

NSW Environmental Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07



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Flowers in Kosciusko National Park. Photo courtesy of Cameron Smith, DECC

Four wheel drive convoy on educational trip. Photo courtesy of Richard Ingham, TAFE Western Institute

Viewing platform. Photo courtesy of Leighton Farrell, Blacktown City Council

Signage at Mur-rung Korung site entrance. Photo courtesy of Sue Rostas, Hunter-Central Rivers CMA

Nature strip garden. Photo courtesy of Broken Hill City Council

Lime fungi. Photo courtesy of Debra Osgood Bentley, Loftus Bushcare Coalition

Seed balls in the drying phase. Photo courtesy of Ian Woods, Nari Nari Tribal Council

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Contents



About the NSW Environmental Trust	1
■ Changes to the Trust	2
Highlights of 2006–07	3
Trust Programs and Achievements	5
Land Acquisition	6
Restoration and Rehabilitation	7
■ Outcomes Achieved	7
Restoration and Rehabilitation Major Projects	11
■ Updates on 2004–06 Projects	11
■ Contaminated Land Management Program	14
■ Council Gasworks Remediation Program	14
Restoration and Rehabilitation 2006–07 Grant Programs	15
■ Protecting our Places Program for Aboriginal Organisations	17
■ Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program	19
Environmental Education	21
■ Outcomes Achieved	21
Environmental Education Major Projects	23
■ Updates on 2004–05 Projects	23
Environmental Education 2006–07 Grant Programs	24
■ Eco Schools Grants	25
Environmental Research	28
■ Outcomes Achieved	28
Environmental Research Major Projects	29
■ Updates on 2004–05 Projects	29
Environmental Research 2006–07 Grant Programs	30
Waste Programs	31
Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program	36
Urban Sustainability Program	37
NSW RiverBank	41
Marine Parks	42
Native Vegetation Assistance Program	43
Dissemination	44
Finance	47
Appendices	60
Additional Information	62
Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust and Committees	63
Abbreviations	68



The Honourable Phil Koperberg, MP
Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY

Dear Minister

I have the pleasure of presenting to you the 2006–07 annual report for the NSW Environmental Trust.

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

The Trust spent \$74 million on substantial new environmental initiatives for community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations and local and state government agencies in 2006–07.

This year was the first year that the Trust implemented all programs under the City and Country Environment Restoration Program, announced by the NSW Premier in November 2005. This year saw the Trust provide funding for: the buy-out of commercial fishing licences to help establish the Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park and the Batemans Marine Park; grants to local government agencies to promote sustainability efforts and initiatives; a native vegetation package helping farmers adjust to new land clearing laws; the purchase of water licences to provide water for the environment under the NSW RiverBank program; and the continuation of strategic grants for environmental research, restoration and rehabilitation, education, waste reduction and grants supporting lead environmental community groups.

This year has marked the much anticipated start of an expanded and exciting range of new Trust grants programs, which will continue over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Corbyn".

LISA CORBYN
Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust
October 2007

About the NSW Environmental Trust



The NSW Environmental Trust (Trust) is an independent statutory body, established by the NSW Government, which supports exceptional environmental projects. In order to do this the Trust receives an annual appropriation from the NSW Government; in 2006–07 this sum was around \$76.5 million – effectively double last year’s total appropriation. This increase was due to the new initiatives now funded by the Trust as a result of the City and Country Environment Restoration Program, which provides \$316.5 million to the Trust over five years. The new City and Country initiatives commenced in 2006–07.

The Trust is empowered under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. Its eight objects are:

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

The Environmental Trust Act is subject to the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*. Payments under the coastal forestry restructuring program were completed in June 2007. Payments under the Brigalow–Nandewar forestry restructuring and development program will continue until 2009–10.

The chair of the Trust is the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water. Members of the Trust are the Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW (DECC) and representatives from the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and NSW Treasury. The Trust is administered by DECC. (Refer to this report’s appendices for details of the members of the Trust and for further information on the Trust’s administration.)

Trust administration staff adhere to the employment principles and practices of the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW. For the purposes of this report, all issues of compliance (such as disability plans, NSW Government action plan for women, freedom of information, occupational health and safety etc.) should be referred to DECC’s annual report.

Changes to the Trust

There have been two major changes to the Trust in recent years. The first took place in November 2005 when the NSW Premier announced the City and Country Environment Restoration Program (CCERP). The 2006–07 year was the first in which the Trust administered this range of new grant programs, valued at \$316.5 million over five years. The initiatives now funded through CCERP are listed below.

- The Trust will fund the \$18.5 million buy-out of commercial fishing licences over two years as part of the creation of marine parks in the Manning Shelf and Batemans Shelf bioregions.
- An Urban Sustainability Grants program, worth \$80 million over five years, for local government to work in partnership with business and the community to address urban environmental issues.
- Additional funding to allow strategic Environmental Trust grants for environmental research, restoration, education and waste reduction to continue, worth \$76 million over five years.
- A Native Vegetation Assistance Package, worth \$37 million over three years, to help farmers adjust to new land clearing laws.
- The purchase of water entitlements for environmental flows under NSW RiverBank, valued at \$105 million over five years, aimed at saving endangered river systems and icon wetlands.

The second major change affecting the Trust was a series of amendments to the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*, also in 2005. These changes saw the Trust become responsible for funding the Brigalow–Nandewar forestry industry restructuring and development program.

In September 2006 the NSW Government increased the funding available under the program from \$41 million to a capped figure of just under \$52 million. The two additional and related programs administered by the Trust – the Brigalow Transition Fund also now providing \$780,000 over six years for the creation and operation of three Community Conservation Advisory Committees and the White Cypress Thinning Program remaining at \$12 million over 5 years.

Highlights of 2006–07



The 2006–07 year was a period of consolidation of the significant changes to the Trust in 2005–06.

Some of the key highlights during 2006–07 are listed below.

- It was the first year of the new programs under the City and Country Environment Restoration Program (CCERP) announced by Premier Iemma in November 2005. The package provides \$316.5 million over five years, commencing in 2006–07, for a range of new grants programs.
- This year the Trust provided funds for:
 - Marine parks: \$17,850,000 for the buy-back of commercial fishing licences in the Manning Shelf and Batemans Shelf bioregions to assist in reducing fishing impacts and allowing for the dedication of sanctuary zones and an additional \$2,175,000 to purchase the entire trawler fishery in the Batemans Marine Park.
 - Native vegetation assistance: funding valued at \$7,100,000 to help farmers impacted by new land clearing laws.
 - Urban Sustainability Grants: approved funding of 58 projects worth over \$33 million; sustainability projects of significant environmental benefit to NSW delivered by local government organisations in partnership with community, business and other organisations.
 - The second year of NSW RiverBank funding: around \$11 million for the purchase and management of water entitlements in wetlands and rivers in inland NSW.
- The Trust spent a record \$74 million on new environmental initiatives to community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations, local government and state agencies. This is double last year's spending due to the new CCERP initiatives.
- The Trust approved a record 238 new projects. This total includes 74 new site restoration projects, 60 new school projects, 58 projects to councils under the Urban Sustainability Grants program and financial support for the administration of 11 lead environmental community groups.
- The 2006–07 year was the last year of payments under the Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act (Coastal) Program which the Trust has funded since 1996. The Trust has over the last 11 years provided a total of \$75 million for training, re-deployment, relocation and redundancy benefits to eligible displaced timber workers. Assistance has also been provided to businesses exiting the timber industry, and industry development funding has been provided for new technology and job creation incentives for those businesses remaining in the industry.
- For the second year the Trust provided funding to lead environmental community groups to support their administrative operating costs. Funding for the program increased from \$165,000 for five groups in 2005–06 to \$300,000 per annum in 2006–07 for 11 groups over the next three years.
- The Trust Dissemination program, now in its third year of operation, continues to spread the benefits of completed Trust-funded projects to other areas and groups. The Trust has awarded over \$200,000 to nine projects designed to disseminate the results of successful grant projects.
- The Trust approved a new round of funding under its Major Grants Program valued at around \$43 million over three years, which will commence in 2007–08. The new programs will address environmental issues of state significance, such as air and community health, contaminated lands, Aboriginal land conservation initiatives and the protecting and acquisition of high-conservation land. These new projects will be undertaken in collaboration with community organisations, government, industry and councils.
- The Trust administered a \$450,000 grant given to the Roads and Traffic Authority for the retrofit of exhaust after-treatment devices to heavy vehicles under its Retrofit Subprogram.
- Under its current Land Acquisition program the Trust purchased six properties totalling 5,060 hectares to assist with the building and enhancement of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Areas.
- This was the Trust's second year of funding projects specifically focused on waste reduction and avoidance. Among a raft of highly effective projects were the Household Chemical Collections (which increased dramatically in size and scope, while reducing in cost), the Sustainability Compacts (voluntary agreements with business to improve environmental outcomes) and the fifth triennial 'Who Cares about the Environment?' survey (the largest and most comprehensive body of research of its kind in Australia).
- The Trust ran 26 workshops across NSW to assist potential applicants to develop high-quality applications on the new Urban Sustainability Grants programs plus Eco School and Protecting Our Places programs and attracted 279 participants.
- The Trust funded the purchase of over 13,000 unit shares in water licences in the Macquarie, Murrumbidgee and Gwydir rivers under its NSW RiverBank program.

Trust Programs and Achievements





Land Acquisition

The Trust provided a total of \$1.8 million to DECC towards land acquisition in 2006–07, acquiring approximately 5,060 hectares of new properties for the national parks system.

Darkwood–Brinerville (\$1,350,000)

The acquisition of land for the state's conservation reserves is a long-term and incremental process. This often results in boundary configurations that limit DECC's capacity for effective management, or on some occasions privately owned lands wholly within park boundaries (known as 'inholdings').

Darkwood–Brinerville is a prime example of an inholding. At 1,360 hectares it is a large property bounded by declared wilderness areas in the New England National Park to the north and west, Baalijin Nature Reserve to the east, and Oakes State Forest to the south. Lying in the Thora Valley, Darkwood–Brinerville is the last inhabited property on the Bellinger River—itself one of the best-preserved 'wild rivers' in the state. The property is substantially naturally vegetated, forming part of the Upper Bellingen Regional Wildlife Corridor and enhancing the degree of habitat connectivity with the park.

Many nationally significant, rare or threatened species of flora and fauna are found on Darkwood–Brinerville. Among the most endangered flora are the milky silkpod (*Parsonia dorrigoensis*), the large-flowered milk vine (*Marsdenia liisae*), pink cherry (*Austrobuxus swainii*), *Goodenia fordiana*, mountain laurel (*Cryptocarya nova-anglica*), *Acacia tessellata* and five-leaved bosistoa (*Bosistoa floydii*). The river forms the core habitat for the highly vulnerable and locally endemic Emydura Turtle (*Emydura macquarii*) and the nationally endangered Giant Barred Frog (*Mixophyes iteratus*). Several species of bat, glider, phascogale and snake inhabit the area, which is also a haven for dozens of species of birds—from the Powerful Owl to the Wompoo Fruit Dove.

The acquisition of Darkwood–Brinerville and reservation of the property will consolidate and increase the park's viability. Acquisition also protects the land from division by multiple owners and reduces the risk of further clearing. Further, its incorporation within the park system will allow increased reserve management efficiency through improved visitor access from the coast.



Brush-tailed Phascogale

World Heritage Areas (\$450,000)

This was the final year in the Trust's three-year funding program for the purchase of lands within World Heritage Areas. The previous two years of the program resulted in the acquisition of 830 hectares of land from eight properties, contributing to four national parks. DECC's major acquisitions in 2006–07 were in the World Heritage Areas of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (CERRA) and Greater Blue Mountains, comprising properties totalling 3,700 hectares.



Oxley Wild Rivers National Park looking onto the Chandler River

Two properties acquired within the CERRA will be added to Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. Located 350 kilometres north of Sydney, this park is renowned for its spectacular gorges, cliff lines and deep, steep-sided valleys. The properties lie within the Macleay Gorges Wilderness and comprise dry rainforest vegetation. One connects disparate sections of the park and the other will greatly improve visitor access to the Chandler River. A third property will be added to Nowendoc National Park. This third property contains significant areas of dry rainforest and demonstrates the World Heritage values of dry and fire-adapted flora. This property will be considered for future declaration as wilderness and World Heritage.

Within the Greater Blue Mountains two properties were acquired. One property adjoins the Blue Mountains National Park and Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve. The addition of this 158 hectares of land around Wombeyan Caves to the reserve system will protect significant karst features, as well as the poorly conserved vegetation communities of Tableland Hills and Tableland Granite Grassy Woodland. The other property will be added to Thirlmere Lakes National Park, located about 10 kilometres south-west of Picton. The five lakes within the park are considered to be about 15 million years old. Many of the planktonic aquatic organisms found within the lakes have evolved in isolation and are therefore largely restricted to this one lake system. The acquired property sits on the edge of one of the lakes, and its reservation will enhance its protection from development.

Restoration and Rehabilitation

This year the Trust funded 162 projects for on-ground works, many of which had multiple sites. The projects were diverse in nature: everything from bush regeneration, rehabilitation of riparian zones and restoration of Aboriginal sites to the clean-up of contaminated sites, clean-up of emergency pollution incidents and clean-up of illegally dumped hazardous materials.



Outcomes achieved

The following three high-priority projects were completed in 2006–07. All three were undertaken by NSW Fisheries, which is now the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The first two projects focus on the impacts that road crossings and weirs have on aquatic habitats in coastal waterways; the third is the recovery of two iconic threatened cod species.

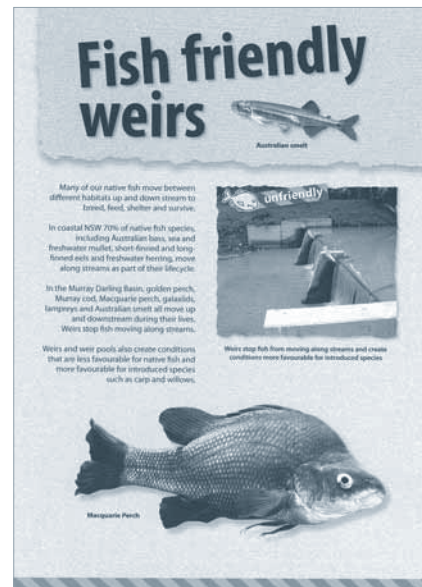
Reducing the Impact of Weirs on Aquatic Habitat in Coastal Waterways (\$596,360)

Native Australian fish are reliant on a variety of habitat types to complete their life cycle and many need free movement within rivers and streams and between estuarine and freshwater environments. Unfortunately, throughout Australia the connectivity between these different environments has been disrupted by the construction of many thousands of weirs, dams and poorly designed road crossings on waterways. The result is a severe impact on migratory fish passage and aquatic health.

In 2002 a review of 1,163 weirs throughout the state was carried out by NSW Fisheries, resulting in a recommendation to investigate 112 structures for more detailed review. The detailed Trust-funded review of weir structures consisted of site visits and discussions with the structures' owners to determine potential remedial options. It led to a ranking of the structures based on criteria including stream habitat value, structure impact, environmental considerations and modification potential.

Four demonstration sites were selected for site works: Stroud Weir on the Karuah River; Upper Ourimbah Weir on Ourimbah Creek; Audley Weir on the Hacking River; and Brewarrina Weir on the Barwon River. Work is complete on Stroud Weir and at Upper Ourimbah. These works resulted in over 90 kilometres of fish passage being reinstated, and at the completion of work at all sites approximately 682 kilometres of stream connectivity will be improved. Unfortunately, due to delays beyond the control of DPI, work failed to commence on Brewarrina Weir and has been delayed at Audley Weir.

Apart from reinstating fish passage, a great positive to come out of the project was the value to Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) in understanding where best to allocate funds when remediating weirs. The project's outcomes were disseminated via presentations to CMAs, local government, fishing groups and private landholders. A brochure, *Fish friendly weirs*, was published and distributed throughout the state.



Fish Friendly Weirs brochure

Reducing the Impact of Road Crossings on Aquatic Habitat in Coastal Waterways (\$479,500)

The impetus for improving weirs in coastal waterways informed a similar project on road crossings. Road crossings (including culverts and fords) can have an even greater potential impact on aquatic habitat than weirs. Not only do they act as fish barriers, they can cause increases in sediment and other inputs from adjacent floodplains and slopes, can disrupt local erosion and sedimentation patterns and can affect in-stream habitat condition.

Current NSW Government policy recommends improving road crossings to incorporate features that reduce hazards and fish passage barriers. Unfortunately, the state has a long legacy of poorly designed structures that require identification and remediation. As part of this project, DPI carried out field assessments of over 6,800 waterway crossings. Of these, over 1,400 were identified as fish passage barriers and were subsequently ranked based on criteria including stream habitat value, structure impact, environmental considerations and modification potential.

As with the weir project, a group of demonstration sites within each coastal CMA were selected to illustrate best practice techniques associated with the design, construction and remediation of waterway crossings. These sites were Tunnel Road (Tweed Shire Council); Wilsons Creek Road (Byron Shire Council); Kungala Road (Clarence Valley Shire Council); Guyra Road (Guyra Shire Council); Dixons Crossing (Great Lakes Council); Stantons Lane Crossing (Gloucester

Shire Council); South Creek causeway (Penrith City Council); Goodmans Ford Crossing (Wingecarribee Shire Council); Kiosk Crossing (Parramatta City Council); Pass of Sabugal (Sutherland Shire Council); Quart Pot Road (Eurobodalla Shire Council) and Wapengo Lake Road (Bega Valley Shire Council).

Works undertaken resulted in the reinstatement of around 300 kilometres of fish passage, including 72 kilometres of upstream habitat. The assessment process also proved extremely valuable to the participating CMAs and local councils by providing baseline data for road sites in the state's coastal waterways. Presentations on the project's outcomes were held, a poster was produced by the Northern Rivers CMA and a brochure, *Fish friendly road crossings*, was published and distributed throughout the state.



Road crossing blocking fish passage

Habitat Rehabilitation for Eastern Freshwater Cod and Trout Cod (\$400,200)

These two cod species have experienced severe decline in recent years. There are several causes—habitat degradation, the clearing of riparian vegetation, increased pollution and the construction of barriers to migration—and in spite of stringent Commonwealth and state protection neither species is showing any signs of recovery.

This project focused on two priority sites: one on the Richmond River (Eastern Freshwater Cod) and the other on Tarcutta Creek in the Murray–Murrumbidgee catchment (Trout Cod). The intended outcome was the creation of two demonstration reaches (a 'reach' is stretch of stream or river) to educate and mobilise the local community and increase support for the on-ground works essential for the species' recovery.

While relatively small in themselves, the works involved close liaison between Commonwealth, state and local governments, three Landcare groups, Conservation Volunteers Australia and numerous landholders. A wide range of activities—exclusion of stock through riparian fencing; strategic weed control; revegetation with frost-tolerant and flood-tolerant species; improved stream connectivity; installation of rock groynes and pyramids; and the creation of snags and log jams—all contributed towards the creation of each 25 kilometre reach.

The creation of the demonstration reaches proved to be a great success, providing a focus for works on other areas and highlighting best practice. Bringing these groups together also gave landholders a sense that their activities are part of a greater effort, and are not occurring in isolation – an essential component of long-term change in on-farm management.

As with all on-ground works, the prevailing weather conditions play a major role in a project's success or failure. While conditions on the Richmond River were favourable, the worst drought in living memory severely affected the Tarcutta Creek site. Ironically, a flood midway through the works damaged some recently completed riparian rehabilitation. Work by landholders and project staff soon overcame this problem—a wonderful symbol of the way in which the project has created a focus and an alliance between so many varied parties.

■ CASE STUDY

Cape Byron Littoral Rainforest Restoration Project

The Cape Byron Littoral Rainforest Restoration Project, with the assistance of a \$21,700 grant, re-established 15 hectares of degraded Littoral Rainforest vegetation at Cosy Corner, within the Cape Byron State Conservation Area. This area was heavily infested with a variety of weeds and native vines, which were inhibiting the development of juvenile plants and degrading the native canopy.

Cutting-edge and best practice techniques were used by the bush regeneration team and volunteers to restore the structural and floristic diversity of this site. This involved rapid and broadscale reductions of the mature weed load that were of seed-bearing age. The initial clearing of weeds was followed up with re-treatment of areas that had been recolonised from the seed stocks in the soil. In a 15 month period 2.5 hectares of bitou bush, 1 hectare of couch and 0.25 hectares of lantana were treated. During this period over 2,800 winter senna plants were also eradicated and 850 vine stems cut. Over 500 hours of professional bush regeneration work and 290 community volunteer hours were undertaken for this project.

The removal of the weed species has reduced the competition for resources, including nutrients, light and water. This has allowed approximately 2,000 existing saplings and mature trees to be released from the smothering effects of the weed species. Higher than expected natural resilience was noted at the site, which allowed approximately 8,000 native plants to germinate in a short time frame. The Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust has established a management strategy and restoration work plan to ensure ongoing maintenance of the site. The site will take three to ten years to effectively establish.



Area prior to rehabilitation



Area after rehabilitation

■ CASE STUDY

Rehabilitation of Kyla Park Grazing Lands and Adjoining Lake Foreshores

With the assistance of a \$74,236 grant this project has rehabilitated 21 hectares, planted over 8,000 trees, shrubs and sedges and erected 3.3 kilometres of fencing to control erosion. The work took place on five drainage lines that flow into Coila Lake or Tuross Lake at Tuross Head on the south coast of NSW. Volunteers from the Tuross Lakes Preservation Group have contributed over 2,900 hours of their time to achieve these outcomes. In addition, a total of 15 workshops, events, field trips and training sessions have been held—attended by 340 people—to promote the methods used and work done at this site.

This project has reduced the sediment load and improved the water quality at Lake Tuross and Coila Lake by stabilising the eroded gullies, excluding cattle with fencing and filtering the runoff. Sediment movement was initially prevented with silt trap fencing and then by the vegetation as it became established.

Major erosion control works were carried out on three of the five drainage lines with reshaping and recontouring of eroded gullies, creation of sediment ponds and installing

rockfill at the bottom of the drainage line. Lake Tuross and Coila Lake foreshores have been re-fenced, with a widened 100 metre buffer to the lake foreshores to filter runoff and improve water quality. To increase public awareness, information signs have been constructed in the paddocks bordering the site to educate the public on what can be achieved on their own land. This project has not only improved water quality but the tree plantings have also provided additional native habitat and shade for livestock, and linked up natural corridors along the lake foreshores.



Informative signage

■ CASE STUDY

Urban Habitat Restoration

The Urban Habitat Restoration project conducted by Hornsby Shire Council, with the assistance of a \$96,245 grant, promoted endangered plant communities in the Hornsby Shire and encouraged residents to actively participate in community conservation programs. Open days were held at existing Bushcare sites and promotional pamphlets were dropped in letter boxes to gain support for bush regeneration from local residents. As a result of these promotions 40 new volunteers have either joined existing Bushcare groups or formed part of ten new groups in the area. This project has successfully restored twelve areas of significant remnant vegetation by weeding and planting over 7,000 native plants.

A series of nine 'Gardens for Wildlife' workshops were also conducted, attended by 170 local residents. The workshops covered information on environmentally friendly practices at home, restoration of remnant bushland, and conservation of local wildlife and endangered ecological communities.

A range of educational materials were developed to support the workshops, including fact sheets and brochures. In addition to the workshops, 30 property owners who had attended the workshops received a follow-up site visit which offered them advice on how to restore and manage their land for conservation outcomes. These workshops and site visits have significantly improved awareness levels of endangered plant communities.

A brochure, *Create a Native Garden*, was produced for all local residents and included information on local native species, including photographs and descriptions of plants and their use as habitat in gardens. Three open days were held at the local community nursery, providing the public with over 3,000 plants from locally collected and propagated seed for planting in their gardens.



Gardens for Wildlife workshop

■ CASE STUDY

Creeks Alive Community Support Project

The Creeks Alive Community Support Project, granted \$92,879, enabled community groups to undertake riparian restoration and rehabilitation works along creek lines identified as a high priority for restoration work by Newcastle City Council. Eleven Creekcure groups have been formed as a result of this project and they have contributed 1,336 volunteer hours to improving the health and function of local creeks. The community groups were faced with weed infestation, channel erosion, sediment deposition, poor water quality, lack of shading, lack of indigenous plants and debris input into creek systems. In addition to weeding activities, a total of 5,870 plants were planted within riparian zones.

The long-term benefits of this project include reconnection of local communities with their urban creeks, increased awareness within the community of the environmental value of creeks and streams, and improved protection of these areas for the future. Community surveys about creek values and the natural environment were also undertaken. This information has been used to develop a residents' package that encourages residents to adopt more sustainable practices and behaviours.



Community planting day

Restoration and Rehabilitation Major Projects



Updates on 2004-06 Projects

The following is an update of the Trust's Major Project grants awarded in 2004-05 and 2005-06 which continued into the 2006-07 year.

Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory Stage 2 (\$350,000)

Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)

This program supports landholders who own properties of high conservation value. These privately owned parcels of land present an opportunity to complement our reserve system, thereby ensuring sustainable native habitat and wildlife corridors. In recent decades many of these landholders have made Voluntary Conservation Agreements—statutory commitments under which they agree to protect and manage their land. More than 700 such agreements are in place in NSW, providing protection to over 1.7 million hectares of high conservation value land.

The Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory (VCBI) program supports landholders through property visits, monitoring, management advice and ongoing liaison. Five key stages of conservation management are covered:

- conducting biodiversity surveys and assessments of the land to inform property management planning and to develop an inventory of species, populations and communities on private land
- updating property management plans with landholders
- providing support for landholders' operational activities – everything from education to materials and labour
- developing an ongoing monitoring program to assist in adaptive conservation management
- assessing the project's achievements.

Significant work was undertaken in 2006-07 in refining the planning and methodology for the property visits, thus ensuring the Property Vegetation Plan Biometric methodology was incorporated.

Desktop assessment of 141 properties was also undertaken. The data collected included the percentage of native vegetation on each property, threatened species records, connectivity, distance to national parks or reserves, and patch sizes.

Phone contact was made with 45 landowners, and on-ground vegetation and habitat assessment of 35 wildlife refuges was completed. Vegetation data from 33 wildlife refuges was assessed using the biometric assessment tool.

Hot Spots: Implementing Ecologically Appropriate Fire Regimes in NSW (\$1,629,580)

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

The Hot Spots project works with landholders, CMAs, the Rural Fire Service, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) and others to integrate ecologically appropriate fire management guidelines into property management plans. Careful use of fire as a management tool—as opposed to uncontrolled fire—helps conserve biodiversity, soil and water.

The Hot Spots project began in 2004-05 when the Trust funded the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to promote appropriate fire regimes. In 2005-06 the NCC took over the project from WWF. NCC was awarded \$1,629,580 over two years, bringing the total funds committed under the project to over \$2 million.

Since receiving the funding NCC has developed a best practice model for building regional capacity to address fire management issues related to biodiversity conservation. This includes the development of a regionally focused fire management package in the Northern Rivers region, containing educational material and a workshop framework.

Ecological fire management guidelines were also prepared for the Central West. These guidelines aim to help landholders better understand the impact of fire in their region and to place this knowledge within a broader ecological context.

A series of booklets were developed for the Central West, Northern Rivers and Southern Rivers regions. The booklets incorporate local and regional stories, fire management planning, vegetation types and ecological processes relevant to those areas. Case studies were also prepared in order to increase awareness and understanding of the role of fire in the landscape and to promote discussion about fire management at a landscape level.

Supporting workshops took place throughout the three regions, with further workshops scheduled up to November 2007.



Implementing ecologically appropriate fire regimes in NSW

Reducing and Eradicating Invasive Weeds on Lord Howe Island (\$1,227,911)

Lord Howe Island Board

This project has three aims:

- eradication of bitou bush by aerial spraying of cliff areas
- research into the best treatment of tiger lily (carried out by the Cooperative Research Centre for Weed Management)
- a concentrated effort to reduce the population of cherry guava to manageable levels by teams of professional bush regenerators and Board staff.

Over 42% of the island has been treated for weeds since the program began. A total effort of almost 14,000 hours has resulted in the removal of 465,283 weeds over an area of approximately 522 hectares.



Weeding team at Lord Howe Island

The Board achieved significant on-ground and database outcomes, partially through the Trust grant but also through augmentation of the grant with others from the Northern Rivers CMA and the Natural Heritage Trust for the employment of weeding staff. This has substantially increased the possible achievements and has added value to the original Trust grant.

Among the achievements of the additional on-ground works were:

- helicopter spraying of bitou bush on inaccessible cliffs followed by searches and treatment using professional vertical rope access personnel
- removal of over 1,000,000 cherry guava plants
- a further 18% of the island treated, including secondary treatment in 11 blocks (secondary treatment indicates significant reduction in effort in these blocks, indicating successful weed population reductions)
- establishment of a local Weed Busters group
- establishment and systematic entry into the comprehensive weed database, which allows reporting on a range of fields and leads to useful analyses
- preparation of a draft Weed Management Strategy which prescribes eradication of 16 of the island's 18 declared noxious weeds
- significant progress on the tiger lily research program.

The philosophy for weed management on Lord Howe Island has changed from one of open-ended control to actual eradication of known noxious and major environmental weeds. This is a major advance for weed management on the island.

Saving our Corridors: Linear Reserves as NSW Environment Framework (\$904,000)

Department of Natural Resources (now DECC) and the Roadside Environment Committee

'Linear reserves' include roadsides, rail corridors and stock reserves held by public authorities. These linear reserves often act as environmental corridors, connecting habitats and providing havens for flora and fauna. This project aims to create a sustainable network of linear reserves across NSW and, working with CMAs, coordinated protection and management of biodiversity.

The first two stages of the project involved the identification and assessment of suitable land, to formally protect high conservation value areas, and the preparation of management and monitoring plans to conserve the biodiversity and cultural heritage values on identified linear reserves.

The current third stage of the project supplies accredited training to works staff across the state, based on the standard Roadside Environment Committee (REC) linear reserves conservation course, supplemented by material from local management plans.

86 local councils, 13 Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPBs) and 10 rural CMAs joined those organisations already represented on the REC in order to participate in the project. 65 local councils and 12 RLPBs identified and prepared detailed assessments of high conservation remnants in linear reserves. The Hunter-Central Rivers, Lachlan, Namoi and Lower Murray Darling CMAs also pooled their own funds to complete more regionally focused assessments.

Standard protocols for assessment of remnant vegetation, fauna characteristics and cultural heritage have been established (in cooperation with DNR and DECC). Documentation of high conservation value native vegetation remnants, their assessment, management regimes and conservation plans, is also under way.



On site roadside remnant training for Kiama Shire works crews

Snowy River Rehabilitation Project (\$1,098,105)

Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

A 186 kilometre stretch of the Snowy River, below Jindabyne Dam, is the focus of this rehabilitation project. Dense willow growth has been brought under control, and the river's banks and margins revegetated. This work will establish a foundation for continuous improvement of habitat conditions, as environmental flows increase and natural fish populations improve.

The project has now completed a survey of native fish in the Snowy, Delegate, Jacob and Pinch Rivers, published a report on the condition and status of fish populations and habitat in the Snowy River, and produced a series of posters detailing native fish populations.

Willow debris from previous control programs will be used to build log jams and groynes in the river channel over an eight kilometre section, making best use of the reduced stream power of the Snowy in order to reconfigure the existing bed-load sediment. This forms part of the plan to actively rehabilitate selected riparian and riverbed areas.

Pilot populations of native fish species lost to the Snowy River during periods of flow diversion are being reintroduced, with a breeding program for River Blackfish under way at the Narrandera hatchery.

Monitoring of Lead Clean-up (\$200,000)

North Lake Macquarie Environmental Health Centre

The Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter at Boolaroo operated for 105 years, eventually closing in 2003. While the site was being rehabilitated, dust from lead that built up on the land adjacent to the plant continued to be released.

The Trust provided funding for community monitoring of remediation activities, both on-site and in adjacent residential areas. The monitoring supported the activities of the Environmental Health Centre, which were aimed at reducing community exposure to lead.

During the funding period, 209 children and 11 pregnant women had blood lead-level testing. All children with elevated blood lead levels were offered appropriate case management, including referral to a paediatrician. Community information papers were distributed to 18,000 homes in the North Lake Macquarie area and contact was made with 65 families of newborn babies to advise them on health education issues relevant to the area.

Funding was provided for topsoil, ground cover and sand to reduce the amount of lead dust affecting the community. Domestic and industrial HEPA-filter (high efficiency particulate air filter) vacuum cleaners were made available for community use.

Advancing Biodiversity Conservation on Private Land (Central Coast) (\$592,670)

Community Environment Network

The project's aims are to reverse the decline in wildlife habitat on the Central Coast by protecting and enhancing native fauna and flora. As well as traditional 'bush' held in private hands, it will also consider urban landscapes that meet the project's aims.

The work undertaken so far includes property visits (173 by December 2006), which have resulted in 101 landholders signing up to the Land for Wildlife Program.



Land for Wildlife members with their sign

A schedule of field days and training opportunities was also developed and these were held throughout 2006. Topics chosen were in response to landholder needs: basic bush regeneration techniques; weed identification and management and seed collection and propagation. Key locations have also been identified for the urban component of the program (titled Habitat for Wildlife) which will complement wildlife corridors by promoting bush-friendly gardens that create habitat.

Between August and December 2006 the bush regeneration team spent 73 days treating environmental weeds at 27 different properties. During this time they cleared over seven hectares of weeds and trained 20 landholders in bush regeneration techniques and plant identification. The team completed six days of seed collection for the Seed Bank, a facility that became operational early in 2007.

Contaminated Land Management (Innocent Owners) Program

In 2001 the Trust introduced a program to help with the remediation of contaminated sites owned by 'innocent' parties: property owners who have unwittingly found themselves responsible for the remediation of serious land contamination, either because the polluter cannot be found or no longer exists. The program funds only the remediation of land posing a significant risk of harm. Projects awarded funding under the program in 2006-07 are listed below.

Total expenditure for the program in 2006-07 was \$1,231,714. Some of the allocated funds were carried over from 2005-06 because of delays experienced by grant recipients. Delays are not uncommon in this area. It can be difficult to determine the extent of contamination until investigative works have commenced, at which stage it is often discovered that the contamination is greater than initially determined. Unfortunately, this can lead to extensive delays in developing and implementing remedial action plans.

Table 1

Contaminated Land (Innocent Owners) Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Blue Mountains City Council	Remediation of Contaminated Site Katoomba	Blue Mountains	\$111,904
Coffey Environments Pty Ltd (on behalf of Ms Marilyn Hughes)	Remediation of Contaminated Site West Nelligen	Eurobodalla	\$163,000
Coffs Harbour City Council	Remediation of Contaminated Site Coramba	Coffs Harbour	\$895,230
Fitzwalter Group Pty Ltd	Remediation of Contaminated Site Coramba	Coffs Harbour	\$7,580
Total			\$1,177,714

Council Gasworks Remediation Program

The operation of gasworks has left a legacy of contamination in soil and groundwater throughout NSW. Remediation of old sites is costly and difficult. Old sites often become derelict and, in some cases, contamination poses a significant risk to the community's health and to the environment.

The Trust's Council Gasworks Remediation Program helps councils remediate sites that present a high risk of harm. Funds are made available for approximately half of the direct cost of the works associated with a remediation action plan, where the plan represents the most cost effective strategy to reduce the risk posed by the contamination.

The Trust in 2005-06 approved \$1.5 million in funding towards the remediation of three council gasworks sites, awarding grants of \$500,000 each to Armidale Dumaresq, Shoalhaven and Bathurst Councils. Work is ongoing on all three sites. No new grants were awarded in 2006-07 but, based on the success of the pilot program, the Trust has agreed to continue funding the program. The total expenditure for the program for 2006-07 was \$500,000.

Restoration and Rehabilitation 2006–07 Grant Programs



The Trust again offered grants of up to \$100,000 in two categories:

- community organisations (total of \$1.5 million), and
- state and local government organisations (total of \$1.5 million).

The objectives of the program are to:

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

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

The Trust received 117 applications and funded 54 projects totalling \$3,210,415, including a number of reserve projects recommended by the Technical Committee (see Table 2 and Table 3 below).

Table 2

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Community Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australasian Native Orchard Society Inc.	Improved Methods of Predicting Threatened Species Preferred Habitat	Various	\$19,800
Australian Bush Heritage Fund	K2C - 'Building a Landscape Bridge'	Cooma-Monaro	\$99,750
Bellinger Landcare Inc.	Restoration of Bielsdown Riverbank, Dorrigo Township	Bellingen	\$41,315
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group	Big Scrub Rainforest Remnant Rehabilitation	Byron	\$99,970
Bush Habitat Restoration Cooperative Ltd	Ropes Creek Bushland Restoration and Community Participation	Penrith	\$25,855
Bush Habitat Restoration Cooperative Ltd	Northern Illawarra Themeda Grassland Restoration Project	Wollongong	\$25,450
Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust	Wategos Beach Restoration Project	Byron	\$15,121
Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust	Cape Byron Headland Restoration Project	Byron	\$25,652
Community Environment Network Inc. (CEN)	Entrance to Bateau Bay 'Stepping Stones' Wildlife Corridor	Wyong	\$86,500
Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation	Restoration of Native Vegetation at Coomaditchie Lagoon Reserve	Wollongong	\$80,000
Daroo Orange Urban Landcare Group	Restoring Rehabilitation Wentworth Reserve Yellow Box Woodland	Orange	\$13,975
Environmental Training and Employment Inc.	Littoral Rainforest and Themeda Grassland Restoration at Broken Head	Byron	\$99,653
Foxground Landcare Group Inc.	Regeneration of Rainforest and Eucalypt Communities in Foxground - Completion	Kiama	\$17,380

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Hardys Bay Residents Group Inc.	Foreshore Restoration of Surrendered Derelict Oyster Leases	Gosford	\$15,000
Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia (Shortland Wetlands Centre)	Biodiversity Enhancement of Shortland Wetlands Ramsar and EEC Site	Newcastle City	\$98,598
Jetty Dunecare Group Inc.	Coffs Coast State Park - Boambee Beach Rehabilitation Stage 1	Coffs Harbour	\$84,477
Kurri Weston Greening Group assisted by Kurri Kurri Landcare	The Rehabilitation and Restoration of Swamp Creek in Weston	Cessnock	\$58,450
Millards Creek Bushcare Group	Millards Creek Environmental Rehabilitation Project	Shoalhaven	\$37,000
Muscle Creek Landcare	Muscling in on Weeds at Muscle Creek, Muswellbrook NSW	Muswellbrook	\$92,295
Pelican Blacksmiths Landcare	Protection of Rainforest and Swamp Forest at Soldiers Road Reserve	Lake Macquarie	\$43,966
Riverhaven Bushcare Group	Rehabilitation of Swamp Oak Forest on the Foreshore of Oyster Bay	Sutherland	\$12,600
Shoalhaven Bushcare Volunteer Community Nursery	Expansion of Shoalhaven Bushcare Volunteer Community Nursery	Shoalhaven	\$12,692
Tabourie Bushcare	Tabourie Dune Stabilisation and Habitat Restoration	Shoalhaven	\$6,500
Tenterfield Naturalists Inc.	Rehabilitation and Protection of Tenterfield Biodiversity Area	Tenterfield	\$40,608
Tumbarumba Golf Club	Pound Creek Willow Removal, Tumbarumba Golf Club	Tumbarumba	\$15,030
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare	Tooloom Creek Riparian Restoration, Muli Aboriginal Community Woodenbong	Kyogle	\$59,348
Victory Row Landcare	Toronto Bay Foreshore Restoration Stabilisation and Revegetation	Lake Macquarie	\$62,127
Wetland Care Australia	Upper Richmond and Clarence Rivers Wetland Rehabilitation	Various	\$99,965
Wilsons River Landcare Group Inc	Restoration of Lowland Rainforest on Floodplain at Boatharbour	Lismore	\$93,789
Total			\$1,482,866

Table 3

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07

State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury City Council	Restoration of Endangered Ecological Community - Nail Can Hill	Albury	\$31,000
Bankstown City Council	Caring for Carysfield	Bankstown	\$96,188
Blacktown City Council	Restoring the Hidden Jewel of Nurragingy - Stage 3	Blacktown	\$26,000
Blue Mountains City Council	Remediation of Upland Swamps in the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains	\$98,688
Byron Shire Council	Getting a Grip on Cane Toads in Byron and the NSW Far North Coast	Byron	\$59,062
Byron Shire Council	Restoring Byron's High Conservation Value Vegetation and Corridors	Byron	\$99,802
Central Mangrove Public School	Restoration of Bushland within Central Mangrove Public School	Gosford	\$15,070
City of Canada Bay Council	Yaralla Bush Rehabilitation Project	Canada Bay	\$65,165
Clarence Valley Council	Protection of EEC's on three Clarence Valley Council Reserves	Clarence Valley	\$75,789
Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)	Community Bush Regeneration in High Conservation and Culturally Diverse Sites	Port Stephens	\$96,000
Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)	Managing a Catchment to Minimise the Impact of a Plant Pathogen	Various	\$75,000

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Wallis and Fishery Creek Catchments Biodiversity Corridors Project	Maitland	\$78,600
Hunters Hill Council	Sediment Control and Mangrove and Saltmarsh Rehabilitation	Hunters Hill	\$99,940
Lismore City Council	Critical Koala Habitat Restoration in Lismore's South East	Lismore	\$82,906
Maitland City Council	Revitalisation of Woodberry Swamp	Maitland	\$83,660
Newcastle City Council	Newcastle Glenrock to Blackbutt Green Corridor	Newcastle	\$90,492
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Nymboida River Riparian Rehabilitation Project	Clarence Valley	\$87,499
Penrith City Council	Rehabilitation of a Section of Jamison Creek: Huntington Reserve	Penrith	\$58,000
Pittwater Council	Foreshore Restoration Works at Rowland Reserve Bayview	Pittwater	\$100,000
Port Macquarie - Hastings Council	Lower Wilson River Reach-based Rehabilitation Works	Port Macquarie - Hastings	\$100,000
Sutherland Shire Council	Rehabilitation of Charlotte Breen Reserve, Kurnell - Stage 3	Sutherland	\$28,000
Sutherland Shire Council	Rehabilitation of Endangered Swamp and River-Flat Forest at Sylvania	Sutherland	\$25,000
Warringah Council	Manly Dam Creek Restoration and Rehabilitation Project Stage 3	Warringah	\$45,000
Wollongong City Council	Riparian Vegetation Restoration Along Byarong Creek, Figtree	Wollongong	\$79,450
Wyong Shire Council	Tuggerah Lakes Saltmarsh Regeneration Project	Wyong	\$31,238
Total			\$1,727,549

Protecting Our Places Program for Aboriginal Organisations

The Trust has committed \$500,000 annually to the Protecting Our Places (POP) Program, which is available only to Aboriginal organisations. Successful projects must demonstrate that they meet either or both of POP's objectives:

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

As in previous years, workshops were held throughout NSW to assist potential grant applicants. A total of 126 people attended the 11 workshops conducted by the Trust's Aboriginal Programs Officer, who works solely on the POP Program.

A total of 24 applications were received resulting in 16 grants totalling \$444,693. (see Table 4 below).

Table 4

Protecting Our Places Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
'Edgerton' Kiwiembal Environment, Heritage and Cultural Aboriginal Corporation	Revegetation and Habitation of River Restoration Project	Inverell	\$29,473
Albury and District Aboriginal Land Council	Canoe Tree Restoration and Enhancement	Corowa	\$20,912
Blue Mountains Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre	Blue Mountains Indigenous Botanic Garden	Blue Mountains	\$35,000

Protecting Our Places Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bunjum Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd	Bunjum Coop and BSC Jali Lands Protection Partnership Project	Ballina	\$30,000
Burra Bee Dee Aboriginal Elders Group Inc.	Burra Bee Dee - Interpretive Signage and Walking Tracks Project	Warrumbungle	\$33,748
Galbaan Healing Our Environment Community Group Inc.	Clean Up of the Environment and Development of Narwan Village	Armidale Dumaresq	\$35,000
Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council	Midden and Shoreline Erosion Control - Wapengo Lake	Bega Valley	\$35,000
Mirri Mirri Bunderra Aboriginal Corporation	Bong Bong Track Gathering Round Learning Place	Wingecarribee	\$14,494
Moree Local Aboriginal Land Council	To Establish a Native Bush Tucker Garden on Aboriginal Land	Moree Plains	\$34,000
Mrangalli Aboriginal Corporation	Tinga Town Common Rehabilitation Project	Guyra	\$23,661
Nanima Pre-School	Our Places	Wellington	\$14,090
Nari Nari Tribal Council	Glenhope Revegetation Project	Hay	\$25,820
Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council	Environmental Monitoring, Education and Rehabilitation	Greater Taree	\$34,935
Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council	Rehabilitation of 'Sunrise' (Purfleet) Indigenous Cemetery	Greater Taree	\$34,970
Purrimaibahn Aboriginal Education and Training Unit TAFE NSW-Hunter	Burri Bush Tucker Garden	Maitland	\$23,590
Tibooburra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Increase Awareness of Aboriginal Heritage and Culture	Unincorp Far West	\$20,000
Total			\$444,693

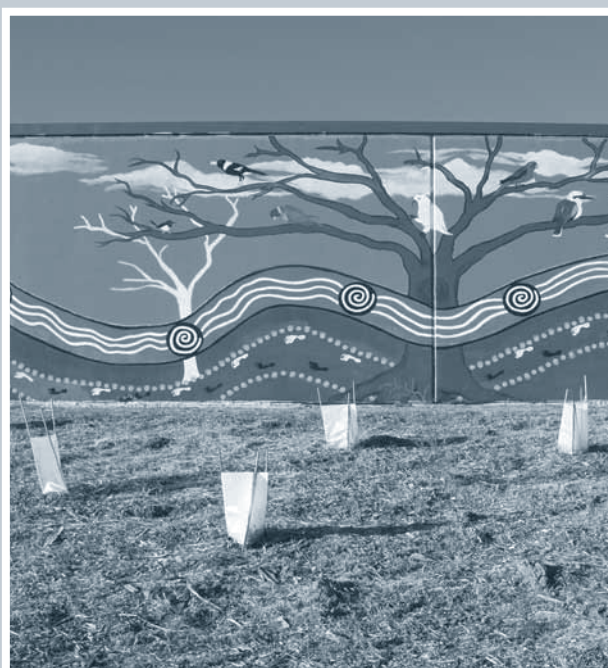
■ CASE STUDY

Koories Caring for Ropes Creek

The Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare group was granted \$27,247 for the Koories Caring for Ropes Creek project which restored and rehabilitated 120 metres of the riparian zone of Ropes Creek in Sydney's west. The vegetation in this culturally significant area is Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest, which is an endangered ecological community. As well as the restoration and rehabilitation work, an Aboriginal art mural (110 metres long and 3.5 metres wide) was designed and painted as a medium for cultural and environmental education.

Six members of the local Aboriginal community were trained in environmental improvement techniques to carry out the restoration at the site. With this new-found knowledge they undertook weed control, mulching and planting at the site. The training has provided members of the local community with skills to pursue further job opportunities. Four of the six people trained by this project have found further employment in this area of work.

This site is an example of well-planned bush regeneration and is also an example of a successful Aboriginal project site which can be used to motivate and mentor other Aboriginal groups attempting Landcare or Bushcare for the first time.



Tree planting and Aboriginal mural

Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program

The Trust funds the Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program. Under the program, nominated officers of DECC have delegated authority to approve funds for the cleaning up of pollution in emergencies where no other sources of funds are available.

The funds can also be used, in certain circumstances, for the management of incidents involving orphan waste materials. The Trust does not pay for such work where it can identify

a person or organisation responsible for, or required to clean up, the pollution.

The Environmental Trust Act 1998 stipulates that the maximum amount that the Trust can spend on this program in any one financial year is \$500,000.

Table 5

Emergency Pollution Clean-up Payments 2006-07

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Blacktown City Council	Transmission oil pump out at Breakfast Creek, Blacktown LGA	17-Jun-05	\$ 2,000.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Tarlington Road, Prospect	22-May-06	\$ 2,770.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Reservoir Road, Prospect	06-Jun-06	\$ 2,540.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at 3 sites in Rouse Hill, Schofields and Prospect	06-Jun-06	\$ 2,660.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at South Street, Blacktown	15-Jun-06	\$ 1,930.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Honeman Close, Huntingwood	05-Jul-06	\$ 690.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Rouse Hill and Schofields	21-Jul-06	\$ 1,430.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Quakers Hill	04-Aug-06	\$ 820.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Reen Road, Prospect	24-Aug-06	\$ 625.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Perth Street, Vineyard	03-Oct-06	\$ 590.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Tarlington Road, Prospect	05-Oct-06	\$ 1,680.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Watch House Road, Prospect	27-Oct-06	\$ 990.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Mount Druitt and Doonside	11-Jan-07	\$ 5,340.77
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Rowood Road, Prospect	15-Jan-07	\$ 590.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Prime Drive, Seven Hills	19-Jan-07	\$ 820.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Tarlington Place, Prospect	12-Feb-07	\$ 4,252.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Reen Road and Reservoir Road, Prospect	21-Feb-07	\$ 2,430.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Honeman Close, Huntingwood	30-Mar-07	\$ 720.00
Camden Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Nash Reserve, Currans Hill	14-Nov-06	\$ 644.52
Department of Environment and Conservation	Cleanup of fibro cement at Jervis Bay	01-Sep-05	\$ 4,438.00
Fairfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Anthill and Whitaker Streets, Yennora	30-Jan-06	\$ 211.23
Fairfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Gipps Road, Smithfield	26-Jun-06	\$ 938.00
Fairfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Market Street, Smithfield	21-Jul-06	\$ 1,088.00
Fairfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Market Street, Smithfield	09-Jan-07	\$ 868.00
Fairfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Cavasini Place, Wetherill Park	16-Feb-07	\$ 600.00
Forests NSW	Asbestos cleanup at Freemans Waterhole and Wakefield Road	22-Feb-05	\$ 2,492.00

Emergency Pollution Clean-up Payments 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Gosford Council	Cleanup of acid at public roadside	15-Sep-06	\$ 470.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Parker Road, Blaxland Ridge	09-Mar-06	\$ 2,966.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Cleanup of corrugated sheets at Racecourse Road, Clarendon	08-Jun-06	\$ 1,000.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Cleanup of asbestos from Midson Road, Maraylya	04-Aug-06	\$ 900.00
Haztech Industries	Cleanup of hazardous waste at Liverpool Road, Lansvale	27-Dec-06	\$ 1,596.00
Lane Cove Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Bushl Park, Lane Cove	13-Jun-06	\$10,909.09
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Yarunga Street, Liverpool	10-May-06	\$ 5,822.10
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Arthur Street, Liverpool	23-Jun-06	\$ 1,588.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of waste at Scottsdale Court, Hoxton Park	06-Sep-06	\$ 748.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Bridges Road, Cuthel Street and 13th Avenue	27-Nov-06	\$ 1,496.00
Penrith City Council	Cleanup of acid at St. Marys	11-Oct-06	\$ 455.00
Strathfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Madeline Street and Cleveland Street, Strathfield	10-Apr-06	\$ 1,580.00
Strathfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Wentworth Street, Greenacre	13-Sep-06	\$ 790.00
Strathfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Mason Park, Strathfield	17-Apr-07	\$ 2,124.00
Strathfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Mason Park, Strathfield (second claim)	17-Apr-07	\$ 2,790.00
Strathfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Park Road, Strathfield	15-May-07	\$ 1,596.00
Tweed Shire Council	Cleanup of boron disodium octaborate at Bilambil	14-Mar-06	\$ 556.51
VEOLIA	Cleanup of asbestos at James Craig Road	03-Jan-07	\$ 2,030.00
Warringah Council	Cleanup of solvent at Warringah industrial estate	10-Nov-05	\$ 705.00
Warringah Council	Cleanup of sewage at Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forrest	28-Jun-06	\$ 4,672.01
Willoughby Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Butts Park, Eastern Valley Way	20-Jun-06	\$28,986.00
Wingecarribee Council	Cleanup of asbestos at multiple locations on State Forest land	14-Nov-05	\$ 8,218.18
Total			\$126,155.41

Environmental Education

Education about the environment, conservation and natural resource management is a cornerstone of the Trust's objectives. Grants are provided to community organisations and local and state government agencies for a wide range of effective projects and programs.



Outcomes Achieved

The case studies below detail four projects completed in 2006–07.

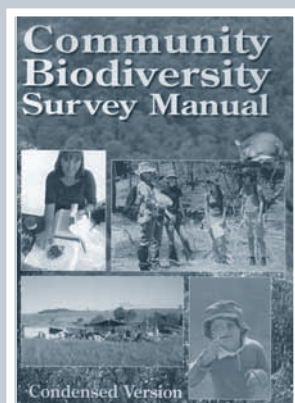
■ CASE STUDY

Community Biodiversity Survey Project

With the help of a \$100,000 grant the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) conducted a Community Biodiversity Survey Project. This project trained community members in how to conduct biodiversity surveys in terrestrial and marine environments, using methods and techniques established and tested by NPA. A total of 515 participants were trained in conducting biodiversity surveys through ten workshops in regional and city areas.

This successful grant has had many positive impacts on local communities by providing training and empowering them to conduct biodiversity surveys. It has also given them the skills to assess whether their projects are having positive impacts on local biodiversity. Biodiversity surveys identify what native plant, fungi and animal communities exist in an area, determine their condition and assist in determining which areas are most in need of protection.

In addition to the training, four community biodiversity surveys were carried out at Armidale, Orange, Mudgee and Parkes. Each survey studied the flora and fauna in the area using the approved NPA methodology. The surveys can be used to establish a baseline for those areas. Surveys provided participants with practical skills in undertaking biodiversity surveys, as well as encouraging information sharing and relationship building between participants. A range of stakeholders were involved in this work, including Landcare and Bushcare groups, various state and local government staff, universities, landholders and conservation groups.



Community Biodiversity Survey Manual

■ CASE STUDY

Identification and Tagging of Bush Foods

The Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council was granted \$44,252 to undertake the project Identification and Tagging of Bush Foods. The project identified and named Aboriginal bush foods, medicines and other plants that were used for art and craft, were culturally significant or were used to make weapons or during ceremonies. The project was undertaken on 30 acres at Wallabi Point on the mid north coast and involved the collection and identification of 250 native species, including the scientific name, common name, cultural name (where known), cultural use and a photograph of each plant. This information was recorded on a compact disk (CD) and made available to the public. The CD provides an educational resource for the local Aboriginal community and general public and will ensure the preservation of this knowledge for future generations. It has also allowed plant species that are no longer found at the site to be identified and reintroduced to the area.

This project has provided training in plant identification and regeneration for 12 young local Aboriginal community members and has allowed them to reconnect with their culture and the environment, as well as providing them with future employment opportunities. Four people trained by this project have found further full-time employment in the bush regeneration field and one person has set up his own ecotourism business. The skills that the Aboriginal community has gained during the project are also assisting them to show other land councils in the area how to undertake this type of work.



Bush Foods website

■ CASE STUDY

Broken Hill Water Management Education Program

The Broken Hill Water Management Education Program was granted \$83,820 to change outdated water management practices in one of the state's most arid communities. This well evaluated program was designed to use water more efficiently and change people's attitudes about water use. The project showed that by making changes, water managers and the community can save not only water but also time and money.

Two workshops were conducted for people who manage areas that consume large quantities of water—including schools, golf courses, caravan parks and council parks and gardens—to provide them with information and skills to change their practices. A 27% reduction in water use has already been reported by the schools that attended the workshop. A comprehensive water manual was developed and distributed to attendees to support the workshops' content and to remind participants of simple changes they can make to save water, time and money. Sixty water managers attended these workshops, with 60% of participants changing their water use practices by installing new irrigation systems, implementing watering schedules or automating existing irrigation systems to operate at suitable times of the day.

Through this project Broken Hill City Council also wanted to educate its residents about alternative plants, mulches and irrigation choices. To do this they installed five display gardens, with informative signage throughout and a large sign at the site entrance. This explained why it was important for the community to change watering habits and how to go about making the desired changes. A brochure to complement the display gardens was also produced, containing water saving tips and information on plant selection. The five display gardens included synthetic grass, native garden, exotic garden, arid garden and buffalo grass. Signs placed at each of these gardens provided information on the garden style including the types of plants used, the irrigation method used and water consumption figures.



Nature strip garden

■ CASE STUDY

South Creek Agricultural Education Partnership Program

The South Creek Agricultural Education Partnership Program was granted \$100,000 to work with vegetable growers, grower associations and local councils. This program increased recognition of, and established strategies to implement best management practices for vegetable growing by non-English speaking background (NESB) market gardeners in the South Creek catchment. There are approximately 2,000 market garden farms in the Sydney Basin and 59% of these are operated by people from diverse cultural backgrounds who have low English literacy. As a result of the educational work undertaken by this project there is potential to reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff and improve water quality in the catchment.

The project conducted eight training sessions on 'Working with NESB Clients'. These were attended by 150 council staff from five councils, including Liverpool, Penrith, Blacktown, Fairfield and Hawkesbury Councils. The workshops introduced participants to the issues and barriers that exist when interacting with NESB communities and how to work more effectively with these groups. A training manual and fact sheets were developed for these councils to use with their NESB market gardeners.

To assist NESB market gardeners, an organic farming bus tour and eight soils workshops were held and eleven fact sheets were translated into four different languages (Khmer, Chinese, Arabic and Vietnamese). The bus tour, workshops and fact sheets provided participants with practical skills in sustainable farming practices. A total of 80 market gardeners have been involved in this program.

This project has established good relationships between vegetable growers, local councils and the community, which has resulted in an increased willingness of both market gardeners and councils to engage with each other, and a greater likelihood of collaborative works to be undertaken for mutual benefit in the future.



Chinese fact sheet



Environmental Education Major Projects

Updates on 2004–05 Projects

The following is an update of the Trust's Major Project grants awarded in 2004–05 which continued in 2006–07.

'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing' (\$3,500,000)

'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing' community environmental education program entered its sixth year in 2007 and continues to increase environmental awareness by promoting positive behaviour in the business sector, local government and community.

The program encourages communities to adopt environmentally sustainable lifestyles at home, work and play. For the past two and a half years (the second phase of the program) DECC has worked in partnership with the Total Environment Centre, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the Council of Social Services of NSW and the former Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability on the Integrated Sustainability Education Partnership Program.

The program, which concludes at the end of 2007, was a first for the people of NSW. Government and non-government organisations worked well together to achieve common sustainability goals. Ten education projects have been conducted, reaching hundreds of thousands of people with information, training and assistance to make changes to help reduce our impact on the environment.

The projects covered a broad range of issues: chemical use in the home; resource conservation (waste avoidance, energy and water conservation for low-income households and non-English speaking groups); biodiversity education through the innovative use of a photography competition; education and community engagement; green purchasing and sustainable consumption; and sustainable policies and practices for business.

The program has demonstrated quantifiable reductions in household use of water, energy use and material waste, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced environmental and health impacts from the community's use of hazardous chemicals.

Data supplied to the GreenHome project by 120 participants in just two local government areas of Sydney (Ryde and Strathfield) indicated an annual net reduction in use of 16 million litres of water, 790 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent and a 24% reduction of household waste to landfill, based on average consumption data.

NESB Pesticides Training Program (\$1,500,000)

This program provides training in safe pesticide use for market gardeners from Arabic, Chinese, Cambodian and Vietnamese backgrounds. It also helps this group to meet the requirements introduced under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*. The Act demands that all commercial pesticide users be fully trained in the use of pesticides and keep records of their usage – a major impediment to those with poor English-language skills.

The program initially comprised two components: the training of bilingual trainers; and subsidies to registered training organisations. A grant of \$76,000 was awarded to DECC to train a pool of bilingual trainers to help registered training organisations (RTOs) provide training in community languages and develop pesticide education materials. The second component was the allocation of funds to subsidise training costs to NESB horticulture workers.

Round 1 of training (completed in 2004–05) resulted in the training of 271 NESB horticultural workers at a total cost of \$124,000. Round 2 (completed in 2005–06) saw three RTOs work with DECC and bilingual trainers to educate a total of 317 NESB horticultural workers.

The third and final round of the program is under way and is expected to conclude in September 2007. Under Round 3 the Trust approved three grants totalling \$169,400 to train NESB growers in safe pesticide use. RTOs running courses in the target languages receive a subsidy of \$385 for each person completing initial training, and a further \$330 for each person completing re-accreditation training.

The Trust also funded a two-year program valued at \$414,000 to enable the NSW Department of Primary Industries to employ bilingual liaison officers (BILOs). The BILOs provide support for horticulture workers from the Arabic, Chinese and Cambodian communities to improve their environmental practices and increase uptake of the available training. BILOs contacted over 500 farmers, personally delivered 100 chemical record folders and distributed 1,000 newsletters.

Workshops and field days were also organised on topics such as pesticide management, soil and fertiliser management, and integrated pest management. All workshops are designed to answer problems that growers face and are used to reinforce good chemical management. 51 farmers attended chemical training and 261 attended farm practice workshops.

An additional 78 growers were referred to chemical training following the checking of qualifications. Most importantly, the keeping of pesticide use records and wearing of protective equipment improved over the past year.



Environmental Education 2006–07 Grant Programs

A total of \$1 million was initially offered through this program, made up of community grants (\$500,000) and grants for state and local government organisations (\$500,000).

The objectives of this program are to:

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

In 2006–07 the Trust received 191 expressions of interest and invited 55 organisations to submit full applications. The Trust funded several reserve projects this year, resulting in 21 grants totalling \$1,205,223 (see Table 6 and Table 7).

Table 6

Environmental Education Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07 Community Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW Chapter	Just Write it Up! A Workshop on Writing Case Studies	Statewide	\$50,000
Birds Australia	Engaging Ethnic Communities in Bird Conservation in Urban Areas	Various	\$55,000
Camden Haven Community College	Wash House Beach Community Education Program	Port Macquarie - Hastings	\$22,305
Community Environment Network (CEN) Inc.	Central Coast Wetland Care Initiative	Gosford	\$74,785
Ethnic Communities Council of NSW Inc.	Fostering Environmental Citizenship for Recently Arrived Migrants	Various	\$100,000
Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council	Cabbage Tree Island Interpretive Educational Wetlands Walkway	Ballina	\$100,000
Master Builders Association of NSW	Erosion and Sediment Control - Eliminating the Excuses in the Bush	Various	\$72,000
OceanWatch Australia Ltd	Our Valuable Estuaries, Coasts and Marine Environs-Making Connections	Statewide	\$59,560
Parkes and Districts Landcare Steering Committee	Arcpad Training for Managing Landcare Priorities into the Future	Parkes	\$5,150
The Crossing Land Education Trust	The Sea2Snow Sustainability Challenge - Leaving Smaller Footprints	Bega Valley	\$74,945
Tulloh Street and Artarmon 'Sustainability Street' Groups	'Sustainability Street' Community Library	Willoughby	\$9,000
Total			\$622,745

Table 7

Environmental Education Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07

State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Auburn Council	Sustainable Future for Small Businesses in Western Sydney	Auburn	\$76,000
Australian Museum	Australian Museum BugWise Outreach Program	Various	\$40,200
Blue Mountains City Council	Seedpods: Sustainable Early Childhood Services in the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains	\$60,005
City of Canada Bay Council	Feral Ed - Saving our Urban Wildlife	Canada Bay	\$16,510
Department of Education and Training	Education for Sustainability - a K-12 Framework for NSW Schools	Statewide	\$50,000
Holroyd City Council	Sustainability Street NSW	Holroyd	\$92,500
Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW	Local Government Sustainability Educators Program and Training Package	Statewide	\$70,000
Marine Parks Authority NSW	Development of an MPA Educational Kit for Primary Schools	Statewide	\$70,000
Marrickville Council	A Sustainability Workshop Resource Kit for Environmental Educators	Marrickville	\$70,353
University of New South Wales	Teaching and Learning for Sustainability: Lessons from NSW Teachers	Statewide	\$36,910
Total			\$582,478

Eco Schools Grants

The overall objective of the Eco Schools program is to support schools to develop best practice in environmental education and innovative solutions to environmental issues. The program integrates environmental improvement projects within a school's curriculum activities, maximising environmental learning.

The grants allow schools to involve their community and students in developing and implementing environmental management projects. Eco Schools initiatives include conservation of natural resources, environmental monitoring

programs, energy management, water management, litter reduction, waste minimisation, and setting up environment clubs. The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools program is the development of ecologically sustainable schools.

A series of 10 workshops were held across NSW in early 2007 to assist schools to develop applications that focused on a quality teaching approach to environmental projects. A total of 110 applications were received this year, and 60 grants of \$2,500 were awarded.

Table 8

Eco Schools Programs Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Abbotsford Public School	Exploratory Garden Number 2	Canada Bay	\$2,500
Armidale City Public School	ACPS Outdoor Learning Area	Armidale Dumaresq	\$2,500
Austinmere Public School	Environmental Sensory Garden and Outdoor Learning Facility	Wagga Wagga	\$2,500
Bega High School	Paper Use Audit at Bega High School	Bega Valley	\$2,500

Eco Schools Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Bellambi Public School	Recycling Station and Semp Store	Wollongong	\$2,500
Bethany College	Bethany's Backyard	Rockdale	\$2,500
Blayney High School	Blayney High School Environmental Education Project	Blayney	\$2,500
Bonnells Bay Public School	Us Little Fella's Can Make a Difference	Lake Macquarie	\$2,500
Carlton Public School	No Dig Gardens	Rockdale	\$2,500
Castlereagh Public School	Sensory Garden	Penrith	\$2,500
Clarence Town Public School	Water - Way to Go	Dungog	\$2,500
Clunes Public School	Bringing the Big Scrub to Clunes	Lismore	\$2,500
Collector Public School	The Anniversary Arboretum - A Living, Learning Celebration!	Upper Lachlan	\$2,500
Como West Public School	No Dig Garden	Sutherland	\$2,500
Condell Park High School	Active Reduction of Environmental Destruction	Bankstown	\$2,500
Corowa Public School	Our Learnscape Shelter: Observing Riparian Land - River Floodplain	Corowa	\$2,500
Dora Creek Public School	Student Empowerment Through Environmental Education	Lake Macquarie	\$2,500
Dorrigo High School	Dorrigo High School 50th Year Anniversary Garden	Bellingen	\$2,500
Fairfield West Public School	Sustainable Foods and Healthy Eating at Fairfield West P.S.	Fairfield	\$2,500
Fairy Meadow Demonstration School	Learning and Play Gardens for Fairy Meadow Demonstration School	Wollongong	\$2,500
Forster Public School	Forster Public School - 'We Dig Our Veggie Garden'	Great Lakes	\$2,500
Girraween Public School	Greening Girraween	Holroyd	\$2,500
Glenreagh Public School	SEMP Planning Workshops	Clarence Valley	\$2,500
Hawkesbury High School	Preserving Aboriginal Heritage and Our Cross Country Track	Hawkesbury	\$2,500
Henty Public School	Henty Public School 'Fiveways Reserve Habitat Restoration Project'	Greater Hume	\$2,500
Holbrook Public School	Our New Learnscape	Greater Hume	\$2,500
Hurstville Public School	Construction of Raised Garden Bed to Assist Environmental Education	Hurstville	\$2,500
Illawarra Senior College	College Nursery - Shadehouse and Compost Bin Restoration	Wollongong	\$2,500
Ironbark Ridge Primary School	Breathing Life into Our Creek - Caddies@Rouse Hill	Baulkham Hills	\$2,500
Jugiong Public School	Jugiong Public School	Harden	\$2,500
Kincumber Public School	Kincumba Bush Tucker Outdoor Learning Area	Gosford	\$2,500
Kororo Public School	Kororo Public School Forest and Frog Pond Regeneration Project	Coffs Harbour	\$2,500
Main Arm Upper Public School	Rainforest Habitat / Outdoor Learning Area	Byron	\$2,500
Millthorpe Public School	From Little Things Big Things Grow	Blayney	\$2,500
Moss Vale Public School	Native Garden and Outdoor Learning Area	Wingecarribee	\$2,500
Murrumburrah High School	Creating a Native Sensory Garden in a Barren Playground	Harden	\$2,500
Newbridge Heights Public School	Taking Responsibility for Our Waste - REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REFUSE	Liverpool	\$2,500

Eco Schools Program Grants Awarded in 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Nords Wharf Public School	Bushland Regeneration and Rejuvenation for All	Lake Macquarie	\$2,500
Northlakes Public School	Establishing Native Gardens in the School Grounds	Wyong	\$2,500
Plumpton House SSP	Rainwater Supply Tank for Gardens in Education Program	Blacktown	\$2,500
Port Macquarie High School	Bushtucker Interactive Garden and Outdoor Classroom	Port Macquarie - Hastings	\$2,500
Rainbow Street Public School	Native Sensory Garden	Randwick	\$2,500
Rosemeadow Primary School	Rosemeadow Primary School	Campbelltown	\$2,500
Royal Far West School	Indigenous Bush Tucker Garden	Manly	\$2,500
Rydalmere East Public School	Catch the Rain, Spare the Pain and the Drain	Parramatta	\$2,500
Sacred Heart Central School	Regeneration into the Future	Cootamundra	\$2,500
Scone Grammar School	Sustainable Agricultural Farming	Hunter	\$2,500
Shearwater, The Mullumbimby Steiner School	Mullumbimby Creek Rainforest Regeneration Behind New Amphitheatre	Byron	\$2,500
Smith's Hill High School	S.E.T. Weed Eradication and Native Planting Program	Wollongong	\$2,500
St Michael's Primary School Coolamon	Restoration of Top Oval	Coolamon	\$2,500
Stanford Merthyr Infants School	'Bush Tucker Kids Project'	Cessnock	\$2,500
Tamworth Public School	Bird Attracting Garden	Tamworth	\$2,500
Tweed Heads Public School	Stage 2 of Environmental Station and Birdwing Butterfly Conservation	Tweed	\$2,500
Tyalla Primary School	Attracting Native Wildlife to Tyalla's Playground	Coffs Harbour	\$2,500
William Rose School	Our Curriculum Makes Sense	Blacktown	\$2,500
Woollooware Public School	Sustaining an Endangered Ecological Community at Woollooware - Stage 2	Sutherland	\$2,500
Woonona East Primary School	Coastal Vegetation Learnscape - Understanding Where We Live	Wollongong	\$2,500
Yanco Agricultural High School	YAHS Beautification Project	Leeton	\$2,500
Yennora Public School	Installation of a Water Tank and Creation of a Green House	Fairfield	\$2,500
Young High School	Wiradjuri Biodiversity Garden	Young	\$2,500
Total			\$150,000



Environmental Research

Trust-funded research is held in high esteem and is considered prestigious within the environmental research community. It holds an important position among funding agencies and often provides leverage for further funds from government and the private sector. Our Environmental Research program continued to provide a significant contribution to the understanding of our most significant environmental challenges in 2006–07.

Outcomes achieved

The case studies below detail two projects completed in 2006–07.

■ CASE STUDY

Woodchips and Wildlife

The Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC) was granted \$98,600 to conduct the Woodchips and Wildlife project, which studied the ecological and economic impacts of the woodchip industry near Eden in south eastern NSW. The project's main aims were to determine the long-term impact of woodchip logging on native fauna, the long-term economic impacts of woodchip production for the area, and to identify the key 'drivers of change' for forest management and conservation.

A field survey was conducted focusing on small mammals, arboreal mammals and reptiles. The information was compared to data collected 20 years earlier at the same locations. The comparison of species found during the recent study compared to earlier studies suggests that fauna is declining as a result of intensive logging and that recovery is slow. One of the key issues is that old growth trees and ground cover are important habitat for many species. To maintain continuity of wildlife in an area, stands of old growth forest need to be maintained.

In addition to the study on reptile and mammal survival, a regional economic impact assessment was carried out to compare information from 1981 and 2001. The aim was to determine how the regional economy had changed, identify trends and issues that have influenced changes and establish the economic significance of the forestry sector. Through this assessment it was determined that large areas of public land have changed from commercial native forestry production to protected land, resulting in job losses in forestry. However, these job losses have been compensated for by new opportunities in areas such as recreational industries.

A social impact assessment was carried out to provide contextual information on changes to the forestry industry

and economic changes in the region over time – namely what policy, social, technological, ecological and economic factors influenced change. This assessment has shown that current and future forest management policies and practices are highly sensitive to factors external to the industry, including government policy on conservation and market prices for woodchips.

■ CASE STUDY

Social Determinants of Domestic Energy and Water Consumption

The Social Determinants of Domestic Energy and Water Consumption project, led by the Australian National University, was granted \$244,906 to research the socio-behavioural drivers of water and energy use and conservation in different dwelling types across Sydney. The research showed that most participants had an inaccurate perception of their energy and water use and how this related to average consumption rates across Sydney households.

This research showed that on a per capita basis people who live in flats and houses use similar amounts of water and energy, however houses in general have more residents and therefore use more of these resources as a whole. It also showed that cultural and socio-demographic factors seem to have the greatest influence on consumption and conservation. In general, better educated households understand how their consumption impacts on the environment and are more willing to make changes to conserve water and energy.

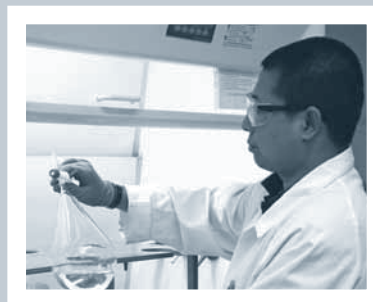
This research involved collecting information via a phone survey of over 2,000 residents, followed by ten focus group sessions to gain more detail. The data gathered was then compared with similar Census data. Dwelling types included separate houses, semi-detached houses, flats under four storeys and flats of four or more storeys. Sydney was also divided into sub-regions namely, inner, middle, northern and outer, which aimed to capture socio-economic differences.

This project has provided information to utility providers, the government and environmental planners on how social structure and the built environment determine water and energy consumption and conservation and therefore impact on the environment. It is hoped that this research will lead to better planning outcomes in the future.



Eucalypt woodlands

Environmental Research Major Projects



Updates on 2004–05 Projects

The following is an update of the Trust's Major Project grant awarded in 2004–05 which continued in 2006–07.

From Science to Practice: R&D for Implementing Native Vegetation Policy in NSW (\$4,300,000)

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

Sustainable native vegetation management is a priority environmental issue for NSW, and implementing it requires sound science. The goal of this project is to provide high-quality science for native vegetation management, especially in relation to initiatives to sustain biodiversity through property vegetation plans. The project investigated landscape restoration plans, regeneration strategies for native vegetation, vegetation condition, and pest management in native vegetation. It has also explored ways to restore genetic biodiversity and ecological function in rural landscapes.

The project began in 2004–05, when CSIRO, DECC, CMAs, local government and universities began a program to provide robust and practical science to underpin reforms to native vegetation management in NSW. The Trust approved \$4.3 million over three years to fund the research and development that supported the NSW Government's native vegetation reforms, under the guidance of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems.

The project management team invested considerable effort during 2006–07 in two particular areas: developing frameworks for integrating and synthesising the science outputs while continuing to plan and revise the approach to stakeholder engagement; and communication activities to ensure the project is well placed to communicate the science outputs.

The team engaged with stakeholders and communicated science outputs from the project by coordinating three major events: two national workshops and a forum at which the science from the project featured heavily. Project members were involved in workshops and meetings with CMAs and state agencies, presented



CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems staff member talks to landholders during a field day

10 conference papers and seminars, and held four field days. Seven papers that focused on vegetation mapping, published in the special edition of *Ecological Management and Restoration*, were among that journal's top 10 downloaded papers. This highlights the critical role this project played in documenting and disseminating key scientific information to peers to underpin ongoing development of native vegetation tools and techniques in NSW and elsewhere.

An additional nine manuscripts have been produced, bringing the total to 23. This represents a substantial contribution to the knowledge underpinning vegetation management.



Environmental Research 2006–07 Grant Programs

A total of \$1 million was advertised for the Environmental Research Program in 2006–07. A new program offering seeding grants of up to \$20,000 for 'proof of concept' projects was made available. Of the \$1 million advertised, \$100,000 was allocated to the seeding grants. Approximately 60% of the remaining \$900,000 was allocated to the major category of waters and catchments for grants up to \$250,000, with the balance allocated for the best proposals

across the two minor categories of hazardous substances and waste, and environmental noise, for grants up to \$100,000. The Trust received 63 expressions of interest and invited 20 applications across the three categories; 10 grants were awarded (including reserve projects) totalling \$1,436,837. The Trust also funded four seeding grants from 11 applications totalling \$70,524 (see Table 9 and Table 10).

Table 9

Environmental Research Grants Awarded in 2006-2007

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
CSIRO - Land and Water (Lucas Heights)	A Genetic Approach for Rapidly Assessing Sediment Diversity	Various	\$162,937
Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)	Vegetation Change on Endangered Coastal Floodplains	Various	\$190,000
Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)	Development of Ecosystem Function Indicators for Riverine Estuaries	Various	\$189,000
Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)	Measurement of Polar Organic Pollutants in Environment by LC-MS	Statewide	\$99,828
Department of Environment and Conservation (now DECC)	Using Micro-Contaminants to Fingerprint Complex Organic Wastes	Statewide	\$86,807
RMIT University	Salinity and River Biodiversity: Varying Salinity and other Stressors	Hunter	\$80,224
University of New England	Measuring Ecological Success of Regional Urban Stream Restoration	Armidale Dumaresq	\$137,200
University of Wollongong	Natural Versus Human Impacts: Management of the Macquarie Marshes	Warren	\$199,216
University of Wollongong	Improving Management of Salvinia in Temperate Aquatic Ecosystems	Hawkesbury	\$192,871
University of Wollongong	Diffuse Gradients in Thin Films to Quantify Anionic Metals	Statewide	\$98,754
Total			\$1,436,837

Table 10

Environmental Research Seeding Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
University of Sydney	Biological Control of Algal Blooms in Centennial Park	Randwick	\$20,000
University of Sydney	Evaluating Cost-Effectiveness of Reducing Water Pollution Risks	Statewide	\$19,909
University of Wollongong	Community Valuations of Environmental Quality in Coastal Lakes	Wollongong	\$11,000
University of Wollongong	Does Marine Noise Impact on Invertebrate Dispersal and Settlement?	Wollongong	\$19,615
Total			\$70,524

Waste Programs



Waste is an extensive environmental problem for NSW at all levels of government and the community. The term 'waste' used here is not just about rubbish going to landfill; rather, it describes the stage in the lifecycle of goods and materials from extraction, manufacture and distribution to consumption and disposal. The NSW Government enacted the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* to address waste issues, and established the Waste Fund to fund waste reduction activities.

Legislative changes in June 2005 meant that all waste-related programs and funding became the responsibility of the Trust. A blueprint for spending was approved, and this year was the second year in the blueprint's 2005–08 schedule.

Over \$10 million was awarded in 2006–07 to DECC's Sustainability Programs Division (SPD) for waste programs that support the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy. These programs, designed in collaboration with stakeholders, deliver innovative and targeted initiatives to assist industry, business and the community to move towards environmentally sustainable practices.

Programs address a wide range of issues listed under the strategy, including household chemical collections, illegal dumping squads, commercial and industrial waste programs, government waste reduction and procurement, and industry and community waste education.

The Trust has a waste subcommittee made up of representatives from industry, local government and the community to oversee the waste programs and provide strategic advice on program implementation and progress.

The programs that ran in 2006–07 are listed below, followed by brief reports on some of the subprojects.

Table 11

Waste Program in 2006-2007

Program Area	Funding Approved
Coordinated Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Waste Reduction	\$1,840,000
Education Programs (including Schools)	\$675,000
Improving Waste Separation on Construction Sites	\$150,000
Local Government Programs	\$865,000
Materials Production and Dissemination	\$650,000
Recycled Organics Market Development	\$700,000
Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads	\$415,000
Specific Waste Streams, including Household Hazardous Waste	\$2,500,000
Supporting Regional Waste Programs	\$1,590,000
Waste Intelligence and Analysis	\$650,000
Waste Research and Development Grants	\$170,000
Total	\$10,205,000

Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project (\$109,974)

DECC works in partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW to deliver the project in the Sydney metropolitan and Illawarra regions. It employs 18 bilingual educators who deliver education workshops and field trips in nine target languages—Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Mandarin, Spanish and Vietnamese. The project promotes awareness, knowledge, understanding and behavioural change on sustainable living at home, work and play within specific ethnic communities.

In 2006–07 the project expanded, with the Metro Water for Life education project which aimed to increase water conservation among targeted ethnic communities. As well as delivering a range of sustainability workshops the project promoted sustainable living and distributed multilingual materials at 15 festivals during the year.

More than 400 workshops have been delivered by the bilingual educators this year, including 14 field trips given in the nine languages. A total of 6,834 people participated in the project in 2006–07.

'Who Cares about the Environment in 2006?' (\$115,109)

The 'Who Cares about the Environment?' survey—which measures people's environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviour—has been conducted triennially since 1994. It is the largest and most comprehensive body of research of its kind in Australia.

This fifth survey was conducted in May and June 2006, providing a time series that covers 12 years of change and points of comparison. Two telephone surveys took place: a main survey of 1,724 people, and an extension survey of 1,011. These surveys were followed by focus groups that explored participants' interest in more depth.

The survey found that NSW residents value the environment highly, and that almost 90% are concerned about environmental problems. Water-related issues such as water supply, conservation, management and drought ranked most highly, with climate change and energy issues growing rapidly

in importance. Most people surveyed are taking actions that contribute to conservation and the improvement of the environment, and more people in 2006 are reducing their water and fuel consumption and the use of plastic bags than in 2003.

The 2006 survey was the first time that motivators and barriers to pro-environmental behaviours were examined.

A report and summary brochure were published in both hard copy and as PDFs on the DECC website. Fact sheets on individual topics such as water, climate change, energy, waste and biodiversity will also be published on the website in 2007–08.

Following publication of the main report a series of public seminars were held around the state. Almost 300 people attended these seminars, and a further 300 attended a range of invited presentations for organisations such as local government, Sydney Water and Integral Energy.

Sustainability Advantage (\$976,636)

A new program for medium and large organisations, Sustainability Advantage, was launched by DECC this year. This program offers support to identify environmental priorities and implement projects that improve environmental performance and add business value.

Organisations signing up to the program undergo a two-hour management diagnostic to evaluate current environmental performance and rank future initiatives. These initiatives are then implemented through individually tailored projects selected from one of six modules: vision, commitment and planning; environmental responsibility and risk management; resource efficiency; supply-chain management; stakeholder engagement; and climate change.

DECC provides the education, training and support to the organisations. A cluster approach, which brings participating companies within industry or geographic locations together, allows them to benefit from expert presentations and find solutions to common problems.

Sustainability Advantage has been enthusiastically received by business, which sees value in its flexibility and holistic approach. Over 100 businesses have joined the program to date, from sectors as diverse as food processing, building products manufacturers, commercial property and tertiary education.

An agreement with ClubsNSW also saw the launch of EcoClubs, a three-year partnership that helps clubs identify opportunities to save water and energy, and reduce waste. With more than 1,400 registered clubs in NSW, EcoClubs aims to have a major impact on greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption in coming years.

Sustainability Compacts (\$72,833)

In July 2006, Insurance Australia Group (IAG) joined sustainability leaders Sensis and Hewlett-Packard Australia in signing a Sustainability Compact with the NSW Government. Sustainability Compacts are voluntary agreements in which both parties commit to work together to improve environmental outcomes.

Under IAG's compact a trial collection of damaged household goods under insurance claim was carried out in southern Sydney. An assessment of the damaged items, such as fridges and furniture, determined whether the goods could



Who Cares about the Environment in 2006? report cover

be sold for reuse or sent for recycling. In the first seven months of the trial 36 tonnes of goods were collected, of which 29 tonnes were diverted for reuse and recycling – a reduction of 80% of potential landfill. Following positive feedback from participants the scheme has been extended to western Sydney, with the opportunity to go national in the future.

Meanwhile, Sensis developed a five-year corporate responsibility strategy which included a detailed action plan with targets and measures. In 2006, Sensis' product stewardship program delivered a telephone directory recycling rate of 76% in NSW, with 21% of directories being reused. Sydney had the highest rates, with 81% recycled and 16% reused. Sensis also introduced a product 'opt-out' system allowing customers to specify which directory products they would like to receive.



Phone books heading off to be recycled

Vocational Education for Sustainability (\$174,297)

- Three competency standards were developed with Sustainability Victoria for integration in national training packages. These standards help businesses to implement sustainability at operator, supervisor and manager levels. DECC contracted the National Centre for Sustainability to develop a related set of resources for the manufacturing industry. Two companies, Amcor and Diageo, worked with DECC to ensure industry take up, with TAFE NSW as the onsite training provider.
- Following amendments to the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* revisions were carried out to the Authorised Officers training course. These officers implement the Act, and so the course's revision was essential if councils were to fulfil their regulatory roles and responsibilities under the Act. Five courses were delivered, with 196 officers participating.
- The Managing Liquid Substances course was developed to educate businesses and councils on key ways to manage their responsibilities regarding liquid substances. Four courses were delivered to a range of industries and councils. Participants enjoyed the hands-on nature of the course, which ended with the creation of a detailed site action plan for their company or council.
- Four publications were added to DECC's Environmental Action series, focusing on the manufacturers of timber and furniture products, the printing industry, service stations, and marinas, boatsheds and slipways.

Regional and Local Government Support (\$1,475,290)

Local councils in rural regional NSW responsible for waste management were the target of this DECC program. The network of Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs) – which represent 96 NSW local councils – delivered resource recovery programs that supported the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy targets.

The groups' work resulted this year in 26,500 tonnes of scrap metal and 150,000 tonnes of garden waste being diverted from landfill. Similarly, 326,000 drums, 106 tonnes of household chemical waste, 10 tonnes of farm chemicals, 78,500 tonnes of construction and demolition waste and 18,800 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste were also diverted.

The VRWGs were also involved in projects in places as diverse as the Riverina and the state's north-east. The North-East Waste Forum (NEWF) developed case studies that were used as examples for engaging new businesses. The NEWF reuse directory now has over 230 businesses listed, and its website had 5,800 pages viewed during the year.

Seven councils in the NetWaste region partnered with SIMS Metal to trial the collection of household e-waste (mainly computer hardware), which resulted in the recovery of 713 monitors, nine laptop computers, 204 printers, 315 keyboards, 179 mice and 332 computer towers. These were disassembled and selected components were recycled. Other projects included partnership with NSW Libraries to inform library users on waste reduction and recycling initiatives through the @yourlibrary campaign, and a farm-creek clean-up in the Namoi CMA region (in which 225 tonnes of metal waste was recovered). A Small Waste Facility Environment Risk Assessment and Mitigation Package, or E-RAMP, was trialled by 13 rural councils, with great results.

Renew NSW, which has membership from all eight VRWGs and DECC was formed in December 2006 to collectively address waste matters and identify programs that could divert waste from landfill and optimise resource recovery across rural and regional NSW.

Organics Program (\$776,538)

This program's major focus is diverting, recovering and reusing organic materials that would otherwise become landfill. Organic waste in landfill is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions, and was estimated to make up 2.75% of Australia's total net greenhouse gas emissions in 2004.

A key challenge in diverting organic material from landfill is ensuring viable and sustainable markets for recycled organic products. DECC undertook a number of projects to develop these markets, including:

- Use in the rehabilitation of open-cut mine spoil. Forty mine-related environmental officers attended a field day promoting a trial mine site. The field day included compost industry representation, publication of a fact sheet and presentation of a paper at an international conference.
- Six golf courses participated in recycled organics trials; each course was supplied with 50 cubic metres of soil conditioner.



Organics fairway topdressing in progress - Kiama golf course

- A partnership with Turfco Pty Ltd led to Turfco recommending soil-base mixes containing composted soil conditioner.
- The Recycled Organics Unit's website provided guidance and assistance to those in the organics and composting industries.
- A Parks and Gardens project held five workshops attended by 34 park managers and coordinators from 17 councils. Fourteen of the 17 councils expressed interest in participating in DECC trials to use recycled organics in their parks and gardens operations.
- Twelve demonstration projects using compost in sports field construction and renovation were established.

Household Chemical Collections (\$1,196,481)

CleanOut, the Household Chemical Collections (HCC) program run by DECC, entered its fifth year of operation in 2006-07. It continues to make headway into the safe management and disposal of potentially hazardous household chemicals, as well as reducing the toxicity of domestic waste streams, minimising threats to the environment and making homes safer.

CleanOut is run in partnership with local government, and is best known for its highly publicised chemical collection sites. Since it began in March 2003, CleanOut has collected, treated and disposed of 2,358,009 kilograms of chemicals, with over



Household Chemical Collection point

65,000 people attending collections in Sydney, the Hunter and Illawarra regions.

New attendance records were set in 2006-07, with over 18,000 people bringing a staggering 625,899 kilograms of hazardous household waste for collection. At the same time significant reductions in program costs were achieved: the cost per tonne of collection dropped by 25.9% and cost per person attending fell from \$90 to \$64.

Other exciting trends include increased support of CleanOut by local councils. Some held their own collection days with DECC providing use of its contracts and advertising resources.

'Dumping: It's Dumb' (\$432,470)

Illegal dumping around multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) is a major headache for urban councils. In response a *Multi-Unit Dwelling Illegal Dumping Prevention Campaign Council Resource Kit* was developed which identified the need for targeted education and awareness campaigns specifically aimed at MUD residents.

The resource kit contains a step-by-step plan showing how to develop and implement an effective illegal dumping prevention strategy, and contains a comprehensive range of campaign materials such as stickers, posters, electronic resources and media templates.

The kit, which was published in August 2006, was distributed to the 47 councils with a high occurrence of MUDs within their council area. All other councils were advised of its availability.



Dumping rubbish is illegal and spoils your environment.

Dumping unwanted household items is illegal and subject to fines of up to \$750. Instead of dumping your unwanted rubbish, call us to find out about clean up days, collection services or places where you can take your unwanted rubbish and household items. Please contact INSERT COUNCIL NAME HERE on PHONE NUMBER.

Dumping: It's Dumb postcard

Regional Illegal Dumping Squads (\$447,058)

Two Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads operate in and across local government areas in western and greater southern Sydney. Funded by the Trust and supported by DECC, the RID Squads prevent and investigate illegal dumping and landfill incidents.

The Western Sydney RID Squad covers six councils: Baulkham Hills, Bankstown, Holroyd, Fairfield, Liverpool and Penrith. In 2006-07 the squad investigated 1,529 illegal dumping incidents, issued 315 penalty notices and seven clean-up notices. A significant proportion of the

illegally dumped material in these cases was removed by the offender.

The Greater Southern RID Squad is a partnership between three councils (Eurobodalla, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee), DECC's Parks and Wildlife Division and the Sydney Catchment Authority. In 2006–07 the squad investigated 742 illegal dumping incidents, issued 142 penalty notices and 28 clean-up notices.

Sustainable Schools (\$240,869)

The Sustainable Schools program is a collaboration between DECC, the Department of Education and Training (DET), and the Catholic Education system. The program aims to integrate sustainability education within school teaching and learning programs, and the environmental management of resources and school grounds.

The core element of the program is support for the development by schools of school environmental management plans (SEMPs). These SEMPs involve students in learning about the sustainable management of waste, energy, water, biodiversity, transport and purchasing, and have led to school environmental audits, staff training, and cooperation with local communities on environmental issues.

DET estimates that 25–30% of schools now have SEMPs in place. During 2006–07 DET developed and trialled a sustainable schools web hub (to be launched in 2007–08) aimed at helping all schools to develop SEMPs.

Aboriginal Lands Clean-up Projects (\$100,000)

This program is a partnership between DECC, local councils and local Aboriginal land councils (LALCs). Its aim is to assist with the clean-up of illegally dumped materials while also implementing measures to deter future illegal dumping.

There were four projects within the program in 2006–07: Ngunnawal LALC (with Queanbeyan City Council); Karuah LALC (with Port Stephens Shire Council); Tharawal LALC (with Wollondilly Shire Council); and Gandangarra LALC (with Sutherland Shire Council).

The Ngunnawal project involved the clean-up of illegally dumped materials over an area of 84 hectares. Partnerships were developed with the police, Rural Fire Service, Bushcare and Landcare groups among others. The practical application of 'Caring for Country' encouraged community development and education in a very positive manner; a closure celebration was very well attended.

The Karuah project took place on two sites on Worimi LALC land, where scattered and diffuse dumping had resulted from access via several unauthorised tracks. The tracks and access points were secured, bollards installed and four gates erected and locked. Several car bodies and metals were removed for recycling, and over 60 cubic metres of waste was removed.

The Tharawal project area has a long history of use as a dump for car bodies and household waste. Cooperative arrangements were made with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and with the Illawarra Coal Mine to secure access to the site. Over 30 tonnes of mixed waste was removed, and a further 250 tonnes recovered for later removal.

The Gandangarra project site covered two square kilometres at Menai. An asbestos-removal training program was conducted with Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) labour and with the support of LALC members. A visit by the Environment Protection Authority board in December 2006 was a positive and affirming event for all the project partners. Fences and gates were installed and a total of three tonnes of asbestos, 23 tonnes of mixed waste and eight truckloads of tyres were removed.



Gate erected to prevent illegal dumping – Mirrabee clean up project



Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program

This program assists eligible lead environmental community groups (LECGs) in NSW by contributing to their administrative expenses. It is the only Trust program to offer assistance of this nature. The program acknowledges that it can be difficult for community-based organisations to source funding for administrative expenses.

The Trust committed \$300,000 per annum to the program, with total funds of \$900,000 to be spent over three years. The 2006–07 reporting year was the first for this expanded program, with LECG grants funding a total of 11 organisations.

Through the program, the Trust is partnering with organisations which work to value, conserve and protect the natural environment through:

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

In the first competitive funding round the standard of applications was very high. The Trust received 28 applications requesting a total of \$3,800,000, of which the following 11 were successful:

Table 12

Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Awarded 2006-07

Organisation	Amount
Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated	\$67,500
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Incorporated	\$24,000
Community Environment Network Incorporated	\$60,000
Environmental Defenders Office Limited	\$135,000
Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife	\$101,250
Keep Australia Beautiful Council NSW	\$30,000
Murrumbidgee Landcare Association Incorporated	\$10,000
National Parks Association of NSW Incorporated	\$112,500
Nature Conservation Council of NSW Incorporated	\$202,500
NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Incorporated	\$22,250
Total Environment Centre Incorporated	\$135,000
Total	\$900,000

Urban Sustainability Program



The Urban Sustainability Program (USP) provides \$80 million over five years to local councils and other eligible organisations to implement projects that address sustainability. The five program objectives are to improve:

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

A technical review committee was established to review applications and recommend projects for approval by the Trust.

The program is serviced by two dedicated staff: a Senior Project Officer and a Grants Administrator. This staffing arrangement differentiates USP from most other Trust programs which, apart from Protecting Our Places, do not generally have dedicated technical staff available to provide assistance for project and business plan development and implementation.

Under the first round of the USP, \$57 million was made available for the implementation of urban sustainability projects limited to between one and three years, and in one of two streams: major projects; and seed funding for sustainability plans. In total 115 applications were received, and the Trust approved 35 major projects valued at over \$32 million and 23 seed funding grants for a total of just over \$600,000 (see Table 13 and Table 14). A third stream of funding, the Urban Waterways Initiative, will become available to applicants in 2007–08.

Workshops were held in five locations for round two funding for local councils and their partners to develop appropriate projects and prepare high-quality grant applications, with 54 participants attending.

The following are 4 major projects that were successful under the first round of the USP funding.

Urban Sustainability Learning, Facilitation and Support Program

Local Government and Shires Associations, DECC, Local Government Managers Association, Baton Forum, Institute of Environmental Studies (UNSW), Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Manly Council, Eurobodalla Council (\$1,551,500)

The project will support the adoption of sustainable practices by councils and maximise the impact of the USP by working with councils and their stakeholder groups to facilitate knowledge, growth and share learning about urban sustainability in local government.

The project will undertake a number of key activities to achieve its goals: providing advice and information; conducting training and professional development; developing tools and resources; undertaking and linking research; capturing, packaging and promoting key learnings; and supporting network development, cooperation and partnership between councils and stakeholders. It will work closely with the Environmental Trust to ensure all outcomes of USP-funded projects are communicated as effectively as possible.

'That's a good idea!' Reducing the ecological footprint of CENTROC

Bathurst Regional Council and Central West Regional Organisation of Councils (\$486,260)

Central West Regional Organisation of Councils (CENTROC) will develop and implement engaging ideas that reduce the ecological footprint of the region. The project has two main focus areas: revising stormwater management plans with a view to implementing non-structural solutions across council activities; and partnering with CMAs, NetWaste and peak agricultural organisations to recycle green waste from landfill sites.



Green waste for recycling

Business Treading Lightly

Southern Councils Group: Kiama Municipal Council, Bega Valley Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Shellharbour City Council, Shoalhaven City Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council, Wollongong City Council (\$2,000,000)

This project aims to deliver an integrated and targeted program to improve business sustainability across the Southern Councils Group. It will engender systemic organisational and cultural change in the way that businesses address environmental management by encouraging them to implement sustainability plans. These plans, incorporating stepped levels, will afford endorsed accreditation which will allow the businesses the use of a brand as a marketing tool. The alliance of the seven councils and partners will enable substantial resource sharing, resulting in savings through economies of scale. Ultimately, the ecological footprint of the businesses will be reduced.

Cooks River Sustainability Initiative

Marrickville Council, Ashfield Council, Bankstown City Council, Canterbury City Council, Hurstville Council, Strathfield Council, City of Sydney Council, Rockdale Council (\$2,000,000)

The Cooks River Sustainability Initiative will manage catchment issues for the Cooks River within a context that will improve river health, conserve water resources and improve the sustainability performance of councils and communities. The project has two main strands. The first involves the application of a proven, locally based, multidisciplinary, participatory approach to integrated, sustainable river management in five diverse regions across eight local government areas. The second involves bringing together key stakeholders within the catchment to develop and establish new regional river and catchment governance arrangements. These arrangements will support effective partnerships, sustainable management and the implementation of ongoing environmental, social and economic improvements.

Table 13

Urban Sustainability Program Major Projects Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Albury City Council	Mitchell Park Estate On-ground Works	Albury	\$250,000
Bankstown City Council	Mid Georges River Sustainability Initiative	Bankstown, Sutherland	\$1,847,680
Bathurst Regional Council	That's a Good Idea!' - Reducing the Ecological Footprint of CENTROC	Various	\$486,260
Baulkham Hills Shire Council	Empowering Local Industry to Improve Sustainability Performance	Baulkham Hills	\$214,140
Blacktown City Council	Climate Recovery – Combining Carbon Sinks with Improved Biodiversity	Blacktown, Liverpool Plains	\$1,998,800
Camden Council	A Regional Approach to Education for Sustainability	Camden, Campbelltown, Wollondilly	\$371,500
Campbelltown City Council	Getting it Started: Planting Seeds 4 a Sustainable Georges River	Campbelltown, Liverpool	\$2,000,000
City of Sydney Council	City of Sydney: Sydney Streets SBM Program	Sydney	\$243,781
Fairfield City Council	What's the FUSS about?	Fairfield	\$246,500
Fairfield City Council	A Program to Improve Sustainability Performance of Small Businesses	Fairfield	\$205,447
Goulburn-Mulwaree Council	Groundswell	Goulburn-Mulwaree, Palerang, Lachlan, Queanbeyan	\$1,986,000
Hornsby Shire Council	The Hornsby Creek Catchment Urban Sustainability Strategy	Hornsby	\$250,000

Urban Sustainability Program Major Projects Grants Awarded in 2006-07 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Management Strategy	Regional Sustainability Capacity Building and Education Campaign	Hunter Region	\$1,386,600
Kiama Municipal Council	Business Treading Lightly	South Coast	\$2,000,000
Kiama Municipal Council	Sustainable Kiama Communities	Kiama	\$249,902
Kogarah Municipal Council	Carlton's Industrial Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program	Kogarah	\$206,800
Ku-ring-gai Council	Backyard Landcare - Sydney North	Ku-ring-gai, Willoughby, Hornsby	\$437,100
Lismore City Council	Sustainable Environmental Assessment and Action (SEAA)	Lismore, Ballina, Richmond Valley	\$584,971
Local Government & Shires Associations of NSW	Urban Sustainability Learning, Facilitation and Support Program	Various	\$1,551,500
Maitland City Council	Sustaining Urban Water	Maitland	\$249,600
Marrickville Council	Cooks River Sustainability Initiative	Various	\$2,000,000
Marrickville Council	Collaborative Planning for Sustainable Irrigation in Marrickville	Marrickville	\$249,764
Newcastle City Council	On the CUSP of Change - Newcastle Community Urban Sustainability Program	Newcastle	\$250,000
North Sydney Council	Stormwater Re-use in North Sydney	North Sydney	\$240,000
Parramatta City Council	TBL - A model for Industrial Sustainability in the Duck River Catchment	Parramatta, Auburn	\$1,320,934
Parramatta City Council	Working Together to Sustain the Parramatta River	Various	\$1,943,000
Penrith City Council	Achieving Sustainable Sporting Field Management in Western Sydney	Penrith, Camden, Auburn	\$1,090,100
Penrith City Council	Implement Ropes and South Creek Regional Open Space Management Plan	Penrith, Blacktown	\$2,000,000
Randwick City Council	Reducing the Ecological Footprint of the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney	Randwick, Woollahra, Waverley	\$1,875,000
Ryde City Council	Catchment Connections: Connecting Communities to their Catchments	Ryde, Hornsby, Hunters Hill	\$482,530
Warringah Council	Narrabeen Lagoon – Creating a Sustainable Catchment	Warringah, Pittwater	\$1,996,410
Wingecarribee City Council	Footprints for Our Shire	Wingecarribee	\$ 249,102
Wollongong City Council	Sustainable Illawarra	Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour	\$2,000,000
Wollongong City Council	Water Sensitive Urban Design and Sustainability at JJ Kelly Park	Wollongong	\$250,000
Wyong Shire Council	Tuggerah Lakes Integrated Urban Stormwater Management	Wyong	\$250,000
Total			\$32,963,421

Table 14

Urban Sustainability Program Seed Projects Grants Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Ashfield Municipal Council	Ashfield Towards Sustainability - Sustainable Action Plan 2010	Ashfield	\$20,000
Auburn City Council	Development of a Sustainability Strategy for Auburn Council	Auburn	\$20,000
Ballina Shire Council	Sustainability Action Plan 2008-2013 (SAP)	Ballina	\$17,340
Baulkham Hills Shire Council	Consultation on Long-Term Vision for Sustainability of Baulkham Hills Shire	Baulkham Hills	\$20,000
Blacktown City Council	Springboard for Sustainability	Blacktown	\$20,000
Botany Bay City Council	Develop a 'Sustainable futures' Plan	Botany Bay	\$20,000
Camden Council	Action Plan for a Sustainable Camden (Camden Council Sustainability Plan)	Camden	\$20,000
Clarence Valley Council	To develop a Clarence Valley Sustainable Action Plan	Clarence Valley	\$20,000
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Eurobodalla: Towards Sustainability	Eurobodalla	\$20,000
Great Lakes Council	Creating a Collaborative Sustainability Strategy for the Great Lakes Environment	Great Lakes	\$20,000
Hawkesbury City Council	Hawkesbury City Council Sustainability Plan - Our City Our Future	Hawkesbury	\$20,000
Hornsby Shire Council	Hornsby Earthwise Sustainability Plan	Hornsby	\$20,000
Hunters Hill Municipal Council	Hunter's Hill Sustainability Plan	Hunters Hill	\$20,000
Ku-ring-gai Council	Developing a GRI Sustainability Plan	Ku-ring-gai	\$20,000
Lismore City Council	Integrating Sustainability in Lismore and Rous Councils' strategies and ops	Lismore	\$46,290
Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Ltd	NSROC Regional Sustainability Plan	Various	\$50,000
Orange City Council	Bathurst/ Orange/ Dubbo (BOD) Sustainability Plan	Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo	\$50,000
Tamworth Regional Council	Namoi Catchment Sustainability Plan	Various	\$50,000
Waverley Council	Waverley Sustainability Plan	Waverley	\$20,000
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Sustainability SMART - Planning the way ahead	Wingecarribee	\$20,000
Wollondilly Shire Council	Sustaining Wollondilly - A Community Plan for the Future	Wollondilly	\$20,000
Wollongong City Council	Illawarra Sustainability Roadmap	Wollongong	\$50,000
Wyong Shire Council	Living Sustainably in Wyong Shire	Wyong	\$20,000
Total			\$603,630

NSW Riverbank



NSW RiverBank is a cornerstone in the NSW Government's 10-year reform of the state's water management system, and as such it is the largest single subprogram within the City and Country Environment Restoration Program (CCERP). Funds are made available through NSW RiverBank to buy and manage water in order to aid the rehabilitation and protection of stressed rivers and icon wetlands in NSW. NSW RiverBank has four objectives, to:

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

A stand-alone unit has been established within DECC to administer NSW RiverBank. The unit is granted funds by the Trust on an annual basis, with acquired licences being held by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water and environmental water managed by the Director General of DECC on the Minister's behalf. The program is monitored and guided by a Trust subcommittee which is chaired by DECC and has members from government agencies, independent experts in inland river and floodplain ecology, water market operations and environmental water management.

NSW RiverBank is unique in that it works within the existing market, buying and managing water rights only from willing sellers. Water allocations held by NSW RiverBank may be traded, and over the initial five years a business model for self-funding of operational costs associated with holding and managing water licences will be investigated.

While the project's allocated budget of \$105 million over five years represents a large sum of money, this is less than 1% of the total value of all water access licences. Because of this, NSW RiverBank purchases have been carefully targeted, and the water purchased will be used for specific and measurable purposes. The initial areas identified to benefit from NSW RiverBank are the Macquarie Marshes, the Gwydir wetlands, the Lowbidgee wetlands and the Lachlan wetlands. The purchase of water rights in Queensland to benefit the Narran lakes in north western NSW will also be investigated.

A business plan provides investment targets for priority areas over the five years, and will be reviewed and updated annually. The plan's first review took place this year, with independent consultants Hassall & Associates Pty Ltd. The review remarked that in its first year NSW RiverBank had 'very successfully achieved its purposes', and specifically pointed to six achievements:

- establishing the program, its framework and systems of administration
- creating general awareness and understanding of the program
- providing an explanation of the program for potential participants
- building an investment base
- securing initial water licence acquisitions
- developing sound plans for using the water on important environmental assets.

NSW RiverBank is distinct from the rest of CCERP in that 2006–07 was its second year of operation; it commenced in 2005–06 in order to take advantage of early opportunities to acquire water licences following approaches by landholders. Around \$11 million was spent in 2006–07 as follows:

Table 15

NSW RiverBank Licences Purchased in 2006–07

Water Source and Licence	Amount
Gwydir Valley – two general security water access licences of 972 unit shares each (deposit)	\$565,000
Macquarie Valley – one general security water access licence of 1,296 unit shares (deposit paid in 2005/06)	\$1,574,640
Macquarie Valley - one general security water access licence of 2,592 unit shares	\$3,499,200
Macquarie Valley – one general security water access licence of 880 unit shares and one supplementary access entitlement of 67.9 unit shares	\$1,188,000
Macquarie Valley – seven general security water access licences totalling 5,186 unit shares (part funding)	\$1,194,644
Murrumbidgee Valley – one general security water access licence of 3,000 unit shares	\$2,400,000
NSW Riverbank Unit Operational Funds	\$590,364
Total	\$11,011,848



Marine Parks

Fragile marine ecosystems around the world have suffered from over-fishing and habitat destruction. Under marine parks legislation the NSW Government has committed to conserving marine biodiversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive series of marine parks. The latest two of these parks—in the Manning Shelf and Batemans Shelf bioregions—will also provide a basis for ecotourism opportunities. At the same time an industry package will help the fishing industry in the transition to sustainability.

The Trust's Marine Parks project adjusts commercial fishing operations affected by the creation of sanctuary and habitat protection zones in order to ensure that transfer of effort from these fishing operations does not impact on other fishing activities adjacent to the park areas. It also ensures that sufficient fishing effort is removed in those commercial fisheries affected.

Under the City and Country Environment Restoration Program the Trust will provide \$18.5 million over two years (beginning 2006–07) for the buy-out of commercial fishing licences within the Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park (98,200 hectares of state waters extending from Forster to Birubi Beach) and the Batemans Marine Park (85,000 hectares of coastal and estuarine waters from Murramarang Beach to Wallaga Lake).

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is managing the process on behalf of the Marine Parks Authority, and the Minister for Primary Industries is ultimately responsible

for the delivery of the project. A subcommittee made up representatives of a number of NSW Government organisations—including DECC, DPI, NSW Treasury and the Marine Parks Authority—oversees the project.

Of the \$18.5 million budget, DPI was provided with \$17,850,000. This figure provided for:

- \$8,840,000 for commercial fishing licences, lobster shares, relocation contingency claims and accelerated depreciation of fishing gear
- \$7,400,000 for the buy-out of commercial fishing businesses, abalone shares, relocation contingency claims and accelerated depreciation of fishing gear
- administration costs for both marine parks (\$710,000), including a probity audit
- \$900,000 for fixed-price payments for the surrender of NSW ocean trawl and ocean trap-and-line endorsements from dual endorsed Commonwealth–NSW fishers.

An additional, one-off sum of \$2,175,000 was also provided for the buy-out of the entire trawler fishery in the Batemans Marine Park. The purchase of the entire fleet will improve the environmental outcomes within the park as well as improving adjacent recreational fishing grounds.

Table 16

Marine Parks Payments in 2006-07

Lead Organisation	Amount
NSW Department of Primary Industries	\$20,025,000
Total	\$20,025,000

Native Vegetation Assistance Program



The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* was enacted to help stop broadscale clearing, to protect the health of land, rivers and biodiversity, and to deliver better investment security and flexibility to farmers. To assist those farmers who have been financially impacted by the implementation of the Act, a three-year Native Vegetation Assistance Package (NVAP), worth a total of \$37 million, is administered by the Trust. This sum is broken into three parts:

- \$15 million in sustainable farming grants. These grants (provided on a dollar-for-dollar basis and capped at \$80,000 per property) are provided to farmers who have had a clearing application rejected and who need to diversify their enterprise, develop new income streams and adopt best practice conservation farming. Funding from the Trust for this grant program was provided to the CMAs to deliver to farmers.
- \$12 million in exit assistance for farmers. The Nature Conservation Trust (NCT) receive funding to buy properties from farmers wishing to exit their property after rejection of a clearing application has affected the economic viability of their enterprise. The NCT may resell the land under strict environmental management conditions, with the revenue generated being added to a revolving funding pool.
- \$10 million for offset pools. Farmers may receive approval to clear if they agree to carry out environmental offsets, such as planting native vegetation on another area of their land. However, if there is no opportunity for offset planting, and the CMA is satisfied that hardship might occur, farmers may apply for funding under this state wide pool, to assist them in delivering the offsets. Funding from the Trust for this grant program was provided to the CMAs to deliver to farmers.

Under the Trust's NVAP Business Plan the NCT is responsible for the farmer exit assistance and the CMAs, in conjunction with DECC, are responsible for the delivery of the sustainable farming grants and the offset pools (the CMAs are responsible for on-ground delivery while DECC is responsible for the state wide coordination and provision of higher level projects).

Unlike the NSW RiverBank program, which had a number of landholders ready to approach it to sell licences even before the program was due to commence, the NVAP has had to commit substantial time and resources to promoting an awareness and understanding of its various components during its first year. Uptake of some components of the package has been slower than anticipated. Factors affecting uptake include a need to streamline the process, competing demands on CMA staff, the application of eligibility criteria and limited demand for offset pools.

An early success of the program, however, was the purchase of Kewilpa, an 832 hectare property near Casino, under the Farmer Exit Assistance component of the program. Of the property, 32 hectares – less than 5% – is cleared and used for tea-tree oil production. The property is bordered by creeks with numerous internal lagoons and comprises timbered eucalypts and scrubby undergrowth. Kewilpa contains well-documented high flora and fauna biodiversity.

Table 17

Native Vegetation Assistance Program Payments in 2006-07

Sub Program	Lead Organisation	Amount
Exit Assistance	Nature Conservation Trust	\$4,000,000
Offset Pool	Catchment Management Authority	\$1,272,650
Sustainable Farming Grants	Catchment Management Authority	\$1,827,017
Total		\$7,099,667

Dissemination



The Trust's Dissemination program was established in January 2005 and now has an annual budget of \$200,000. Through various media—such as workshops, seminars and publications—the program disseminates the valuable benefits of Trust-funded projects that might easily be replicated by other agencies and organisations.

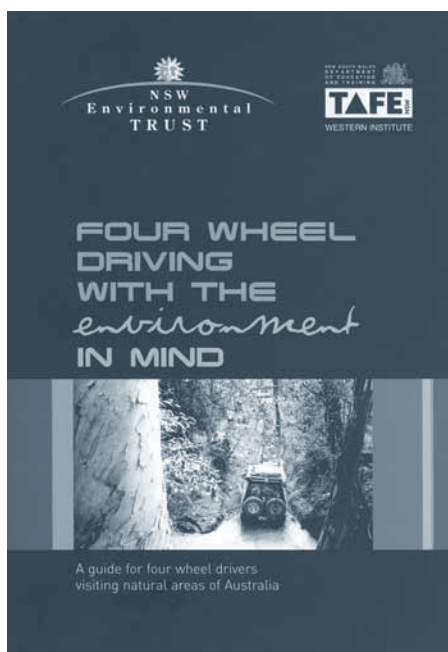
As foreshadowed in last year's annual report, 1.6 permanent staff are now dedicated to the program which continues to offer workshops, develop websites, produce brochures, distribute DVDs, media articles and other media and press publications to promote successful environmental outcomes.

Dissemination projects carried out during 2006–07 are outlined below.

Environmentally Sensitive Four-Wheel Driving (Dubbo Four-Wheel Drive Club and TAFE Western Institute) (\$51,704)

Based on 2003 Education grant

The project delivered two training courses for four-wheel drivers and the publication of 13,500 copies of a glovebox booklet on ways to undertake recreational driving while protecting the environment. The course, which was offered throughout NSW, involved class work and an outdoor component, and was conducted in the Macquarie Marshes and Mungo areas.



Four Wheel Driving with the Environment in Mind brochure

The glovebox booklet on environmentally sensitive four-wheel driving was revised, updated and placed as an insert in the October 2006 edition of 4X4 Australia magazine, which reaches 8,000 readers in NSW. This popular booklet has been reprinted for national distribution through the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Further training courses will be conducted by TAFE as demand arises.

Educational Waste Trailer Regional Roadshow (Northern Inland Regional Waste) (\$23,473)

Based on 2004 Education grant

The Northern Inland Regional Waste travelling roadshow took its impressive waste education trailer around 11 council areas in the New England and north-west NSW region. The trailer was visited by 3,800 people and presented a series of locally relevant waste messages to schools and areas of high visitation, such as shopping centres. The trailer also featured at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Greek Environmental Education Training (Greek Welfare Centre) (\$8,000)

Based on 2002 Education grant

The Dissemination program provided funds to the Greek Welfare Centre to work with the Ethnic Communities Council to deliver a series of eight workshops throughout Sydney, the Illawarra and Hunter region. The workshops, which focused on green cleaning and energy conservation, were attended by 268 members of the Greek community.

Privet-removal Training for Community Groups (Shoalhaven City Council) (\$10,000)

Based on 2001 Restoration and Rehabilitation grant

Training was originally conducted on techniques to safely remove privet while also ensuring the safety of the people involved and the maintenance of the environment. The program was extended as a result of this additional Trust funding, with a further five workshops attended by 58 volunteers from the Shoalhaven and surrounding council areas.

Revegetation of Native Plant Communities Workshops (Australian Network for Plant Conservation) (\$20,000)

Based on 2003 Education grant

The project offered two training courses attended by 197 participants in the rehabilitation and management of disturbed native vegetation. The workshops were tailored specifically for the Coffs Harbour and Ulladulla regions, and equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to undertake ecological rehabilitation and management of disturbed vegetation. Each workshop contained a mixture of presentations by skilled practitioners and visits to field sites.

Ecologically Sustainable Development Workshops (Local Government and Shires Association) (\$29,600)

Based on 2003 Education grant

Workshops showcasing sustainable practices were held in seven locations across NSW, with information in each workshop being specific to the area. The workshops were well attended, with 140 council staff and councillors taking part.



Case study brochure: Big Answers to Big Questions

Environmental Trust Case Studies

A series of 32 case studies were written on a range of projects undertaken by grantees and these are now available through the Environment Trust website.

Projects Awarded in 2006-07

The following Dissemination projects were awarded in 2006-07:

Table 18

Dissemination Projects Awarded in 2006-07

Organisation	Title	Amount
Blue Mountains City Council	Living with the Environment: Train the Trainer Program for Local Councils (based on 2004 State and Local Government grant)	\$19,000
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	Aboriginal Tour Guide Training (based on 2003 Education grant)	\$27,150
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Agricultural Education Partnership Program (based on 2003 Education grant)	\$23,500
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Road Crossing Preventing Fish Passage Roadshow (based on 2003 High Priority grant)	\$29,805
Murray Darling Freshwater Research Commission/CSIRO	Prevalence of Acid Sulfate Soils in Inland Catchments (based on 2003 Research grant)	\$29,500
National Parks Association of NSW	Community Biodiversity Survey (based on 2003 Education grant)	\$29,999
Purfleet Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council	Aboriginal Bush Foods Website (based on 2000 Education grant)	\$7,500
University of Western Sydney	Environmental Management Training for Tourism Businesses (based on 2004 Education grant)	\$29,600
Various Councils	Biodiversity Education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities (based on 2004 Education grant)	\$12,381
Total		\$208,435

Finance



NSW Environmental Trust



GPO BOX 12
Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Environmental Trust (the Trust), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2007, and the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement and the summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as of 30 June 2007, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 report.

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

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Trust,
- that they have carried out their activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of their internal controls.

Independence

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

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



A T Whitfield FCA
Deputy Auditor-General

23 November 2007
SYDNEY

Environmental Trust

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

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

- a) the accompanying financial report exhibits a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2007 and the transactions for the period then ended.
- b) the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005*, and the Treasurer's Directions.

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



Phil Koperberg MP

Chairperson



Lisa Corbyn

Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT****OPERATING STATEMENT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007**

	NOTES	Actual 2007 \$'000	Budget 2007 \$'000	Actual 2006 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	1,541	918	1,073
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	87,007	93,159	62,987
Total expenses excluding losses		88,548	94,077	64,060
Less:				
Revenue				
Investment revenue	3(a)	2,942	1,200	3,054
Grants and Contributions	3(b)	450	-	-
Other revenue	3(c)	338	2	424
Total revenue		3,730	1,202	3,478
NET COST OF SERVICES	13	84,818	92,875	60,582
Government Contributions				
Recurrent appropriation	4	76,497	76,497	30,220
Total Government Contributions		76,497	76,497	30,220
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(8,321)	(16,378)	(30,362)

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007**

	NOTES	Actual 2007 \$'000	Budget 2007 \$'000	Actual 2006 \$'000
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED IN EQUITY				
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(8,321)	(16,378)	(30,362)
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR	9	(8,321)	(16,378)	(30,362)
Effect of changes in accounting policy and correction of errors				
Accumulated Fund		(8,321)	(16,378)	(30,362)

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

	NOTES	Actual 2007 \$'000	Budget 2007 \$'000	Actual 2006 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	16,431	10,517	30,957
Receivables	7	1,334	524	862
Total Current Assets		17,765	11,041	31,819
Total Assets		17,765	11,041	31,819
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	8	2,501	3,834	8,234
Total Current Liabilities		2,501	3,834	8,234
Total Liabilities		2,501	3,834	8,234
Net Assets		15,264	7,207	23,585
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds	9	15,264	7,207	23,585
Total Equity		15,264	7,207	23,585

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	NOTES	Actual 2007 \$'000	Budget 2007 \$'000	Actual 2006 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Grants and subsidies		(92,761)	(93,159)	(65,539)
Other		(3,636)	(5,568)	(1,364)
Total Payments		(96,397)	(98,727)	(66,903)
Receipts				
Interest received		3,018	1,538	3,434
Grants and Subsidies		450	-	-
Other		1,906	252	366
Total Receipts		5,374	1,790	3,800
Cash flows from government				
Recurrent appropriation	4	76,497	76,497	30,220
Net cash flows from government		76,497	76,497	30,220
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	13	(14,526)	(20,440)	(32,883)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		(14,526)	(20,440)	(32,883)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		30,957	30,693	35,003
Cash transferred in as a result of administrative restructuring		0	0	28,837
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	6	16,431	10,253	30,957

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL DIRECTIVES

	2007				2006			
	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/ net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
Original budget								
Appropriation/expenditure								
Appropriation Act	76,497	76,497	-	-	17,019	17,019	-	-
	76,497	76,497	-	-	17,019	17,019	-	-
Other appropriations/ expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasurer's advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sect 22 – Expenditure for certain works and services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sect 24 – Transfers of functions between departments	-	-	-	-	18,201	18,201	-	-
Transfers to/from another agency (section 28 of the Appropriation Act)	-	-	-	-	(5,000)	(5,000)	-	-
	-	-	-	-	13,201	13,201	-	-
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/ EXPENDITURE/NET CLAIM ON CONSOLIDATED FUND (includes transfer payments)	76,497	76,497	-	-	30,220	30,220	-	-
Amount drawn down against appropriation	-	76,497	-	-	-	30,220	-	-
LIABILITY TO CONSOLIDATED FUND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Reporting Entity

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

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

This financial report has been authorised for issue by the Trust on 22 November 2007.

(b) Basis of Preparation

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

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS));
- the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Regulations;
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for budget dependent general government sector agencies issued by the Treasurer.

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

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

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

(c) Income recognition

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

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

(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies

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

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

(ii) Investment revenue

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

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

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

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

(e) Receivables

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

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

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

(f) Payables

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

(g) Budgeted amounts

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

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

(h) Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge

The maintenance of the Trust's accounting records and provision of other administrative services is provided by the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

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

Auditor's remuneration (audit of the financial report)	28	14
Communication costs	1	-
Minor plant, stores and supplies	6	1
Information dissemination	158	77
Fees and services	1,329	972
Travel costs	19	9

2007**\$'000****2006****\$'000**

28

1

6

158

1,329

19

1,541

14

-

1

77

972

9

1,073**(b) Grants and subsidies**

Grants provided to federal government	1,864	1,976
Grants provided to state and local governments	64,454	26,566
Grants provided to community/school groups	7,792	3,948
Grants provided to Consolidated Fund for initiatives under the <i>Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995</i>	12,897	30,497

1,864

64,454

7,792

12,897

87,007

1,976

26,566

3,948

30,497

62,987**3. REVENUE****(a) Investment revenue**

Interest on bank account	2,942	3,054
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2,942

2,942

3,054

3,054**(b) Grants and Contributions**

Non-government	450	-
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450

450

-

-**(c) Other revenue**

Other	338	424
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338

338

424

424

4. APPROPRIATIONS

Recurrent appropriations

Total recurrent draw-downs from Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)

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

Total

Comprising:

Recurrent appropriations (per Operating Statement)

Total

2007	2006
\$'000	\$'000
76,497	30,220
-	-
76,497	30,220
76,497	30,220
76,497	30,220

5. PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

The Environmental Trust had only one program in 2006-07.

Program 1: Support of the Environment

Objectives:

To support environmental restoration and rehabilitation projects that reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation; promote environmental research and education; fund the acquisition of land for national parks; fund the declaration of marine parks; and fund the purchase of water entitlements for increasing environmental flows.

6. CURRENT ASSETS – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank and on hand

Cash at TCorp

Closing cash and cash equivalents (as per Balance Sheet)

1,204	586
15,227	30,371
16,431	30,957
16,431	30,957

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, cash at bank, and short term deposits. Cash Assets recognised in the Balance Sheet are reconciled to cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows as follows:

Closing cash and cash equivalents (as per the statement of cash flows)

7. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

Current

Debtors

Accrued Income

Interest receivable

GST

-	123
8	-
478	553
848	186
1,334	862

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

8. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

Current

Creditors

Accrued expenses

23	8,234
2,478	-
2,501	8,234

9. CHANGES IN EQUITY

	2007 \$'000	2006 \$'000
Accumulated Funds		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	23,585	25,110
Changes in equity – transactions with owners as owners		
Increase/(decrease) in net assets from equity transfers	-	28,837
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(8,321)	(30,362)
Balance at the end of the financial year	15,264	23,585

Last financial year the Trust's assets increased by \$28.849 million and liabilities increased by \$12,000 as a result of the Waste fund being assumed by the Trust.

The change in equity was a net increase of \$28.837 million.

10. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

(a) Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 30 June 2007 (2006 – nil).

(b) Operating expenditure commitments

The Fund's commitments totalling approximately \$59.1 million (2006 - \$12.6 million) for the funding of Trust's environmental initiatives are proposed to be financed from future funding provided by the NSW Government. The commitments are as follows:

Not later than one year

State and Local Government Grants	31,198	9,710
Community Grants and Other	2,562	1,377
	33,760	11,087

Later than one year but not later than five years

State and Local Government Grants	27,356	1,274
Community Grants and Other	1,079	243
	28,435	1,517
	62,195	12,604

As a consequence of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) a contingent asset is included in the commitments above. The value of this contingent asset is \$3,073,598 (\$985,000 in 2006), which represents commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised in the statements as liabilities.

11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2007 (2006 – nil).

12. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) Net cost of service

The actual net cost of services was \$84.8 million or 8.7% under budget. The two main factors that impacted on the actual result were delays in expected expenditure and higher investment revenue during the year.

(b) Assets and Liabilities

Total assets were \$6.6 million higher than budget and total liabilities were \$1.5 million higher than budget. Assets increased due to the higher cash holdings as a result of the lower than budget expenditure of the Trust. Liabilities increased due to higher than expected accruals at year end.

(c) Cash Flows

The increase in cash holdings was \$6.2 million higher than budget. The two main factors that impacted on the actual cash flow were delays in expected expenditure and higher receipts (including investment revenue) during the year.

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

	2007	2006
	\$'000	\$'000
Net cash flows used on operating activities	(14,526)	(32,883)
Decrease / (increase) in creditors	5,733	2,844
Increase / (decrease) in receivable	472	(323)
Cash flows from government appropriations	(76,497)	(30,220)
Net cost of services	(84,818)	(60,582)

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Environmental Trust's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the Trust's operations or are required to finance the Trust's operations. The Trust does not enter into or trade financial instruments for speculative purposes. The Trust does not use financial derivatives. Classes of instruments are recorded at cost and are carried at net fair value.

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

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 Treasury. The deposits at balance date were earning an interest rate of 5.25% (4.75% in 2006) while over the period the average interest rate was 5.14% (4.54% in 2006).

(b) Hour-glass Investment Facilities

The Trust has funds in TCorp's Hour-Glass Investment facilities. The Trust's Investment is represented by a number of units in managed investment within the facilities. Each facility has different investment horizons and comprises a mix of asset classes appropriate to the investment horizon. TCorp appoints and monitors fund managers and establishes and monitors the application of appropriate investment guidelines. All funds are held in the cash facility.

(c) Receivables

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts, which are known to be uncollectable, are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any allowance for impairment). The carrying amount approximates net fair value. Sales are made on 30 days terms. All lease revenue falls due immediately after the issue of the customer invoice except where the lease rent schedule conditions stipulate otherwise.

(d) Bank overdraft

The Environmental Trust does not have any bank overdraft facility.

(e) Trade creditors and accruals

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

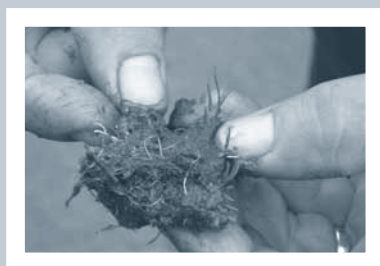
No interest payments were awarded during the year.

15. EARLY ADOPTION OF STANDARDS

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

16. AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

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



Appendices

Statement of Affairs and Administration of the Trust

Indicators of activity in administering the Trust

	2005/06	2006/07
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives ¹	\$32 million	\$74 million
No. of major programs	2	4
No. of grant programs running	14	16
No. of current major projects	14	13
No. of new grant projects approved and started	192	238
No. of applications/expressions of interest processed ²	641	734
No. of grant payments processed	324	386
No. of emergency pollution clean-ups funded	52	48

Notes:

1. Does not include spending on forestry restructuring under FRANC Act.
2. Total includes applications invited/received as a result of the Expression of Interest stage.

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

- Northern Illawarra Residents Action Group – *Bulli Green Corridor Restoration Project*

Structure and Management of the Trust

The Trust consists of three parts: the Trust itself, its committees and support staff within the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW (DECC).

The Trust funds the costs incurred in administering the Trust's programs, including staff salaries. The DECC also provides all the support services for the Trust, such as finance, human resources and information technology.

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

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

Grants Administration

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

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

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



The friendly faces of the Environmental Trust administration team

Organisational Performance

Trust administration staff work wholly within the administration of the DECC, and are therefore part of organisational performance programs of the DECC. These include occupational health and safety, ethnic affairs priorities, Aboriginal affairs priorities, action plan for women, equal employment opportunity and disability plan. Environmental impact reduction programs that include waste reduction and purchasing, resource recovery, and recycled material are also included. Further information on these issues can be found in the DECC's Annual Report 2006-07.

Assets

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

Risk Management

The Environmental 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 progress of grants and payments of grants, a procedures manual and regular audits of procedures.



Additional Information

Public Access

Members of the public may obtain further information on the NSW Environmental Trust by contacting:

Grants Administrator

PO Box 644
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
Telephone: (02) 8837 6093

Information on Trust Grant Programs is also available on the Trust's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust

Offices

The Trust's offices are located at:

Level 2
1 Fitzwilliam Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

The offices are open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm,
Monday to Friday.

Publications

The following publications are available from the Trust:

Guidelines and Grant Application forms for all 2007 programs

Environmental Trust Annual Reports 1992–93 to 2005–06.

Environmental Trust Brochure

550 copies have been produced of the 2006–07 report at an external production cost of approximately \$25 per copy.

The report is also available at the Trust's website
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust

Freedom of Information: There was no freedom of information request in the 2006–07 financial year.

Documents held by the Trust fall into three categories:

- publications
- working files and
- grant applications.

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



Children planting trees

Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust and Committees



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

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

The Trust met four times in 2006–07.

Members of the Trust and Meeting Attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
Hon. Bob Debus MP	(Chairperson) Minister for the Environment (statutory appointment)	3	3
Hon. Phil Koperberg MP	(Chairperson) Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water (statutory appointment)	1	1
Mr John Pierce	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)		
Permanent Deputy: Ms Lindsey Williams	Director, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, NSW Treasury	4	4
Ms Lisa Corbyn	(Secretary) Director General, DECC (statutory appointment)	3	4
Deputy	Mr Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Sustainability Programs Division, DECC	1	
Mr Rob Pallin	<i>Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW</i>	3	4
Deputy	Prof Don White, Chairperson, NCC	1	
Cr Genia McCaffery	<i>Representing the Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW</i>	3	4
Deputy	Mr Robert Verhey, Strategy Manager Environment, LGSA	1	

Trust Subcommittee Membership

The Trust established four new subcommittees under S9(3) of the Act during 2006-07 to assist with the management of Trust finances and three new major projects which will be commencing in 2007-08. 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 Subcommittee

Ms Lisa Corbyn (Chairperson)

Director General DECC and Environmental Trust Secretary

Dr Tony Wilkins

Manager Environmental Secretariat, News Ltd
(industry representative)

Professor Don White

Chairperson Nature Conservation Council
(environmental community representative)

Mr Robert Verhey

Strategy Manager Environment (representative of the
Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW)

Mr Simon Smith

Deputy Director General Climate Change and Environment
Protection Group, DECC

Mr Tim Rogers

Executive Director Sustainability Programs Division, DECC.

Finance Subcommittee

Ms Lindsey Williams

Director Natural Resources and Environment Branch,
NSW Treasury

Mr Bernard Carlon

Director Business and Community Programs, DECC

Marine Parks Subcommittee

Mr Tim Rogers (Chairperson)

Executive Director Sustainability Programs Division, DECC

Mr Andrew Read

Manager Marine Parks, NSW Department of Primary
Industries

Mr Richard Steven

Principal Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury

Mr Bernard Carlon

Director Business and Community Programs, DECC

Mr Michael Wright

Director Reserves and Wildlife, DECC.

Ms Helen Muldoon

Executive Director, Marine Parks Authority

Native Vegetation Assistance Program Subcommittee

Ms Linda Burney (Chairperson)

Natural Resources Advisory Council and Member for
Canterbury

Mr Tim Ferraro

General Manager, Central West CMA

Mr Stephen Griffith

General Manager, NSW Rural Assistance Authority

Mr Paul Hucker

Principal Financial Analyst, NSW State Treasury

Mr Rob Dunn

Chief Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Trust of NSW

Mr John Fisher

Director Regional Relations and Education, NSW
Department of Primary Industries

Mr Tom Grosskopf

Director Vegetation and Land Management, DECC

Mr Bernard Carlon

Director Business and Community Programs, DECC

Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECC.

NSW Riverbank Subcommittee

Ms Lisa Corbyn (Chairperson)

Director General DECC and Environmental Trust Secretary

Mr Simon Smith

Deputy Director General Climate Change and Environment
Protection Group, DECC

Mr Richard Steven

Principal Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury

Ms Anthea Kerr

Senior Principal Policy Officer, The Cabinet Office NSW

Mr David Harriss

Deputy Director General Water Management,
Department of Water and Energy

Mr Nick Milham

Director Policy and Legislation Coordination, NSW
Department of Primary Industries

Prof Richard Kingsford

Professor of Environmental Science, University of NSW

Dr Terry Hillman

Member of the Independent Sustainable Rivers Audit Group

Mr Howard Jones

Chair, Murray Wetlands Working Group

Mr Mike Young

Research Chair, Water Economics and Management,
University of Adelaide

Alps to Atherton Subcommittee**Dr Richard Sheldrake** (Chairperson)

Deputy Director General Conservation Landscapes and
Policy Group, DECC

Dr Tony Fleming

Deputy Director General Parks and Wildlife Group, DECC

Mr Graeme Worboys

Vice Chair IUCN, World Commission on Protected Areas

Mr Geoff Scott

Chief Executive Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Prof Robert Whelan

Dean of Science, University of Wollongong

Dr Judy Henderson

Chair, Northern Rivers CMA

Cr Jan Barham

Mayor, Byron Bay

Mr Michael Bullen

Director Native Forest Operations,
NSW Department of Primary Industries

Mr Bernard Carlon

Director Business and Community Programs, DECC

Mr Rob Pallin (interim)

Nature Conservation Council.

**Aboriginal Land Management
for Biodiversity Subcommittee****Dr Richard Sheldrake** (Chairperson)

Deputy Director General Conservation Landscapes and
Policy Group, DECC

Mr Geoff Scott

Chief Executive Officer, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Ms Kathryn Ridge

Solicitor Director, Ridge and Associates

Mr Adam McClean

Barrister at Law

Ms Yvonne Stewart

Chairperson, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee

Mr Jason Ardler

Executive Director Cultural Heritage Division, DECC

Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECC.

**Clean Air Healthy Communities
Subcommittee****Mr Simon Smith** (Chairperson)

Deputy Director General Climate Change and Environment
Protection Group, DECC

Mr Mark McKenzie

Managing Director, RARE Consulting

Mr Henry O'Clery

Director, Future Climate Australia

Mr Jack Haley

Vehicle Policy Specialist, NRMA Motoring and Service

Cr Genia McCaffery

President, Local Government Association of NSW and Mayor,
North Sydney Council

Dr Denise Robinson

Chief Health Officer, Deputy Director General Population
Health, NSW Health

Mr Bruce Dowdell

Senior Environmental Specialist, Roads and Traffic Authority

Mr Michael Wright

General Manager StateFleet Services,
NSW Department of Commerce

Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECC

Ms Joanna Quilty

Senior Manager Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Transport

Technical Committee Membership

Under Section 9(1) of the Act, the Trust has established several technical committees. Membership of each committee during 2006-07 is set out below. The Trust established two new technical committees (for its Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program and Urban Sustainability Program) in 2006-07.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Mr Joe Woodward (Chairperson)

Executive Director Operations, DECC

Mr Robert Verhey

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government Association of NSW & Shires Association of NSW

Mr John E Searson

General Manager, Murrumbidgee CMA

Ms Monica Collins

Manager Biodiversity and Conservation, DECC

Ms Ellen O'Brien

Principal, Envirostrategy

Ms Sandra Morse

Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

Mr Tim Baker

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators.

Environmental Education Program

Mr Bernard Carlon (Chairperson)

Director Business and Community Programs, DECC

Ms Amy Foxe

Environmental Secretariat, News Limited

Mr Richard Davies

Manager Visitor and Community Programs, DECC

Mr David Ella

President, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

Ms Vanessa Parkes

Manager Environmental Services, Blacktown City Council

Ms Jane Smith

Executive Officer CCCEN, University of Newcastle.

Environmental Research Program

Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)

Director Environment and Conservation Science, DECC

Dr Derek Van Dyk

Director Science, NSW Office for Science and Medical Research

Dr Graeme Batley

Director Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research
CSIRO Land and Water.

Protecting Our Places Program

Mr Peter Dixon (Chairperson)

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECC

Mr John Lennis

Aboriginal Community Support Officer, Hawkesbury Nepean CMA

Ms Teresa Gay

Director Aboriginal Heritage Operations,
Cultural Heritage Division, DECC

Mr Linton Howarth

Aboriginal Natural Resource Officer, Department of Natural Resources

Ms Cleonie Quayle

Policy Officer Strategic Policy and Planning, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Mr Anthony Seiver

Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Ms Yvonne Stewart

Secretary, Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation.

Eco Schools Program

Mr Geoff Young (Chairperson)

Manager Community Education, DECC

Mr Kevin Butler

Manager Environmental Education, Department of Education and Training

Ms Janelle Hatherly

Manager Public Programs, Botanic Gardens Trust

Ms Wendy Kinsella

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

Mr Tony McArthur

Professional Assistant to Executive Director,
Catholic Education Commission.

Contaminated Land Management Program

Mr Craig Lamberton (Chairperson)

Director Specialised Regulation, DECC

Mr Jeff Smith

Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Defenders Office

Mr Robert Verhey

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW

Dr Michael Staff

Director Environmental Health Branch, NSW Health

Dr Vicki Sheppard

Director Environmental Health, NSW Health

Ms Kylie Lloyd

NSW Manager, Golder and Associates.

Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program

Ms Kim Garside (Chairperson)

Director Service Centre, DECC

Ms Judy Christie

Regional Facilitator, Sydney CMA

Ms Suellen Fitzgerald

Manager Open Space Strategy, NSW Department of Planning.

Mr David Trewin

Manager Business Partnerships, DECC.

Urban Sustainability Program

Dr David Blackmore (Chairperson)

Director Local Government and Resource Recovery, DECC

Dr Judy Henderson

Chair, Northern Rivers CMA

Mr Robert Verhey

Strategy Manager Environment, Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW

Dr Mehreen Faruqi

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

Abbreviations

ASS	acid sulfate soil
BILO	bilingual liaison officers
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CCERP	City and Country Environment Restoration Program
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
CERRA	Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia
CENTROC	Central West Regional Organisation of Councils
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW
DET	NSW Department of Education and Training
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
E-RAMP	Small Waste Facility Environment Risk Assessment and Mitigation Package
ECC	Ethnic Communities Council
HCC	household chemical collections
IAG	Insurance Australia Group
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LECG	lead environmental community group
MUD	multi-unit dwellings
NCC	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
NCT	Nature Conservation Trust
NESB	non-English speaking background
NEWF	North-East Waste Forum
NVAP	Native Vegetation Assistance Package
REC	Roadside Environment Committee
RID	Regional Illegal Dumping
RLPB	Rural Lands Protection Board
RTO	registered training organisation
SEMP	school environmental management plan
SPD	Sustainability Programs Division
USP	Urban Sustainability Program
VRWG	Voluntary Regional Waste Group
VCBI	Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Photographs:

Page	Source
i	Tree planting and Aboriginal mural. Photo courtesy of Tabatha Timbery-Cann
1	Sign posted rehabilitation area. Photo courtesy of Jackie Puckeridge, DECC
3	Water management education workshop. Photo courtesy of Broken Hill City Council
5	View of Thirlmere Lakes from an acquired property. Photo courtesy of DECC
6	Murrumbidgee Swamp. Photo courtesy of DECC
6	Brush-tailed Phascogale. Photo courtesy of Ken Stepnell, DECC
6	Oxley Wild Rivers National Park looking onto the Chandler River. Photo courtesy of DECC
7	Macquarie Marshes. Photo courtesy of Richard Ingham, TAFE Western Institute
7	Fish Friendly Weirs brochure
8	Road crossing blocking fish passage. Photo courtesy of NSW Department of Primary Industries
9	Area prior to rehabilitation. Photo courtesy of Sean Court
9	Area after rehabilitation. Photo courtesy of Sean Court
9	Informative signage. Photo courtesy of Tuross Lakes Preservation Group
10	Gardens for Wildlife workshop. Photo courtesy of Hornsby Shire Council
10	Community planting day. Photo courtesy of Newcastle City Council
11	Crew for surveillance operation which detected bitou on Mt Lidgbird. Photo courtesy of Lord Howe Island Board
11	Implementing ecologically appropriate fire regimes in NSW. Photo courtesy of Nature Conservation Council of NSW
12	Weeding team at Lord Howe Island. Photo courtesy of Lord Howe Island Board
12	On site roadside remnant training for Kiama Shire works crews. Photo courtesy of DECC
13	Land for Wildlife members with their sign. Photo courtesy of Community Environment Network Inc
15	Drain shallowing to prevent acid sulphate soil. Photo courtesy of NSW Department of Primary Industries
18	Tree planting and Aboriginal mural. Photo courtesy of Tabatha Timbery-Cann
21	Working on nature strip garden. Photo courtesy of Broken Hill City Council
21	Community Biodiversity Survey Manual
21	Bush Foods website
22	Nature strip garden. Photo courtesy of Broken Hill City Council
22	Chinese fact sheet
23	Our Environment: It's a Living Thing postcard
24	Backyard Buddies program biodiversity workshop. Photo courtesy of Chinese Australian Services Society (CASS)
28	Biogenic emissions apparatus. Photo courtesy of CSIRO Energy Technology
28	Eucalypt woodlands. Photo courtesy of M Cufer, DECC
29	Laboratory testing. Photo courtesy of B Peters, DECC
29	CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems staff member talks to landholders during a field day. Photo courtesy of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
30	Field study. Photo courtesy of M Cufer, DECC
31	Illegal dumping. Photo courtesy of Queanbeyan City Council
32	Who Cares about the Environment in 2006? report cover
33	Phone books heading off to be recycled. Photo courtesy of Sensis
34	Organics fairway topdressing in progress – Kiama golf course. Photo courtesy of DECC
34	Household Chemical Collection point. Photo courtesy of DECC
34	Dumping: It's Dumb postcard
35	Gate erected to prevent illegal dumping – Mirrabee clean up project. Photo courtesy of Queanbeyan City Council
36	Entrance to Macquarie Marshes. Photo courtesy of Richard Ingham, TAFE Western Institute
37	Members of the Urban Sustainability Program Technical Committee. Photo courtesy of Amanda Lambert, DECC
37	Green waste for recycling. Photo courtesy of CENTROC
41	Buffawang Lagoon, a target wetland for RiverBank water on the mid-Lachlan River. Photo courtesy of DECC
42	Humpback whale. Photo courtesy of W Reynolds
43	Seedlings ready to be planted. Photo courtesy of Jackie Puckeridge, DECC
44	Garden guide brochures. Photo courtesy of Hornsby Shire Council
44	Four Wheel Driving with the Environment in Mind brochure
45	Case study brochure: Big Answers to Big Questions
47	Aboriginal art in Western NSW. Photo courtesy of Richard Ingham, TAFE Western Institute
60	Organics improved turf grass germination in soil treated with soil conditioner. Photo courtesy of DECC
61	The friendly faces of the Environmental Trust administration team. Photo courtesy of Nathan Young, DECC
62	Landholders and Brooke Avenue Public School students with their Habitat for Wildlife signs. Photo courtesy of Community Environment Network Inc
62	Children planting trees. Photo courtesy of Wollongong City Council
63	Kookaburra. Photo courtesy of P Rebuck, DECC

