanking sites.

These financial statements have been authorised for issue by the Environmental Trust on 19 September 2014.

(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 *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2010*, and;
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies or 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)

Income, 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) Assets

(i) 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.

(ii) 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'.

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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.

(h) Liabilities

(i) 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.

(i) 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.

(j) 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.

(k) 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.

(l) New Australian Accounting Standards issued but not effective

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 14/03):

- 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 127 Separate Financial Statements
- AASB 1031 Materiality
- AASB 1055 and AASB 2013-1 regarding budgetary reporting
- AASB 2011-7 (NFP) regarding consolidation and joint arrangements
- AASB 2012-3 regarding offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities
- AASB 2013-3 Amendments to AASB 136 – Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets
- AASB 2013-6 regarding Reduced Disclosure Requirements
- AASB 2013-8 regarding Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities – Control and Structured Entities
- AASB 2013-9 regarding the Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments (Parts B and C).

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

(a) Other operating expenses:	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Auditor's remuneration – audit of the financial statements	32	31
Payments to NSW Government agencies	2,359	1,821
Stores and minor assets	4	2
Information dissemination	103	76
Personnel related services	329	333
Travel	15	14
Other	9	7
	2,851	2,284

(b) Grants and subsidies:	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Federal Government	49	356
State and Local Governments	44,059	28,047
Other	9,720	9,247
	53,828	37,650

3. REVENUE

(a) Investment revenue	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Interest revenue from financial assets not at fair value through profit or loss	1,016	1,286
	1,016	1,286

(b) Grants and contributions	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Recurrent funding from the NSW Government (DPC)	52,347	35,164
	52,347	35,164

(c) Other revenue	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Fund manager fees	45	18
Refunds	2,629	2,879
	2,674	2,897

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

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	2,458	3,451
Cash at T-Corp	16,627	16,155
Closing Cash or cash equivalents (as per Statement of Cash Flows)	19,085	19,606

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

6. CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Debtors	73	73
Accrued Income	55	19
Interest	332	393
GST receivables	1,674	164
	2,134	649

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

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

7. CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Creditors	145	4
Accrued expenses	2,820	1,355
	2,965	1,359

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

8. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

There were no commitments as at 30 June 2014 (2013 - nil).

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2014 (2013 - nil).

10. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) Net result

The actual net result was (\$642,000) compared to a budget of (\$681,000). The favourable minor variance of \$39,000 was due to delays in expenditure relating to some of the Trust's grant programs. The Trust revised its budgeted expenditure and grant down via a PTA mid year by \$23.98m. This was largely related to lower than budgeted expenses as a result of delays in the first year of a number of grant programs administered by the Trust under the "Waste Less Recycle More" initiative.

(b) Assets and liabilities

Net assets were higher than budget by \$133,000. This variance was mainly due to higher than budgeted cash and receivables, partly offset by increased current liabilities (accrued expenses).

(c) Cash Flows

Both total payments and total receipts were below budget due to lower than expected program expenditure and the resulting reduction in grant income.

11. BIOBANKING TRUST FUND

Since July 2008, the Environmental Trust has been the Fund Manager for the BioBanking Trust Fund pursuant to section 127ZY(1) of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act). The Environmental Trust's current appointment as BioBanking Trust Fund Manager concludes in 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. This scheme provides a robust framework for private land conservation and offsetting, providing long term arrangements for biodiversity conservation on private land. Each BioBanking site has a legal agreement between the Minister for the Environment and the BioBanking site land owner(s). The BioBanking Trust Fund holds and invests financial assets to pay for the future management of BioBanking sites.

8 new site transactions occurred during the period 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 bringing the total number of sites managed under the Fund to 27 sites.

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Cash balance at the beginning of the financial year	17,572	6,008
Add: receipts by the BioBanking Trust	13,371	11,634
Add: Interest on invested BioBanking Trust funds	1,580	1,025
Less: annual management payment	(1,504)	(1,090)
Less: management fee – ET Fund Manager fee	(10)	(5)
Balance invested in the Trust Fund	31,009	17,572

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

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	(521)	(1,742)
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	(1,606)	1,865
(Decrease)/increase in receivables	1,485	(710)
Net Result	(642)	(587)

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 and Risk Committee on a periodic basis.

(a) Financial Instrument Categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Class:				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	N/A	19,085	19,606
Receivables (1)	6	Loans and Receivables (at amortised cost)	461	485
			19,546	20,091
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Class:				
Payables (2)	7	Loans and receivables (at amortised cost)	2,965	1,359
			2,965	1,359

Notes

(1) Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within the scope of AASB 7)

(2) Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within the scope of AASB 7)

(b) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility that Environmental Trust's debtors will default 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
2014	Total ^{1,2}	Past due but not impaired ^{1,2}	Considered impaired ^{1,2}
< 3 Months Overdue	73	73	-
3 months – 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2013			
< 3 Months Overdue	73	73	-
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 2.88% (2013: 2.52%), while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 2.92% (2013: 3.69%) on a weighted average balance during the year of \$16.379m (2013: \$15.889m). 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% (2013: 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		
2014	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
<i>Payables:</i>				
Payables:	N/A	2,965	-	-
2013				
<i>Payables:</i>				
Payables:	N/A	1,359	-	-

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 2013. 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
2014					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	19,085	(191)	(191)	191	191
Receivables	461	(5)	(5)	5	5
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	2,965	30	30	(30)	(30)
2013					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	19,606	(196)	(196)	196	196
Receivables	485	(5)	(5)	5	5
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	1,359	14	14	(14)	(14)

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. Environmental Trust has no direct equity investments. Environmental Trust holds units in the following Hour-Glass investment trusts:

Facility	Investment Sectors	Investment Horizon	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 1.5 years	16,627	16,155

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 for each facility (balance from Hour-Glass statement).

	Change in unit price	Impact on profit/loss	
		2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment – Cash Facility	+/- 2.92%	486	596

(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

	2012–13	2013–14
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives	\$39 million	\$56 million
Number of contestable programs and other small grant programs running	17	22
Number of major programs and projects running	14	17
Number of new grant projects approved	197	328
Number of applications / expressions of interest processed	702	1,166
Number of grant payments processed	437	486
Number of emergency pollution and orphan waste clean-ups funded	45	64

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

- Wagga Wagga City Council – Wagga Wagga Remediation Works Stage 1
- Cootamundra Shire Council – Cootamundra Gasworks Remediation
- Office of Environment and Heritage – Eastern Seaboard Climate Change Initiative
- Dorriggo Plateau Local Aboriginal Land Council – Rehabilitation of Dorriggo Aboriginal Land
- Braeside Bushcare Group – Saving Braeside Blue Mountains Uplands Swamp from gorse and broom
- Wolli Creek Preservation Society NSW Inc. – Undercliffe Track (Wolli Creek) bush regeneration stage 1
- Cabonne Council – Former Molong Gasworks Remediation
- Wingecarribee Shire Council – Former Bowral Gasworks Remediation
- Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority – Reinstating wader habitat at Pitt Town Lagoon
- Tweed Shire Council – Protection and restoration of Pottsville wetlands
- Crump and Smith – Timber Cutters Museum and restaurant.

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 OEH. The Trust funds the costs of administering its grant programs, including staff salaries, while OEH provides all support services for the Trust such as finance, human resources and information technology.

Day-to-day management of the Trust's programs and activities is the responsibility of the Grants Unit within the Regional Operations Group of OEH. The unit'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 pollution clean-up programs
- reviewing and evaluating the Trust's programs and procedures.



Several Trust staff were recognised with awards for service, integrity and accountability.

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 pays either the grants in instalments in advance or through milestone payments.

The Trust's technical committee representatives and independent reviewers 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. Where appropriate, a copy of the final report is placed in the OEH Library.

All major programs and projects 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/project business plans, monitor 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, workforce diversity and disability 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 *Office of Environment and Heritage Annual Report 2013–14* and the *Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2013–14*.

Assets

The Trust does not have any physical assets that require risk management or associated insurance activities, as 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 payment of grants, a procedures manual and regular audits of procedures.

Further information on Risk Management Policies and guidelines, Fraud and Corruption Control Strategies and Internal Audit program applicable to the Trust can also be found in the OEH Annual Report and the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report for 2013–14.

Digital information attestation

The NSW Government Digital Information Security Policy requires each Department and Statutory Body to attest annually to the adequacy of its digital information and information systems security.

The information systems used by the Trust and all digital information held by the Trust is managed by OEH. For a copy of the Digital Information Attestation Statement refer to the 2013–14 annual reports of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and OEH.

External reviews

The Trust is subject to a range of external audits, including annual review of its financial statements by the Audit Office of NSW. To ensure Trust funding is achieving the best possible results for the environment, the Trust also implements a five-year evaluation plan for each of its competitive grant programs.

The Lead Environmental Community Groups grant program was reviewed for the first time in 2012–13 with the results made available in 2013–14. The review found that the program is well-managed and the funds are appropriately used by grantees. Refer to the Lead Environmental Community Groups Program for further information.

An evaluation of the Environmental Research Program was undertaken in 2013–14. The results of this review will be considered by the Trust in late 2014 and the findings reported in next year's annual report.

The Food Gardens in Schools Program commenced as a pilot program in 2012. With the pilot period now completed the program will be reviewed in 2014–15 to inform decisions about the future of the program.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Trust's Monitoring and Evaluation (MER) Program was established five years ago. It aims to improve the Trust's ability to report on measurable environmental outcomes while also helping the grantees to track their progress against their objectives as well as to measure and report on the effectiveness of their projects. The MER Program recently began initiating process enhancements that will be rolled out in the coming financial year.

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

The performance indicators are aligned 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 2013–14 contestable grants

We anticipate that through the 2013–14 Environmental Education Program almost 10,000 people will receive environment instruction through some 1064 different training events. These figures include education initiatives that will involve an estimated 5284 school students as well as some 410 tertiary students. The program also expects to generate 85 educational products and publications which in turn will be disseminated to an estimated 1.1 million people.

Grantees in the *Protecting Our Places* Program are expecting to rehabilitate and/or restore approximately 190 hectares of land. Of these areas, some 15 hectares are designated as Aboriginal-owned or culturally significant land, and approximately 160 hectares of the combined project area will be protected by fencing or bollards to limit site access. Around 6500 native plants are expected to be planted over the course of their projects. Collectively these projects plan to deliver 46 training events and develop 118 educational products, with over 1500 people subsequently sharing, giving or receiving traditional Aboriginal knowledge and Caring for Country.

The eight research projects funded in 2013–14 are expecting to present their findings at 41 technical or scientific conferences as well as publish at least 41 related articles in journals and other scientific publications. It is projected that 171 people will contribute over 40,000 hours to the work supported by these research grants. Collectively these grants expect to generate 14 innovative technologies or new methods or approaches to previously known work.

Internal Audit and Risk Management Statement for the 2013–14 Financial Year for the NSW Environmental Trust

I, Mr Barry Buffier 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, Mr Barry Buffier Secretary, am of the opinion that the former Audit and Risk Management Subcommittee and the current Audit and Risk Committee for the Office of Environment and Heritage (which has responsibility for oversight of Office of Environment and Heritage 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 committees are:

Audit and Risk Management Subcommittee

- Independent Chair, Arthur Butler (January 2010 to December 2013)
- Independent Member, Joan Wilcox (April 2010 to February 2014)
- Independent Member, Ms Gerardine Brus (April 2010 to February 2014)
- Non-independent, Mr Paul Elton (Ongoing commencing from January 2013)

Audit and Risk Committee

- Independent Chair, Mr Bruce Turner (March 2014 to February 2018)
- Independent Member, Ms Elizabeth Crouch (May 2014 to April 2018)
- Independent Member, Ms Gerardine Brus (March 2014 to February 2018)
- Non-independent, Mr Paul Elton (Ongoing commencing from March 2014)

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.

BARRY BUFFIER

Secretary

Environmental Trust

Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Environment Protection Authority

(Sign and Date)



25/12/14

Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust

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

- Minister for the Environment (as Chairperson)
- Secretary of NSW Treasury
- Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet NSW (from 1 July 2013 to 23 February 2014) / Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage (from 24 February 2014 onwards)
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW
- a person appointed by the Minister from a panel of three nominated by Local Government NSW (LGNSW).

The Trust met four times in 2013–14.

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)	3	3
The Hon. Rob Stokes MP	(Chairperson) Minister for the Environment (statutory appointment)	1	1
Mr Philip Gaetjens	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)	0	4
Permanent Deputy: Mr Bill Stanhope	Senior Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury	3	4
Deputy: Mr David Buckland (8 October 2013 only)	Senior Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury	1	1
Mr Chris Eccles 1 July 2013 to 23 February 2014	Director General, Department of Premier and Cabinet	0	2
Mr Terry Bailey 24 February 2014 onwards	Chief Executive, Office of Environment and Heritage	0	2
Deputy: Mr Barry Buffier 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014	Chief Executive Officer, Environment Protection Authority	4	4
Mr Rob Pallin	Public Officer and Treasurer, Nature Conservation Council of NSW	2	4
Deputy: Professor Don White	Chairperson Nature Conservation Council of NSW	2	2
Cr Keith Rhoades	President, Local Government NSW	3	4
Deputy: Ms Susy Cenedese	Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW	1	1

Membership of Trust Subcommittees

The Trust had seven subcommittees in operation under section 9 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* during 2013–14 to assist with the management of its grant programs. 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.

Waste and Sustainability Programs Subcommittee

Mr Terry Bailey (Chairperson)

Chief Executive, OEH

Dr Tony Wilkins

Head of Environment, News Corp Australia

Professor Don White

Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Ms Susy Cenedese (delegate)

Strategy Manager, Local Government NSW

Mr Stephen Beaman

Director Waste and Resource Recovery, EPA

Biodiversity and Green Corridors Subcommittee

Mr Tom Grosskopf / Ms Carolyn Davies (Chairperson)

Director Metropolitan Branch, OEH/
Director Environmental Programs Branch, OEH

Mr Richard Thackway

Consultant, Vast Transformations

Ms Adair Moar / Ms Bronwyn Petrie (delegates)

Representing NSW Farmers

Mr Peter Dixon

Senior Manager Environmental Grants,
NSW Environmental Trust

Ms Susannah Bilous / Ms Susan Johnston (delegates)

Senior Environmental Officer, NSW Rural Fire Service

Mr Peter Turner (delegate Ms Hillary Cherry)

Senior Weeds Officer,
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Mr Tim Low

Project Officer, Invasive Species Council

Ms Karen Eardley

Project Officer Reserve Establishment,
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Flying-fox Netting Subsidy Program Subcommittee

Mr Tom Grosskopf / Ms Carolyn Davies (Chairperson)

Director Metropolitan Branch, OEH /
Director Environmental Programs Branch, OEH

Mr Stephen Griffith / Mr Bruce Glover (delegate Mr John Newcombe)

General Manager, NSW Rural Assistance Authority/Manager
Grants Administration, NSW Rural Assistance Authority

Ms Alexia Wellbelove (alternate Ms Nancy Pallin)

Senior Program Manager, Humane Society International

Mr Peter Comensolie / Mr Glenn Fahey

Representing the NSW Farmers

Mr Murray Spicer / Mr Myles Parker

Manager Horticulture Industry Development, Department
of Primary Industries / Leader Horticulture Development,
Department of Primary Industries

Mr Peter Dixon / Ms Rebecca Simpson

Senior Manager Environmental Grants,
NSW Environmental Trust/Senior Team Leader,
Major Projects, NSW Environmental Trust

Contaminated Land Management Subcommittee

Mr Craig Lamberton (Chairperson)

Director Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health,
NSW 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

Grow Sustainable Nature Based Tourism Subcommittee

Ms Sally Chatterjee (Chairperson)

Director Customer Experience Tourism & Partnership,
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Mr Anthony Laver

General Manager Marketing, Destination NSW

Ms Suzanne Jones

Chair, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Advisory Council

Ms Rebecca Simpson

Senior Team Leader Major Projects,
NSW Environmental Trust

Growth Centres Program Subcommittee

Mr David Trewin (Chairperson)

Regional Manager Greater Sydney, Metropolitan Branch OEH

Ms Carolyn Cameron

Assistant Secretary (Strategic Approvals and Legislation),
Australian Government Department of the Environment

Mr Peter Dixon

Senior Manager Environmental Grants,
NSW Environmental Trust

Ms Elizabeth Kinkade (delegate Ms Paulina Hon)

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

Ms Melinda Murray

Director Park Strategy and Services,
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, OEH

Mr Minh Nguyen

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

Mr Neville Pavan

Manager Land Services, Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Mr Michael Dyson

Associate Director, Knight Frank Valuations

Mr Gary Wells

Chief Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Trust of NSW

Waste and Recycling Subcommittee

Mr Stephen Beaman (Chairperson)

Director Waste and Resource Recovery, NSW EPA

Dr Tony Wilkins

Head of Environment, News Corp Australia

Professor Don White

Chairperson, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mr Paul Klymenko

Chief Executive Officer Planet Ark

Dr Paul Hogan

Director Investment & Export Services,
NSW Trade and Investment

Mr Miles Lochhead

Convenor, Community Recycling Network

Mr Brian Fox-Lane

Director, Fox-Lane Consulting

Professor Adam Read

Practice Director, Ricardo-AEA

Ms Tracy Chalk

Manager Waste and Community Protection,
Penrith City Council

Membership of Trust Technical Committees

Under section 9 of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, the Trust has established several technical committees. These committees assess and recommend grant applications, provide guidance in the implementation of grant programs and may review progress and final reports. The membership of each committee during 2013–14 is set out below and includes newly formed technical committees for contestable grant programs under the *Waste Less, Recycle More* Initiative.

Eco Schools Program

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

Mr Mark Caddey
Former Sustainability Advisor,
Department of Education and Communities

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

Mr Brian Williams
Procurement Manager, representative for the Catholic
Education Office

Ms Janet Rannard
Representing the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Environmental Education Program

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

Ms Kalina Koloff (delegate)
Senior Team Leader Community Engagement Services, OEH

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

Ms Sarah Warner (Government Program) (delegate)
Environmental Planner, Lake Macquarie City Council

Ms Erika Van Schellebeck (Community Program) (delegate)
Sustainability Officer, Coffs Harbour City Council

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 Trade and Investment

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,
NSW Trade and Investment

Protecting Our Places Program

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

Mr John Lennis
Community representative

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

Ms Margaret Bottrell
Senior Strategic Land Services Officer (Aboriginal
Communities), Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Ms Robbie Beale
Senior Project Officer Illegal Dumping, OEH

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Ms Jane Gibbs (Chairperson)
Senior Manager Environmental Program Services, OEH

Mr Rob Gregory (Community Program)
Manager Land Services, Murray Local Land Services

Mr Ben Addison
Regional Manager Illawarra, OEH

Ms Kirsty McIntyre (Government Program) (delegate)
Senior Policy Officer NRM, Local Government NSW

Mr Matthew Milsdale (Community Program) (delegate)
Natural Areas Officer, Wollongong City Council, Local
Government NSW

Ms Cilla Kinross
Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Mr Marc Worner
Representing the Australian Institute of Landscape Designers
and Managers

Ms Mary-Lou Lewis (Community Program)
Representing the Australian Association of Bush
Regenerators

Ms Janet Rannard (Government)
Representing the Australian Association of Bush
Regenerators

Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program

Mr David Trewin (Chairperson)

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 Judy Christie

Senior Land Services Officer (Community Engagement),
Greater Sydney Local Land Services

Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative grant programs

Community Recycling Centres Program

Mr David Coleman (Chairperson)

Member of Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW

Mr Aaron Malloy

Waste Management Coordinator, Port Stephens Council

Ms Martina Rienzner

Strategic Coordinator Hume Region, Sustainability Victoria

Mr John Davis

Financial and Committee member Men's Bowls, Club Urunga

Ms Rose Read

Manager Recycling, Australian Mobile Telecommunications
Association

Ms Jo Imming

Coordinator, National Toxics Network

Local Government Organics Collection Systems Program

Mr John Street (Chairperson)

Chairperson, Hawkesbury Environment Network

Mr Justin Lang

Program Manager Local Government, Zero Waste SA

Mr Ken Wilson

Sustainable Services Coordinator, Clarence Valley Council

Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Program

Mr Cameron Little (Chairperson)

Coordinator, Permaculture Northern Beaches

Mr Brock Baker

Project Leader Market Development Organics Resource
Recovery, Sustainability Victoria

Mr Michael Wood

Director, EnviroMix

Mr Lachlan Jeffries

Managing Director, Jeffries Group

Mr James Turnell

Manager Waste and Drainage, Armidale City Council

Food Waste Avoidance Education Program

Ms Kalina Koloff (Chairperson)

Senior Team Leader Community Engagement Services, OEH

Mr Geoff Isaac

Senior Project Officer Sustainable Households, OEH

Mr Michael Neville

Council Officer, Wyong City Council

Ms Sue Burton

Executive member, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program

Mr Brad Gray (Chairperson)

Campaigns Manager, Planet Ark

Mr Phil Klepzig

Manager Commercial Services, Lismore City Council

Mr Mark Rawson

Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Rawtec Pty Ltd

Mr David Cocks

Manager Waste and Resource Recovery and Infrastructure,
Integrated Waste Management, Sustainability Victoria

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

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 2013–14.

The estimated cost for producing this annual report is approximately \$4300. This report is available to download from the Trust's website at 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.

Public access to NSW Government information

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) is the NSW Government's legislation covering rights to public information. It relates to personal and non-personal information held by government.

The Trust makes its information available in four different ways:

- through mandatory release (such as policies and guidelines available on the Trust's website)
- proactive release, which requires the Trust to release as much government information as possible in an appropriate format free-of-charge (or at lowest reasonable cost)
- through informal requests from members of the public
- through a formal application process requesting specific information under the GIPA Act. This is the last resort if a member of the public has not been able to get information in any other way.

Under section 20 of the GIPA Act government agencies are required to make available an information guide outlining the agency's structure and functions, the type of information held by the agency, and how members of the public can access information through that agency. The Trust's operations are covered by the OEH information guide that was published in May 2013 and is available on 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, providing grant applications, applicant guidelines and other supporting documents, 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 such as case studies of successful grant projects.

All GIPA requests relating to the Trust are reported by OEH in either the OEH or Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANPC	Australian Network for Plant Conservation
AWT	Alternative Waste Treatment
CMA	Catchment Management Authority (former)
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
ECEEN	Early Childhood Environmental Education Network
EDC	dichloroethane
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority
EPCUP	Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program
GER	Great Eastern Ranges
GIPA	Government Information (Public Access)
IFOA	Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LECG	Lead Environmental Community Groups
LLS	Local Land Services
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
PCAL	Premier's Council for Active Living
POP	Protecting Our Places
SSNSW	Sustainable Schools New South Wales
TSR	Travelling Stock Reserve
UV	Ultraviolet

Photographs:

Page	Title and source
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| 3 | Casuarina forest along the Capertee River. The purchase of private inholdings through the Land Acquisition Program this year has improved management of Capertee National Park. Photo courtesy of Karen Eardley, OEH |
| 4 | Everlasting Swamp is one of the largest remaining coastal floodplain wetlands in NSW. Photo courtesy of Karen Eardley, OEH |
| 6 | A participant in the Ridgelines to Rivers program. Photo courtesy of Local Land Services Riverina |
| 7 | Local primary school students help in the rehabilitation of Gills Bridge Creek. Photo courtesy of Kempsey Shire Council |
| 12 | Volunteers planting on the banks of the Deua River. Photo courtesy of Emma Patyus, Eurobodalla Shire Council |
| 12 | South West Rocks Dunecare has so far enhanced 242 hectares of scenic coastline by controlling weeds such as bitou bush and lantana. Photo courtesy of Stephen Hardy OEH |
| 13 | The Lord Howe Island weed team are using digital technology to map and monitor their weed eradication efforts. Photo courtesy of Lord Howe Island Board |
| 14 | New stainless steel railings in the Jenolan Caves. Photo courtesy of Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust |
| 18 | One thousand copies of Bush Medicine Plants of the Illawarra have been distributed across the Illawarra community. Photo courtesy of Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation. |
| 25 | Field visit to a Box-Gum Woodland community on a TSR near Guyra. Photo courtesy of Australian Network for Plant Conservation |
| 25 | Tea Gardens Club Inn is embracing sustainability through the Great Lakes Sustainable Business Program. Photo courtesy of Great Lakes Shire Council |
| 29 | Teacher Mrs Egan and students with the new koala sign outside their school. Photo courtesy of Soldiers Point Public School |
| 32 | Wauchope High 2012–13 Food Gardens project. Photo courtesy of Wauchope High School |
| 34 | Silverbeet and other vegetables grown by students of Mount Druitt Tutorial Centre. Photo courtesy of Mt Druitt Tutorial Centre |
| 38 | Wildlife survey of sugar gliders at Woomargama as part of the GER Initiative's Slopes 2 Summit 2013 Bioblitz. Photo courtesy of Esther Beaton |
| 39 | Endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland at the Orangeville biobank site. Photo courtesy of OEH |
| 40 | Endangered Sydney Turpentine–Ironbark Forest in Sheldon Forest. Photo courtesy of OEH |
| 42 | Recognition plaques awarded to Sustainability Advantage Program gold, silver and bronze partners. Photo courtesy of OEH |
| 43 | One of the posters from the Take the Stairs initiative. Photo courtesy of OEH |
| 45 | The Minister for the Environment announces a Community Recycling Centre grant for Holroyd Council. Photo courtesy of Ann Trofa, EPA |
| 48 | The Organics Infrastructure program will help more than 17,000 households recycle their kitchen scraps. Photo courtesy of Rosie Nicolai |
| 52 | One of the baby devils born last season. Photo courtesy of Devil Ark |
| 53 | The reform of native forestry regulations aims to improve environmental standards and forestry operations on public and private land. Photo courtesy of John Turbill, OEH |
| 54 | Participants at a Hot Spots workshop at Mullion Creek. Photo courtesy of Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| 57 | School children with the story table they helped to paint during a Protecting Our Places (POP) project at Clybucca Historic Site. Photo courtesy of Stuarts Point Public School |
| 75 | Phase 2 of the Snowy River Rehabilitation Project is restoring riparian habitat to support new environmental flows along the Snowy River. Photo courtesy of South East Local Land Services |
| 77 | Several Trust staff were recognised with awards for service, integrity and accountability. Photo courtesy of Annie Tran, OEH |

