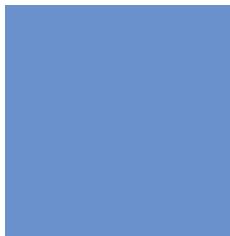


NSW Environmental Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08



Cover photographs:

1. Blue Groper. Photo courtesy of M. Cufer – DECC
2. Aerial spraying on Montague Island, Photo courtesy of www.geoffcomfort.com
3. Field study. Photo courtesy of M. Cufer – DECC
4. Aboriginal rock art. Photo courtesy of Richard Ingham, TAFE Western Institute
5. Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. Photo courtesy of DECC
6. Grevillia. Photo courtesy of Rosie Nicolai
7. Divers conducting Marine Surveys. Photo courtesy of David Roe, Harbour Keepers
8. Superb Parrot. Photo courtesy of North Sydney Council
9. Tree Bark. Photo courtesy of Rosie Nicolai
10. Turtle. Photo courtesy of Rosie Nicolai

Published by

Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW

59–61 Goulburn Street

PO Box A290

South Sydney NSW 1232

Phone: 131 555 (general information and publications requests)

For more information contact the Environmental Trust

Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street

Parramatta NSW 2150

PO Box 644

Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: (02) 8837 6093

Fax: (02) 8837 6099

Email: envirotrust@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Publication no. DECC 2008/562

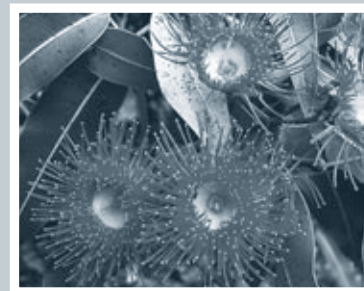
ISSN 1445-3177

Published October 2008

© Environmental Trust 2008

Printed on recycled paper. Elemental chlorine free.

Contents



About the NSW Environmental Trust	1
Highlights of 2007–08	2
Trust Programs and Achievements	3
Land Acquisition	4
Restoration and Rehabilitation	5
■ Outcomes Achieved	5
Restoration and Rehabilitation Major Projects	7
■ Updates on 2004–06 Projects	7
■ Contaminated Land Management Program	10
Restoration and Rehabilitation 2007–08 Grant Programs	11
■ Protecting our Places Program for Aboriginal Organisations	14
■ Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program	15
Environmental Education	17
■ Outcomes Achieved	17
Environmental Education Major Projects	19
■ Updates on 2004–05 Projects	19
Environmental Education 2007–08 Grant Programs	21
■ Eco Schools Grants	23
Environmental Research	25
■ Outcomes Achieved	25
Environmental Research Major Projects	26
■ Updates on 2004–05 Projects	26
Environmental Research 2007–08 Grant Programs	27
Major Environmental Grants Program	29
Waste Programs	31
Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program	35
Climate Change Fund and Private Native Forestry Program	36
■ Climate Change Fund	36
■ Private Native Forestry Program	36
Urban Sustainability Program	37
NSW RiverBank	40
Marine Parks	42
Native Vegetation Assistance Program	43
Dissemination Program	44
Finance	47
Appendices	63
Additional Information	65
Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust and Committees	66
Shortened Forms	70



The Honourable Carmel Tebbutt, MP
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY

Dear Minister

I have the pleasure of presenting to you the 2007–08 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 a total of \$84 million on substantial new environmental initiatives for community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations and local and state government agencies in 2007–08.

This year the Trust also embarked on a new round of major environmental programs, providing \$17 million over 4 years to the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, the Clean Air, Healthy Communities Program and the Land Alive: Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity Program. The Trust progressed the second year of programs under the City and Country Environment Restoration Program, including the Riverbank Environmental Water Recovery Program and management of the Urban Sustainability Program.

It has been a year which has produced great results in the exciting range of new Trust grant programs, with significant results that will continue over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Corbyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LISA CORBYN
Secretary, NSW Environmental Trust
October 2008

About the NSW Environmental Trust



The NSW Environmental Trust (Trust) is an independent statutory body, established by the NSW Government to support exceptional environmental projects that do not receive funds from other government sources. In order to support these projects the Trust receives an annual appropriation from the NSW Government. In 2007–08 this sum was \$86.9 million. This funded projects under the Trust's City and Country Environment Restoration Program (which will total \$316.5 million over five years) as well as the Trust's permanent and other grant programs.

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
 - 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 made by the Trust 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 and the Environment. 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 DECC. 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.



Highlights of 2007–08

The Trust experienced a highly successful year in 2007–08.

Some of the key highlights are listed below.

- The NSW Government's City and Country Environment Restoration Program (CCERP) entered its second year. The package, which provides \$316.5 million to the Trust over five years, supports the implementation of a range of grant programs. The second-year funds were allocated to four key program areas:
 - Urban Sustainability Grants: 20 projects, worth more than \$15 million over the next three years, were approved. These projects, of significant environmental benefit to NSW, will be delivered by local government organisations in partnership with community and business groups.
 - NSW RiverBank: now in its third year (it was brought forward to take advantage of purchasing opportunities in 2005–06), was allocated \$25.8 million for the purchase and management of water licences in the Gwydir, Lachlan, Macquarie and Murrumbidgee catchments.
 - Marine Parks: a total of \$675,000 was allocated for the final buy-back of commercial fishing licences in the Manning Shelf and Batemans Shelf bioregions to allow for the setting up of conservation and sanctuary zones within the parks. An independent adviser reported that the program met the highest probity standards of fairness, accountability and transparency.
 - Native Vegetation Assistance Package: \$8 million was provided to help farmers impacted by the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*; landholders affected by the new Private Native Forestry Code of Practice also became eligible to components of this package this year.
- The Trust spent a record \$84 million on new environmental initiatives to community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations, local government and state agencies.
- The Trust approved 206 new projects. This total includes 75 new site restoration projects, 60 new school projects and 20 council projects under the Urban Sustainability Grants program.
- A new Major Environmental Grants Program round commenced, valued at \$17 million over four years. The program funds biodiversity conservation management through the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, improved environmental outcomes through Clean Air, Healthy Communities, and Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity projects. The new major grants projects are undertaken in collaboration with stakeholders such as community organisations, government, industry, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and councils.
- The Trust provided an additional \$297,777 in funding to lead environmental community groups to support their administrative costs. This increased funding to these groups to \$594,000 in 2007–08.
- The new Private Native Forestry (PNF) initiative led to 418 PNF property vegetation plans being approved in 2007–08, representing a total area of 115,000 hectares.
- Land acquisition continued, with several strategic purchases including Ledknapper and Narran Lake Nature Reserves, Yarrahapinni and Darawank wetlands, and land adjacent to the Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Since the program's inception in 2000–01, a total of 376,744 hectares of land has been purchased from more than 50 properties.
- The Trust's waste reduction and avoidance programs witnessed great growth and success. Round 5 of CleanOut set new participation records, with 22,711 people depositing 748,782 kilograms of hazardous materials. This brings the total tonnage of hazardous material collected and disposed of, since the project's inception, to an amazing 3,121,434 kilograms.
- The Trust Dissemination program continued to spread the benefits of completed Trust-funded projects to other areas and groups. Approximately \$180,000 was awarded to eight projects designed to disseminate the results of successful grant projects. The program also published a number of case studies of successful projects to assist new grantees in developing effective projects.
- The Trust ran 26 workshops across NSW to assist potential applicants to develop high-quality applications. This year the workshops focused on the Urban Sustainability, Protecting Our Places, Restoration and Rehabilitation and Education Grant Programs and attracted 262 participants.
- The Trust became the fund manager for the forthcoming BioBanking Trust Fund. 'BioBanking' is DECC's biodiversity banking and offset scheme. It enables landowners to create biodiversity credits by making formal commitments to enhance and protect the biodiversity values of their land. These credits can then be sold for profit to those seeking to secure conservation outcomes: developers seeking to offset impacts; or philanthropic organisations, corporations and government seeking to secure conservation outcomes.

Trust Programs and Achievements





Land Acquisition

This was the first year of a new four-year program of land acquisition. The Trust provided DECC with \$5.35 million to acquire 13 land parcels totalling 24,319 hectares. The acquisitions were targeted in four categories: protecting Aboriginal cultural values; improving park boundaries; building foundations for reserve systems in Western NSW; and preserving coastal lowlands and wetlands. This year the Trust also provided \$350,000 to the Botanic Gardens Trust for a land acquisition purchase.

Ledknapper Nature Reserve (\$1,200,000)

Purchase of the 17,256 hectare property Gerara, 60 kilometres north of Bourke, increased the Ledknapper Nature Reserve by over 50% and added land systems not yet represented in NSW reserves. Gerara is covered by Mitchell grass floodplains, brigalow woodland, spinifex plains and stands of silver-leafed ironbark. Its soils are lighter, vegetation sparser, and rainfall and temperature ranges more representative of arid environments than in the existing reserve. Aboriginal people associate an artesian spring on the site with the mythical Rainbow Serpent. The spring was also an important permanent water source used by Aboriginal people travelling between the Culgoa and Warrego rivers.

Narran Lake Nature Reserve (\$1,200,000)

Narran Lake Nature Reserve is an internationally important wetland, 50 kilometres north-east of Brewarrina in north-western NSW. Listed in the Ramsar Convention, Narran Lake provides habitat to a number of birds listed in the Australia-China and Australia-Japan Migratory Bird Agreements.

Terewah is a property of 5,976 hectares adjoining the reserve's northern boundary, and includes 20 kilometres of Narran River frontage. The property is characterised by gently undulating, rounded ridges with sloping sandy plateaux, as well as wetlands, channels and overflows. Terewah contains plant communities that have been greatly disturbed throughout their range, such as buck spinifex, lignum shrublands and cumbungi reed beds. The sandy ridge country is also of high spiritual importance to Aboriginal communities throughout north-western NSW.

Yarrahapinni Wetlands (\$1,250,000)

The Yarrahapinni Wetlands, on the mid-north coast of NSW, became seriously degraded following the construction of floodgates to improve stock grazing. The gates prevented tidal water from entering the wetland, exposing acid sulfate soils and leading to a loss of estuarine vegetation and a decrease in water quality that was harmful to fish and oysters. The NSW Government's Yarrahapinni Wetland Rehabilitation Project involves the purchase of properties within the wetland to enable the removal of floodgates to allow the natural hydrological regime to recover, improving water quality and general habitat. A critical component of this plan has been the purchase of 269 hectares on the northern boundary of Yarrahapinni National Park.

On the south-eastern boundary of the Wetland a 300-hectare property known as Fig Tree Farm was also purchased. It is predominantly an island bounded on the eastern shore by Clybucca Creek and on the western and northern shores by Andersons Inlet. The property also forms part of a feature of outstanding cultural significance – a complex of Aboriginal middens that are the largest of their type in temperate Australia. The middens include not only shell and bone remains but hearths, stone artefacts and human burial sites. In recognition of this Aboriginal significance, it will be reserved as Clybucca Aboriginal Area.

Darawank Wetlands (\$327,000)

About 1,000 hectares of the Darawank Wetlands catchment, 10 kilometres north of Tuncurry, is identified as a hotspot for acid sulfate soil (ASS) discharge. DECC and Great Lakes Council are collaborating to enable rehabilitation works to minimise ASS discharge into the river system and enhance the coastal wetland environment.

Three properties totalling 106 hectares were purchased during the year, all at different and strategic locations in the wetland's catchment. These properties contain high conservation-value wetland and coastal forest communities, including subtropical rainforest and both wet and dry sclerophyll forest. A rare forbland community has also been identified in the area and a number of threatened species also occur in the area.

Threatened species include the wallum froglet, black bittern, black-necked stork, grass owl, masked owl, eastern pygmy possum, common blossom bat, squirrel glider, little bent-wing bat and common bent-wing bat.

Botanic Gardens Trust (\$350,000)

The Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is one of a small number of botanic gardens in the Sydney region, acknowledged for its beautiful rainforest, nursery and its extensive educational facilities.

This year the opportunity arose to purchase a privately held lot adjacent to the gardens. The lot contains an extensive remnant of original rainforest, a strip of precious basalt soil, and a three-bedroom property, which might be developed for accommodation and education programs. The former residential section of the lot may be used to house the garden's car park, freeing up the nursery and works areas which will then be used for improved visitation, education and interpretation purposes.

The majority of the funds towards the purchase came from an anonymous benefactor, with the Trust's contribution making up the difference.

Restoration and Rehabilitation

Restoration and Rehabilitation projects are 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 case studies below detail four projects completed in 2007–08.

■ CASE STUDY

Restoring Threatened Lowland Habitats in the Brunswick Valley

A grant of \$92,716 from the Trust has been instrumental in transforming Brunswick Valley Landcare from a fledgling group with limited skills and resources into a professional group that is now a major partner with Byron Shire Council in implementing catchment-wide restoration works and community education projects.

The Landcare group was formed in 2003 to support and increase catchment-wide strategic rehabilitation work in the Brunswick Valley. Since then the group has built a strong riparian and corridor rehabilitation program by consolidating and building the capacity of a number of smaller groups under one umbrella.

Clearing of native vegetation along the catchment's creeks and rivers had resulted in erosion, sedimentation, declining water quality and encroaching weeds. Brunswick Valley Landcare recognised that a strategic approach was required to consolidate the efforts of small groups working in proximity to each other. The Brunswick Valley Landcare model allows a united approach to rehabilitation throughout the catchment while allowing smaller groups access to equipment, expertise and qualified labour for their projects.

During their three-year grant, the group rehabilitated 12.3 kilometres of riparian zone across ten different sites and 8.9 hectares of wildlife-corridor habitat. The project included work on two endangered ecological communities and the enhancement of habitat for 19 threatened flora species and three threatened fauna species.

Brunswick Valley Landcare now has 20 local groups working under its umbrella. Skill levels within the groups have been increased through monthly training workshops, the opportunity to work with professional bush regenerators, and the distribution of training manuals to all volunteers. Monitoring and evaluation programs, a critical component for measuring restoration success, have been established at each site and groups have been trained in how to monitor their achievements.

■ CASE STUDY

Middle Rock Rainforest Protection and Restoration

With a grant from the Trust of \$91,632, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has restored 4.5 hectares of littoral rainforest, which is listed as an endangered ecological community. The rainforest remnant is adjacent to Middle Rock Beach at Lake Cathie, 15 kilometres south of Port Macquarie.

Extensive weed control works were carried out during the project, with 220 hours of weeding and spraying completed and over two hectares of bitou bush removed. Around 2,300 locally indigenous plants were planted within the rainforest remnant.

The margins of the remnant had become degraded from uncontrolled vehicle access and exposure to salt and wind. Screen fencing and new plantings were established, next to the road and car park, to provide a windbreak and allow areas of dieback to regenerate. Access to the area has been controlled with the closure of informal walking tracks and an old four-wheel drive track. Access to the previously eroding sand dunes was controlled with the installation of bollards, fencing, and a new stairway and viewing platform.

The project has resulted in greater protection of the littoral rainforest through the establishment of a vegetation buffer, and consolidation of the adjacent sand dunes through the control of erosion and beach access. Most of the revegetation work was carried out by professional contractors and the construction work was undertaken by 'Work for the Dole' teams. The project was also successful in educating and involving the local community in weed control and vegetation restoration activities, and this has renewed the Lake Cathie Dune Care group's interest in rehabilitating their local area.



A new fence controls access to Middle Rock rainforest

■ CASE STUDY

HarbourKeepers Marine Surveys in Sydney Harbour

HarbourKeepers Marine Surveys give recreational divers the opportunity to become actively involved in the conservation of Sydney Harbour's estuarine environment. The program was developed, with the assistance of a \$92,784 grant from the Trust, by the marine branch of the NSW National Parks Association (NPA) and marine scientists from the Department of Primary Industries. Trained volunteer divers carry out fish biodiversity surveys that target 50 marine species and weed surveys that target the aquatic weed *Caulerpa taxifolia*.

Divers wanting to take part in the surveys must attend an accredited training course consisting of a workshop and two supervised training dives. Divers learn about survey methodology, diver safety and fish identification, using specially developed identification cards. The NPA worked with TAFE NSW to develop the training course into a formal Statement of Attainment in marine surveys. This process ensured that the data being collected was consistent and reliable, and that all HarbourKeeper dive activities were safe for volunteers. During the project 107 divers were certified as 'Fish ID Specialty Divers' and 221 fish surveys were completed.

The weed survey was developed in partnership with the Underwater Research Group of Sydney, a non-profit dive club with an interest in research and conservation. Circular sweeps around the boat anchor are made at five-metre increments to a maximum of 30 metres, and any occurrence of *Caulerpa taxifolia* recorded by GPS.

This project has recognised the diving community's concern for the environment of Sydney Harbour, and provided a way for these community members to become actively involved in its conservation. The success of the fish and weed surveys has continued beyond the life of the project, and NPA have now expanded the program to the rest of the New South Wales coastline.



Volunteer diver using fish identification cards

■ CASE STUDY



Building Bridges to Boorowa volunteers

Building Bridges to Boorowa

Building Bridges to Boorowa is an inspirational example of a partnership program that is achieving on-ground outcomes while also raising the awareness of city residents about the environmental issues faced by regional New South Wales. Since 2000, North Sydney Council has been conducting trips to Boorowa to restore habitat for the endangered superb parrot. The habitat restoration also reduces the effects of soil erosion and soil salinity in the area. With the assistance of a \$34,800 grant in 2004, the program was expanded to include more than 130 volunteers from 19 local council areas across Sydney. They have planted over 20,000 trees and shrubs during the three-year project.

City Bushcare volunteers worked alongside Landcare volunteers from Boorowa to plant native trees, shrubs and groundcover to create wildlife corridors. Volunteers from North Sydney and other Sydney councils travelled to Boorowa for one weekend each year. The trips included a day of tree planting, a formal 'thank you' dinner and a tour of the district to view the progress of previous planting sites. These weekend trips provided the city volunteers with first-hand experience of the environmental issues that country Landcare volunteers are tackling.

Although the planting is conducted over one weekend, the logistics of planning the trip and selecting sites takes a significant amount of work behind the scenes. Months of liaison between the city and country councils, Catchment Management Authorities and the Boorowa Community Landcare Group is required to ensure a well-planned and enjoyable day of planting for the volunteers.

Earlier plantings are already providing some foraging habitat and temporary shelter for several species including the superb parrot, red-rumped parrots and eastern rosellas. These encouraging signs suggest that the habitat corridors will provide a valuable resource for the superb parrot as the plantings mature.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Major Projects



Updates on 2004–06 Projects

The following is an update of the Trust's Major Project grants awarded between 2004 and 2006, which continued into the 2007–08 financial year.

Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory Stage 2

Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW

The program supports landholders who own properties of high conservation value. These privately owned parcels of land complement the state's reserve system. Their ongoing management for conservation helps ensure sustainable native habitat and wildlife corridors. Many of these landholders have made Voluntary Conservation Agreements – statutory commitments under which they agree to protect and appropriately 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.

This Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory (VCBI) program awarded \$350,000 in 2005 focuses on properties in the South West Slopes and South Eastern Highlands bioregions which, between them, have 150,000 hectares of land proclaimed as wildlife refuges. The 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.

DECC Community Biodiversity Project Officers visited all of the 100 target properties that had wildlife refuges. The officers provided information and support for landowners, helping them to understand more about their properties, and also discussed appropriate property management strategies. Each landowner was given a copy of the book *Wildlife on Farms*, which provides background information on improving wildlife habitat.

The native vegetation data from 51 refuges was also assessed using the property vegetation plan biometric

assessment tool. Once the profiles were completed, a property report was prepared for each refuge. These reports contain recommendations regarding current practices and suggest new management actions for consideration. This combination of information helps to build a comprehensive contemporary picture of conservation values on wildlife refuges and conservation agreements in the state's high-priority bioregions.



A sugar glider peeps out from its home in a private Wildlife Refuge

Hot Spots: Implementing Ecologically Appropriate Fire Regimes in NSW

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

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 Nature Conservation Council of NSW (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 more than \$2 million.

A Hot Spots pilot project worked with landholders, Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), the NSW Rural Fire Service, the Nature Conservation Trust 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 NCC has since developed a best practice model for building regional capacity to address fire management issues related to biodiversity conservation.

Thirty-five workshops were held, attended by over 370 owners of private land, 110 public land managers and others with a professional interest in fire management. A total of 108 map-based fire plans were prepared for individual freehold properties and 14 plans addressing public lands; these plans covered 78,326 hectares of which 50-75% is native vegetation.

Over the three years of the project, NCC has developed an excellent model for the provision of information, support and training in sustainable fire management. It has refined and presented information on ecologically appropriate fire regimes in vegetation communities and developed and produced a range of materials to support the implementation of the Hot Spots model. Four CMAs (Northern Rivers, Southern Rivers, Central West and Hawkesbury-Nepean) were involved in this project, and for each a literature review addressing sustainable fire regimes was undertaken and a suite of materials produced to support the program in each CMA.

The project team developed an effective organisational framework for the delivery of science-based understanding of the effects of fire in regional vegetation classes through materials conveying information on fire ecology, management and planning, and through the running of practical workshops.

The Trust considered and funded a further proposal from NCC to continue this series of management planning workshops and run new workshops that will demonstrate practical techniques for fire management. This project will commence in 2008/09.

Reducing and Eradicating Invasive Weeds on Lord Howe Island

Lord Howe Island Board

Weed-mapping work on Lord Howe Island, carried out during 2002-03, showed that the extent and seriousness of the weed problem was beyond the capacity of local agencies and the community to manage. \$1,227,911 was awarded in 2004 by the Trust to achieve three objectives:

- eradication of bitou bush by aerial spraying of cliff areas
- research into the best treatment of Taiwan lily
- a concentrated effort to reduce the population of cherry guava to manageable levels by teams of professional bush regenerators and Board staff.

The project was completed in late 2007, with three main outcomes:

- Through the combination of aerial spraying and follow-up work by contractors, who abseiled onto cliffs, 1,536 bitou plants were destroyed. This left only 16 plants, which are scheduled for removal during the winter of 2008 as part of the Board's regular weed management program.
- A PhD project monitoring 10 infestations of Taiwan lily is nearing completion; papers on the study have been presented at a number of conferences.
- A total of nearly half a million cherry guava plants (90% of all mature plants) have been treated.

Through the Trust grant the Board has been able to change its philosophy of environmental weed management from one of continual control to one of eradication. A total of 131 blocks of land, at an average five to six hectares per block, were treated or cleared of weeds. This has greatly reduced the amount of time it takes to re-treat blocks.

Through the pursuit of this project, the Board was able to attract complementary funding totalling \$716,616 from the Northern Rivers CMA and the Natural Heritage Trust's World Heritage Fund. These funds will help maintain the impetus and resources required to complete eradication and continue follow-up suppression.

Saving Our Corridors: Linear Reserves as NSW Environment Framework

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

The term 'linear reserve' is used to describe all roadsides, rail corridors and stock reserves held by public authorities. Often overlooked, these areas are in fact of great importance as they can act as environmental corridors, connecting habitats and providing havens for flora and fauna. The Saving Our Corridors project was initiated to create a sustainable network of linear reserves across NSW and, working with CMAs, to improve and manage biodiversity through the better coordination and management of these reserves. A further important outcome of the project is to increase the reserves' socio-cultural and economic values.

The \$904,000 project builds on two earlier stages: the identification and assessment of suitable land, to formally protect areas of high conservation value; and preparation of management and monitoring plans to conserve the biodiversity and cultural heritage values on identified linear reserves. Now in its third stage, the project provided accredited training to staff across the state, based on the standard Roadside Environment Committee (REC) linear reserves conservation course and supplemented by material from local management plans.

Participation by key organisations was extremely good. A total of 102 local councils, 14 Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPBs) and 10 rural CMAs joined those organisations



A high conservation roadside reserve near Harden

already represented on the REC in order to participate in the project. Eighty-nine local councils and 14 RLPBs identified and prepared detailed assessments of high-conservation remnants in linear reserves and prepared or updated formal protection and conservation management plans. A concerned group of CMAs – Hunter-Central Rivers, Lachlan, Namoi and Lower Murray-Darling – also pooled funds to complete more regionally focused assessments. Standard protocols for assessment of remnant vegetation, fauna characteristics and cultural heritage were established (in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and DECC).

Forty-seven local councils and all non-urban CMA officers responsible for local government/linear reserve management participated in the stage three trialling workshops. These workshops emphasised seed collection and storage, the establishment of realistic clear zones on roadsides and fire management. The training course has become self-promoting and is being taken up by authorities using their own training facilities.

All the key steps of the completed project have been documented and will form the basis of REC promotional activities when working with Landcare and council subcommittees.

Snowy River Rehabilitation Project

Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA)

This project awarded \$1,098,105 in 2004 focused on recovering the condition and habitat of 186 kilometres of the Snowy River below Jindabyne Dam. It complements willow removal and other rehabilitation works already carried out in NSW and those being undertaken along the 166 kilometres of the Victorian reaches of the Snowy River. Previous work has controlled dense willow infestations and revegetated the riparian margins of the river.

The project enabled habitat rehabilitation and allowed the river's riparian margins to establish the foundations necessary for continuous improvement of habitat conditions. As environmental flows increase, so too will healthy natural fish populations.

This project is important at two levels: it is one of very few international examples of rehabilitation of a river system whose headwaters have been diverted; and it has been established to secure integrated ecological, community, institutional and economic outcomes. The project has been extended until December 2008 to allow for the natural breeding cycles of Australian bass to enable successful restocking of the river.

A survey of native fish in the Snowy, Delegate, Jacob and Pinch rivers was completed, and a report on the conditions and status of fish habitat and populations was published. The reintroduction of identified pilot populations of native fish took place, and breeding programs for river blackfish and Snowy River bass are also under way. (At a community release day in November 2007, 70,000 bass were released. A further 180,000 are planned to be released in late 2008.)

SRCMA entered into contracts on 17 properties to secure 125 hectares of riverbank or riparian habitat, including 123 kilometres of river frontage. Landholders agreed to all or some of the following:



Snowy River at Bungarby

- fencing along the river for livestock control
- improving the condition of native riparian vegetation
- providing alternative livestock watering points
- controlling weeds.

A project for 'landholder mentoring' was also developed to provide the majority of landholders (who are either absentee landholders or who work off-farm to earn a living) with opportunities to 'learn by doing'. Natural resource management skills are acquired by working alongside a local contractor, or suitable local landholder, to assist them on their property with fencing, weed control, native revegetation and erosion control. Twenty landholders worked with mentors from the Upper Snowy Landcare Association.

Advancing Biodiversity Conservation on Private Land

Community Environment Network

Conservation on Private Land (CPL) is an innovative project that extends biodiversity conservation beyond reserve boundaries and offers grass roots solutions to the global problem of declining biodiversity. Focused on the Central Coast, CPL protects and enhances native fauna and flora by considering urban landscapes as well as traditional bush held in private hands.

CPL which completed in 2007 has been a success since its inception in January 2005. The project, awarded \$592,670 in 2004, has held 255 property visits, which resulted in 137 landholders signing up to the Land for Wildlife Program and seven others considering the program's benefits. As a result of this effort, 1,182 hectares of land is now under some kind of conservation agreement. Landholders registering in the project enabled the creation of a number of wildlife corridors. These corridors were in Holgate Matcham (Erina Creek Catchment), Jiliby Jiliby Creek and Wyong Creek (Wyong local government area (LGA), Olney State Forest and the Watagans National Park (Lake Macquarie LGA), and Watagan Creek Road and Milsons Farm (Cessnock LGA).

A schedule of field days and training opportunities was developed, and these were held throughout the life of the program. In all there were 25 workshops with 370 attendees. Topics were chosen in response to landholder needs and included basic bush regeneration techniques, weed identification and management, and seed collection and propagation.

The bush regeneration team spent 220 days treating environmental weeds at 65 different properties. During this time they cleared over 16 hectares of weeds, with a total of 667 hours of assistance from landholders, who also

received training in bush regeneration techniques and plant identification. The team completed six days of seed collection for the Seed Bank, a facility that allows its members access to local-provenance flora species and which is integral to preserving the diversity of local ecosystems.

The urban component of the program, Habitat for Wildlife, promoted awareness and encouraged good neighbour

behaviour near wildlife corridors and adjacent to bushland. Some 461 residents registered as part of the program.

In the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA a project was undertaken to assist landholders on the Somersby Plateau, who have hanging swamps on their property, to undertake protection measures. In the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA work was undertaken to promote wildlife corridors and biodiversity conservation in the Wallis and Fishery creeks catchments.

Contaminated Land Management Program

The Trust's Contaminated Land Management Program assists two important groups: 'innocent' parties (that is, property owners who unwittingly find themselves responsible for the remediation of serious land contamination, because the polluter either cannot be found or no longer exists); and councils who are required to remediate old contaminated gasworks sites. The program has run for seven years and is managed by DECC's Contaminated Sites unit.

The program is overseen by a Trust advisory committee made up of representation from industry, the community and local and state government. The Trust will fund the program until 2011, making a total of \$6 million available for investigation and remediation works.

The Trust can grant monies to fund remediation works to innocent owners in order to ensure that prolonged delays and potential increases in the risk of harm are kept to a minimum. Similarly, the Trust can assist councils, through seed funding, in the often expensive investigation and remediation of former gasworks sites. The operation of gas manufacturing plants throughout NSW has left a legacy of contamination in soil and groundwater at these and adjoining sites. Trust funds assist councils to achieve a state where the serious risk of harm to the community and the environment is removed.

The projects awarded funding in 2007-08 are listed below.

Table 1

Contaminated Land Management Program Grants Awarded in 2007-08 Innocent Owners

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Blue Mountains City Council	Katoomba Remediation Stage 3	Blue Mountains	\$255,562

Council Gasworks

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Cabonne Council	Former Molong Gasworks Site – Investigation	Cabonne	\$99,665
Cootamundra Shire Council	Former Cootamundra Gasworks Site – Investigation	Cootamundra	\$110,085
Council of the City of Wagga Wagga	Former Wagga Wagga Gasworks Site – Investigation	Wagga Wagga	\$181,626
Kiama Municipal Council	Former Kiama Gasworks Site – Investigation	Kiama	\$65,000
Maitland City Council	Former East Maitland Gasworks Site – Investigation	Maitland	\$112,700
Shoalhaven City Council	Former Nowra Gasworks Site – Remediation Stage 2	Shoalhaven	\$415,640
Weddin Shire Council	Former Grenfell Gasworks Site – Investigation	Weddin	\$94,571
Yass Valley Council	Former Yass Gasworks Site – Investigation	Yass	\$68,478
		Total	\$1,403,327

Restoration and Rehabilitation 2007–08 Grant Programs



The Trust funds this program to community organisations (total of \$1.5 million) and state and local government organisations (total of \$1.5 million). Grants between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are available.

The program's objectives are to:

- restore degraded environmental resources, including rare and endangered ecosystems
- protect important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna
- prevent or minimise future environmental damage
- enhance the quality of specific environmental resources
- improve the capacity of eligible organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

A total of 73 applications were received and 49 projects were funded, totalling \$3,390,931 (see Table 2 and Table 3 over page).

In early 2008 the Trust ran workshops for potential applicants across NSW, focusing on the Restoration and Rehabilitation, and Education grant programs. These workshops gave participants information on all the Trust's grants programs. They also offered additional advice to potential grantees about the application and project-planning process beyond the information provided in the program guidelines. A total of 10 workshops were held, attracting 103 participants. The Trust proposes to offer these workshops every two years.

Table 2

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08 Community Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc.	Newness Plateau Reserve Habitat Protection and Threat Abatement	Lithgow	\$30,005
Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) Inc.	Reconnecting Lowland Riparian Corridors on Brunswick River	Byron	\$99,605
Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust	Cape Byron Headland Reserve Restoration Project	Byron	\$90,510
Combaning Dirnaseer Landcare Group Inc.	Restoration and Rehabilitation of a Rural Landscape Stage 3	Temora	\$97,150
Coolamon Landcare Group Inc.	Coolamon Green Belt Project	Coolamon	\$28,550
Environmental Training and Employment Inc.	Myall Creek Riparian Restoration Cats Claw Creeper Control	Richmond Valley	\$99,928
Environmental Training and Employment Inc.	Woolgoolga Littoral Rainforest and Themeda Grassland Restoration	Coffs Harbour	\$99,997
Floraville Ridge Landcare	Regeneration of Remnant Rainforest Gully plus Awareness Program	Lake Macquarie	\$27,860
Jiggi Catchment Landcare Inc.	Control of Riparian Vines to Protect Biodiversity on Jiggi Creek	Lismore	\$96,738
Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee	Restoring Koala Habitat Around Gunnedah: Building on a 1990 Success	Gunnedah	\$98,000
Long Reef Golf Club Limited	Ext. endangered Themeda Australis Remnant Grassland Longreef Headland	Warringah	\$34,000

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Community Grants Program continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Matcham/Holgate Landcare Group	Conservation of Gallery Rainforest and Erina Creek Headwaters	Gosford	\$22,176
Morisset Park Landcare	Restoration and Rehabilitation of Morisset Park Estuarine Habitat	Lake Macquarie	\$60,200
Nambucca Valley Landcare	Coastal Nambucca River Health Officer	Nambucca	\$100,000
National Parks Association of NSW	CoastKeepers Dives: Community Driven Marine Conservation Activities	Various	\$91,550
Riverina and South West Slopes Nature Based Tourism Group	Promotion, Rehabilitation and Restoration of Riverina Bird Habitats	Lockhart	\$97,940
University of Wollongong	Which Species are Best to Plant to Prevent Reinvasion by Bitou Bush?	Shoalhaven	\$88,465
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare	Protection and Rehabilitation of World Heritage Values at Mallanganee	Lismore	\$99,565
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare	Upper Duck Creek Strategic Subcatchment Weed Control and Regeneration	Kyogle	\$15,853
Upper Murrumbidgee Landcare Committee Incorporated	Murrumbidgee River Headwaters Black Willow Eradication Program	Snowy River	\$25,222
Wangi Point Landcare	Wangi Point Restoration Project	Lake Macquarie	\$21,150
West Tilligerry Tidy Towns/Landcare Committee	Control of Erosion Bay Foreshore Saving Mature Trees	Port Stephens	\$7,000
Wetland Care Australia	River Bank Stabilisation in Limeburners Creek, Maria and Woolli Rivers	Hastings	\$99,985
Willow Warriors Inc.	Willows Out of our Rivers (WOR)	Tumut	\$98,800
		Total	\$1,630,249

Table 3

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08

State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Ballina Shire Council	Chickiba Lakes, Ballina, Saltmarsh and Bird Roost Enhancement Project	Ballina	\$10,336
Baulkham Hills Shire Council	Restoration of Bushland in the Hunts Creek Catchment	Baulkham Hills	\$46,025
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	Rehabilitation and Conservation Management of Old Cooma Common	Cooma-Monaro	\$34,260
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	Rehabilitation of Old Service Trail on North Ridge Reserve	Cooma-Monaro	\$17,010
Department of Environment and Climate Change	Blue Mountains Region Strategic Bush Regeneration	Blue Mountains	\$100,000
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	Translocation of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby at Mutawintji National Park	Unincorporated Far West	\$98,481
Department of Primary Industries NSW	Fish Passage Remediation at High Priority Barrier on Manilla River	Tamworth	\$30,000

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08

State and Local Government Grants Program continued

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Primary Industries NSW	Fish Friendly Farms Stage 2 – Demonstration Farms (FFF2)	Port Stephens	\$100,000
Gosford City Council	Threatened Species and Habitat Enhancement in Davistown	Gosford	\$84,000
Greater Taree City Council	Wingham Riparian Reserve "Stepping Stone" Canopy Consolidation	Greater Taree	\$99,100
Kempsey Shire Council	Gills Bridge Creek Rehabilitation Project	Kempsey	\$92,086
Maitland City Council	Enhancing Tenambit Wetland with an Educational Walking Circuit	Maitland	\$48,600
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Border Security – Control of Bitou in the Northern Containment Zone	Tweed	\$100,000
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Riparian Rehabilitation Plan for the Upper Tweed Sub-catchment	Tweed	\$97,650
Parramatta Park Trust	Restoration of Cumberland Plain River-Flat Vegetation	Parramatta	\$62,860
Port Stephens Council	Dune and Koala Habitat Restoration at One Mile Beach	Port Stephens	\$97,936
Port Stephens Council	Improving and Protecting the Water Quality in Tilligerry Creek	Port Stephens	\$61,018
Shoalhaven City Council	Elimination and/or Containment of Madeira Vine in the Shoalhaven LGA	Kiama	\$98,840
Sutherland Shire Council	Rehabilitation of Littoral Rainforest on Hungry Point, Cronulla	Sutherland	\$33,000
Tweed Shire Council	Riparian Vine Weed Mapping and Suppress in the Tweed River Catchment	Tweed	\$100,000
Tweed Shire Council	Integrated Control of Indian Mynas in Tweed and Byron Shires	Tweed	\$99,760
Wollongong City Council	Riparian Vegetation Restoration Along American Creek, Mt Kembla	Wollongong	\$10,500
Wollongong City Council	Restoring Riparian Corridor Connectivity Along Brooks Creek	Wollongong	\$80,000
Wollongong City Council	Restoration and Regeneration of Korrongulla Wetland	Wollongong	\$60,000
Wyong Shire Council	Tumbi Umbi Creek Wetland Rehabilitation Project	Wyong	\$99,220
		Total	\$1,760,682

■ CASE STUDY

Restoring Land Restoring Culture

With the assistance of a \$20,020 grant, the Warada Aboriginal Landcare Group has carried out a program of planting and restoration to enhance an area of remnant scribbly gum and Sydney red gum forest that occurs on the grounds of Bonnells Bay Primary School. The project has created an outdoor learning centre for the school's students, and an ongoing resource to educate students and the community about the environment, biodiversity, bush food and natural resource management. The project delivered an Aboriginal perspective on environmental education and has strengthened partnerships between the local Aboriginal community, the school, environmental groups and the wider community.

Students, teachers, parents and community members participated in ten days of planting with more than 8,000

plants installed on site. The school and community joined forces to participate in clean-ups, mulching days and working bees. The school also started a Junior Landcare Group, which allows students to participate in restoration work at lunch times and one weekend a month.

An outdoor learning environment was created through the construction of four kilometres of bush tracks through the forest, the establishment of educational learning points, and the preparation of educational kits for teachers. A frog pond enables students to learn about the life cycle of frogs, local threatened frog species, and the Dreaming Stories of Tiddalik the Frog.

The strong Aboriginal focus of the project created a sense of ownership and empowerment for the Aboriginal community. Through this project the group have increased their experience in grant writing, implementation and monitoring of environmental projects. They are now using this experience to assist others in planning and incorporating Aboriginal perspectives into community projects.

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.

A total of 20 applications were received, resulting in 17 grants totalling \$496,496 (see Table 4 below).

In line with usual practice, the Trust's Aboriginal Programs Officer conducted 10 workshops (attracting 84 participants) across NSW during the application phase. The workshops not only provided information about how to submit quality applications but also incorporated photos of existing projects and examples of what can be achieved using POP grants. The workshops also highlighted the need for sound project management skills, ways in which expert knowledge and advice can contribute to good project outcomes and the Trust's expectations from communities that receive grants (e.g. the reporting process, and what a final report should contain to enable a satisfactory review and acquittal of a project).

Table 4

Protecting Our Places Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
3 Ways Community Landcare Group	3 Ways Working Together to Heal the Environment and Community	Griffith	\$22,901
Birrigan Gargle Local Aboriginal Land Council	Birrigan Gargle Wetland Bush Regeneration Project	Clarence Valley	\$18,609
Bogal Local Aboriginal Land Council	Bush Tucker Regeneration Garden	Clarence Valley	\$30,000
Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation	Tracking Forward, Leave No Footprints	Kempsey	\$33,923
Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council	Bowraville Mish Community Greening/Clean Space/Native Gardens	Nambucca	\$35,000
Culpra Milli Aboriginal Corporation	Looking Back, Moving Forward (Culpra Cultural Heritage Program)	Wentworth	\$34,800
Djigay Centre of Excellence, Kempsey Campus, North Coast Institute of TAFE	Dunghutti Elders/Pandanus People Protecting Our Places Project	Kempsey	\$30,561
Galbaan Healing Our Environment Community Group	Complete Environmental Rehabilitation of Narwan Village	Dumaresq	\$35,000
KURIWA Incorp. Aboriginal Education Consultative Group	Wadalba Community School Indigenous Education Garden and Walk	Wyong	\$15,720
Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Council	Cemetery Point Restoration and King Merriman Grave Restoration	Eurobodalla	\$30,000
Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Establish an Indigenous Cultural Garden on Indigenous Land	Moree Plains	\$35,000
Tweed Aboriginal Co-operative Society Limited	Restoration of Significant Aboriginal Land at Tweed Historic Site	Tweed	\$34,672
United Githabul Tribal Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Bush Regeneration on 4km of Stream -Tooloom Falls Declared Aboriginal Place	Tenterfield	\$32,500
Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group	Parramatta Park Aboriginal/Burramattagal Landscape Trail	Parramatta	\$30,674
Yaegl Local Aboriginal Land Council	Thorny Island - Yaegl Bush Regeneration Project	Clarence Valley	\$19,760
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Deniliquin Flats Land Management Project	Deniliquin	\$24,020
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Waste Management Project for Moonacullah Box Forest	Deniliquin	\$33,356
		Total	\$496,496

Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program

The Trust funds the Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program. Nominated officers of DECC have delegated authority to approve the spending of Trust funds under this program.

New guidelines were issued in 2008, which explain the types of situations that are eligible for funding and clearly sets out the application process and the conditions of funding. The name of the program also changed to better reflect the extent incidents that can be funded.

The program's objective is to help avoid significant risk to the environment or public health by contributing funds towards the:

- removal, dispersion or mitigation of serious pollution, when measures need to be taken immediately (i.e. emergency pollution)
- removal and management of materials that have been placed or disposed of on premises unlawfully that may have the potential to pose a risk to the environment or public health (i.e. orphan waste).

The program is intended for use: where the responsible party cannot be identified; or where there is uncertainty about the prospect of clean-up costs being paid by the responsible party. The key is to act, thus avoiding or minimising environmental harm and public health impacts that may result from delays in cleaning up.

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 and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Kurrajong Avenue, Mt Druitt	22-Jun-07	\$5,340.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Adna Street, Plumpton	26-Jun-07	\$4,790.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Huneman Close, Huntingwood	31-May-07	\$3,840.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos and removal of drums containing building waste at multiple sites in Rooty Hill	17-Nov-06, 19-Nov-06 and 8-Feb-07	\$5,464.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Stoney Creek Road, Shanes Park	31-Aug-07	\$2,170.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Park Road Marsden Park and Park Road Seven Hills.	16-Oct-07	\$1,950.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Glendenning Road, Glendenning	17-Sep-07	\$640.00
Blacktown City Council	Removal of a drum containing orphan waste related to asbestos on Artisan Road, Seven Hills	21-Sep-07	\$600.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Reservoir Road, Prospect	03-Oct-07	\$930.00
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Reed Road, Prospect	05-Feb-08	\$1,000.00
Blacktown City Council	Oil pump out at an unnamed creek near Palmyra Avenue, Shanes Park, between Stony Creek Road and Shanes Park Road. Removal of several containers from the creek	28-Oct-07	\$9,241.50
Blacktown City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Otago Street, Vineyard	7-Mar-08	\$1,070.00
Department of Environment and Climate Change	Cleanup of asbestos on the Princes Highway at Waterfall, Heathcote National Park	15-Nov-07	\$4,000.00
Department of Environment and Climate Change	Cleanup of cattle feed syrup at Mile Peg Road, Termeil, in the Murramarang National Park	04-Mar-08	\$11,765.20

Emergency Pollution and Orphan Waste Clean-up Program Grants Awarded in 2007– 08 continued

Organisation	Incident	Date of incident	Amount
Fairfield City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Donald Street, Yennora, and Tangerine Street, Smithfield	14-Jul-07	\$1,208.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Removal and disposal of liquid waste from Stannix Park Road, Ebenezer	07-Sep-06	\$1,275.00
Hawkesbury City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Colo Heights Road, Colo Heights	18-May-07	\$1,490.00
Hornsby City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Finlay Avenue, Beecroft	01-Dec-06	\$14,505.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Jedda Road, Prestons and Twentieth Avenue, Hoxton Park	17-Jul-06	\$4,176.96
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos and removal of drums at Kelso Crescent, Moorebank	1-Sep-06	\$5,144.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Herbert Street, Kemps Creek	26-Sep-07	\$919.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Cedar Road, Casula	26-Sep-07	\$6,238.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Tavestock Road, Kemps Creek	29-Aug-07	\$4,654.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Riverside Road, Chipping Norton	21-Feb-07	\$1,196.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Ash Road, Prestons	11-Sep-07	\$1,146.00
Liverpool City Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Twentieth Avenue, Austral	3-Jul-07	\$1,766.00
Port Stephens Council	Cleanup of asbestos related material resulting from a fire in a private residence in Salt Ash	18-Dec-07	\$39,682.00
Strathfield Council	Cleanup of asbestos at Parramatta Road, Strathfield	12-Jun-07	\$1,294.00
Transpacific Waste Services	Cleanup of contaminated stormwater at Links Road, St Marys	09-Jun-07	\$16,567.00
Transpacific Waste Services	Cleanup of contaminated stormwater at Links Road, St Marys	17-Jun-07	\$9,372.70
Veolia Environmental Services	Cleanup of contaminated stormwater at Links Road, St Marys	19-Apr-07	\$13,832.00
Yass Valley Council	Cleanup and disposal of contaminated soil resulting from a stolen pesticides vehicle which was set on fire, Yass Valley LGA.	01-Apr-07	\$594.54
		Total	\$177,860.90

Environmental Education

Education on the environment, conservation and natural resource management is enshrined in the Trust's objectives. We provide grants to community organisations and local and state government agencies for a range of projects and programs in order to 'increase public awareness of environmental issues of any kind' (Environmental Trust Act 1998, s. 7(c)).



Outcomes Achieved

The case studies below detail three projects completed in 2007–08.

■ CASE STUDY

Recreational Fishing Line Recovery

With nearly one million recreational fishers in New South Wales, OceanWatch Australia knew that lost and discarded recreational fishing line was a significant environmental issue. Helped by a grant of \$89,231 from the Trust, OceanWatch Australia commenced a project to engage with the recreational fishing community and find solutions to this problem. The organisation worked directly with councils, fishing clubs and the wider community to reduce the amount of fishing line entering the environment by over 15 tonnes.

The most significant outcome of the project has been the delivery of more than 200 specially designed and manufactured 'TAngler Bins' to local councils along the coast for installation at local fishing hotspots.

TAngler Bins have been a great success in reducing the volume of lost and littered fishing line at popular fishing spots. Surveys before and after installation of the bins have shown that 45% of recreational fishing sites showed immediate improvement in the amount of discarded fishing line. The greatest level of improvement was seen at sites where

councils had supported the project through participation in TAngler Bin communication and education activities.

OceanWatch Australia also worked in partnership with the commercial fishing sector to carry out the first ever Australian fishing net recycling initiative. Called 'Fishing for Waste', the trial recovered about 15 tonnes of commercial net and line (and a small amount of recreational line provided by councils from the TAngler Bins) for recycling into composite fencing posts. The trial indicated that the technology for large-scale fishing line recycling is possible in Australia, although as yet only one recycler deals with the material. Transport costs are also a large barrier to facilitating continued recycling. OceanWatch Australia will continue to investigate other recycling options and solutions to the transport issue.

Following on from the success of this project, OceanWatch is now planning to extend the installation of TAngler Bins to inland recreational fishing spots.



A TAngler Bin for disposal of fishing line waste



TAngler disposal of fishing line brochure

■ CASE STUDY

Stories of Experience: Learning from the Environmental Experiences of Older Australians

Stories of Experience is a project that has drawn upon the experiences of older Australians to promote sustainable living to the broader community. With a grant of \$50,000 from the Trust, the Council on the Ageing (COTA) encouraged senior citizens to write their personal stories and experiences relating to environmental themes such as energy use, waste minimisation, transport, biodiversity and water use.

Writer's guidelines were distributed through various networks including COTA, seniors' organisations, writers' groups and adult education Community Colleges. However, it was the promotion of the project through a series of 13 free writing workshops that was the major factor in its success. A total of 132 people attended the workshops, which provided a supportive and friendly environment to give first-time writers the confidence to write their own stories. Participants found the workshops to be interesting, enjoyable and inspiring.

Seventy-three stories were submitted as part of the project, with authors ranging from first-time writers to those with previously published work. Further funding through the Trust's Dissemination program allowed a smaller selection of 24 stories to be published as a book. The stories were selected by two independent adult educators with the final selection being based on subject matter, originality and the range of environmental lessons reflected in the stories. Each one is complemented by relevant information on the issue obtained from current experts and state and local government resources.

Stories of Experience aimed to broaden the general community's understanding of the older generation's environmental experience. It also provided important recognition and value for the stories and experiences of the older generation who grew up in an environment where the careful use of resources was a way of life, long before formal recycling programs and environmental activism.



Stories of Experience contains personal stories about sustainability

■ CASE STUDY

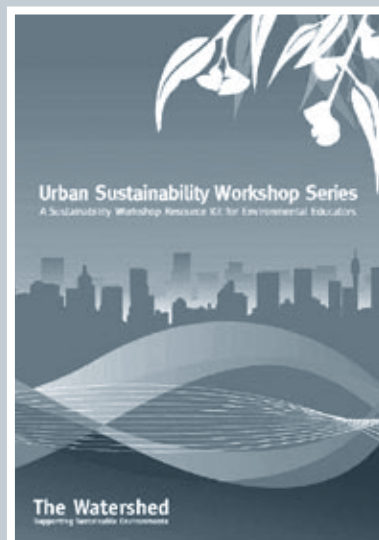
Sustainability Workshop Resource Kit for Environmental Educators

The Watershed Sustainability Resource Centre, in the heart of Newtown, is a well-known centre for local community workshops on environmental issues. The Trust provided a \$70,353 grant to the Watershed in 2006 to build on their existing professional experience and to develop a comprehensive resource kit on urban sustainability.

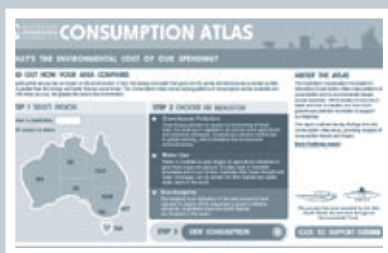
Through a one day 'train the trainer' workshop the comprehensive training manual was delivered to more than 80 participants and a further 30 manuals were distributed outside the workshop program. These participants are now equipped with the knowledge and skills to deliver the training in their local area.

The resource kit is made up of a folder of information and a CD that contains extensive information and resources for running sustainability workshops. The manual covers workshop design, facilitation and evaluation, and contains a series of workshop resources on topics such as natural cleaning, water, energy, waste and composting. The manual also contains useful resources such as modules on workshop format, speaker's notes, and a series of handouts for participants to reinforce the workshops' key messages.

The project has successfully inspired participants by offering practical solutions to environmental issues in urban and peri-urban areas across NSW, and allowing educators from across the state to adapt and use the resources as appropriate for their local area. A number of councils have already conducted sustainability workshops in their local area as a result of attending the training program. Successful evaluation of the 'train the trainer' day and high demand for the training will, in the longer term, increase the environmental awareness and sustainability capacity of residents across the state.



The Watershed Urban Sustainability Manual



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 into 2007–08.

'Our Environment: It's a Living Thing'

This innovative community environmental education program, with a \$3,500,000 grant was completed at the end of 2007. The program aimed to encourage communities to adopt environmentally sustainable lifestyles at home, work and play. The program was also established in recognition that partnerships between government and non-government organisations were essential to build the capacity of the partners through cooperation and coordination of activities. To do this, DECC delivered nine specific projects, working with six organisations: the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), the Total Environment Centre (TEC), the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC), the Local Community Services Association (LCSA), the Council of Social Services of NSW (NCOSS) and the former NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS).

An independent evaluation of the program conducted in September 2007, found it to have been highly successful, with 'substantial gains for the community, for stakeholders and partners'. The following summary of the projects indicates the measure of the program's overall success.

- ACF: GreenHome was the largest single project under the program. It offered face-to-face activity with residents showing them how to make sustainable changes in the home, from water and energy to transport and green finance. Almost 3,000 participants were involved, with savings including 116 megalitres of water and 6,880 tonnes of greenhouse gases.
- ACF: The Sustainable Framework project produced the *Consumption Atlas* – a tool mapping the impact of Australian household consumption and allowing users to compare the consumption patterns of their area with other parts of Australia.
- NCOSS and DEUS: The Affordable Water and Energy Efficiency project provided training for service providers working with low-income households to help them reduce their water and energy costs. The training was strategic and will have long-lasting impacts and benefits.
- NCC: The Our Earth, Our Stories project caught the attention of the community, media and local politicians in the two target regions: Macarthur and the Central Coast. Using photography to highlight biodiversity issues, 275 workshop participants gained improved understanding of the commitment required to protect biodiversity.

- NCC: The Education Action Supporting Environment Groups project built the capacity of environmental educators and improved their delivery of environmental education. The NCC's 120 member groups were involved in the project, which led to a more strategic and proactive approach to educational campaigns.
- TEC: Safer Solutions project identified gaps in people's current knowledge on hazardous chemical use, targeting childcare centres and playgroups in Lismore, Penrith and Randwick. An ongoing education campaign is maintained through a *Safer Solutions* information kit and website.
- TEC: The Corporate Staff Sustainability Training project targeted managers in two large companies: Diageo Australia and Phillips Electronics Australia. The managers, responsible for sustainability within these organisations, underwent a one-day workshop followed by bi-monthly follow-up meetings.
- LCSA: The Sustaining Eco-friendly Communities project expanded on an earlier partnership with DECC. The project provided capacity-building for Neighbourhood Centres' staff and volunteers who act as facilitators, helping the Centres' users to take action to live and work sustainably for the environment. Over 1,300 people attended local and regional sustainability workshops conducted by the program.
- DECC: The Professional Development for Educators project developed the Education for Sustainability Professional Learning Hub, an interactive online learning network for all those involved in sustainability education. It supports ongoing, demand-based professional learning – connecting sustainability practitioners with professional learning service providers.



Our Environment: It's a Living Thing funded a diverse range of educational projects

NESB Pesticides Training Program

This program, granted \$1,500,000 provided training in safe pesticide use for market gardeners from Arabic, Chinese, Cambodian and Vietnamese backgrounds. It also helped these groups 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 initial two rounds of the program were delivered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and included training a pool of bilingual trainers to help registered training organisations (RTOs) deliver the program in target languages and develop pesticide education materials. The trainers completed pesticide application training and Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training. Round 1 (completed in 2004–05) resulted in 268 NESB horticultural workers being trained; Round 2 (completed in 2005–06) saw three RTOs work with DPI and bilingual trainers to educate a total of 327 NESB horticultural workers.

Under Round 3 the Trust approved three grants for RTOs running courses in the target languages, each RTO receiving \$385 for every person completing initial training and a further

\$330 for every person completing re-accreditation. This third round of grants trained a total of 354 NESB horticultural workers in 16 workshops.

The Trust also funded a two-year program to enable the NSW Department of Primary Industries to employ bilingual liaison officers (BILOs). The BILOs provided 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 more than 500 farmers, personally delivered 100 chemical record folders and distributed 1,000 newsletters.

Workshops and field days were organised on topics such as pesticide management, soil and fertiliser management, and integrated pest management. Attendees learned a range of skills, from how to store chemicals safely and pesticide record keeping to spraying according to labelled instructions and differences in chemical toxicity.

This program is now complete, and the Trust is undertaking an evaluation of the whole program to determine its potential as a model for assisting the implementation of new legislation and regulation.

■ CASE STUDY

Birds in Backyards: Guidelines for Enhancing Urban Bird Habitat

Birds Australia was keen to address the loss of diversity in bird species that is occurring in urban areas. They received a \$63,897 Education grant to develop a series of guidelines to improve the management of urban landscapes, parks, gardens and bushland so the habitat needs of native birds are met. The guidelines are based on scientific research and reflect best practice principles on rehabilitation, revegetation and gardening practices. The guidelines aim to increase the understanding of council staff and others responsible for managing urban areas while encouraging a sense of responsibility for biodiversity in their local area.

The Birds in Backyards project produced a comprehensive scientific report compiled from a thorough review of the literature relevant to birds in Australian urban habitats. The report examined the effect of urbanisation on different urban habitats such as remnants, riparian areas, parks and public spaces, new developments and domestic gardens. The report included a series of case studies demonstrating successful creation, revegetation and management of urban bird habitats.

Seven guidelines were developed to provide practical information for the creation and management of bird-friendly urban habitat. The guidelines were tailored to specific users: councils, the housing industry, open space managers, bushland managers, street tree planners, landscape architects, schools and domestic gardeners.

A successful series of seven workshops were held throughout Sydney in 2007 to promote the guidelines. Each workshop was attended by up to 45 people from a wide range of backgrounds including landscape architects, planners, bush regenerators, council education and environmental staff, and community members. With further funding through the Trust's Dissemination program, Birds Australia is now planning to extend the workshops and guidelines into regional New South Wales.



Common backyard birds in NSW

Environmental Education 2007–08 Grant Programs



A total of \$1 million was offered through this program, made up of community grants (\$500,000) and state and local government organisations grants (\$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
- develop and promote education projects that improve the environment.

In 2007–08 the Trust received 187 expressions of interest and invited 58 organisations to submit full applications. The Trust funded 23 grants, totalling \$1,048,648 (see Table 6 below and Table 7 over page). As noted earlier, the Trust ran workshops this year focusing on the Restoration and Rehabilitation and Education grant programs.

Table 6

Environmental Education Program Grants Awarded in 2007–08 Community Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.	Protecting Biodiversity in a Coastal Development Hotspot	Ballina	\$99,650
Byron Underwater Research Group Inc.	Spoken Underwater Interpretive Tours for Community Education	Ballina	\$7,700
Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA)	Our Land, Our Future; Promoting Sustainability in NSW Communities	Statewide	\$25,000
Environmental Defender's Office Ltd	The Rural Landholder's Guide to Environmental Law	Statewide	\$75,000
ErinEarth	Transformative Learning for Living Sustainably	Wagga Wagga	\$24,387
Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW	Environmental Media Campaign for the Chinese Community	Statewide	\$25,000
Futureworld Eco-Technology Centre	Climate Change Action Kit for High Schools (ATEK 3)	Statewide	\$16,693
Inland Rivers Network (IRN)	Education and Engagement in HCV Freshwater Areas	Statewide	\$99,941
Leapfish	"Cool Solutions" - A Climate Change Education Program	Baulkham Hills	\$25,000
Molonglo Catchment Group Inc.	Molonglo Catchment Feral Animal Education Initiative	Yass	\$24,040
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	Community Planning for Climate Change	Statewide	\$99,875
Rotary Club of Wentworth Pioneer World Museum	Education on Prehistoric Environment	Broken Hill	\$5,000
Spectrum Employment Services	Environmental Education for At-Risk Youth	Marrickville	\$25,000
		Total	\$552,286

Table 7

Environmental Education Program Grants Awarded 2007–08

State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Baulkham Hills Shire Council	Enhancing The Environment Management Capacity of CALD Farmers	Baulkham Hills	\$47,000
Cessnock City Council	Sign Up for Sustainability	Cessnock	\$23,750
Department of Environment and Climate Change	Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Teachers Resource Kit for K-6	Statewide	\$100,000
Dubbo City Council	Building our Future – Salinity Education for Builders	Dubbo	\$8,000
Landcom	New Estates Sustainable Living Education Program	Camden	\$95,000
NSW Department of Education and Training, Environmental Education Unit	'Schools WRAPP' – School Waste Reduction and Purchasing Planning	Statewide	\$48,500
Pittwater Council – the Coastal Environment Centre	Coastal Ambassadors-Resourcing Phase 2, Project Expansion	Pittwater	\$49,167
Port Stephens Council	Increasing Environmental Understanding in Rural Residential Areas	Port Stephens	\$21,760
Sydney Coastal Councils Group Inc.	Groundwater Education Project	Statewide	\$54,000
University of Technology, Sydney	Climate Change Education and Advocacy for University Students	Statewide	\$49,185
		Total	\$496,362

■ CASE STUDY

We Dig Our Veggie Garden

With the assistance of a \$2,500 Eco Schools grant in 2006 Forster Public School, on the mid-north coast of NSW, successfully planned, designed and constructed a permaculture vegetable garden including compost bins, worm farm and a water tank within the school grounds. The vegetable garden successfully educated students from all years about the environment, sustainable ecosystems, food production and nutrition, by providing them with a combined theoretical and practical learning experience. Students from the school are now not only changing their attitude to the environment but are also more aware of healthy eating. The project has provided the students with practical skills in seed harvesting, soil maintenance, water conservation, crop tending and rotation and harvesting of produce.

The garden is maintained with compost and fertilisers. Compost is produced from food scraps and peel collected from the canteen and students lunch boxes and deposited in the worm farms and compost bins. Pest control was carried out using organic concoctions to deter pests, including garlic, chilli, natra soap, dipel (*bacillus thuringiensis*), coconut and mineral oils, coffee grounds and herb infusions. A water tank has also been installed to ensure that nearly all the resources to maintain the garden are available on the school site.

Once the produce has been harvested the students learn how to cook and use the plants harvested from their gardens. Teachers have been an important part of the success of this project and they were involved in basic horticulture training. This project was the NSW State winner for the Sustainable Garden Challenge in 2007.



Vegetables were established in large tubs and tables installed in the garden

Eco Schools Grants

The Eco Schools program helps 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, thus maximising environmental learning.

The grants allow schools to involve their community and students in developing and implementing environmental management projects. The initiatives of the Eco Schools

program 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 total of 95 applications were received this year, and 60 grants of \$2,500 were awarded (see Table 8 below).

Table 8

Eco Schools Program Grants Awarded 2007–08

Organisation	Title	LGA
Albury High School	Eco Skills Trail and Eco Mentor Program	Albury
Annandale North Public School	Development of the Urban Forest as an Outdoor Classroom	Leichhardt
Annangrove Public School	Bush Care at Annangrove Public School	Baulkham Hills
Bellingen High School	Bellingen High School Aquaponics Project	Bellingen
Bexhill Public School	Linking the Pieces	Lismore
Bonalbo Central School	Sustainable Chicken and Vegetable Production System	Kyogle
Brigidine College Randwick	Banksia Regeneration Stage 2	Randwick
Canterbury Girls High School	Cooks River Environmental Watchdog Enterprise	Canterbury
Caringbah North Public School	Kids Creating Koori Cuisine with Bushells of Bush, Bugs and Birds	Sutherland
Casuarina Steiner School	Organic Garden	Coffs Harbour
Coledale Public School	Leaping into the Green Garden Groove	Wollongong
Corrimal Primary School	Green Corridor and Nature Trail	Wollongong
Dapto High School	Medicinal Bush Tucker Garden	Wollongong
Darlington Point Public School	Darlington Point Bush Tucker Outdoor Learning Area	Murrumbidgee
Denison College - Kelso High Campus	Environmental Wetlands Project	Bathurst
Dobroyd Point Public School	A Water Wise School: Conserving and Learning	Ashfield
Drummoyne Public School	Drummoyne Rubbish Action Campaign DRAC	Canada Bay
Epping North Primary School	Increasing Native Plants and Biodiversity Within Our School	Hornsby
Ermington Public School	Creation of an Eco-Garden/Outdoor Learning Space at Ermington School	Ryde
Fairvale High School	Green Action Team	Fairfield
Franklin Public School	Miles Franklin Native Garden	Tumut
Goolma Public School	Environmental Assets Resilience Teaching Habitats – Earth	Mid Western Regional
Guyra Central School	Environmental/Aboriginal Outdoor Learning Centre	Guyra
Holsworthy High School	Holsworthy Wildlife: Stop Revive Survive – Shadehouse Project	Liverpool
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Holy Family Small Wetland Plants Project	Ballina
Homebush West Public School	Growing Together	Strathfield
Jannali East Public School	Jannali East Public School's Edible Classroom	Sutherland

Eco Schools Program Grants Awarded 2007–08 continued

Organisation	Title	LGA
Kingswood Park Public School	Indigenous Bush Tucker Garden and Outdoor Learning/Meeting Space	Greater Taree
Kurri Kurri Primary School	Construction of a Raised Garden Bed to Develop a Sensory Garden	Cessnock
Lennox Head Primary	Bridging the Fence	Ballina
Minto Public School	Nature Classroom	Campbelltown
Narrabeen North Public School	Habitat Rescue - Preserving the Link	Pittwater
Nimbin Central School	Aquaponics, Intergrating Sustainable Practices in Agriculture	Lismore
North Gosford Learning Centre	The Youth and Community Garden Project	Gosford
Oak Flats High School	Jayde Hickman Memorial Butterfly Project	Shellharbour
Oakville Public School	Oakville Public School Indigenous Learning Area	Hawkesbury
Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre	Take 123 – Stage 2 'Water-Aware' Play Building Workshops	Sydney City
Old Guildford Public School	Biodiversity Blitz: Building a Bush Beauty Playground Barrier!	Fairfield
Ourimbah Public School	Reconciliation Bush Tucker Garden	Wyong
Pretty Beach Public School	Organic Vegetable Garden	Gosford
Regina Coeli Primary School	Whole School Community Water Conservation Awareness	Hurstville
Rutherford Technology High School	Rutherford Technology High School Action	Maitland
Smithfield Public School	Water – Every Drop Counts!!	Fairfield
St Finbarr's School, Byron Bay	Jarjum Nungunbah Environmental Garden and Outdoor Classroom	Byron
St Francis de Sales	Community Ecosystem Learnscape!	Sutherland
St Ives North Public Primary School	Bush and Bandicoots	Ku-Ring-Gai
St Joseph's Primary School Bulli	St Joey's Sustainable Gardens	Wollongong
St Joseph's Primary School Port Macquarie	St Joseph's Koori Environmental Area	Hastings
St Joseph's Primary School Kempsey	The Pandanas Project	Kempsey
St Joseph's Primary School Taree	Indigenous Bush Tucker and Outdoor Learning/Meeting Space	Greater Taree
Tharawal Primary School	Tharawal School's Bushland Rescue	Sutherland
Tharbogang Public School	Wormy Waste	Griffith
The Crescent School SSP	Our Indigenous Garden – Aboriginal Use of Native Flora	Goulburn
The Henry Lawson High School	Endemic Bush and Learning Environment	Weddin
The Jannali High School	The Integrated Learning of Sustainable Practises in Growing Produce	Sutherland
Thornton Public School	Thornton Public School Native Walkabout Garden	Maitland
Tibooburra Outback School of the Air	Tibooburra Outback School of the Air Botanical Gardens	Unincorp. Far West
Tumut Public School	Awakening the Senses – the Sense of Smell	Tumut
Wairoa School for Specific Purposes	Development of Outdoor Environmental Education Areas	Waverley
Westport High School	Westport Rainforest Outdoor Learning Area	Hastings
	Total	\$150,000

Environmental Research

The Trust is legislated to fund research, and supports research that examines local solutions to environmental problems, the discovery of new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment, and the assessment of environmental degradation. Trust-funded research is held in high esteem and is considered prestigious within the environmental research community.



Outcomes Achieved

Detailed below are case studies on two projects completed in 2007–08.

■ CASE STUDY

Estuarine Wetland Health Assessment

Until now there has been no widely accepted methodology for the rapid assessment of estuarine wetlands to determine their management or rehabilitation needs. With a three-year research grant of \$149,994, WetlandCare Australia worked with wetland experts to develop a scientifically rigorous method for assessing the health of estuarine wetlands, and has so far trained 225 people in the assessment methodology.

The methods were trialled on estuarine wetlands on the far north coast, and a comprehensive training manual and field sheets were developed to support the assessment methodology. The methods have been designed for natural resource professionals, state and local government, and community groups, to assist them in assessing and prioritising wetlands according to various health indicators.

Potentially useful techniques were identified through a literature review before a number of indicators were chosen for field trials at a range of estuarine wetlands. The field assessment resulted in the selection of seven indicators for wetland health: connectivity, human disturbance, acid sulfate soils, vegetation diversity and condition, habitat potential, hydrological change or tidal restriction, and bank condition. The methods for assessing each of these indicators are detailed in a comprehensive Wetland Assessment Techniques Manual.

The field trials resulted in the collection of baseline data on 73 estuarine wetlands in the Brunswick, Tweed, Richmond and Clarence catchments. The project has also developed a database for storing the field data that allows the production of summary reports of wetland health.

Training of wetland managers occurred through a series of eight workshops and six field days. The field days were a very important aspect of the training, which allowed people the opportunity to put the assessment techniques into practice.

With assistance from the Environmental Trust's Dissemination program, WetlandCare Australia is now planning to run further workshops to promote the assessment methods beyond the north coast.

■ CASE STUDY

Bioavailability Assessments of Endocrine Disrupters

This project by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) investigated the use of semi-permeable membrane devices (SPMDs) to address deficiencies that exist in current risk assessment methods for contaminated soils and sediments. Traditional methods for assessing the bioavailability of organic contaminants use indicator organisms such as earthworms and shellfish. These methods are costly and time consuming, and require specialised training, and the results are not always definitive.

SPMDs are comprised of a long, flat plastic tube containing fish oil. These devices mimic the uptake of contaminants by biota such as fish and invertebrates. With funding of \$169,630 from the Trust, DPI applied the technology to a number of contaminated soils and sediments, to obtain correlations with earthworms for terrestrial soils and with Sydney rock oysters for aquatic sediments. The project also demonstrated how land-use changes affect the environmental risk posed by pollutants, and investigated changes in bioavailability following remediation technologies.

Soils contaminated with DDT insecticide were used to test the uptake of contaminants by SPMDs compared to earthworms. The project also developed a mathematical model to investigate the changes that occur in the bioavailability of DDT with time, and looked at the risk posed by DDT when contaminated soil erodes into freshwater systems.

The uptake of contaminants in marine water was investigated by comparing the uptake of dioxins by Sydney rock oysters and SPMDs. Two biological assessment methods were trialled to determine dioxin uptake and both methods proved to be fast, reliable and affordable.

The project has demonstrated that measurements of remediation success must also include assessment of the bioavailability fractions as the total concentration of contaminants does not always correspond to risk. It also showed that the risk from DDT varies greatly between soil types and decreases as it moves from the land into aquatic systems.

This project has increased the scientific knowledge on the nature of environmental pollutants. The study concluded that semi-permeable membrane devices are a reliable and cost-effective method for determining bioavailability of persistent organic pollutants in soil and water.



Environmental Research Major Projects

Updates on 2004–05 Projects

The following is an update of one Major Project that continued in 2007–08.

From Science to Practice: R&D for Implementing Native Vegetation Policy in NSW

CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

This project began in 2004–05, when the CSIRO, DECC, Catchment Management Authorities, local government and universities began a program to provide robust and practical science to underpin reforms to native vegetation management in NSW. The project aimed to provide high-quality science for native vegetation management, and investigated landscape restoration plans, regeneration strategies for native vegetation, vegetation condition, and pest management in native vegetation. 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 operated under the brand 'Better Knowledge, Better Bush' and consisted of 12 science subprojects run by eight project partners, managed and coordinated by CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems. As its overarching theme the project goal was 'to provide knowledge to underpin native vegetation management and restoration in NSW, particularly the science to support management of native vegetation for biodiversity that will be undertaken by farmers through incentive Property Vegetation Plans'. The two pillars of the project were scientific methodologies (research and addressing knowledge gaps that hamper decision making) and achieving environmental outcomes (delivering the research findings into processes that underpin native vegetation management).

The specific outcomes of the project were:

- improved design principles for restoring native vegetation and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes
- improved understanding and practice of revegetation and vegetation management for biodiversity
- improved understanding of plant and wildlife genetic diversity in fragmented landscapes
- improved assessment and monitoring tools for vegetation condition and biodiversity across catchments

- improved biodiversity incentive schemes for farmers, underpinned by high-quality science and effective practice, and
- enhanced capacity in research institutions to respond to policy and management needs of NSW.

The outcomes have been incorporated into key government processes, including the Biodiversity Incentive tool, BioBanking Assessment and the Biometric Tool and Assessment methodology.

The team engaged with stakeholders and communicated science outputs from the project by producing 48 technical publications, 33 refereed papers, 13 technical reports, three theses and seven extension articles. Project staff also contributed 103 conference papers, seminars and workshop presentations. Two major conferences were held, and 620 people attended eight field days. A DVD was produced from the 'Better Bush on Farms' conference, and research and findings are also disseminated via the website. The products and activities represent a substantial contribution to the knowledge underpinning vegetation management.



Better Knowledge Better Bush factsheet

Environmental Research 2007–08 Grant Programs



As in previous years, the Trust allocated \$1 million to the Environmental Research Program in 2007–08. Of the total amount available, \$900,000 was offered to the Major Grants two-stage application program, with approximately 60% of the funding for the major category of 'Biodiversity' and the remaining 40% for the two minor categories of 'Air' and 'Waters and Catchments'. A total of 73 expressions of interest were received, requesting an upper limit of \$10.4 million; the committee invited 19 full applications. The Trust awarded 11 grants totalling \$1,382,624 (see Table 9 below).

This was the second year of the Seeding Grants Program, which offers \$100,000 for 'proof of concept' projects. Grants of up to \$20,000 were available in any of the project categories offered by the Trust ('Biodiversity', 'Waters and Catchments', 'Air', 'Hazardous Substances and Waste' and 'Environmental Noise'). Application forms and guidelines were amended in 2007 in line with the technical committee's recommendations from 2006 to better explain 'proof of concept'. The Trust awarded six grants totalling \$115,091 (see Table 10 over page).

Table 9

Environmental Research Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Australian Catholic University	Mosquito Control, Saltmarsh and Insectivorous Bats: Seeking a Balance	Gosford	\$185,552
Australian National University	Sewage Effluent: Impacts on Land, Estuaries and Beaches, Merimbula NSW	Bega Valley	\$49,400
Centre for Environmental Management, University of Ballarat	Biodiversity Impacts of Partial and Total Ground Tank Closure	Unincorporated Far West	\$170,127
CSIRO Energy Technology	Contribution of Vehicle Emissions to Fine Particle Composition	Statewide	\$100,000
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	Integrated Strategies for Restoring Grassy Woodlands	Statewide	\$112,191
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	Linking Incentives to Outcomes for NRM	Statewide	\$193,533
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	Rapid Assessment of Cumulative Stressors on Fish Populations	Sydney City	\$100,000
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	Nutrient Transformation and Attenuation within Tidal Rivers	Sydney City	\$100,000
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Experimental Cultivation and Rehabilitation of Seagrass	Port Stephens	\$172,425
University of Canberra	Stress Measurements in Molluscs: Linking Exposure and Response	Statewide	\$100,000
University of New South Wales	Upper Trophic Level Dynamics in the Macquarie Marshes	Warren	\$99,396
		Total	\$1,382,624

Table 10

Environmental Research Seeding Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	Rapid Assessment of Dioxins Using Immunoassays	Statewide	\$20,000
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	NSW Low Emissions Innovation Cluster	Statewide	\$20,000
University of Sydney	Phytoremediation of Arsenic Contaminated Sites: A Feasibility Study	Statewide	\$19,601
University of Western Sydney	Ameliorating Soil Sodicity Using Calcium Salt Incorporated Hydrogels	Statewide	\$19,950
University of Western Sydney	Remediation of Dioxin-Contaminated Soils by High Power Ultrasound	Statewide	\$15,700
University of Wollongong	How Can Restored Plant Communities Resist Future Invaders?	Statewide	\$19,840
		Total	\$115,091

Major Environmental Grants Program



The Trust embarked on a new round of Major Environmental Grants in 2007–08. Under this round, three new projects led by DECC were funded:

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

These projects encompass both the Trust's Restoration and Rehabilitation and Education objectives, collaborate with a number of other stakeholders, and are guided by Trust subcommittees.

Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (\$1,000,000)

This \$7 million, four-year project aims to set up the NSW framework to achieve connectivity conservation for more than 2,800 kilometres of the ecosystems of the Great Eastern Ranges of Australia, from Walhalla in Victoria to Atherton in far north Queensland. Launched in NSW as 'Alps to Atherton', the project's name was changed to the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative in 2008 following extensive market research.

The GER's vision is to strengthen the resilience of Australia's natural assets to climate change and diminish the threats that jeopardise a mega-region encompassing globally significant biodiversity, and catchments critical to eastern Australia's water supplies. The scale of the project means that government cannot achieve the GER vision alone; to work it needs to harness the enthusiasm, expertise and action of many different organisations, agencies, Catchment Management Authorities and the community.

In this first year of the program, a coordination team worked closely with DECC; the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts; several NSW Government agencies and a wide range of other stakeholders to develop a consultative framework. More than 60 partner organisations indicated their willingness to work together to plan and implement a range of voluntary conservation activities with private and public landholders. This response reflects the spirit of goodwill behind the project.

A proposed media campaign to promote community awareness of the initiative will begin in the near future. The campaign's focus will be the iconic status of the GER as a natural treasure, as well as the scenic and recreational value of the GER's national parks.

Clean Air, Healthy Communities Program (\$1,500,000)

The Clean Air, Healthy Communities (CAHC) Program commits \$5 million over four years to two key action areas. The first area aims to improve vehicle efficiencies, reduce vehicle emissions and reduce car dependence, thereby producing multiple benefits of health, greenhouse and air quality for the community. The second area will identify and promote initiatives relating to clean air and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in NSW and, through the program's governance arrangements, work to integrate the efforts of government and non-government stakeholders.

The following suite of projects all operate within the CAHC Program:

- **DieselRetrofit:** Many older diesel trucks and commercial vehicles in NSW have no pollution-treatment devices fitted to their exhausts, resulting in high levels of particle emission into the atmosphere. This partnership between the Trust, DECC and the RTA offers subsidised retrofitting of after-treatment devices to help these vehicles reduce their emissions. During the year, the RTA contacted potential retrofit recipients with letters of offer, and also sent penalty infringement notices to the owners of smoky vehicles.
- **FleetWise:** Half the new vehicles purchased in Australia each year are bought by governments or corporate fleets – groups which tend to choose larger and less efficient vehicles than those bought by private car buyers. FleetWise encourages the governments and fleet managers to purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles, the take-up of hybrid and 'clean diesel' technologies, greater use of clean fuels, and practices that reduce the need for car travel altogether. Four partners (News Limited, NRMA Insurance, Sydney City Council and UnitingCare) will take part in the pilot, with work on a participants' web-based 'knowledge pool' completed during the year.
- **Stage2 Vapour Recovery:** Installation of vapour recovery technology at petrol service stations will help to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 5,000 tonnes per year. The NSW Government's implementation of Stage 2 is the most important single action available to reduce VOCs. The project's scale means that the rollout will take place between 2010 and 2016. Considerable work was carried out in 2007–08, including national consultation, cost-benefit analysis and work by a technical consultant on an industry code of practice.
- **LowEmissions Air Project (LEAP):** Another source of VOCs into the atmosphere is smash repair workshops. LEAP aims to reduce VOC emissions by this group, as well as reducing their local odour and air toxics impacts,

by the installation of new emission-reducing equipment. DECC and the NRMA met with industry representatives from the Motor Traders Association, a key industry body. NRMA is particularly keen to identify those premises managing their emissions well with a view to including success factors in its criteria for approval of repairers.

- **Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments (SMILE):** Private road transport emissions grew by 20% between 1990 and 2002 – and continue to grow. This year, SMILE secured the NSW Ministry of Transport (MoT) as an official partner, with MoT providing data for the project's research component. This research will help to understand the motivation behind the choices of different transport user groups, with a view to changing transport behaviour away from private motorised vehicles and building local government planners' capacity to achieve sustainable mobility for urban areas.
- **On Your Bike!:** NSW lags behind other states and territories in its rate of cycling participation: 9.1% compared to 17.8% in the Northern Territory. The City of Sydney has set a 2016 target of 10% for the percentage of trips made by bicycle. The two components of On Your Bike! that will help to achieve this figure are the Ride2School and Ride2Work programs, both of which began development during 2007–08 with Bicycle NSW.



On Your Bike aims to make cycling safer

- **Woodsmoke Reduction:** Each winter, domestic wood-burning heaters contribute to poor air quality and an increase in the levels of fine particle pollution. This project comprises workshops for council officers, giving them the skills to enforce against excessively smoky chimneys, improve wood heater installation practices and undertake community education campaigns. DECC held four workshops this year, attended by 69 officers from 37 different councils.
- **Behaviour Change/Education:** The CAHC Program is supported by an over-arching education campaign that is evidence-based and is informed by a range of commissioned and existing research. The campaign is strategic, addressing each of the subprojects within the program, and working with businesses and individuals to enhance their ability to reduce their ozone, particle and greenhouse gas emissions. During the year the campaign commissioned research into public responses to air pollution, and developed a communication strategy, resource kit and website.

Land Alive: Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity Program (\$660,000)

The four-year, \$5 million Land Alive project aims to build Aboriginal landowners' capacity to conserve biodiversity and successfully participate in the BioBanking scheme. Launched by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Land Alive will gather Aboriginal people's knowledge of ecology and the landscape, and draw upon their skills for the land's management and maintenance. This knowledge will be fed into land management plans for Aboriginal-owned land, thus enhancing and maximising Aboriginal cultural understandings of land management. It will lead to improved protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and will allow the application of new science as a tool to balance their economic, social and environmental responsibilities as landholders.

As BioBank sites are established on Aboriginal-owned land, plans will be developed that increase landowners' participation and provide increased support and on-ground analysis to increase the biodiversity of Aboriginal land over time. Land Alive will also enable land management and oral-history recording skills. As BioBank sites are established and BioBank credits acquired, landowners will gain vital credit trading experience. Five local Aboriginal land councils contributed to management plans during the year: Jali, Gandangara, Worimi, Ngunnawal and Cobowra.

Waste Programs



This program is designed to support the achievement of the NSW Waste Strategy.

There is an increasing recognition that waste avoidance, resource recovery, and recycling play a significant role in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and improving water conservation as well as conservation of our natural resources. The Waste Program funded by the Trust increasingly deals with these issues from a sustainability perspective.

All waste-related programs and funding became the responsibility of the Trust in 2005. A blueprint for spending was approved, and this year was the third year in the blueprint's 2005–08 schedule.

A total of around \$10 million was provided in 2007–08 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 local government, industry, business and the community to move towards environmentally sustainable practices.

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 2007–08 are listed below, followed by a brief report on some of the subprojects.

Table 11

Waste Programs in 2007–08

Program Area	Funding Approved
Coordinated Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Waste Reduction	\$1,840,000
Education Programs (including schools)	\$675,000
Improving Waste Separation on Construction Sites	\$150,000
Litter and Illegal Dumping Enforcement	\$220,000
Local Government Programs	\$865,000
Materials Production and Dissemination	\$650,000
Recycled Organics Market Development	\$700,000
Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads	\$460,000
Specific Waste Streams, including Household Hazardous Waste	\$2,250,000
Supporting Regional Waste Programs	\$1,590,000
Waste Intelligence and Analysis	\$1,225,000
	Total
	\$10,625,000

Household Chemical Collections: 'CleanOut' (\$1,658,596)

CleanOut is the name of the Household Chemical Collections program run by DECC in partnership with local councils, which began in 2003. It enables the environmentally responsible disposal of common household chemicals while at the same time raising awareness of their potentially hazardous nature.

New records continued to be set by CleanOut in Round 5, 2007–08. A total of 38 collections were held in the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions, making a total of 261 collections since the project began. Last year's record of 18,000 community participants was well and truly beaten this year, with 22,711 people participating. A new record of 748,782 kilograms of hazardous materials was deposited, and correctly disposed. This brings the total tonnage of hazardous material collected and disposed of since the project's inception to an amazing 3,121,434 kilograms.

The continuing growth and success of CleanOut is due in part to the support and involvement of local government partners. The value of council mail outs was reflected in the high participation rates: Sutherland Shire Council experienced a 183% increase in patronage on its 2006 collection day.



CleanOut waste collection day

Regional and Local Government Support (\$1,467,447)

In rural and regional NSW, it is the responsibility of local councils to manage their waste facilities. DECC works with these councils to improve their resource recovery practices through a network of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs). The VRWGs represent 96 councils and meet regularly, under their collective identity of Renew NSW.

A major focus of this year's work was the development of the benchmarks, profiles and standards necessary for councils to estimate the amounts and composition of waste that is likely to be produced by diverse rural and regional communities. The Riverina-East Regional Organisation of Councils Waste Group took charge of this project, and made great progress.

Building on the success of last year's trial of DECC's Environmental Risk Assessment and Mitigation Package (E-RAMP), a report was published that collated feedback from the 13 participating councils. The E-RAMP tool will help councils to generate environmental risk profiles and action plans for their facilities, rationalise small landfills and establish transfer stations.

Through DECC's support of Renew NSW and the VRWGs, these groups have diverted from landfill 25,500 tonnes of scrap metal, 247,150 cubic metres of organic waste, 104 tonnes of household chemical waste, 345,000 drums of farm chemicals and 63 tonnes of e-waste.

Sustainability Advantage (\$1,030,694)

In its second year of operations, the Sustainability Advantage program underwent huge growth in participation levels. The program offers support to identify environmental priorities and implement projects that improve environmental performance and add business value.

This year the program participation grew to a total of 225 medium and large organisations, including 18 companies listed in the ASX 200. Together these organisations employ over 90,000 people in NSW, and include such household names as Kellogg's, CSR Gyprock, Boral and Austral Bricks. Outside the private sector, the program signed up public and non-profit organisations, including universities and TAFEs that account for over 300,000 students.

Significant resource efficiencies were achieved during the year. The Riverina Cluster (which includes National Foods, Rockdale Beef, Casella Wines and De Bortoli) identified savings of around \$2.36 million, 1,600 megawatt hours of energy, 150 megalitres of water and over 150 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill. CSR Gyprock's plasterboard take-back trial examined ways of recovering off-cuts from building sites, Austral Bricks trialled the use of poultry manure as a fuel and raw material in brick production, and Vinidex initiated trials to recover post-consumer PVC pipe in new pipe manufacture.

The EcoClubs partnership with Clubs NSW continued to grow, with a further 45 clubs joining the program. All participating clubs completed resource efficiency assessments; meanwhile, the Mounties and Dooleys clubs have recovered around 1,200 tonnes of organic food waste per year by using the 'Pulpmaster' system.

Sustainability Skills at Work (\$178,551)

The Sustainability Training in Industry component of the Sustainability Skills at Work project involved two large companies: Diageo and Fairfax Regional Printers. Both companies have implemented significant sustainability initiatives, and participation in this project allowed them to carry this work further.

Twelve Diageo staff underwent sustainability training, which was delivered by TAFE NSW. On-site implementation of the training led to some noticeable process improvements: a reduction in carbon dioxide usage on beverage bottling lines saved 344 tonnes per annum; waste disposal was reduced by 9.65 tonnes (including a 60% reduction in waste paper disposal

costs); a 40% reduction in the usage of pallet shrink-wrap; and 898 kilograms of paper saved in office machinery usage.

Fairfax already has a solid track record in sustainability, with some of the lowest spoilage rates in the newsprint industry and a successful waste management strategy. However, the training received by Fairfax employees led to a series of studies and investigations: an examination of electricity usage across the plant's three shifts; material flow analyses to further reduce spoilage rates; and separate studies to reduce rag and water usage.

DECC under this program will continue to work with industry and training providers to implement courses, such as the Protection of the Environment: Authorised Officers course, the Storage and Handling of Liquids, Resource Efficiency Training for Local Councils and the Environmental Action Series.

Organics Program (\$731,387)

The major source of greenhouse gases from the waste industry is derived from the decomposition of organics in landfill. This program focused on improving the collection and marketing of organics in order to both reduce waste and the greenhouse gases derived from that waste.

This was effected through new and better services for local government and householders, new services to the commercial and industrial sector, and initiatives to encourage more processing (particularly in the composting industry).

Among the many successful projects completed this year were:

- **Turf Trials:** There are 1,500 hectares of turf under production in NSW, representing a large potential market for the compost industry. Replication trials from the University of Sydney provided the evidence that industry needed: demonstration work with a turf grower in the Illawarra led to the supplier changing its underlay recommendation from zero recycled organic matter to 40% recycled. As the rest of the industry follows, demand for up to 100,000 cubic metres of compost may be realised.
- **Parks and Gardens:** Following successful trials, Penrith City Council sourced only recycled organic topdressing for all of its playing fields, resulting in improved surface condition, water savings and better grass cover. Additional demonstration sites are in place at Ku-ring-gai and Port Macquarie-Hastings councils, and this work is feeding into a Sydney Water Guideline for the management of recreation fields.



Top-dressing a Kur-ring-gai Council playing field with recycled organics

Other projects within the program included International Compost Awareness Week (which, with its Compost Ball, attracted substantial media coverage), a three-year Cost Benefit in Agriculture trial (the largest of its nature ever conducted in Australia), and work with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority to improve the use of recycled organics.

Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Projects (\$200,000)

Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Projects works as a partnership between DECC, local councils and local Aboriginal land councils (LALCs), assisting with the clean up of illegally dumped materials while also implementing measures to deter future illegal dumping. The four existing projects within the program were joined in 2007-08 by a further two LALCs: Purfleet (Taree council area) and Deerubbin (Penrith).

The Deerubbin LALC project made significant progress during the year. Deerubbin owns sites that have been subject to illegal asbestos dumping; a 12-person LALC team underwent training through TAFE NSW in site assessment and safe clean-up. There are now several clean-up activities underway; the waste and environment levy has been waived for this community-based project to ensure the saving of funds, allowing these funds to be redirected back into the program. Purfleet LALC also made good progress, carrying out a community survey into the causes of illegal dumping and examining ways to tackle the situation.

A review of the contracts between LALCs, local councils and DECC led to greater detail being included to ensure that strong relationships are built between project partners, and to ensure better environmental outcomes. Four more projects of \$50,000 each were approved during 2007-08, with on-site activities to begin in 2008-09 in Eurobodalla, Gilgandra, Kempsey and Wuyong.

Sustainable Schools (\$319,455)

The Sustainable Schools program is a collaboration between DECC, the Department of Education and Training (DET), and the Catholic Education Commission. 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.

The Sustainable Schools NSW website was launched on 8 November 2007 at Parliament House by the Minister for Education and Training and the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment. The launch resulted in the successful registration of 675 government and non-government schools (20% of the NSW total), with one-third of schools developing their SEMPs. Sixteen workshops were held across NSW to assist schools further develop their SEMP, with 223 participants including teachers, principals, school staff and parents.

Regional Illegal Dumping Squads (\$276,228)

Two Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads operate across the local government areas of 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 city and shire councils: Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Fairfield, Holroyd, Liverpool and Penrith. In 2007–08 the RID Squad investigated 2,175 illegal dumping incidents, involving 4,843 tonnes of illegal waste. Its investigations led to 37 Clean-up Notices and 404 Penalty Notices being issued. Because of these RID Squad activities, approximately 50% of the illegally dumped waste was removed by offenders, a significant increase over recent years.

The Greater Southern RID Squad is a partnership with three councils – Eurobodalla, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee – as well as DECC's Parks and Wildlife Division and the Sydney Catchment Authority. The range of illegal dumping in the area is extensive and includes household waste, green waste, building and construction material, and asbestos. In 2007–08 the squad investigated 4453 illegal dumping incidents, issued 855 Penalty Notices and 72 Clean-up Notices.



Illegal dumping site

'Dumping: It's Dumb' (\$370,000)

Urban councils experience ongoing problems with illegal dumping around multi-unit dwellings (MUDs). Building on the successes of the *Multi-Unit Dwelling Illegal Dumping Prevention Campaign Council Resource Kit* in 2006–07, this year's campaign involved a variety of target media.

Several councils pooled their resources and a total of \$370,000 in grants income was provided, to share costs and encourage better use of cross-jurisdictional media placements. The result was a strategic and well-placed campaign across the Sydney metropolitan area that applied the message 'Dumping: It's dumb, because you're trashing where you live'. The campaign ran for 12 weeks and exposed over 2.5 million people to the key messages through billboards, posters and buses (sides and back), stalls at community fairs, postcard letterbox drops, radio announcements, newsletters and multi-lingual posters.

A total of 26 councils in the Sydney metropolitan area participated in the campaign. This combination of both a regional and local delivery of the campaign provided a consistent message across the broad MUD resident community.

Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project (\$110,000)

The Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project is a partnership project between DECC and the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW.

This year the project delivered workshops in eight different languages to 3,937 participants from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Information stalls and activities were held at 15 community and cultural events, thereby reaching a further 5,000 people. These activities allow DECC to engage in sustainability education and action in a culturally appropriate context.

The project also offers advice and support for other sustainability education practitioners and organisations who work with people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Among the groups DECC worked with this year were Birds Australia, Operation Blue Tongue (a biodiversity project for new and recently arrived migrants), the Department of Water and Energy, Energy Australia, Sydney Water, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Sydney Metropolitan CMA.

Among this year's many highlights were *L'Acqua Vita* (a water-saving campaign in Italian), a sustainability series in Greek aired on SBS television, an Arabic environmental awareness campaign, and a Water Ambassadors program in the Chinese and Sri Lankan communities.



Operation Bluetongue introduces new migrants to Australian wildlife

Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Program



An environmental organisation that meets the Trust's seven key eligibility criteria as a 'lead environmental community group' (LECG) may apply for funding under this program. The program acknowledges the difficulty that non-government organisations (NGOs) face in sourcing funds for administrative expenses while also recognising the value of the NGOs delivering well-administered programs.

The Trust committed \$300,000 per annum to the program in 2006–07, with total funds of \$900,000 to be spent over three years.

In 2007–08, the Trust allocated an additional \$297,777 to the program providing the majority of the first year 2006–07 LECGs with additional funding along with several more organisations, taking the total number of LECGs funded to 20.

Trust-funded LECGs must demonstrate they work to value, conserve and protect the natural environment through:

- actively involving the community in projects to protect and enhance the natural environment
- raising community awareness and understanding of environmental issues, and gathering information on such issues 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.

Table 12

Lead Environmental Community Groups Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Amount
Australasian Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association	\$10,000
Australian Association for Environmental Education	\$10,000
Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated	\$15,000
Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated / Inland Rivers Network	\$10,000
Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers	\$10,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Incorporated	\$5,333
Community Environment Network Incorporated	\$13,333
Environmental Defender's Office Ltd	\$30,000
Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife	\$22,500
Friends of the Koala Incorporated	\$10,000
Futureworld: National Centre for Appropriate Technology	\$10,000
GWYMAC Incorporated	\$10,000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council NSW	\$6,667
National Parks Association NSW Incorporated	\$25,000
Nature Conservation Council of NSW Incorporated	\$45,000
NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Incorporated	\$4,944
Parkes and District Landcare Steering Committee Incorporated	\$10,000
Shortland Wetlands Centre Limited	\$10,000
The Bower Re-use and Repair Centre Co-operative Limited	\$10,000
Total Environment Centre Incorporated	\$30,000
Total	\$297,777



Climate Change Fund and Private Native Forestry Program

Climate Change Fund

The NSW Government's Climate Change Fund (CCF) is a \$340 million fund for households to become more energy and water efficient. As well as providing rebates for the purchase and installation of rainwater tanks and solar hot water systems, the CCF includes a number of programs including Recycling and Stormwater Harvesting, Renewable Energy Development, Energy Efficient Schools and Schools Rainwater Tank. These are all initiatives that are critical in addressing our priority environmental challenges and provide simple, real assistance

to families, communities and businesses.

The Trust approved a \$4.5 million contribution towards the establishment of the CCF, to be committed over three years. The Trust's contribution will be specifically allocated to CCF programs that are consistent with the Trust's objectives. It is proposed that the contribution will be proportioned between efficiency programs aimed at schools and public facilities, with an emphasis on understanding how demonstration savings can work in practice.

Table 13

Climate Change Fund Payments in 2007-08

Lead Organisation	Amount
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	\$2,000,000
Total	\$2,000,000

Private Native Forestry Program

The Private Native Forestry (PNF) industry employs around 1,800 people and provides about 50% of the state's timber resources; in NSW alone, the industry is valued at between \$160 million and \$250 million per year. From August 2007 the harvesting of PNF timber requires approval through a property vegetation plan that adheres to and adopts a PNF Code of Practice. This code establishes a regulatory framework for the sustainable management of native forests on private land by ensuring that PNF operations improve or maintain environmental outcomes.

To support and accelerate implementation of the code the NSW Government approved a five-year, \$37 million industry funding package. Delivered jointly by DECC and DPI, the package includes \$29.3 million to ease any adverse impact on industry, particularly for workers in the logging, haulage and

milling sectors. A total of \$4 million is allocated for the training and accreditation of forestry workers and logging operators, and will focus on improvements to occupational health and safety standards, harvesting techniques and new silvicultural practices. In addition, \$3.7 million will be provided to accelerate and support the implementation of the PNF Code of Practice and package.

In this first year, a DECC project officer was appointed to develop a PNF training and accreditation package. Stakeholder negotiations also resulted in an agreement that landholders affected by the PNF code would be eligible to access the Native Vegetation Assistance Program through two components: Sustainable Farming Grants and Farmer Exit Assistance. A total of 418 PNF property vegetation plans were approved in 2007/08 representing a total area of 115,000 hectares.

Table 14

Private Native Forestry Program Payments in 2007-08

Lead Organisation	Amount
Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW	\$1,300,000
Total	\$1,300,000

Urban Sustainability Program



Commencing in 2006/07, the Urban Sustainability Program (USP) provides \$80 million over five years to local councils and eligible organisations to implement projects that address sustainability and the five program objectives, which are to improve:

- urban water management, focusing on stormwater and urban run-off, 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.

This was the second year of the USP, which not only saw the introduction of a two-stage application process (expression of interest (EOI) and invited detailed application) but also an additional Urban Waterways Initiative funding stream. A total of 83 EOIs were received, of which 29 applications were submitted for consideration. The Trust approved a total of 15 Major and Urban Waterways projects to a value of more than \$15 million. The projects involve 54 councils. Additionally, seed funding valued in total at \$100,000 was also provided for five sustainability plans involving five councils. (see Table 15, Table 16 and Table 17 over page).

The Senior Project Officer and the Grants Administrator provided high-level support to all Round 1 grant recipients. For the first time a series of themed cluster meetings were held during the year to allow project managers to network with others participating in USP-funded projects and to provide learning opportunities for those in attendance. Workshops to assist the continued development of project concepts and project business plans were held around the state in May 2008; these workshops attracted 75 council representatives.

Examples of some recipients of Round 2 funding are given below.



Reviewing 'Reconnecting to Country in the Wilson River and the Gully' Plan

Reconnecting to Country at Wilsons River and The Gully

Rous Water and Blue Mountains City Council

The 'Reconnecting to Country' project awarded \$1,008,000 is a partnership between several Aboriginal communities and a local council in order to establish a new culture of sustainable environmental management through on-ground community action.

Land and water restoration projects will integrate sustainability principles with local Aboriginal culture and land management practices. The aim is to develop a 'sister city' relationship between the Widjbul people of the Bundjalung nation and the traditional owners of The Gully, from the Gandagara/Daruk nation as one 'city', and Rous Water and Blue Mountains City Council as the other. Each group will mentor the other in their representative areas of expertise to facilitate shared learning of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspectives of sustainable management of natural and cultural assets.

Leichhardt's Living Streets

Leichhardt Council

Leichhardt's Living Streets project awarded \$250,000 will be a model for sustainable living from which everyone can learn. The vision is to choose a street and transform it into a space where children can play and neighbours can chat once more. Local residents will help with the redesign of every aspect

of their street – pavements, nature strips, parking areas and even the road. Slowing the traffic flow to 10 kilometres per hour or less will allow for options such as pocket parks, native plantings, seating and street art. Cyclists and walkers will enjoy it, and wildlife will be encouraged to return. Street residents will also be invited to take part in training on sustainable living.

'Making Connections' in Cocked Hat Creek

Lake Macquarie City Council

The Northlakes Estate is typical of many large, modern residential housing estates: 1,500 homes already built and a further 2,800 planned for the next ten years. Running through the middle of the estate is Cocked Hat Creek.

Like many creeks of its type, Cocked Hat Creek has been extensively modified. Its upper reaches are degraded by soil erosion, weeds and urban encroachment, while downstream the reaches have become nothing more than a concrete channel. Few Northlakes residents make any form of connection with the creek, which many consider simply to be 'the drain', but its prominent location offers a great opportunity for the council to re-establish physical and emotional links between residents and the waterway. By 'making connections', Lake Macquarie City Council with the assistance of the \$240,132 grant hopes to improve the health of the creek and its catchment, as well as influencing the lives of local residents and improving the overall environment.

SOS: Saving Our Swamps

Blue Mountains City Council

The temperate, highland peat swamps that fall within the Blue Mountains and Lithgow LGAs are nationally threatened ecological communities, and the SOS project is directly focused on their management and conservation. The swamps include three state-listed ecologically endangered communities and support ten species of threatened flora or fauna.

The project, awarded a \$248,634 grant, aims to fulfil its objectives by delivering outcomes in the following four key areas:

- community education targeting interest groups, private landholders and schools
- capacity building through education and provision of incentives to undertake works on private land
- coordination of public and government recovery actions for the swamp and the ten threatened species, and
- improved partnerships between community, council and state agencies.



Swamp rehydration works at Marmion Swamp, North Katoomba

Table 15

Urban Sustainability Program Major Projects Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Lead Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Ashfield Municipal Council	Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay "Making Sustainability Work"	Ashfield, Marrickville, Leichhardt, Canterbury	\$1,830,000
Clarence Valley Council	Restoring Watercourses, Wetlands and Coastal Lakes on the North Coast	Clarence Valley, Greater Taree, Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Tweed	\$1,906,130
Great Lakes Council	Urban Sustainability and Wallis Lake – A Partnership Approach	Great Lakes, Greater Taree	\$1,160,000
Hunter Councils	C3E3 – Sustainable Solutions to Regional Environment Issues	All Hunter Councils	\$1,215,000
Leichhardt Council	Leichhardt's Living Streets	Leichhardt	\$250,000
Marrickville Council	Target Sustainability @ Marrickville	Marrickville	\$250,000

Urban Sustainability Program Major Projects Grants Awarded in 2007–08 continued

Lead Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)	Total Urban Water Management in the Eastern Riverina	All REROC Councils	\$1,918,400
Rous Water	Reconnecting to Country at Wilsons River and the Gully	Byron, Ballina, Richmond Valley, Blue Mountains	\$1,008,000
South East Resource Recovery Regional Organisation of Councils (SERRROC)	Protecting our Towns - Taking Action Today for a Better Tomorrow	Various	\$1,999,565
Wollongong City Council	Illawarra Biodiversity and Local Food Strategy for Climate Change	Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour	\$1,146,810
Total			\$12,683,905

Table 16

Urban Sustainability Program Urban Waterways Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Auburn Council	Sustainable Water Management in the Duck River Catchment	Auburn, Parramatta, Bankstown	\$1,829,100
Blue Mountains City Council	BM Living Catchments - Sustaining our Natural and Social Capital	Blue Mountains	\$249,322
Blue Mountains City Council	S.O.S - Saving our Swamps	Blue Mountains	\$248,634
Ku-ring-gai Council	Riparian Improvement, Stormwater Treatment and Re-Use: Bicentennial Park	Ku-ring-gai	\$250,000
Lake Macquarie City Council	"Making Connections" in Cocked Hat Creek	Lake Macquarie	\$240,132
Total			\$2,817,188

Table 17

Urban Sustainability Program Seed Projects Grants Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Title	LGA	Amount
Byron Shire Council	Community Consultation - A Vision of Sustainability for Byron Shire	Byron	\$20,000
Coffs Harbour City Council	Coffs Community Sustainability Action Strategy	Coffs Harbour	\$20,000
Leichhardt Council	Environmental Sustainability in Leichhardt	Leichhardt	\$20,000
Pittwater Council	Pittwater Education for Sustainability Plan	Pittwater	\$20,000
Wagga Wagga City Council	Wagga Wagga Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Wagga Wagga	\$20,000
Total			\$100,000



NSW RiverBank

NSW RiverBank is the largest single program within the City and Country Environment Restoration Program (CCERP), commencing one year earlier than the other CCERP programs in order to take advantage of early opportunities to acquire water licences following approaches by willing landholders.

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.

NSW RiverBank is co-managed and monitored by the Trust and DECC. The Trust funds a stand-alone unit within DECC to administer NSW RiverBank, and the entire program is monitored and guided by a Trust subcommittee (chaired by DECC) with members drawn from government agencies, independent experts in inland river and floodplain ecology, water market operation and environmental water management. Licences acquired are held by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and are managed by the Director General of DECC on the Minister's behalf.

NSW RiverBank operates 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 will be investigated.

Four valleys were targeted for investment during 2007–08: the Gwydir, Lachlan, Macquarie and Murrumbidgee catchments. Over \$25 million was spent during the year on licences and administration costs. (See Table 18).

NSW RiverBank has quickly established its reputation as a credible water recovery and management program, engaging with existing licence holders, water brokers and agents, landholders and other participants. NSW RiverBank staff received a silver award in the 2007 NSW Premier's Public Sector Awards in the Environment for Living category. Staff have also established strong working relationships with other sections of DECC, and community acceptance is demonstrated by the high levels of positive media coverage in the rural and metropolitan media.

At a practical level, the first use of NSW RiverBank allocation water was undertaken in early 2008 when 693 megalitres was delivered to the Macquarie Marshes to sustain a significant colony of greater and intermediate egrets that had established in response to tributary inflows and local rainfall. The release was made in conjunction with the release of 8,000 megalitres of Macquarie-Cudgegong Water Sharing Plan environmental water allocation made for the same purpose in March and April 2008.



Macquarie Marshes



Macquarie Marshes

Table 18

NSW RiverBank Payments in 2007–08

Catchment	Water Access Licence Type	Unit Shares	Funding	Amount
Gwydir River	General Security	1,944	Fully Funded	\$4,276,800
Gwydir River	General Security	972	Partially Funded	\$1,605,000
Gwydir River	General Security	972	Pay Final Balance	\$1,847,500
Gwydir River	General Security	972	Pay Final Balance	\$1,847,500
Gwydir River	Supplementary Security	292	Fully Funded	\$64,196
Lachlan River	General Security	972	Fully Funded	\$558,900
Lachlan River	General Security	972	Fully Funded	\$520,020
Lachlan River	General Security	100	Fully Funded	\$57,500
Lachlan River	General Security	55	Fully Funded	\$31,625
Lachlan River	General Security	972	Fully Funded	\$505,440
Lachlan River	General Security	1,835	Fully Funded	\$1,128,525
Lachlan River	General Security	300	Fully Funded	\$184,500
Lachlan River	General Security	900	Deposit	\$158,589
Lachlan River	General Security	750	Deposit	\$45,000
Macquarie River	General Security	1,492	Fully Funded	\$1,782,940
Macquarie River	General Security	123	Fully Funded	\$150,000
Macquarie River	General Security	1,000	Fully Funded	\$1,230,000
Macquarie River	General Security	200	Fully Funded	\$246,000
Macquarie River	General Security	164	Fully Funded	\$201,720
Macquarie River	General Security	2,000	Fully Funded	\$2,460,000
Macquarie River	General Security	200	Fully Funded	\$246,000
Macquarie River	General Security	109	Fully Funded	\$134,070
Macquarie River	General Security	164	Fully Funded	\$201,720
Macquarie River	General Security	159	Deposit	\$27,034
Macquarie River	General Security	528	Deposit	\$89,775
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	972	Fully Funded	\$826,200
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	832	Fully Funded	\$737,842
Murrumbidgee River	General Security	1,530	Fully Funded	\$1,632,510
Murrumbidgee River	Supplementary Security	3,231	Fully Funded	\$969,300
Murrumbidgee River	Supplementary Security	1,848	Fully Funded	\$462,000
Murrumbidgee River	Supplementary Security	600	Fully Funded	\$150,000
Total Licences Purchased				\$24,378,206
Total Administration and Other Charges / Allowances				\$1,427,150
			Total	\$25,805,356



Marine Parks

The NSW Government is committed, under marine parks legislation, to conserve marine biodiversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive system of marine parks. Under its City and Country Environment Restoration Program, the government provided the Trust with \$18.5 million over two years for the buy-back 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 aim of the program was not just to conserve marine biodiversity and marine habitats, but also to provide a basis for ecotourism opportunities.

This second year of the program was also its final year. The program met all key program objectives: there was more than adequate demand for participation in the buy-back to meet planning targets; the targeted number of commercial fishing entitlements were substantially met; and all were purchased within budget. Using recent catches as a surrogate for future predicted effort, sufficient effort was

reduced in each of the fisheries in each of the marine parks to offset the predicted impact of the implementation of zoning plans.

A total of \$20.7 million was spent: the original \$18.5 million, plus an additional one-off sum of \$2.2 million provided for the buy-out of the trawler fishery in the Batemans Bay Marine Park. The purchase of the fleet improved the environmental outcomes within the park as well as improving adjacent recreational fishing grounds. In total, 76 fishing businesses agreed to surrender all the entitlements associated with their business—39 in Port Stephens–Great Lakes and 37 in Batemans. Across the two parks a further six shareholders surrendered their 300 lobster shares and five shareholders surrendered 200 abalone shares.

An independent probity adviser was engaged to oversee the buy-out process. The adviser reviewed all aspects of the buy-out process, and reported that all processes were appropriate and met the highest probity standards, namely fairness, accountability and transparency.

Table 19

Marine Parks Payments in 2007–08

Lead Organisation	Amount
NSW Department of Primary Industries	\$675,000
Total	\$675,000

Native Vegetation Assistance Program



The *Native Vegetation Act 2003* was enacted to help stop broadscale clearing of vegetation, to protect the health of land, rivers and biodiversity, and to deliver better investment security and flexibility to farmers. Those farmers who are financially impacted by the implementation of the Act are supported by the Native Vegetation Assistance Package (NVAP), a three-year fund worth a total of \$37 million, which is administered by the Trust. The NVAP is part of the NSW Government's City and Country Environment Restoration Program, and 2007–08 was its second year of operation. The \$37 million provided under the NVAP is divided into three subprograms:

- \$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 is provided to the CMAs to deliver to farmers.
- \$12 million in Farmer Exit Assistance. The Nature Conservation Trust (NCT) receives funding to buy properties from farmers wishing to leave their property after rejection of a clearing application has affected the economic viability of their enterprise. The NCT resells the land under strict environmental management conditions, with the revenue generated being added to a revolving funding pool.
- \$10 million for Offset Pools. Funding from the Trust for this grant program is provided to the CMAs to deliver to farmers. Some 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 on their property, 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 on other land.

Under the Trust's NVAP Business Plan the NCT is responsible for 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).

Several factors affected the allocation of funds between the different project areas during this second year of the NVAP. Existing resources and incentives from CMAs reduced the demand for Sustainable Farming Grants and Offset Pools. In contrast, the Farmer Exit Assistance plan was significantly advanced meeting the \$12 million, three-year allocation ahead of schedule, and so the NCT was awarded its remaining \$8 million in order to finalise purchases. In this year landholders affected by the Private Native Forestry Codes became eligible for Sustainable Farming Grants and Farmer Exit Assistance.

Table 20

Native Vegetation Assistance Program Payments in 2007–08

Sub Program	Lead Organisation	Amount
Farmer Exit Assistance	Nature Conservation Trust	\$8,000,000
	Total	\$8,000,000



Dissemination Program

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.

Some of the Dissemination projects completed during 2007–08 are outlined below.

Gardening Australia Magazine Cover Mount (\$26,854)

This project distributed the *Your Hidden Native Garden* booklet produced by the International Environmental Weed Foundation as a component of its initial 2004 education grant. The booklet was fixed to the cover of *Gardening Australia* magazine, which was distributed to around 20,000 people in its Sydney distribution area. Further copies were provided to local councils.

Aboriginal Bush Foods Website (\$8,500)

This project was based on the outcomes of a bush foods education grant from 2000 conducted by Purfleet-Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council. The website made available the information captured during the project, illustrating different flora species along with their traditional medicinal, food, art and cultural values. A brochure was developed to promote the website in the local area to schools, councils, Aboriginal groups and other interested stakeholders across the region.

Environmental Trust Case Studies (\$1,868)

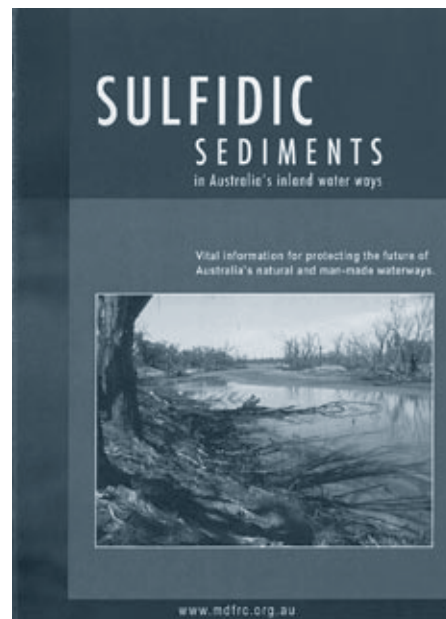
A series of 18 case studies was written on a range of projects undertaken by grantees, bringing the total now available through the Environment Trust website to 50.

Road Crossings and Fish Passage Roadshow (\$29,805)

This project developed from a high-priority 2003 grant by the Department of Primary Industries that delivered workshops in each coastal Catchment Management Authority area. The workshops were held to inform participants of the impacts of road crossings on fish passage, and examined and suggested better designs to minimise their impact. A take-home resource kit covered the information discussed in the workshop, and was delivered to a total of 83 people from local and state government, CMAs and local land managers.

Prevalence of Acid Sulfate Soils in Inland Catchments (\$29,500)

Based on a 2003 research grant by the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre and CSIRO, this project delivered six workshops on how to identify and manage inland acid sulfate soils. The workshops targeted local landholders, catchment management authorities, local government and irrigation authorities, providing knowledge on how to identify sites at risk of acidification. A series of educational materials were developed to support the workshops, including a brochure, a decision-support tool, a CD and a series of web pages.



Acid Sulphate Soils DVD

Biodiversity Education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities (\$13,065)

Thirteen training events were delivered for three CALD communities: Arabic, Chinese and Vietnamese. The training centred on the Backyard Buddies program, originally conducted by DECC and then modified for three CALD communities by Bankstown City Council (through a 2004 education grant). The training reached 353 members of the three CALD target communities, providing information on biodiversity, the environment, and native plants and animals.

Local Living: Sustainable Living for Local Communities (\$19,000)

The 'Local Living' program built on the success of the 'Mountain Living' course, which was originally developed by the Blue Mountains City Council. A two-day workshop was conducted for 18 people to train local government staff on how to adapt and implement the program for their council area, and how to successfully engage their community. A manual to support this workshop has been developed and is available for download from the Blue Mountains City Council website.

Aboriginal Tour Guide Training (\$27,150)

Based on a successful 2003 education grant conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation, this project was adapted to place greater emphasis on interpreting the environment in an Aboriginal context, as well as developing training session plans, and assisting other regions to deliver the training package. Five workshops were held in Aboriginal communities, with 86 people now trained and ready to conduct tours.

Table 21

Dissemination Projects Awarded in 2007–08

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Amount
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group and ENVITE	Rainforest remnant rehabilitation training and rainforest walk interpretation	Workshop on managing rainforest remnants, and the production of key documents on rehabilitation, as well as an interpretive walk.	\$22,920
Birds Australia	Birds in backyards	Twelve workshops to educate the community on the types of birds found in back yards, and ways to make their gardens bird-friendly.	\$27,272
Broken Hill City Council	Water management education program for semi-arid regions	A training workshop and manual for the semi-arid councils of NSW.	\$24,670
Council on the Ageing	Stories of Experience	A book that brings together a selection of personal stories from older Australians highlighting environmentally sustainable practices from the past.	\$26,450
Department of Primary Industries	Providing automated fish passage at Balranald Weir	One-day workshop to provide river and fisheries managers with information on the benefits of automated fish locks, and how to upgrade ineffective fishways.	\$15,000
DECC and National Parks and Wildlife Service	Shared island management experiences and restoration of seabird nesting habitat	Coastal NSW island managers brought together to share their knowledge and experience. Workshop, documentation and website will result.	\$23,100
Environmental Trust in conjunction with International Weed Foundation	Your Hidden Native Gardenmagazine cover mount	Booklet reproduced and mounted on the July 2008 edition of Gardening Australia magazine.	\$26,450
Environmental Trust	Case studies	Eighteen new case studies added to Trust website.	\$1,868
Lismore City Council (LCC)	Koala habitat management and education	Community education and brochure produced by Friends of the Koala in conjunction with LCC.	\$14,000
Total			\$181,730

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 2008, the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement, and a summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2008, and its financial performance and 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.

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

The Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Trust,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically,
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls, or
- on the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial report.

Independence

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

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



Peter Achterstraat
Auditor-General

31 October 2008
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 2008 and the transactions for the period then ended, and
- b) the financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005*, and the Treasurer's Directions.

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



Carmel Tebbutt MP

Chairperson

30 October 2008



Lisa Corbyn

Secretary

27 October 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**BEGINNING OF AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT****OPERATING STATEMENT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	1,705	1,482	1,541
Grants and subsidies	2(b)	89,290	90,722	87,007
Total Expenses excluding losses		90,995	92,204	88,548
Less:				
Revenue				
Investment revenue	3(a)	2,405	1,200	2,942
Grants and contributions	3(b)	-		450
Other revenue	3(c)	343	45	338
Total Revenue		2,748	1,245	3,730
NET COST OF SERVICES	13	88,247	90,959	84,818
Government Contributions				
Recurrent appropriation	4	86,945	86,969	76,497
Total Government Contributions		86,945	86,969	76,497
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(1,302)	(3,990)	(8,321)

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED INCOME AND EXPENSE****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008**

	NOTES	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY		-	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year		(1,302)	(3,990)	(8,321)
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSE RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR	9	(1,302)	(3,990)	(8,321)

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	NOTES	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	6	14,457	11,622	16,431
Receivables	7	2,492	1,119	1,334
Total Current Assets		16,949	12,741	17,765
Non-Current Assets				
Total Non-Current Assets		-	-	-
Total Assets		16,949	12,741	17,765
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	8	2,987	1,467	2,501
Total Current Liabilities		2,987	1,467	2,501
Non-Current Liabilities				
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	-	-
Total Liabilities		2,987	1,467	2,501
Net Assets		13,962	11,274	15,264
EQUITY				
Accumulated funds	9	13,962	11,274	15,264
Total Equity		13,962	11,274	15,264

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	NOTES	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Grants and subsidies		(88,835)	(90,722)	(92,761)
Other		(4,103)	(2,766)	(3,636)
Total Payments		(92,938)	(93,488)	(96,397)
Receipts				
Interest received		1,999	1,415	3,018
Grants and Subsidies		-	-	450
Other		2,020	295	1,906
Total Receipts		4,019	1,710	5,374
Cash flows from Government				
Recurrent appropriation	4	86,945	86,969	76,497
Total Cash Flows from Government		86,945	86,969	76,497
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	13	(1,974)	(4,809)	(14,526)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH				
Opening cash and cash equivalents		16,431	16,431	30,957
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		14,457	11,622	16,431

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL DIRECTIVES

	2008				2007			
	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	86,969	86,945	-	-	76,497	76,497	-	-
Additional Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Section 24 – Transfers of functions between Departments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/from another agency (section 27 of the Appropriation Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/from another agency (section 28 of the Appropriation Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	86,969	86,945	-	-	76,497	76,497	-	-
Other Appropriation/expenditure								
Treasurer's advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Recurrent to Capital Allocations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	86,969	86,945	-	-	76,497	76,497	-	-
Amount drawn against appropriation		86,945				76,497		
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 2008

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**(a) Reporting Entity**

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

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

This financial report has been authorised for issue by the Trust during October 2008.

(b) Basis of Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Income recognition

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

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

(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies

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

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

(ii) Investment revenue

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

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

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

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

(e) Receivables

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

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

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

(f) Payables

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

(g) Budgeted amounts

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

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

(h) 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 NSW.

2. EXPENSES

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Other operating expenses:		
Auditor's remuneration-audit of financial report	29	28
Communication costs	-	1
Minor plant, stores and supplies	5	6
Information dissemination costs	109	158
Fees and services	1,535	1,329
Travel	27	19
	1,705	1,541
(b) Grants and subsidies:		
Grants provided to federal government	358	1,864
Grants provided to state and local governments	72,525	64,454
Grants provided to community/school groups	11,559	7,792
<i>Grants provided to Consolidated Fund for initiatives under the Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995</i>	4,848	12,897
	89,290	87,007

3. REVENUES

(a) Investment revenue		
Interest on bank account	2,405	2,942
	2,405	2,942
(b) Grants and Contributions		
Non-government	-	450
	-	450
(c) Other revenue		
Other	343	338
	343	338

4. APPROPRIATIONS

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent appropriations		
Recurrent draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)		
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	86,945	76,497
	-	-
Total	86,945	76,497
Comprising:		
Recurrent appropriations (per Operating Statement)	86,945	76,497
Total	86,945	76,497

5. PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

The Environment Trust had only one program in 2007-08

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	695	1,204
Cash at TCorp	13,762	15,227
Closing cash and cash equivalents (as per Balance Sheet)	14,457	16,431
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)	14,457	16,431

7. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT ASSETS – RECEIVABLES

Current

Debtors	-	-
Accrued Income	-	8
Interest receivable	883	478
GST claimable	1,609	848
	2,492	1,334

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

8. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES – PAYABLES

Current

Creditors	54	23
Accrued expenses	2,933	2,478
	2,987	2,501

9. CHANGES IN EQUITY

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Accumulated Funds		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	15,264	23,585
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(1,302)	(8,321)
Balance at the end of the financial year	13,962	15,264

10. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

(a) Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 30 June 2008 (2007 - nil).

(b) Operating expenditure commitments

The Trust's commitments totalling approximately \$70.0 million (2007 - \$59.1million) for the funding of Trust's environmental initiatives are proposed to be financed from future funding provided by the NSW Government. The commitments (inclusive of applicable GST) are as follows:

Not later than one year *

State and Local Government Grants	48,494	31,198
Community Grants and Other	3,410	2,562
Total (including GST)	51,904	33,760

Later than one year but not later than five years *

State and Local Government Grants	17,226	27,356
Community Grants and Other	894	1,079
Total (including GST)	18,120	28,435
	70,024	62,195

* As a consequence of the Goods and Service Tax (GST), a contingent asset is included in the commitments above. The value of this contingent asset is \$2,968,162, 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 2008 (2007 - nil).

12. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) Net cost of service

The actual net cost of services was \$88.2 million or 2.9% lower than 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 \$4.2 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 and higher investment revenue during the year.

(c) Cash Flows

The net decrease in cash holdings was \$2.8 million lower 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

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Net cash flows used on operating activities	(1,974)	(14,526)
Increase)/decrease in creditors	(486)	5,733
(Decrease)/increase in receivables	1,158	472
Cash Flows from Government appropriations	(86,945)	(76,497)
Net cost of services	(88,247)	(84,818)

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

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

(a) Financial Instrument Categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			2008	2007
			\$'000	\$'000
Class :				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6	N/A	14,457	16,431
Receivables (1)	7	Receivables (at amortised cost)	883	486
			15,340	16,917
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount	Carrying Amount
			2008	2007
			\$'000	\$'000
Class :				
Payables (2)	8	Financial Liabilities (at amortised cost)	2,987	2,501
			2,987	2,501

(1) Excludes Statutory Receivables

(2) Excludes Statutory Payables

(b) Credit Risk

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

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

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

Cash

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

Receivables and Trade Debtors

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

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

2008	total	Past Due but not Impaired	Considered Impaired
< 3 Months Overdue	-	-	-
3 months - 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-
2007			
< 3 Months Overdue	-	-	-
3 months - 6 months overdue	-	-	-
> 6 months overdue	-	-	-

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

Authority Deposits

The Department has placed funds on deposit with TCorp, which has been rated 'AAA' by Standard and Poor's. These deposits are similar to money market or bank deposits and can be placed 'at call' or for a fixed term. For fixed term deposits, the interest rate payable by TCorp is negotiated initially and is fixed for the term of the deposit, while the interest rate payable on at call deposits can vary. The deposits at balance date were earning an average interest rate of 6.61% (2007– 6.41%), while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 6.81% (2007 – 6.55%) on a weighted average balance during the year of \$15.1m (2007 – \$28.9m). None of these assets are past due or impaired.

(c) Liquidity Risk

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

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

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

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

2008	Interest Rate Exposure	Maturity Dates		
	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years
Payables :				
Creditors	N/A	54	-	-
2007				
Payables :				
Creditors	N/A	23	-	-

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

(d) Market Risk

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

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the Trust operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2007. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

Interest rate risk

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

	Carrying Amount	\$,000			
		-1%		+1%	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2008					
Financial Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,457	(145)	(145)	145	145
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	54	(1)	(1)	1	1
2007					
Financial Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	16,431	(164)	(164)	164	164
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	23	0	0	0	0

Other Price Risk – TCorp Hour Glass Facilities

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

Facility	Investment Sectors	Investment Horizon	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Cash Facility	Cash, Money market instruments	Up to 2 years	13,762	15,227

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

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

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

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

	Change in unit price	Impact on profit/loss	
		2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Hour Glass Investment Cash Facility	+/- 6.8%	936	1,035

(e) Fair Value

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

15. 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.

End of Audited Financial Report

Appendices



Statement of Affairs and Administration of the Trust

Indicators of activity in administering the Trust

	2006/07	2007/08
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives ¹	\$74 million	\$84 million
No. of major programs	4	6
No. of grant programs running	16	13
No. of current major projects	13	10
No. of new grant projects approved and started	238	206
No. of applications/expressions of interest processed ²	734	509
No. of grant payments processed	386	406
No. of emergency pollution clean-ups funded	48	33

Notes:

1. Does not include spending on forestry restructuring under FRANCO 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:

- *Boolangie Local Aboriginal Land Council – Jungbung Walkway and Richmond River rehabilitation project, Casino*
- *Coffs Harbour City Council – Enhancement and protection of the Coffs Creek flying-fox camp*
- *Ballina Shire Council – Ballina Shire Lineal reserve management*
- *DECC – Great Eastern Ranges Initiative*
- *DECC – Clean Air, Healthy Communities*
- *DECC – Land Alive: Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity Program*
- *DECC – Land Acquisition Program*

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.

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 2007-08.

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.environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

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 2008 programs
Environmental Trust Annual Reports 1992–93 to 2006–07.

Environmental Trust Brochure

550 copies have been produced of the 2007–08 report at an external production cost of approximately \$18 per copy.

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

Freedom of Information: There was no freedom of information request in the 2007–08 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.



Environmental Trust Brochure



Membership of the NSW Environmental Trust and Committees

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

- Minister for Climate Change, and the Environment (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 2007–08.

Members of the Trust and Meeting Attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
Hon. Phil Koperberg MP	(Chairperson) Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water (statutory appointment)	2	2
Hon. Verity Firth MP	(Chairperson) Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (statutory appointment)	1	2
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 Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, DECC	1	
Mr Rob Pallin	Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW	4	4
Cr Genia McCaffery	Representing the Local Government Association and Shires Association of NSW	4	4

Trust Subcommittee Membership

The Trust had eight subcommittees in operation under S9(3) of the Act during 2007-08 to assist with the management of Trust finances and major projects and programs. Trust subcommittees provide input into the development of project and program business plans in consultation with external stakeholders, oversee program governance arrangements and provide ongoing advice to the Trust. Membership of each subcommittee follows.

Waste Subcommittee

Ms Lisa Corbyn (Chairperson)

Director General DECC and Environmental Trust Secretary

Dr Tony Wilkins

Manager Environmental Secretariat, News Ltd
(industry representative)

Prof 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 Joe Woodward

Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation 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

Divisional Director Sustainability 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 Sustainability Programs, DECC

Mr Michael Wright

Director Reserves and Wildlife, DECC

Ms Helen Muldoon

Executive Officer, Marine Parks Authority

Native Vegetation Assistance Program Subcommittee

Mr Simon Smith

Deputy Director General Climate Change Policy and Programs, DECC

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 Tom Grosskopf

Director Vegetation and Land Management, DECC

Mr Bernard Carlon

Divisional Director Sustainability Programs, DECC

Mr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECC

Mr Jim Adams

CEO Timber Communities Australia Ltd

Ms Phyllis Miller

Convenor, Natural Resource Advisory Council

Dr Regina Fogarty

Director Extensive Industries Development, NSW Department of Primary
Industries

NSW Riverbank Subcommittee

Ms Lisa Corbyn (Chairperson)

Director General DECC and Environmental Trust Secretary

Mr Simon Smith

Deputy Director General Climate Change Policy and Programs, DECC

Mr Richard Steven/Mr Paul Hucker

Principal Financial Analyst, NSW Treasury

Ms Anthea Kerr

Senior Principal Policy Officer, The Cabinet Officer NSW

Mr Digby Jacobs

Manager River Works and Management,
NSW Department of Water and Energy

Mr Austin Whitehead

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

Great Eastern Ranges (formerly Alps to Atherton) Initiative Subcommittee

Mr Simon Smith

Deputy Director General Climate Change Policy and Programs, 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

Divisional Director Sustainability Programs, DECC

Ms Lorraine Cairnes

Executive Director Fathom Consulting

Ms Bronwyn Petrie

Representing the NSW Farmers Association

Mr Andrew Cox

Executive Officer, National Parks Association of NSW

Land Alive (Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity) Subcommittee

Mr Simon Smith

Deputy Director General Climate Change Policy and Programs, 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

Deputy Director General Climate Change Policy and Programs, 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 2007–08 is set out below.

Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

Mr Joe Woodward (Chairperson)

Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Group
DECC

Ms Kirsty McIntyre

Local Government Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Local Government Association of NSW & Shires Association of NSW

Mr Greg Bugden

A/General Manager, Murrumbidgee CMA (Deputy for John Searson)

Ms Monica Collins

Manager Biodiversity and Conservation, DECC

Ms Ellen O'Brien

Principal, Envirostrategy

Mr Arthur Lathouris

Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers (Deputy for Sandra Morse)

Environmental Education Program

Mr Bernard Carlon (Chairperson)

Divisional Director Sustainability Programs, DECC

Ms Amy Foxe

Environmental Secretariat, News Limited

Mr Peter Stevens

Manager Community Programs unit, DECC (Deputy for Richard Davies)

Ms Kirsty McIntyre

Local Government Natural Resource Management Facilitator, Local Government Association of NSW & Shires Association of NSW

Ms Jane Smith

Executive Officer CEN, 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 Kath Schilling

Manager Central Aboriginal Heritage Branch, Cultural Heritage Division, DECC (Deputy for Teresa Gay)

Mr Linton Howarth

Aboriginal Natural Resource Officer, DECC

Mr Anthony Seiver

Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Ms Jeanette Crew

Yarkawu Indigenous Knowledge Centre 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 Seamus O'Grady

Director Curriculum Directorate, Catholic Education Office.

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 and Shires Associations of NSW

Dr Peter Dixon

Manager Environmental Funding Programs, DECC

Dr Vicki Sheppeard

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 and Shires Associations of NSW

Dr Mehreen Faruqi

Lecturer Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales

Shortened forms

ACF	Australian Conservation Foundation	NCC	Nature Conservation Council of NSW
ALMB	Aboriginal Land Management for Biodiversity	NCOSS	Council of Social Services of NSW
ASS	acid sulfate soil	NCT	Nature Conservation Trust
BILO	bilingual liaison officer	NESB	non-English speaking background
BTF	BioBanking Trust Fund	NGO	non-government organisation
CAHC	Clean Air, Healthy Communities	NPA	NSW National Parks Association
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse	NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
CCERP	City and Country Environment Restoration Program	NRMA	National Roads and Motorists' Association Limited
CCF	NSW Government Climate Change Fund	NSW	New South Wales
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	NVAP	Native Vegetation Assistance Package
COTA	Council on the Ageing	PhD	doctor of philosophy
CPL	Conservation on Private Land	PNF	private native forestry
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	PVP	Property Vegetation Plan
DECC NSW	Department of Environment and Climate Change	POP	Protecting Our Places
DET	NSW Department of Education and Training	REC	Roadside Environment Committee
DEUS	NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability	RID	Regional Illegal Dumping
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries	RLPB	Rural Lands Protection Board
EOI	expression of interest	RTA	NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
E-RAMP	Environmental Risk Assessment and Mitigation Package	RTO	registered training organisation
GER	Great Eastern Ranges	SRCMA	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
IAG	Insurance Australia Group	SEMP	school environmental management plan
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council	SMILE	Sustainable Mobility Initiatives for Local Environments
LCSA	Local Community Services Association	SPD	Sustainability Programs Division
LEAP	Low Emissions Air Project	SPMD	semi-permeable membrane device
LECG	lead environmental community group	TAFE	tertiary and further education
LGA	local government area	TEC	Total Environment Centre
MoT	NSW Ministry of Transport	USP	Urban Sustainability Program
MUD	multi-unit dwellings	VCBI	Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory
		VOC	volatile organic compound
		VRWG	Voluntary Regional Waste Group
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Photographs:

Page	Source
i	Red Ironbark Blossoms. Amoi Salakas, Photo courtesy of NSW Environmental Trust
1	Cape Byron Headland. Photo courtesy of Stephen Booth, Cape Byron Trust
2	Mandowie Creek. Photo courtesy of Geoff Broadhead, Loftus Bushcare
3	Students with vegetable harvest. Photo courtesy of Forster Primary School
4	Wetland in Yarrahapinni Nature Reserve. Photo courtesy of Shelley Braithwaite, DECC
5	Bushcare volunteer with tubestock. Photo courtesy of North Sydney Council
5	New fence Middle Rock rainforest. Photo courtesy of North Sydney Council
6	Volunteer diver. Photo courtesy of Jayne Jenkins, HarbourKeepers
6	Building Bridges to Boorowa volunteers. Photo courtesy of North Sydney Council
7	Planting trees along Williams River. Photo courtesy of John Spearpoint
7	Sugar Glider. Photo courtesy of Hannah Matthews, DECC
8	High conservation roadside Harden. Photo courtesy of Katrina Hudson/Roadside Environment Committee
9	Snowy River . Photo courtesy of Tim Fletcher SRCMA
11	Bush regenerators prepare for weed spraying Photo courtesy of Maree Thompson, EnvTE NSW
17	Students at Rotary Murray-Darling School. Photo courtesy of Albury Rotary Club
17	OceanWatch TAngler Bin. Photo courtesy of Lowri Price, OceanWatch Australia
17	OceanWatch TAngler Brochure
18	Stories of Experience Book
18	Watershed Urban Sustainability Manual
19	Consumption atlas
19	OEILT documents
20	Backyard birds poster
21	Big Scrub Rainforest Day. Photo courtesy of Maree Thompson, EnvTE NSW
22	Forster Public School Vegetables. Photo courtesy of Forster Public School
25	Spider web identification guide. Photo courtesy of John Gollan, Australian Museum
26	Organic Soil conditioner trials. Photo courtesy of Annie Kavanagh, DECC
26	Better Bush factsheet
27	Students at Rotary Murray-Darling School sampling for waterbugs. Photo courtesy of Albury Rotary Club
29	K2C Open Day. Photo courtesy of Stuart Cohen, DECC
30	On your bike. Photo courtesy of Bruce Ashby, Marrickville and South Sydney Bicycle Users Group
31	Hazardous waste collection. Photo courtesy of Catherine Baird, DECC
32	CleanOut waste collection day. Photo courtesy of Catherine Baird, DECC
33	Kur-ring-gai Council playing field with recycled organics. Photo courtesy of Annie Kavanagh, DECC
34	Illegal dumping. Photo courtesy of Wayne Willis, Shoalhaven City Council
34	Operation Bluetongue. Photo courtesy of Leandro Mendes, Ethnic Communities Council of NSW Inc
35	Removing madeira vine. Photo courtesy of John Schiller, Awaba Landcare
36	Rainwatertank at Kogarah Primary School. Photo courtesy of Kogarah Council
37	What's in the compost bin? Photo courtesy of Scott Elsegood, NSW Environmental Trust
37	Reviewing plans. Photo courtesy of Anne Carey, Blue Mountains City Council
38	Swamp rehydration works North Katoomba. Photo courtesy of Anne Carey, Blue Mountains City Council
40	Reedbed in the northern Macquarie Marshes. Photo courtesy of Debbie Love, DECC
40	Macquarie Marshes photo 1. Photo courtesy of B. Johnson, DECC
40	Macquarie Marshes photo 2. Photo courtesy of B. Johnson, DECC
42	Crested tern and chicks. Photo courtesy of DECC
43	Boorowa restored site. Photo courtesy of North Sydney Council
44	Dissemination products. Photo courtesy of Leah Andrews, NSW Environmental Trust
44	Sulfidic Sediments DVD cover
47	Artwork at Narwan village – artist Kenneth Ahoy. Photo courtesy of Jackie Puckeridge, NSW Environmental Trust
63	Major Mitchell cockatoos. Photo courtesy of Dayle Green, NSW Environmental Trust
65	Tooloom Falls. Photo courtesy of Jackie Puckeridge, NSW Environmental Trust
65	Environmental Trust Brochure
66	Painting herbicide on stump. Photo courtesy of Wollongong City Council

