

# NSW Environmental Trust

# ANNUAL

# REPORT

# 2004-05



**Cover Photographs Courtesy of:**

Camden Council  
Hunter – Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority – Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project  
Inner West Environment Group  
Second Headland Indigenous Landcare Group  
Blacktown City Council  
Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries

**Published by:**

Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW)  
Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150

PO Box 644  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Tel: (02) 9995 6093 (Environmental Trust)  
Tel: 131 555 (environment information and publication requests)  
Fax: (02) 8837 6099

E-mail: [envtrust@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:envtrust@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Web site: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

DEC 2005/569  
ISSN 1445-3177  
November 2005

Paper manufactured from sustainable resources. Elemental chlorine free (ECF).

# Contents



<b>Highlights</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>About the Trust</b>	<b>3</b>
■ Objects and Functions of the Trust	3
■ Changes to the Trust	3
<b>Trust Programs and Achievements</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	<b>5</b>
■ Yanga Station (Western NSW)	5
■ Coastal Wetlands	5
<b>Restoration and Rehabilitation</b>	<b>6</b>
■ Outcomes Achieved	6
■ Towra Point	6
■ North Coast Floodgates Project	7
■ Mudgee Gasworks Remediation	7
■ Clean Air Program	8
■ Biodiversity Conservation Inventory Program	9
<b>New Major Projects Funded</b>	<b>10</b>
■ Contaminated Land Innocent Owners Program	11
■ Council Gasworks Remediation Program	11
<b>Restoration and Rehabilitation 2004/05 Grant Programs</b>	<b>12</b>
■ Restoration and Rehabilitation Program	12
■ Protecting Our Places Program for Aboriginal Organisations	15
■ Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program	17
<b>Environmental Education</b>	<b>19</b>
■ Outcomes Achieved	19
■ Major New Projects Approved	20
<b>Environmental Education 2004/05 Grant Programs</b>	<b>21</b>
■ Education Grants	21
■ EcoSchools Grants	23
■ NESB Pesticides Grants	25
<b>Environmental Research Program</b>	<b>26</b>
■ Outcomes Achieved	26
■ New Major Project Approved – CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	26
<b>Research 2004/05 Grant Programs</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Dissemination Program</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Finances</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Membership of the Environmental Trust and Committees</b>	<b>48</b>



The Honourable Bob Debus, MP  
Minister for the Environment  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 2004/05 annual report for the Environmental Trust.

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

2004/05 has been a very significant and successful year for the Trust, with record spending of \$19.5 million on environmental initiatives across community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, local government and state agencies. The Trust also started a new program to distribute the benefits of successful Trust funded projects beyond the original project boundaries. In addition, several major projects that have been running over several years were successfully completed this year.

Of major significance to the Trust this year were changes to the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*. Four new objects were added, to expand the range of matters that can be funded by the Environmental Trust. The move also involved the transfer of all money from the Waste Fund to the Trust. This is likely to offer some exciting new changes to the Trust's role in 2005/06, with a broadening of the range of environmental programs that can be run by the Trust.

Yours sincerely,

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

**LISA CORBYN**  
**Secretary, Environmental Trust**  
October 2005

# Highlights



2004/05 was a significant and successful year for the Trust.

- The Trust spent a record \$19.5 million on new environmental initiatives to community groups, schools, Aboriginal organisations, universities, training organisations, local government and state agencies.
- The Trust approved eight new major three year projects designed to address environmental problems of state significance.
- It commenced a new program, called the Dissemination Program, to spread the benefits of completed Trust-funded projects to other areas or groups. The Trust has so far awarded \$115,000 to six projects designed to disseminate the results of successful grant projects.
- At the end of the financial year, Parliament made significant changes to the Trust, which will enlarge it in 2005/06 to enable it to fund a broader range of environmental programs.
- The Trust committed \$14.6 million over three years towards the purchase of Yanga Station. At 79,000 hectares, Yanga is one of the largest contiguous freehold properties in NSW. This is one of the most significant single acquisitions of private land for the National Parks estate in recent years, providing excellent conservation values. Acquisition of the station will allow for conservation of river red gums, several water bird species and 12 distinct vegetation habitat types along 100 kilometres of the Murrumbidgee River.



*Yanga Station and Homestead*

- Major flooding in 2001 resulted in devastating fish kills in the Richmond, Clarence and Macleay rivers. Permanently closed floodgates in the catchments were identified as a major contributing factor. A grant of \$522,000 to the Department of Primary Industries funded a project (completed in December 2004) that opened 57 floodgates. Controlled opening of the floodgates has improved the health of more than 600 kilometres of waterways. It has improved oxygen levels, fish numbers and fish passage, reduced weeds, and aided management of acid sulfate soils. The spectacular results of this project are being further promoted in a project under the Dissemination Program.



*Partially opened floodgate. Photo courtesy of Department of Primary Industries.*

- The Trust provided \$1 million for a project to protect the RAMSAR listed coastal wetland habitats of Towra Point in Botany Bay from the severe erosion that threatened them. State, federal and non-government organisations were also involved in the four-year dredging and revegetation project, which was completed in late 2004. The project successfully protected nesting sites of the Little Tern by preventing fox predation.
- Land contaminated by the Mudgee gasworks was remediated with a \$1.8 million grant. More than 10,000 tonnes of contaminated soil was removed from nine homes and a child care centre in the most significant remediation project under the Trust's Innocent Owners program. The site is now fully restored and the occupants are back in their homes in a clean and healthy environment.
- The Trust will provide \$3.5 million over three years from 2004/05 to run the 'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' education program. The program promotes sustainable living, resource conservation, biodiversity conservation, awareness of hazardous chemicals, and business practices that promote sustainability. Involving six partner organisations, it is the biggest ever partnership between government and non-government groups in an environmental education program.
- The CSIRO, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), Catchment Management Authorities, local government and universities has begun a program to restore native vegetation, genetic diversity and ecological function in rural areas, starting in 2004/05. The Trust will provide \$4.3 million over three years to fund research and development to support the government's native vegetation reforms, under the guidance of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems.
- The Trust approved a record number of new projects (160) from its 2004/05 round of annual grants. This total includes 70 new site restoration projects and 45 new school projects.

# About the Trust



## Objects and Functions of the Trust

The Environmental 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. The Trust receives an annual appropriation from the government – around \$17 million in 2004/05. The Trust is empowered under the *Environmental Trust Act 1998*, and its main responsibility is to make and supervise the expenditure of grants. The Trust is administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) (DEC). For further information on Trust administration, see appendices.

The objects of the Trust are:

- 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 New South Wales;
- to promote research in both the public and private sectors into environmental problems of any kind and, in particular, to encourage and support: (i) research into and development of local solutions to environmental problems; (ii) discovery of new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment; (iii) research into general environmental problems; and (iv) assessment of environmental degradation;
- 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; and
- to fund the acquisition of land for National Parks and other categories of dedicated and reserved land for the National Parks estate.

The Trust also reimburses NSW Treasury for approved forestry restructuring payments until June 2006, under the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995*.

The Trust is chaired by the Minister for the Environment. Members are the Director-General of the DEC and representatives from the Local Government and Shires Associations, the Nature Conservation Council and NSW Treasury. (Refer to Appendices for details of members of the Trust.)

## Changes to the Trust

In June 2005, Parliament passed the *Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005*, which permanently protects 352,000 hectares of high-conservation-value forests in new reserves in the Brigalow–Nandewar area in north-west NSW. The implementation of the Act will be funded from the Trust over the next five years.

The Act also makes significant changes to the Trust, which took effect from 1 July 2005. It expands the range of programs that the Trust can fund, by adding four new objects to the existing four under the *Environmental Trust Act*:

- to fund the declaration of areas for marine parks and for related purposes;
- to promote waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management (including funding enforcement and regulation and local government programs);
- to fund environmental community groups; and
- to fund the purchase of water entitlements for the purpose of increasing environmental flows for the State's rivers and restoring or rehabilitating major wetlands.

The amended Act also transfers all money in the Waste Fund to the Environmental Trust Fund, and abolishes the Waste Fund.

The Act amends the *Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995* (FRANC) to enable the Brigalow–Nandewar forestry restructuring programs to be paid for from the Environmental Trust fund, using the same process as the existing forestry restructuring program. It also provides a 12-month extension of the deadline for the existing forestry restructuring programs, to 30 June 2007.

As a consequence of these changes, the Trust will take over responsibility for future funding of the programs of the former Waste Fund. The Trust will be able to decide how much money it allocates to such programs.

The Trust will also assume responsibility for providing the former Ministerial grants to peak conservation groups to help with their administrative costs.

The Trust's total budget will therefore increase, from around \$25 million in 2004/05, to around \$60 million in 2005/06.



# Trust Programs and Achievements



# Land Acquisition

*In 2004/05, the Trust spent nearly \$5.5 million acquiring more than 79,000 hectares for additions to the National Parks system, as described below.*



## Yanga Station (Western NSW)

During the year, the opportunity arose for the NSW government to purchase Yanga Station, east of Balranald, for the National Parks estate. At 79,000 hectares, Yanga is one of the largest contiguous freehold properties in NSW, fronting 100 kilometres of the Murrumbidgee River. Yanga has exceptional conservation and heritage values, and potential for tourism. As it was unlikely that the entire property would ever become available again, the government took the opportunity to buy it.

Yanga lies in the Riverina and Murray–Darling Depression bioregions. The Riverina Bioregion has the lowest level of National Park reservation of all 17 bioregions in NSW. It also faces the highest threat from land use intensification in western NSW. The purchase of Yanga increases land reservation in the Riverina bioregion from 0.85% to 1.9%. In a bioregion that spans seven million hectares, this represents a significant conservation gain.

Key aspects of the exceptional conservation value of Yanga include:

- the Lowbidgee wetland system, of which Yanga is an important part. It is recognised as nationally important and is listed on the Register of the National Estate. Yanga is one of the three most important wetlands in eastern Australia, supporting up to 180,000 waterbird species. This is the greatest abundance and diversity of breeding waterbirds in this part of the country. Of these waterbirds, nine species are of national significance, and a further 30 of state significance;



*Yanga flooded red gum forest of high conservation significance*

- Yanga supports a diverse range of habitats, many of which are poorly reserved. It contains 12 distinct vegetation types, including riverine forests and woodlands, wetlands, chenopod shrublands, *Acacia* shrublands, arid woodlands and mallee;
- there is currently about 2,388 hectares of riverine forest in the current reserve system within the Riverina. The river red gum forests on Yanga will add about 17,000 hectares; and
- Yanga provides habitat for a large number of threatened animal species, including the Southern Bell Frog, Blue-Billed Duck, Freckled Duck, Australasian Bittern, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Regent Parrot, Redthroat, Pied Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater and Grey-Crowned Babbler.

The purchase of Yanga, and the planned conservation and reservation of its extensive natural and cultural heritage for the people of NSW was made possible through the Trust's current and continued contributions.

## Coastal Wetlands

2004/05 was the second year of the Trust's three year funding program for the purchase of land associated with coastal wetlands, as part of the National Parks Estate. The Trust's allocation of \$1 million in 2004/05 enabled the purchase of four wetland properties for the establishment of a reserve system to protect coastal wetlands. The following properties were purchased:

- two properties in Frogalla Swamp, north of Forster, totalling 88 hectares;
- 73 hectares of Cattai Wetland east of Taree; and
- 24 hectares at the headwaters of Burrill Lake, south of Bateman's Bay.

This program will continue in 2005/06 with wetland purchases continuing with further funding.



# Restoration and Rehabilitation

*The Trust funded new projects to restore 127 sites around NSW, including bush regeneration, restoration of Aboriginal sites, clean-up of contaminated sites, eradication of weeds from Lord Howe Island, river restoration, and clean-up after emergency pollution incidents. Some major projects running over several years finished in 2004/05.*



## Outcomes Achieved

The following are examples of projects completed in 2004/05. They illustrate the diverse range of small and large projects that are funded by the Trust, and which protect and restore the environment.

### Towra Point

The Trust funded a project involving state, federal and non-government organisations at Towra Point on the southern side of Botany Bay. The project was aimed at protecting the internationally recognised coastal wetland habitats from the threat of severe erosion.

The RAMSAR listed Towra Point area forms the largest wetland system in the Sydney basin, with more than 50% of the region's mangroves and 95% of its saltmarsh. The wetland habitats support a wealth of animals, including internationally protected migratory waders, the threatened Little Tern and other water birds.

The project's objective was to reverse the erosion of Towra Point, which had accelerated since the early 1970s. This was primarily the result of dredging and construction around Botany Bay. The erosion threatened the integrity of the once freshwater Captain Cook Lagoon, and the terrestrial and wetland environments that lie behind the beach.

In 2000, the Trust provided \$1 million for a project that would reverse the effects of the erosion. In addition, it would protect the integrity of the area by restoration of the beach with 60,000 cubic metres of sand, taken from 'downstream'. It also restored the 'island' status of the site as a nesting habitat for the Little Tern.

The project involved the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), NSW Primary Industries, the NSW Maritime Authority, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage and was completed in late 2004.

The beach is now protected against erosion and the Little Terns, safe from foxes, have had their best nesting season in several years. The freshwater swamp has also been protected from the breakthrough of salt water. A sand dune along the beachfront is already visible from Kurnell, and the channel has been re-opened between the mainland and Towra Spit Island.

Through its funding for this project, the Trust made a great contribution towards the protection of the significant ecological and cultural values of the Towra Point Nature Reserve, and to saving the adjacent wetlands from foreshore erosion.



*Towra Point before beach renourishment works*



*Towra Point after beach renourishment*



*Open floodgate to allow fish passage and water flow*

## North Coast Floodgates Project

Major flooding in 2001 resulted in devastating fish kills in the Richmond, Clarence and Macleay rivers. Two of the rivers had to be closed to both recreational and commercial fishing owing to dramatic decreases in dissolved oxygen levels. In 2002, the Environmental Trust gave NSW Fisheries (now DPI) a total of \$522,000 over two years, to determine the cause and devise potential solutions. Other cash and in-kind contributions – from councils, industry bodies and individual landholders – totalled an additional \$1,567,490.

The project which was completed in late 2004, actively engaged private landholders, industry and local government in a joint initiative aimed at improving the environment. The project was successful in achieving the opening of 57 floodgates. It improved the health of more than 600 kilometres of waterways, improving oxygen levels, increasing fish numbers and fish passage, reducing weeds, and aiding in the management of acid sulfate soils.

The project has resulted in both immediate and longer-term benefits to water quality through the continued flushing of previously stagnating waterways. Following the floodgate openings, water quality monitoring has shown rapid improvements in dissolved oxygen levels and pH values and reduced fluctuations in water temperature. Tidal flushing has also been shown to reduce the accumulation of toxic drain sediments, which were implicated in the 2001 fish kills.

Structural modifications to floodgates have enabled fish to pass these once insurmountable barriers. Landholders have since seen large schools of mullet, prawns and other species in areas that have been devoid of fish for decades. Landholders and fishermen alike have been delighted to see these improvements in fish stocks.

The project's impressive results have been publicised through media releases, radio interviews and articles in newsletters and magazines. There have also been presentations at workshops and conferences, and a broadcast-quality documentary video has been produced. The results are also being incorporated in a project under the Trust's new Dissemination Program.



*Mudgee Gasworks site during remediation works*



*Rehabilitated area on the Mudgee Gasworks Site*

## Mudgee Gasworks Remediation

Land once occupied by the Mudgee gasworks was remediated with a \$1.8 million grant from the Trust. The DEC removed more than 10,000 tonnes of contaminated soil from nine homes and a child care centre. This was the largest clean-up ever funded under the Trust's Innocent Owners program (see section on Innocent Owners Program for more information). The soil was taken away for processing under DEC's supervision, and the remaining material was contained to prevent access to it. The residents moved out during the work but returned to restored properties and a clean environment. The clean-up eliminated the potential threat for residents and the community to be exposed to the contamination. This project required a joint effort between DEC, affected residents, the NSW Department of Commerce, the Macquarie Area Health Service, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, the Mid-Western Regional Council and environmental consultants.



## Clean Air Program

The Trust previously provided funding to the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) for the Clean Air Program. Some key elements of the program that were completed in 2004/05 are detailed below.

### The Woodsmoke Reduction Program (WSRP).

With Trust funding of \$2.6 million and training by DEC staff, this program ran from 2002 to 2004 in partnership with local councils. Its aim was to help people in regional centres to shift from polluting wood heaters to cleaner forms of heating, and to provide education on cleaner wood heater operation. The program involved three components: cash incentives, education and enforcement. Eighteen individual councils and one group of councils participated. They reported a decrease in the number of smoky chimneys and a general improvement in local air quality.

In total, 2024 wood heaters were removed and replaced with cleaner forms of heating. The estimated reduction in wood smoke attributable to the WSRP was about 60 tonnes over three years. This is equivalent to taking 6,680 trucks off the road. Officers produced a broad range of promotional materials aimed at increasing awareness that smoke from wood heaters is a major source of air pollution and is harmful to health. Several councils intend to continue promotional activities with their own resources.

**The Local Air Improvement Program (LAIP)** provided grants to councils to reduce air pollution from local sources. The program was designed to create strategies that can be used by councils across the state for air quality management, and to support the development of solutions to local air quality issues. Councils were also encouraged to take the lead in managing air pollution, similar to their efforts in waste and stormwater management.

A total of 21 projects, valued at almost \$1 million, have been completed under the two rounds of LAIP funding. Among them are projects aimed at reducing traffic congestion at a new primary school, the development of an educational resource kit to improve community awareness about the effects of day-to-day domestic activities on local and regional air quality, and regular tune-ups for older cars, and education of those car owners to inform them of the environmental benefits of regular servicing.

## ■ CASE STUDY

### Inner West Green Link Restoration Project

With a Trust grant of \$37,000, volunteers in the Inner West Environment Group spent more than 2,000 hours establishing a viable and sustainable green corridor linking the Cooks River and Iron Cove. The aims of the project were to clean up the corridor, encourage the return of native flora and fauna, and encourage use of the corridor by residents. It was also designed to improve the quality of stormwater runoff to waterways, and to incorporate the culture of indigenous people in local stewardship.

The project set a precedent for future work along railway corridors, where most of this rehabilitation work was conducted. Community volunteers were permitted to enter and work on railway land subject to the development of a series of protocols, which included appropriate fencing and having trained personnel onsite to supervise.

The group revegetated eight sites along the railway corridor including: Hawthorne Canal in the parkland between Haberfield and Leichhardt; an area on the railway line between Marion Street, Leichhardt and Grosvenor Crescent, Summer Hill, along the sides of the canal; and land within the goods railway corridor between Davis and Ewart Streets in Dulwich Hill.



*Restoration work in the rail corridor. Photo courtesy of Inner West Environment Group.*

Not only has the project set a precedent, it has also involved more than 200 locals in major community planting events such as National Tree Day, and involved a range of government and non-government organisations.

## Biodiversity Conservation Inventory Program

Many landholders across western NSW contribute to the conservation of our unique plants and animals through practices that integrate conservation and production. DEC supports landholders who hold protected conservation areas or wildlife refuges on their properties under conservation agreements.

The Trust provided \$200,000 to support the Voluntary Conservation and Biodiversity Inventory Program, which involves DEC, Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPBs) and private landholders in the Darling Riverine Plain Bioregion. The program was established to find out more about voluntary conservation areas on private land. Almost 230 landholders in western NSW hold registered wildlife refuges, which cover a total of 1.5 million hectares. Wildlife refuges have been in operation for more than 40 years, but in some cases little is known about their contribution to conservation.

Through this program, DEC staff visited 23 private and RLPB properties to meet landholders. The visits allowed the staff to assess the conservation values of the properties, understand the landholders' motivation for having wildlife refuges and discuss conservation management and actions. The flora and fauna of each property was surveyed, and reports were sent to the landholders offering advice on maintaining biodiversity and identifying species.

The project focused on two types of property: private properties in the Darling Riverine Plain Bioregion that hold wildlife refuges, and travelling stock routes and reserves throughout NSW that are also wildlife refuges. The Darling Riverine Plain Bioregion is poorly represented in the public reserve system. Properties that are voluntarily managed for conservation make a significant contribution to biodiversity conservation by complementing the reserve system.

Landholders reported that the information gained during the visits, and from subsequent reports, had boosted their confidence in managing their properties to enhance conservation values, and in the management of their farms.

### ■ CASE STUDY

#### Arakwal Land Rehabilitation Project

Under the Protecting our Places Program, the Trust provided \$19,800 to the Arakwal people of Byron Bay for rehabilitation of the traditional campsite and birthplace of the Arakwal elders. The two hectare site was originally a tall closed forest of swamp mahogany and ironbark eucalyptus with a littoral rainforest understorey. In the years after mining companies left the area, it became a rubbish dump infested with serious environmental weeds.

The land was returned to the Arakwal people by the state government in 1998, as part of the native title process. The Trust funded a six-month project to return the site, which is adjacent to heathland in the Arakwal National Park, to its natural state. The project successfully eradicated a number of significant environmental weeds and provided the community with valuable bush regeneration and rehabilitation skills. The weeds removed included coral trees, madeira vine, winter senna, running bamboo, lantana, bitou bush, asparagus, umbrella trees and fishbone fern.

This project also succeeded in reconnecting the Arakwal people (particularly the youth) with their country, and gave them an increased understanding of their cultural heritage. In addition, it provided training for work in land management.



*Restored land adjacent to the Arakwal National Park as result of a Protecting our Places Program.*

# New Major Projects Funded



*During 2004/05, the Trust approved several new major projects aimed at large-scale restoration. These projects will run over three years. They are described in the following table. The first five arise from the Integrated Environmental Program, started in 2003/04.*

<b>Lord Howe Island Board</b>	<b>Reducing and Eradicating Invasive Weeds on Lord Howe Island</b>	<b>\$1,227,911</b>
<p>This project has three aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ eradication of bitou bush by aerial spraying of cliff areas;</li> <li>■ research into the best treatment of tiger lily (CRC for Weed Management); and</li> <li>■ concentrated effort to reduce the population of cherry guava to manageable levels by teams of professional bush regenerators and board staff.</li> </ul>		
<b>Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, and Roadside Environment Committee</b>	<b>Saving our Corridors – Linear Reserves as NSW Environment Framework</b>	<b>\$904,000</b>
<p>The aim of this project is to achieve an environmentally sustainable network of linear reserves in NSW through coordinated protection and management of biodiversity. Working through the Catchment Management Authority structure, this project will promote protection, management, and enhancement of the environmental values of roadsides, rail corridors and stock reserves.</p>		
<b>Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority</b>	<b>Snowy River Rehabilitation Project</b>	<b>\$1,098,105</b>
<p>This project is focused on restoring the condition of habitat along 186 kilometres of the Snowy River below Jindabyne Dam. Dense willow growth has been controlled, and the riparian margins of the river are being revegetated. It will establish a foundation for continuous improvement of habitat conditions, as environmental flows increase and natural fish populations improve.</p>		
<b>Central Coast Community Environment Network</b>	<b>Advancing Biodiversity Conservation on Private Land (Central Coast)</b>	<b>\$592,670</b>
<p>This project will reverse the decline in wildlife habitat by protecting and enhancing native fauna and flora. The project will also consider urban landscapes that contribute to desired results.</p>		
<b>World Wide Fund for Nature Australia</b>	<b>Hotspots – Implementing Ecologically Appropriate Fire Regimes in NSW</b>	<b>\$394,200</b>
<p>This project will promote ecologically appropriate fire regimes to conserve biodiversity, soil, air and water in NSW. Assistance will be provided to landowners, Catchment Management Authorities and the Nature Conservation Trust to integrate ecological fire management guidelines into Property Management Plans. Tools will be developed to promote the guidelines.</p>		
<b>North Lake Macquarie Environmental Health Centre</b>	<b>Monitoring of Lead Clean-up</b>	<b>\$200,000 over two years</b>
<p>Lead from the now-closed Boolaroo Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter built up on the land adjacent to the plant over the smelter's 105-year life. In September 2003, the smelter shut down. However, lead dust will continue to be liberated during site remediation. The Trust has provided funding to continue the work of the Environmental Health Centre over two years to allow for community consultation and oversighting of any remediation works undertaken.</p>		



## Contaminated Land Innocent Owners Program

In 2001, the Trust commenced a three year program to help with the remediation of contaminated sites owned by 'innocent' parties. These are property owners who have unwittingly found themselves responsible for the remediation of serious land contamination, because the polluter cannot be found or no longer exists. The program funds only the remediation of land posing a significant risk of harm. Programs funded under this program in 2004/05 are outlined in the table below.

Although the program was very slow to start, 2004/05 saw significant expenditure on previously approved projects, in particular the Mudgee gasworks. Four new grants were approved, but not all the money was spent in 2004/05 (see Table). Total spending in 2004/05 was around \$2.5 million.

The Trust asked the DEC to review the program. The review was considered in April 2005. It took into account the view of the Trust's Special Purpose Assessment Committee on how the program could better achieve its objective of helping orphan sites to no longer pose a significant risk to health. A newly adopted approach will make the program simpler and more flexible for those dealing with sites that pose health risks.

**Table 1. Contaminated Land Innocent Owners Program – grants approved in 2004/05**

Applicant	Property	Amount: up to	Details
Ms M. Hughes	Old Bolaro Road, West Nelligen	\$24,360	Grant for preparation of a Remedial Action Plan
Mr M. Pilarcik	Former shale oil refinery, Hartley Vale	\$94,482	Grant for preparation of a Remedial Action Plan
Blue Mountains City Council (on behalf of itself and two private landowners)	Former gasworks site, Katoomba	\$634,438	Grant to contribute to remediation works, including removal of contaminated soil, protecting groundwater and minimising exposure to contaminants
Mrs E. Jones	Wilson Street, Newtown	\$67,550	Additional funds towards completion of remediation works
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$820,830</b>	

## Council Gasworks Remediation Program

The operations of former gasworks throughout NSW have left a legacy of contamination in soil and groundwater. Remediation can be costly and difficult. This has often left such sites derelict, and of no benefit to the community. In some cases, the contamination poses a significant risk to health and/or the environment if it is not cleaned up.

The Trust established the Council Gasworks Remediation Program with the objective of helping councils remediate sites for which they are responsible, and which present a high risk of harm. It has made \$2 million available for this program over two years, and will provide grants of up to \$500,000.

Applications are by invitation only. In 2004/05, four councils were invited to apply, selected on the basis of three criteria:

- the only sites eligible are those with contamination that poses a significant risk to human health or the environment;
- only the councils responsible for the remediation of the site are eligible to apply; and
- the sites representing the highest risk will be given priority for funding.

The Trust will fund around half of the direct cost of the works associated with a remediation action plan, where the plan represents the most cost-effective strategy to reduce the risk posed by the contamination. It will not fund work which is additional to that required to reduce the risk.

# Restoration and Rehabilitation 2004/05 Grant Programs



## Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

The Trust again offered grants of up to \$100,000 in two categories: community groups (\$1.5 million), and state and local government organisations (\$2 million), both increases of approximately \$0.5 million over 2003/04. The objectives of this program are to:

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

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

The Trust received 107 applications, of which 70 were successful (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2

## Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Awarded in 2004-05

### Community Grants Program

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Awaba Bay Landcare Group	Restoration and rehabilitation of estuarine habitat at Awaba Bay	Lake Macquarie	\$13,347
Bankstown Bushland Society Inc.	Restoring shale-sandstone transition forests of the Mid Georges River	Bankstown	\$46,070
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group	Rehabilitating Big Scrub Rainforest Remnants	Lismore	\$99,728
Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.	Restoring threatened lowland habitats in the Brunswick Valley	Byron	\$92,716
Burraneer Park Bushcare Group	Rehabilitation and protection of the foreshore of Burraneer Park	Sutherland	\$16,500
Cape Byron Headland Reserve Trust	Cape Byron Lighthouse Precinct Restoration Project	Byron	\$29,219
East Ballina Landcare Incorporated	Asparagus control to protect a threatened HCV Coastal Heath corridor	Ballina	\$6,300
Environmental Training and Employment Inc. (EnviTE NSW)	Richmond River Casino – Riparian Restoration Project	Richmond Valley	\$82,053
Ewey Creek Bushcare Group	Rehabilitation and conservation program for Ewey Creek	Sutherland	\$12,999
Friends of Lane Cove National Park Inc.	Restoration and appreciation of endangered Blue Gum High Forest	Ku-ring-gai	\$67,400
Friends of Colo Inc.	Willow control and monitoring in the Colo River and its catchment	Singleton	\$39,701

## Community Grants Program Continued

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Glen and Koolangarra Reserves Bushcare Groups	Rehabilitation and access upgrade for bushland in Bonnet Bay	Sutherland	\$12,600
Green Gully Landcare Association Incorporated	"Greening up the Gully" Broadscale salinity remediation	Murray	\$100,000
Katoomba Creek and Minnehaha Falls Bushcare Groups	Protecting Riparian Communities from Post-Fire Weed Invasion	Blue Mountains	\$86,724
Macdonald Valley Association	MVA Black Willows Eradication Project	Hawkesbury	\$75,375
Mid Macquarie Landcare Inc.	Restoration and rehab of veg and biodiversity in Mid Macquarie Landcare Reg	Various	\$100,000
Mighty Duck River Restoration Collective	Protection of Endangered Remnants and Wetland at Duck River Stage 3	Parramatta	\$59,825
Mourawaring Moors Bushcare	Habitat restoration - Mourawaring Moors – Bouddi National Park	Gosford	\$11,180
Murrumbidgee Wetlands Working Group Incorporated	Restoring the Coonancoocabil lagoon Complex, Murrumbidgee Floodplain	Leeton	\$100,000
Nari Nari Tribal Council	NNTC Revegetation Project	Hay	\$21,245
Nature Conservation Working Group	Extending Curlew Populations and Habitat Across the Murray	Deniliquin	\$94,580
NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Incorporated	Riparian and In-stream Habitat Restoration Project – Upper Molong Ck	Orange	\$68,110
Parklands Albury Wodonga	Padman Park Habitat Restoration	Albury	\$36,500
Pittwater Natural Heritage Association	Restoration of coastal dune vegetation, Mona Vale Beach	Pittwater	\$33,060
Pope Glen Bushcare Group	Restoration of degraded riparian corridor and silt plug, Popes Glen	Blue Mountains	\$7,950
Riverina Highlands Landcare Network	Protect and Enhance Riparian Habitat for the Boorolong Frog	Tumut	\$40,475
Silver Beach Dunecare Group	Rehabilitation and protection of Kurnell Dune Forest at Bonna Point	Sutherland	\$7,500
Singleton Shire Landcare Network Inc.	Implementation of Catchment and Rivercare Plans in the Upper Hunter	Singleton	\$99,860
Tuggerah Lake Reserve Trust	Tuggerah Lakes Habitat Restoration Project	Wyong	\$27,840
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare	Riparian Rehabilitation and Streambank Stabilisation, Peacock Ck NSW	Kyogle	\$37,640
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare	Upper Duck Creek Strategic Subcatchment Weed Control and Regeneration	Lismore	\$21,750
Upper Clarence Combined Landcare	Riparian Rehabilitation and Streambank Stabilisation, Boomi Ck, NSW	Kyogle	\$91,833
Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare Group	Restoring wildlife habitat along the Murrumbidgee River at Wagga	Wagga Wagga	\$78,290
Wamberal Lagoon Bushcare	Preservation of dune system and littoral rainforest, Wamberal	Gosford	\$30,492
Western Murray Land Improvement Group Inc.	Murrakool Western-Billabong Restoration Rehabilitation Project	Wakool	\$99,205
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,848,067</b>

Table 3

## Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Awarded in 2004-05

### State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Ballina Shire Council	Ballina Shire Lineal Reserve Management Project	Richmond River	\$84,294
Bathurst Regional Council	Saving Brooke Moore Woodland	Bathurst	\$23,525
Blue Mountains City Council	North Katoomba Catchment Private Land Riparian Remediation	Blue Mountains	\$22,774
Byron Shire Council	Regeneration of dunes in the Byron Shire	Byron	\$100,000
Cessnock City Council	Reveg and Rehab of environmental resources at Kurri and Stanford Merthyr	Cessnock	\$61,450
Clarence Valley Council – Floodplain Services	Returning the tides Stage II – Poverty Creek	Grafton	\$73,172
Department of Environmental and Conservation	Bell Miner Associated Dieback Restoration	Kyogle	\$99,425
Department of Environment and Conservation	Reconstruction of native vegetation on coastal floodplains	Various	\$78,775
Dubbo City Council	Talbragar River Willow Eradication Project	Dubbo	\$50,000
Fairfield City Council	Kookaburra Park Catchment works and community education project	Fairfield	\$100,000
Gosford City Council	Tumbi Road Creek Restoration Project	Gosford	\$82,400
Great Lakes Council	Restoration of Darawakh Creek/Froggalla Swamp wetland system	Great Lakes	\$99,835
Greater Hume Shire Council	Gum Swamp Reserve Restoration Project	Greater Hume	\$42,823
Greater Taree City Council	Macleay Valley Riparian Vine Weeds Project	Kempsey	\$100,000
Greater Taree City Council	Wingham Reserve Riparian “Stepping Stone” Restoration	Greater Taree	\$99,870
Ku-ring-gai Council	Integrated Catchment Restoration along Rocky Creek St Ives	Ku-ring-gai	\$86,000
Lake Macquarie City Council	Naturalising Flaggy Creek – restoring a damaged riparian corridor	Lake Macquarie	\$99,313
Maitland City Council	Tenambit Wetlands Rehabilitation Stage 2	Maitland	\$53,070
Newcastle City Council	Creeks Alive Community Support Project	Newcastle City	\$92,879
Newcastle City Council	Viney Creek Restoration and Wetland Rehabilitation, Beresfield	Newcastle City	\$100,000
Cooma-Monaro Shire Council – North Ridge Reserve Committee	Rehabilitation of Degraded Creek Flat	Cooma-Monaro	\$7,370
North Sydney Council	Building Bridges to Boorowa	North Sydney	\$34,800
PDC Landcare	Constructing and placing wooden habitat boxes for native avian fauna	Auburn	\$9,000
Pittwater Council	Littoral Rainforest Restoration Project in Pittwater	Pittwater	\$98,550
Port Stephens Council	Port Stephens Coastal Biodiversity Project	Port Stephens	\$99,818
Richmond Valley Council	Removal of Fish Obstruction – Norco Weir, Richmond River	Richmond Valley	\$24,000

## State and Local Government Grants Program Continued

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Richmond Valley Council	Protection and Restoration of Oxleyan Pygmy Perch Habitat	Richmond Valley	\$77,900
Southern Councils Group	Coral tree removal in the Jamberoo Valley	Kiama	\$80,050
Sutherland Shire Council	Control of Bitou Bush in Kurnell Dune Forest at Kurnell	Sutherland	\$24,000
TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute Ryde College	Restoring Florences Hideaway – Blue Gum Forest at Ryde Hospital	Ryde	\$10,000
Tweed Shire Council	Byrrill Creek Riparian Restoration Project	Tweed	\$100,000
University of Ballarat	Restoration of threatened communities and species on Nanya Station	Unincorporated Far West	\$14,018
Waverley Council	Rehabilitation of the east coast habitat corridor of Waverley Council	Waverley	\$96,266
Wingecarribee Shire Council	Conserving Endangered Ecological Communities and Remnant Vegetation	Wingecarribee	\$90,000
Wollongong City Council	Removal of Willow and Coral trees and riparian rehabilitation	Wollongong	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,375,377</b>

## Protecting Our Places Program for Aboriginal Organisations

2004/05 was the third year that the Trust has offered these grants (totalling \$0.5 million). The objectives of this program are:

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

Most applications and funded projects combine on-ground restoration works with some education. The Trust received 31 applications, of which 15 were successful (Table 4).

The Trust continued to fund an Aboriginal Liaison and Support Officer to help implement this program. It ran a series of 14 successful workshops around NSW to help Aboriginal and other organisations that are considering applying for the 2005 round of grants. It approved the Protecting Our Places Program again in 2005. It also began an evaluation of the program to assess whether it is meeting its aims, and how it could be improved if the Trust continues to fund it in the future.



*Tree planting at a Protecting our Places grant at Boolangle*



Table 4

## Protecting Our Places Program Grants Awarded in 2004-05

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council	ALALC Habitat and Vegetation Restoration Project	Inverell	\$9,580
Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation	Arakwal Cultural Centre Restoration and Education Project	Byron	\$40,450
Dorrodong Association Inc.	Dorrodong Rainforest Rehabilitation and Storytelling walk-way	Bellingen	\$44,800
Forster Campus Aboriginal Student Support Parents Awareness Committee	Great Lakes Aboriginal Plant Trail	Great Lakes	\$44,573
Guringai Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (GLAECG)	Aboriginal Cultural Revival: Connecting with and Restoring Billarong	Warringah	\$44,850
Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council	Hay LALC Site Protection Project	Murray	\$39,040
Mrangalli Aboriginal Corporation	Restoring the balance – biodiversity in Tingha	Inverell	\$10,404
Mungindi Local Aboriginal Land Council	Boomi River Midden Site Cultural Protection Project	Moree Plains	\$14,048
Ngulingah Local Aboriginal Land Council	NLALC Cultural and Heritage Natural Resource Environment Management	Lismore	\$33,600
Second Headland Indigenous Landcare Group	Extending Care: Community Bush Rehabilitation at Second Headland	Bellingen	\$25,315
Tweed Byron Aboriginal Local Land Council (TBLALC)	Restoration of significant Aboriginal land at Fingal Peninsula	Tweed	\$44,524
Warada Aboriginal Land Care Group	Restoring Land, Restoring Culture	Lake Macquarie	\$20,020
Western Sydney Aboriginal Landcare Group	"Koories Caring for Ropes Creek"	Blacktown	\$27,247
Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation	North Deniliquin State Forest Land Management Project	Deniliquin	\$43,242
Yass Valley Indigenous Consultative Committee	Wallaboola Interpretive Trail	Yass	\$37,420
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$479,113</b>

## Emergency Pollution Clean-up Program

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

The funds can also be used, in certain circumstances, for the management of incidents involving orphan waste materials.

The Trust does not pay for such work where it can identify a person or organisation responsible for, or required to clean up the pollution.

The *Environmental Trust Act 1998* stipulates that the maximum amount that the Trust can spend on this program in any one financial year is \$0.5 million.

Table 5

### Emergency Pollution Clean-up Payments 2004-05

Organisation	Project Title	Date of incident	Amount
Baulkham Hills Council	Oil Spill at Barina Down Road Baulkham Hills	17-Nov-04	\$2,371.00
Blacktown City Council	Asbestos sheeting illegally dumped on Townsend Road Marsden Park	21-Jul-04	\$390.00
Blacktown City Council	Clean up of asbestos dumped in Otago Street Vineyard	3-Aug-04	\$920.00
Blacktown City Council	Removal and disposal of illegally dumped asbestos at Prime Drive Seven Hills	15-Oct-04	\$720.00
Blacktown City Council	Dumped Asbestos cement at Redman Lane Seven Hills	26-Oct-04	\$410.00
Blue Mountain City Council	Orphan Waste dumped at "Bulls Camp Reserve", Woodford	2-Feb-05	\$907.30
Carrathool Shire Council	Asbestos abandoned at two sites within Carrathool Shire	26-Nov-04 & 28-Nov-04	\$6,040.00
Cleanaway Industry Waste	Mercury disposal at NSW Fire Brigade 8 Cook St Forestville	12-Jul-04	\$175.00
Fairfield City Council	Removal of asbestos waste from Hartley oval, Canley Vale	26-May-04	\$300.00
Fairfield City Council	Liquid waste at Burns Creek	31-Aug-04	\$1,754.20
Fairfield City Council	Oil waste at corner Richards and Smithfield Roads, Wakeley	12-Oct-04	\$1,210.00
Fairfield City Council	Oil containers dumped at Hollywood Drive Lansvale	3-Nov-04	\$1,375.00
Fairfield City Council	Asbestos dumped at Fraser Road, Canley Vale	24-Mar-05	\$602.37
Hawkesbury City Council	Asbestos material illegally dumped at Deerubbun Park Windsor	18-Jan-05	\$900.00
Hornsby Shire Council	Removal of liquid waste – Hornsby Creek, Water Street Hornsby	24-Sep-04	\$7,247.40
Hurstville Council	Removal of 5 x 44 Gal drums, from Pritchard Place, Peakhurst	13-Dec-04	\$1,505.00
Lismore Council	Chemical Treatment, Hazmat testing and disposal (location unknown)	13-Oct-04	\$1,771.00
Narrabri Septic Service	Chemical spill at Maitland Street Narrabri	11-Sep-04	\$400.00
Newcastle City Council	Removal of hazardous waste – Milford Road, Wickham	16-Mar-04	\$803.20
Newcastle City Council	Asbestos dumped at Woodberry Road, Tarro	3-Aug-04	\$460.65
Newcastle City Council	Removal of asbestos at High Street Mayfield	17-Nov-04	\$3,200.00
Newcastle City Council	Asbestos dumped at 29 Taurus Street, Elemore Vale	unknown	\$408.62
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	Removal of hazardous waste – Fowlers Bay Beach, Pittwater	23-Apr-04	\$305.82

## Emergency Pollution Clean-up Payments 2004-05 Continued

Organisation	Project Title	Date of incident	Amount
Parramatta City Council	Hydrochloric acid waste at cnr Martha St and Kendall Streets, Granville	23-Aug-04	\$532.00
Southern Commercial Divers	Salvage of vessel Falcon in Greenwell Point	21-Jul-04	\$4,236.36
Strathfield Council	Dumped asbestos in Bates and Ford Streets, Greenacre	14-Jul-04	\$1,200.00
Strathfield Council	Removal of asbestos from Wentworth Street, Strathfield	7-Dec-04	\$950.00
Strathfield Council	Asbestos material dumped on reserve at Elliot Street, Belfield	9-Mar-05	\$990.00
Strathfield Council	Dumped Asbestos at Mitchell Road entrance to Hudson Park Golf Course, Strathfield	9-Mar-05	\$990.00
Strathfield Council	Dumped Asbestos at Naughton Street, Greenacre	12-Apr-05	\$990.00
Warringah Council	Hydrocarbon spill – (suspected petrol/diesel spill) at Campbell Avenue, Dee Why	3-Jun-05	\$1,200.00
Warringah Council	Hydrocarbon spill at Campbell Avenue, Dee Why	3-Jun-04	\$1,047.00
Wingecarribee Council	Testing and Removal of dumped asbestos at eight individual sites within Wingecarribee Shire Council boundaries	6-Dec-04	\$6,770.91
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$54,135.23</b>

## Emergency Pollution Clean-up Reimbursement 2004-05

Organisation	Project Title	Date of incident	Amount
Landmark Operations Pty Ltd. (Deacons – Solicitors)	Pollution incident on Riverina Highway at Howlong. Trust paid Hume Shire Council on 06/05/2004	24-Dec-03	-\$936.59
<b>Total</b>			<b>-\$936.59</b>

# Environmental Education

*The Trust spent \$2.3 million on education in 2004/05 and funded 71 new education projects around NSW. Grants were provided to community organisations, councils, government agencies and training providers.*



## Outcomes Achieved

The following are examples of projects completed in 2004/05. They illustrate the diverse range of small and large projects funded by the Trust, which educate the community to protect and restore the environment.

### NESB Pesticides Training Program Phase 1

In 2003, the Trust approved up to \$1,550,000 for the Non-English-Speaking Background (NESB) Pesticides Training Program. The program provides training for market gardeners from Arabic, Chinese, Cambodian and Vietnamese backgrounds to help them to meet the requirements introduced under the *Pesticides Act 1999*.

The Act requires all commercial pesticide users to be fully trained in the use of the chemicals, and to keep records of usage. A big impediment to achieving this is the lack of English language skills among growers. NESB growers represent 30% of the agricultural industry, and 80% to 90% of the market garden sector. This is an estimated 4,000 people, most of whom have no pesticides training. The aim of the program is to ensure that NESB market gardeners are trained to use these products safely. Without this training, there are risks to the health of growers and their families, and the potential for contamination of food, soil and water, and for fish kills. The program aims to ensure that NESB growers receive comprehensive training in their own languages.

Round 1 of training was completed in 2004/05, at a cost of \$124,000. The four training organisations worked closely with the DEC and bilingual trainers to educate a total of 271 NESB horticultural workers. Round 2 has begun and is expected to train a further 640 growers when it concludes in September 2005 (see table 9). Although the training has been successfully rolled out, uptake has been lower than expected. A revised approach has been adopted for 2005/06 (see major new projects following).

### 'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' Education Campaign Phase 1

Since 2001, the Trust has provided nearly \$1 million to DEC for the 'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' community education program. The program promotes sustainable living, resource conservation, biodiversity conservation and awareness of hazardous chemicals. It also encourages business practices that promote sustainability. In 2003/04 the program focused on a major partnership with NSW councils. This allowed the funding of 51 sustainability education projects at a total cost of \$1,351,411 involving more than 70 councils. Most of these projects concluded in 2004/05, and some examples of the types of project are included below.

- Willoughby, North Sydney and Lane Cove councils ran a sustainable lifestyle program, targeting 25 to 40 year olds. The program followed 30 community volunteers as they participated in an eco-challenge to reduce their ecological footprint.
- Fairfield Council ran a project that offered environmental education training for 'environmental leaders' in three ethnic communities, using the experience of DEC's Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project.
- Through the 'Little Green Steps' program, Gosford and Wyong councils ran professional development workshops for childcare centre staff, and funded curriculum resource kits. The Central Coast now has a strong network of early childhood educators who are following sustainable practices at their centres. They are part of the National Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN), also funded as part of this program.
- Cowra Shire Council implemented a comprehensive community education campaign promoting reducing, reusing and recycling waste. It reported a significant increase in recycling and a reduction in waste going to landfill.

#### ■ CASE STUDY

### Eco OOSH in Action

An excellent example of how an education grant has been put to good use is the project called 'Eco OOSH in Action – a whole-of-centre approach to sustainable living'. The project developed a customised environmental education kit for Out of School Hours (OOSH) centres in NSW, of which there are more than 900. The overall aim of the project was to encourage children to look, listen and act according to what is best for the environment. In this way, they learn to follow

environmentally sustainable practices in all aspects of their lives. The kit encourages children to actively participate in environmental activities. Following a period of extensive consultation to ensure that it was child friendly and suitable for use in all OOSH locations in NSW, the kit was distributed to all centres.

The project also involved a course for workshop leaders, to enable OOSH workers to train other OOSH staff on the use of the resource. It was promoted through newsletters and on the Eco OOSH website.

## Major New Projects Approved

### **'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' Education Program**

The Trust approved \$3.5 million over three years from 2004/05 for the next phase of the 'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' community education program.

The first phase of the program was extremely successful in changing behaviours and creating a brand that is instantly recognisable and used throughout government to reflect sustainable living. Phase 2 will be the first major government/non-government partnership in NSW to conduct an integrated and coordinated program to promote sustainable living. DEC will work with peak community groups including the Total Environment Centre, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the NSW Nature Conservation Council and the NSW Council of Social Services, and with the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability.

The three-year environmental education program will emphasise:

- actions to create a sustainable society;
- resource conservation through waste avoidance, and energy and water conservation;
- biodiversity conservation in coastal and metropolitan areas;
- education and community engagement;
- household hazardous chemicals;
- green purchasing and sustainable consumption; and
- sustainability policies and practices for organisations.

The program will integrate the many individual projects and activities of the partners with as many existing programs and initiatives as possible.

### **Capacity Building in Aboriginal People and Communities**

The Trust provided \$200,000 to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for a project designed to help Aboriginal communities increase their capacity in environmental, heritage and natural resources management. The project will work through:

- providing equity in access to government-held environmental information, and making this information user-friendly to Aboriginal communities;
- providing resources to Aboriginal communities to strengthen community associations involved in environmental management, including associations that have not previously been involved in environmental issues; and
- allowing communities to set environmental goals and measure improvements in environmental conditions against community expectations. Goals could include increasing the accountability of environmental agencies to Aboriginal communities.

### **NESB Pesticides Training Program Phase 2**

In April 2005, the Trust approved \$414,000 over the next two years to enable the Department of Primary Industries to employ bilingual extension officers. The officers will provide support for growers from Arabic, Chinese and Cambodian communities to improve their environmental practices and increase uptake of the available training. Following on from the successful 'waterwise' program, this was considered a more effective way to reach NESB farm workers than relying solely on the provision of formal training opportunities.



# Environmental Education 2004/05 Grant Programs



## Education Grants

The Trust again offered grants of up to \$100,000 in two categories: community (total \$500,000), and state and local government organisations (total \$500,000). The objectives of this program are to:

- help attain one or more of the outcomes in the NSW Government's Environmental Education Plan, *Learning for Sustainability*;

- change behaviours and so affect specific environmental problems; and
- develop and promote education projects that improve the environment.

In 2004/05, the Trust received 199 expressions of interest. These were shortlisted to 35 invited applications, and 21 projects were approved (Tables 6 and 7).

Table 6

## Environmental Education Program Grants Awarded in 2004-05

### Community Grants Program

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Cape Byron Trust	Cape Byron Headland Reserve Environmental Education Service (CBHRES)	Byron	\$28,180
Caravan & Camping Industry Association of NSW	Challenging barriers to sustainability practice in the NSW CCIA	Statewide	\$60,589
Council on the Ageing (COTA) (NSW)	Stories of Experience	Statewide	\$50,000
International Environmental Weed Foundation	"Know your Gardens natives" – URBAN Native Regeneration Gardening	Sydney Outer	\$24,997
Newcastle and Hunter Valley Speleological Society Inc.	Timor Karst and Caves Documentation Project	Statewide	\$17,159
NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network	Seeds for the Future: Early Childhood Environment Education Network	Statewide	\$50,000
Orana Education and Training Cooperative	The Troy TEACH & TEL Project	Dubbo	\$99,908
Rotary Club of Moree On Gwydir	Identify – Value – Conserve; The Interactive NRM Demonstration Site	Moree Plains	\$60,000
Total Environment Centre	Investment Analyst Briefing on Carbon Risks and Opportunities	Statewide	\$42,118
WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information and Rescue Service Inc)	Best practice for WIRES Wildlife Carers	Statewide	\$73,941
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$506,892</b>

Table 7

## Environmental Education Program Grants Awarded in 2004-05

### State and Local Government Grants Program

Organisation	Project Title	LGA	Amount
Bankstown City Council	Biodiversity education for a diverse community	Bankstown	\$47,912
Gosford City Council	Web based Guide to Central Coast Threatened Species and Communities	Wyong	\$25,000
Kogarah Municipal Council	Rainwater Tanks for Schools Project	Kogarah	\$15,805
Lachlan Shire Council	An audit and education program of the hazards of On-Farm Landfills	Lachlan	\$15,410
Lord Howe Island Board	Quarantine Community Education Strategy for Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island	\$74,156
Manly Council	Environmental Management Training for Tourism Businesses at Manly	Manly	\$67,130
Newcastle City Council	ClimateCam – The world's first Greenhouse speedometer	Statewide	\$100,000
North East Waste Forum (NEWF)	Northern Rivers Eco-friendly Youth Project	Richmond Valley	\$49,972
Northern Inland Regional Waste (Tamworth Regional Council)	NIRW Mobile Waste Education Trailer	Various	\$75,000
University of Sydney	e-Flora: A Botanical Resource for Environmental Educators	Statewide	\$96,039
University of Sydney	University of Sydney Energy and Water Conservation Education Project	Statewide	\$56,394
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$622,818</b>

## EcoSchools Grants

The EcoSchools Program aims to:

- integrate environment improvement projects within the school curriculum and maximise environmental learning;
- demonstrate best practice in environmental education, and innovative solutions to local environmental problem-solving;
- establish partnerships between student learning and the school community; and
- link schools' environmental management plans to specific action plans.

The Trust again offered up to 80 grants of \$1,500 each.

Unfortunately, the numbers of applications were down this year, and only 45 projects were funded (Table 8). In response to this, the Trust increased grants to \$2,500 for 2005. It also allocated \$35,000 to researching the needs of schools and to running workshops to assist teachers considering applying in 2005. The Trust also decided to place greater importance on ensuring long-term benefits from projects, such as enabling teachers to undertake environmental professional development as part of a grant.

Table 8

### Eco Schools Program Grants Awarded in 2004-05

Grant Recipient	Project Title	LGA
Alma Public School	Water Alma To Embrace Regeneration = W.A.T.E.R.	Broken Hill
Ashford Central School	Soil Salinity Control at Town Sporting Facilities and Parklands	Inverell
Bald Face Public School	Bald Face brings Biodiversity back to the school environment	Kogarah
Bega Public School	Sustainable Water Use for Bega PS Grounds	Bega Valley
Bonnells Bay Public School	Restoration of land	Lake Macquarie
Bredbo Public School	Native Habitat Garden - Bredbo Public School	Cooma-Monaro
Broken Hill High School	Broken Hill High School Horticultural Centre	Broken Hill
Burrawang Public School	Shade House – Renovation for Bush Care	Wingecarribee
Burwood Public School	Burwood Public School Design Competition and Playground Plan	Burwood
Canterbury South Public School	Kids Care: living and growing to improve the local environment	Canterbury
Carinya Christian School	Namungona Garden Project	Gunnedah
Caroline Chisholm College	A Waterwise Cultivated Ecosystem for Sustainable Crop Production	Penrith
Casino Christian School	From a bare paddock to living garden!	Richmond Valley
Chertsey Public School	Creating Green Corridors at Chertsey Primary School	Gosford
Dunmore Lang Christian School	Native Garden Lunch Area	Muswellbrook
Epping Public School	Tackling water erosion by creating a sensory garden	Hornsby
Fennell Bay School	Community Eco-Garden Demonstration	Lake Macquarie
Fern Bay Public School	Restoration and Rehabilitation of school grounds	Port Stephens
Frensham	Protecting our environment – an introduction to bush regeneration	Wingecarribee

## Eco Schools Program Grants Awarded in 2004-05 Continued

Grant Recipient	Project Title	LGA
Great Lakes College, Forster Campus	Forster Campus Recycling Project	Great Lakes
Keiraville Public School	Keiraville Public School Organic Vegetable Garden	Wollongong
Largs Primary School	Water Wise	Maitland
Lorien Novalis School	Environment Classroom/Learning Space	Baulkham Hills
Macquarie Anglican Grammar School	MAGS Wetland Ecosystem and Outdoor Classroom	Dubbo
Main Arm Upper Public School	Bio-Diversity for Kids	Byron
Manning Gardens Public School	Our contribution to the environment and our future	Greater Taree
Mayfield East Primary School	Wildlife Corridor	Newcastle City
Medowie Christian School	Medowie Christian School Eco Track	Port Stephens
Moruya Public School	Responsible Water Management and Sustainability program	Eurobodalla
Muswellbrook High School	Slow the Flow	Muswellbrook
Narrabeen North Public School	"Caneeung" Sustainability Project	Pittwater
Observatory Hill Environmental Education Centre	High School Environmental Leaders Project (HELP)	Sydney City
Port Hacking High School	Creation of an outdoor classroom and learning area	Sutherland
Rockdale Public School	School Yard Blitz – Sustainable Garden	Rockdale
Roselea Primary School	Environmental Learning via Roselea Creek Bank Restoration	Hornsby
Shearwater, The Mullumbimby Steiner School	Shearwater Mullumbimby Creek Billabong – Wetland Restoration Project	Byron
St Francis of Assisi Regional Primary School, Paddington	The St Francis Ecologically Sustainable Rooftop Garden	Sydney City
St Joseph's Primary School	On the Trail of the Lachlan	Boorowa
St Mary of the Angels	Understanding Biodiversity – Wet and Dry Environments	Guyra
St Mary's Central School	St Mary's Central School Biodiversity Project	Wellington
Stratheden Public School	Outdoor eco-learning area and native food garden	Richmond Valley
Warrawee Public School	Towards Sustainability for Warrawee's Endangered Environment	Ku-ring-gai
Wideview Public School	Wideview Public School Frogzone Mini-Wetland	Hornsby
Woollooware Public School	Sustaining an Endangered Ecological Community at Woollooware	Sutherland
Yanco Agricultural High School	Yanco Agricultural High School Sustainable Schools Landcare Project	Leeton
<b>Total</b>		<b>45 Grants at \$1,500 each</b>
		<b>\$67,500</b>

# NESB Pesticides Grants

In Round 2 of this program, the Trust approved three new grants totalling \$234,000 to train a further 640 growers from non-English-speaking backgrounds (NESB) in safe pesticide usage. Registered training organisations that run courses in target languages (Arabic, Chinese, Cambodian and Vietnamese) receive a subsidy of \$355 per person. The program is necessary because training courses in languages other than English are very expensive, and thus prohibitive for NESB growers. This makes access to compulsory training impossible. Round 2 was expanded to enable re-accreditation training, as well as first-time accreditation training.

Table 9

## NESB Pesticides Training Program

Grants Approved in 2004/05

Registered Training Organisation	Amount up to:	Details
GM Rural Training	\$1,065	Additional funds for round 1 grant
GM Rural Training	\$16,650	Grant for round 2
Department of Primary Industries	\$69,900	Grant for round 2
Farmcare Training Pty Ltd	\$128,000	Grant for round 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$215,615</b>	



# Environmental Research Program

*In 2004/05, the Trust spent \$2.1 million on research. This included the first year instalment of the biggest single research investment ever made by the Trust: \$4.3 million over three years was approved for applied research into native vegetation management. The Trust also funded nine new research grants with a major focus on biodiversity.*



## Outcomes Achieved

Details of some major research projects that were completed during the year are below.

### New Major Project Approved – CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

CSIRO, DEC, Catchment Management Authorities, local government and universities have begun a program to provide robust and practical science to underpin reforms to native vegetation management in NSW. The Trust approved \$4.3 million over three years to fund research and development that will support the government's native vegetation reforms, under the guidance of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems.

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

#### ■ CASE STUDY

### CSIRO Handbook for Sediment Quality Assessment

The last decade has seen exponential growth in our understanding of contaminants in aquatic sediments. In Australia, as in many parts of the world, sediment quality guidelines have only recently been introduced, and detailed guidance on how to interpret and apply them is generally inadequate. Uncertainties in the science underpinning them require additional research. A 2000 Trust-funded project by CSIRO Energy Technology, valued at \$300,000,

investigated protocols for assessing sediment quality. From the findings, CSIRO prepared a handbook to summarise the latest science, and to provide information to guide assessments of sediment quality. The handbook describes approaches to measuring different lines of evidence, specifically sediment chemistry, contaminant bioavailability, toxicity, bioaccumulation and biomagnification, and benthic community structure. Environmental practitioners are seeking guidance on how to incorporate the latest science into their assessment of contaminated sediments, while the science is still being developed. The handbook reviews the existing literature and recommends how best to apply the findings (see also Dissemination Program).

#### ■ CASE STUDY

### Conservation of Australia's Forest Fauna Second Edition

The aim of this project was to update a 1991 book called *Conservation of Australia's Forest Fauna*. The aim of the book is to promote the science of zoology and conserve the habitat of our native fauna. The second edition captures the changes in knowledge, ideas and public interest in the subject since the first edition. The new publication, of 1,088 pages, was revised by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW with a Trust grant of \$10,000. Its 60 chapters describe the

latest applied research on conserving Australia's unique forest biota. Australia, along with the rest of the world, has sustained massive loss and fragmentation of forests from logging, grazing, altered fire regimes, pollution, introduction of exotic species and global climate change. The book covers virtually all these threats, with chapters on current land management regimes, habitat fragmentation and grazing and burning practices. Others among the many topics cover the importance of buffer strips, faunal corridors and park conservation areas. It also looks in detail at some animals, such as gliders, quolls and koalas. This book will be a major reference text in Australian conservation biology for many years to come.

# Research 2004/05

## Grant Programs



The Trust again offered \$1 million for environmental research – in the major category of biodiversity – and the minor categories of noise, hazardous substances and waste, and waters and catchments.

The objectives of the Environmental Research Program are to:

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

The Trust received 117 expressions of interest, which were shortlisted to 19 invited applications, of which nine were approved, totalling \$1.26 million (Table 11).

Five of the nine projects funded were in the major category of biodiversity. In April 2005, the Australian Academy of Sciences won a tender from the Trust to evaluate the Research Grants Program, which has been running since 2000. The aim is to assess the environmental value of the program and help improve it. The Academy will report to the Trust later in 2005.

Table 11

### Environmental Research Grants Awarded in 2004-05

Organisation	Project Title	Category	Amount
CSIRO - Land and Water	Do NSW Biosolid Guidelines permit harm to soils and food production?	Hazardous Substances and Waste	\$205,184
Department of Environment and Conservation	Biodiversity responses to fire regimes under climate change	Biodiversity	\$249,968
Forests NSW	Ground-truthing the NSW Biodiversity Benefits Toolkit	Biodiversity	\$108,184
University of New England	Will Wildlife Corridors Work for Sedentary Birds?	Biodiversity	\$85,924
University of New England	Environmental flow indicators to monitor floodplain wetland health	Waters and Catchments	\$99,568
University of New South Wales	Waterbird breeding in the Macquarie Marshes	Biodiversity	\$247,908
University of Sydney	Landscape Scale Impacts on Freshwater Mussel Distribution and Status	Biodiversity	\$99,234
WetlandCare Australia	Estuarine Wetland Health Assessment and Investment Prioritisation	Waters and Catchments	\$149,994
Wilkinson Murray Pty Limited	Effects of wind on downwind propagation of noise	Environmental Noise	\$13,680
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,259,644</b>

# Dissemination Program



A new program, called the Dissemination Program, was created to spread the results and benefits of completed Trust-funded projects to other areas and groups. The projects undertaken as part of this program build on the results of the original grant. They distribute the knowledge gained in the original project via a range of mechanisms such as workshops, brochures, conferences, DVDs and many others. A project officer was appointed in January 2005, and has been assessing past grants and working with proponents of successful and disseminable projects to determine strategies for their wider application. So far, \$115,187 has been awarded for six projects designed to disseminate the results of successful Trust grant projects (see below). A further three completed grants are under review or consideration for dissemination.

## **CSIRO-Handbook for Sediment Quality Assessment**

The original, 2000 Research grant project was technical in nature and produced some very sound research. The project developed new tests, and a draft handbook showed practitioners how to incorporate the latest science into the assessment of contaminated sediments.

The Trust provided \$17,500 for CSIRO to run a conference covering the handbook's research topics, and to print a version of the handbook for distribution at the workshop.

## **Department of Primary Industries and Wetland Care Australia – Floodgates and Wetland Management**

The Trust provided \$29,990 for Department of Primary (DPI) to conduct four successful workshops along the NSW coast, targeting local government and landholders. The workshops reached more than 100 of the people who are crucial to the effective management of floodgates. Their involvement helps to prevent fish kills resulting from depleted oxygen supplies, and to maintain water quality. Workshops were conducted in the Shoalhaven, Manning, Hunter and Tweed catchments. Collectively, they have over 600 floodgates, a significant proportion of the NSW total.

Two grantees worked together to deliver the workshops using the experience gained from their original projects. The sessions featured a video on floodgates produced in the original 2000 High Priority DPI project, reprinted brochures on wetlands from the 2002 Environmental Education Wetland Care Australia project, and a new brochure that summarises the results of the original floodgate project.



*Open floodgate allowing water exchange and fish passage*

## **Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) – Translocating Plants**

The original 2001 Education grant project revised and printed the *Guidelines for the Translocation of Threatened Plants in Australia* and trained practitioners in the translocation of threatened plants. As part of the original grant funding, the ANPC conducted a workshop in Sydney in February 2004 to discuss the topic. However, the original grant was insufficient to take this work to other areas that were experiencing high pressures from development. The ANPC were provided \$19,778 to conduct three workshops in regional locations. The first of three one-day workshops on the translocation of threatened plants was held in Queanbeyan in May. Participants evaluated it very highly. The other two workshops are scheduled for Newcastle and Coffs Harbour later in 2005.

## **Learning from Farmers – Making known the benefits of biodiversity conservation on farms**

The 2002 Education grant originally produced a brochure and trained the Learning from Farmers participants to enable them to promote the benefits they were finding from including native vegetation on their properties to other landholders. To make their stories and successes more widely available, a DVD was produced to capture their stories. Two contracts were let – one to the Learning from Farmers group for \$5,500, and one to a production company for \$18,269.

The DVD captures the experiences of the 12 farmers who maintain native vegetation on their properties, and are reaping environmental and economic gains as a result. It is presented in a format that will appeal to landholders across the state. It captures the passion and enthusiasm of the farmers, at the same time demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of maintaining native vegetation and biodiversity. The DVD will be distributed through Catchment Management Authorities, and to others working with local farmers to maintain native vegetation later in 2005.

## **Environmental Training and Employment (EnvITE) – Bush Regeneration Video**

The EnvITE group were originally given a grant under the 2002 education program to produce a video on bush regeneration for distribution on the North Coast. The video was deemed by the Dissemination Program to be more widely applicable. A DVD reproduction of EnvITE's video, 'Getting Started in Bush Regeneration', has now been distributed to most of the councils in NSW who expressed interest in it. The video/DVD is designed for use by community groups and shows some of the techniques used in bush regeneration.

The DVD is also available to community groups through the Environmental Trust's website and is being distributed widely to other interested groups. This project was managed internally by the Dissemination Project Officer, with a budget of \$2,325.

## **Australian National University – CatchMODs**

A component of this original 2000 research grant project developed and tested a catchment modelling tool in the Ben Chifley catchment in inland NSW. The tool is an integrated hydrologic, sediment and nutrient export model. This predictive model was the first of its kind to add an economic component to the modelling. The tool was seen as warranting additional promotion to some inland areas where it may be useful. A contract to the value of \$21,825 was let to the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management section of the Australian National University, to develop and conduct a series of workshops in three inland catchments. The workshops, to be held later in the year, will focus on water quality, and use the catchment modelling tool developed in the Ben Chifley Catchment Project.

# Finances





# NSW Environmental Trust



GPO BOX 12  
Sydney NSW 2001

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

### Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Environmental Trust:

- (a) presents fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and
- (b) complies with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the Act).

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

### The Trustees' Role

The financial report is the responsibility of the Trustee of the Environmental Trust. It consists of the statement of financial position, the statement of financial performance, the statement of cash flows and the accompanying notes.

### The Auditor's Role and the Audit Scope

As required by the Act, I carried out an independent audit to enable me to express an opinion on the financial report. My audit provides *reasonable assurance* to Members of the New South Wales Parliament that the financial report is free of *material* misstatement.

My audit accorded with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards and statutory requirements, and I:

- evaluated the accounting policies and significant accounting estimates used by the Trustees in preparing the financial report, and
- examined a sample of the evidence that supports the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report.

An audit does *not* guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial report is error free. The terms 'reasonable assurance' and 'material' recognise that an audit does not examine all evidence and transactions. However, the audit procedures used should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect decisions made by users of the financial report or indicate that Trustees had not fulfilled their reporting obligations.

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Environmental Trust,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

#### Audit Independence

The Audit Office complies with all applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements. The Act further promotes independence by:

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



R J Sendt  
Auditor-General

SYDNEY  
2 November 2005

## Environmental Trust

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE TRUST

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

- (a) The accompanying financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Environmental Trust as at 30 June 2005 and the transactions for the period then ended.
- (b) The statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2000, 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.



Bob Debus MP  
Chairperson



Lisa Corbyn  
Secretary



28/10/2005  
Date

*Start of Audited Financial Statements***ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST****Statement of Financial Performance****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005**

	Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Budget 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004 \$'000
<b>Expenses</b>				
Operating expenses				
Employee related	2(a)	-	380	335
Other operating expenses	2(b)	651	164	81
Grants and subsidies	2(c)	30,899	24,488	18,785
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>31,550</b>	<b>25,032</b>	<b>19,201</b>
Less:				
<b>Retained Revenue</b>				
Investment income	3(a)	1,840	1,200	1,707
Other revenue	3(b)	201	2	148
<b>Total Retained Revenue</b>		<b>2,041</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,855</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	14	<b>29,509</b>	<b>23,830</b>	<b>17,346</b>
<b>Government Contributions</b>				
Recurrent appropriation	4(a)	16,443	16,443	15,603
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	4(b)	-	-	11
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<b>16,443</b>	<b>16,443</b>	<b>15,614</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(13,066)</b>	<b>(7,387)</b>	<b>(1,732)</b>
<b>TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS</b>		<b>(13,066)</b>	<b>(7,387)</b>	<b>(1,732)</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these statements.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Budget 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Cash	6	35,003	29,480	38,974
Receivables	7	1,185	884	897
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>36,188</b>	<b>30,364</b>	<b>39,871</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>36,188</b>	<b>30,364</b>	<b>39,871</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	8	6,678	1,528	1,673
Provisions	9	-	26	14
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,678</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,687</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	8	4,400	0	0
Provisions	9	-	36	8
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,400</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>11,078</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,695</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>25,110</b>	<b>28,774</b>	<b>38,176</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Accumulated funds	10	25,110	28,774	38,176
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>25,110</b>	<b>28,774</b>	<b>38,176</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these statements.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Budget 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Employee related		-	(380)	(326)
Grants and subsidies		(21,494)	(24,488)	(18,651)
Other		(889)	(414)	(529)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(22,383)</b>	<b>(25,282)</b>	<b>(19,506)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Interest received		1,768	1,200	1,694
Other		201	252	569
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>1,969</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>2,263</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Government</b>				
Recurrent appropriation		16,443	16,443	15,603
<b>Net Cash Flows from Government</b>		<b>16,443</b>	<b>16,443</b>	<b>15,603</b>
<b>NET CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	14	(3,971)	(7,387)	(1,640)
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH</b>		(3,971)	(7,387)	(1,640)
Opening cash and cash equivalents		38,974	36,867	40,614
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>35,003</b>	<b>29,480</b>	<b>38,974</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these statements.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## Summary of Compliance with Financial Directives

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	2005				2004			
	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
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION/EXPENDITURE</b>								
Appropriation Act	16,443	16,443	-	-	15,603	15,603	-	-
	<b>16,443</b>	<b>16,443</b>	-	-	<b>15,603</b>	<b>15,603</b>	-	-
<b>OTHER APPROPRIATIONS/ EXPENDITURE</b>								
Treasurer's Advance								
Sect 22 - Expenditure for certain works and services								
Sect 24 - Transfers of functions between departments								
Transfers to/from another agency (sect 25 of the Appropriation Act)								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Appropriations/ Expenditure/Net Claim on Consolidated Fund (includes transfer payments)</b>	16,443	16,443	-	-	15,603	15,603	-	-
<b>Amount drawn down against Appropriation</b>		16,443				15,603		
<b>Liability to Consolidated Fund</b>		-		-		-		-

The Summary of Compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Funds moneys are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed).

## ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies****(a) Reporting Entity**

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

**(b) Basis of Accounting**

The Environmental Trust's financial statements are a general purpose financial report which has been prepared on an accruals basis and in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views, the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act and Regulations, and the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependant General Government Sector Agencies or issued by the Treasurer under section 9(2)(n) of the Act.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

In the absence of a specific Accounting Standard, other authoritative pronouncement of the AASB or UIG Consensus View, the hierarchy of other pronouncements as outlined in AAS6 *Accounting Policies* is considered

Except for certain investments, which are recorded at valuation, the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year, except that the use of employment agency (temporary) staff is now classified as an operating expense rather than as an employee related expense.

**(c) Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is recognised when: the Environmental Trust has control of the good or right to receive; it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Environmental Trust; and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably. All of the Environmental Trust's revenue arises from its operating activities. When the unused part of a grant is returned to the Environmental Trust, it is recognised as other income. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue 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 revenues when the Environmental Trust obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations/contributions. Control over appropriations and contributions is normally obtained upon 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 Income**

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues.

**(d) Employee Benefits and other provisions****(i) Salaries and Wages, Annual Leave, Sick Leave and On-Costs**

Liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and vesting sick leave are recognised and measured in respect of employees' service up to the reporting date at nominal amounts based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

**(ii) Long service leave and superannuation**

The Trust's liabilities for long service leave and superannuation are assumed by the Crown Entity, except for certain on-costs which are included in the Trust's liabilities. The Trust accounts for the Crown Entity liability as having been extinguished, resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as "Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities".

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employee's salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

**(iii) Other Provisions**

Other provisions exist when the Trust has legal, equitable or constructive obligation to make a future sacrifice of economic benefits to other entities as a result of past transactions and other past events. These provisions are recognised when it is probable that a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amount can be reliably measured.

**(e) Receivables**

Receivables are recognised and carried at the original invoice amount less a provision for any uncollectable debts. An estimate for doubtful debts is made when collection of the full amount is no longer probable. Bad debts are written off as incurred.

**(f) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

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

- \* the amount of GST incurred by the Environmental 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.

**(g) 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 Conservation.

**2. Expenses**

	<b>2005 \$'000</b>	<b>2004 \$'000</b>
<b>(a) Employee related expenses comprise the following specific items:</b>		
Salaries and wages (including recreation leave)	-	324
Superannuation	-	11
Long service leave	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>335</b>
<b>(b) Other operating expenses:</b>		
Auditor's remuneration-audit of financial report	12	12
Communication costs	1	-
Minor plant, stores and supplies	-	1
Information dissemination costs	73	-
Fees and services	551	38
Travel	13	3
Other	1	27
	<b>651</b>	<b>81</b>

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>(c) Grants and subsidies:</b>		
Grants provided to federal government	1,334	-
Grants provided to state and local governments	24,858	13,985
Grants provided to community/school groups	2,715	1,974
Grants provided to Consolidated Fund for initiatives under the Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995	1,992	2,826
	<b>30,899</b>	<b>18,785</b>

### 3. Revenues

<b>(a) Investment Income</b>		
Interest on bank account	1,840	1,707
	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,707</b>
<b>(b) Other revenue</b>		
Other	201	148
	<b>201</b>	<b>148</b>

### 4. Appropriations

<b>(a) Recurrent appropriations</b>		
Total recurrent drawdowns from Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	16,443	15,603
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,443</b>	<b>15,603</b>
Comprising:		
Recurrent appropriations (per Statement of Financial Performance)	16,443	15,603
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,443</b>	<b>15,603</b>
<b>(b) Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee entitlements and other liabilities</b>		
The following liabilities and/or expenses have been assumed by the Crown Entity or Other Government agencies:		
Superannuation	-	11
	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>



## 5. Programs/Activities of the Environmental Trust

The Environmental Trust had only one program in 2004-05.

### Program 1 Support of the Environment

**Objective:** To encourage and support environmental research, restoration and rehabilitation projects.

## 6. Current Assets: cash

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	35,003	38,974
	<b>35,003</b>	<b>38,974</b>
For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and cash at bank. Cash Assets recognised in the Statement of Financial Position 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	<b>35,003</b>	<b>38,974</b>

## 7. Current Assets: receivables and prepayments

Interest receivable	933	860
GST claimable	252	37
	<b>1,185</b>	<b>897</b>

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

## 8. Current/Non Current Liabilities: Payables

Current		
Creditors	6,393	1,656
Accrued expenses	285	17
	<b>6,678</b>	<b>1,673</b>
Non Current		
Creditors	<b>4,400</b>	-

## 9. Current/Non-Current Liabilities: Provisions

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>Employee benefits and related on-costs</b>		
Recreation leave	-	13
Long service leave	-	9
<b>Total Employee benefits and related on-costs</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Aggregate employee benefits and related on-costs</b>		
Provisions – current	-	14
Provisions – non-current	-	8
	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>

## 10. Changes in Equity

<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
<b>Balance at the beginning of the financial year</b>	38,176	39,908
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(13,066)	(1,732)
<b>Balance at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>25,110</b>	<b>38,176</b>

## 11. Commitments for Expenditure

### (a) Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 30 June 2005 (2004 – nil).

### (b) Operating expenditure commitments

The Fund's commitments totalling approximately \$17.3 million (2004 – \$9.7 million) for the funding of Trust's environmental initiatives are proposed to be financed from future funding provided by the NSW Government. The commitments are as follows:

#### Not later than one year

State and Local Government Grants	8,463	3,873
Community Grants and Other	1,577	3,171
	<b>10,040</b>	<b>7,044</b>

#### Later than one year but not later than five years

State and Local Government Grants	6,399	2,344
Community Grants and Other	829	281
	<b>7,228</b>	<b>2,625</b>
	<b>17,268</b>	<b>9,669</b>

## 12. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2005 (2004 – Nil).

## 13. Budget Review

### (a) Net Cost of Services

The actual net cost of services was \$29.5 million or 24% higher than budget. This was primarily due to the Trust's Board approving a payment of \$14.6 million to DEC for the purchase of land holdings in the west of the state with \$4.5 million being paid to DEC in 2004-05, and the remaining \$10.1million to be paid over the next two years. Other grants issued were less than budget estimates with higher investment income received than budget.

### (b) Assets and Liabilities

Total assets were \$5.8 million higher than budget and total liabilities were \$9.5 million higher than budget. Liabilities were impacted by inclusion of the \$10.1 million creditor referred to above. Both assets and liabilities were effected by the timing of payments associated with the Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995.

### (c) Cash Flows

The increase in cash holdings was \$5.5 million higher than budget. This was primarily due to the delay of expected expenditure under the Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995.

## 14. Reconciliation of Net Cost of Services to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>(29,509)</b>	<b>(17,346)</b>
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities:</b>		
Increase/(decrease) in creditors, provisions and accrued expenses:	9,405	145
Employee entitlements	(22)	(40)
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(288)	(13)
Cash Flows from Government	16,443	15,614
<b>Total Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(3,971)</b>	<b>(1,640)</b>

## 15. Financial Instruments

### (a) Cash & Investments

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11 am unofficial cash rate adjusted for a management fee to NSW Treasury. The average interest rate during the year was 4.33 % and the interest rate at the end of the year was 4.49 %.

Investments are generally able to be redeemed with 24 hours notice. The value of the investments held can decrease as well as increase depending upon market conditions. The value that best represents the maximum credit risk exposure is the net fair value. The value of the investments represent the Environmental Trust's share of the underlying assets of the facility and those assets are stated at net fair value.

### (b) Receivables

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised when some doubt as to collection exists. The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any provision for doubtful debts). No interest is earned on trade debtors. The carrying amount approximates net fair value.

**(c) Bank Overdraft**

The Environmental Trust does not have any bank overdraft facility.

**(d) Trade Creditors and Accruals**

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

**16. Adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**

The Environment Trust will apply the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) from 2005-06.

The transition is being managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) by allocating internal resources and/or engaging consultants (where required) to analyse the pending standards and Urgent Issues Group Abstracts to identify key areas regarding policies, procedures, systems and financial impacts affected by the transition.

As a result of this exercise, the Environment Trust has taken the following steps to manage the transition to the new standards:

- DEC's AEIFRS Project Steering Committee, headed by Executive Director, Corporate Services (DEC) overseeing the transition. The Project Working Group is responsible for the project and reports regularly to the Committee on progress against the plan.
- The following phases that need to be undertaken have been identified:
  - Phase 1 – Establish a project team to implement the AEIFRS.
  - Phase 2 – Identify key areas of impact on accounting and reporting, operational issues, systems, controls and policies including implementation timetable.
  - Phase 3 – Development of any necessary systems, policies and procedures and training requirements.
  - Phase 4 – Implementation of the AEIFRS and post implementation review.
- To date, the following phases have been or are being implemented:
  - Phase 1 – A project team has been established and meets regularly.
  - Phase 2 – This phase is completed. However, it is subject to Treasury's mandated options which must be adopted by the Fund.
  - Phase 3 – Current impact as a result of AEIFRS is very minor. However, if ED 125 is mandated by Treasury major changes relating to policy, procedures and systems will need to be implemented in a short period of time, to ensure grants are treated correctly.

The Environment Trust has determined that there will be no significant impact arising from the introduction of AEIFRS with the exception of the following:

**Grant recognition for not-for profit entities**

The Environment Trust will apply the requirements in AASB 1004 Contributions regarding contributions of assets (including grants) and forgiveness of liabilities. There are no differences in the recognition requirements between the new AASB 1004 and the current AASB 1004. However, the new AASB 1004 may be amended by proposals in Exposure Draft (ED) 125 Financial Reporting by Local Governments. If the ED 125 approach is applied, revenue and/or expense recognition will not occur until the Trust supplies the related goods and services (where grants are in-substance agreements for the provision of goods and services) or until conditions are satisfied. ED 125 may therefore delay revenue and/or expense recognition compared with AASB 1004, where grants are recognised when controlled. However, at this stage, the timing and dollar impact of these amendments is uncertain.

**17. After balance date events**

The Waste Fund has been abolished effective 1 July 2005. All assets and liabilities that are in the Waste Fund will be transferred into the Environmental Trust Fund.

**End of audited financial statements**

# Appendices



## Statement of Affairs and Administration of the Trust

### Indicators of activity in administering the Trust

	2003/04	2004/05
Total expenditure on environmental initiatives <sup>1</sup>	\$16.4 million	\$19.5 million
No. of grant programs running	10	11
No. of current major projects	15	20
No. of new grant projects approved and started	170	172
No. of applications/expressions of interest processed	899 <sup>2</sup>	585
No. of grant payments processed	275	313
No. of emergency pollution clean-ups funded	42	33

#### Notes:

1. Does not include spending on forestry restructuring under FRANCO Act.
2. Included 165 Expressions of Interest for Integrated Environmental Program, funding new three year projects.

## Structure and Management of the Trust

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

The Trust funds the costs incurred in administering the Trust's programs, including staff salaries. The DEC 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 DEC's Sustainability Programs Division. The major tasks are:

- promoting and managing the Trust's annual grants programs;
- coordinating assessments by the Trust's technical committees;
- servicing Trust meetings and technical committees 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.

The Trust provides funding for salaries and some administration costs.

## Grants Administration

All grants have conditions attached, covering such matters as the project timetable, grants 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 committees 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 DEC Library.



## Organisational Performance

Trust administration staff work wholly within the administration of the DEC, and are therefore part of organisational performance programs of the DEC. 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 DEC's *Annual Report 2003-04*.

## Assets

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

## Risk Management

The Environmental Trust's risk management includes independent grant assessment processes, formal authorisation and payment procedures under explicit delegated authority and written grant agreements 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 Environmental Trust by contacting:

### Grants Administrator

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

Information on Trust Grant Programs is also available on the Trust's website at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust)

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 DEC on (02) 9995 5500.

## 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 2005 programs

Environmental Trust Annual Reports 1992–93 to 2003–04.

Environmental Trust Brochure

550 copies have been produced of the 2004–05 report at an external production cost of approximately \$11.97 per copy.

The report is also available at the Trust's website  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/envtrust)

Freedom of Information

There was no freedom of information request in the 2004–05 financial year.

# Membership of the 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 the Environment (as Chairperson)
- Secretary of NSW Treasury
- Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation (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.

The Trust met three times in 2004–05.

## Members of the Environmental Trust and Meeting Attendance

Member	Position	Meetings attended by member or deputy	Meetings eligible to attend
Hon. Bob Debus MP	(Chairperson) Minister for the Environment (statutory appointment)	3	3
Mr John Pierce	Secretary of NSW Treasury (statutory appointment)		
Deputy 1: Ms Lindsey Williams	Director, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, NSW Treasury	3	3
Ms Lisa Corbyn	(Secretary) Director General, DEC (statutory appointment)	3	3
Mr Rob Pallin	<i>Representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW</i>	3	3
Cr Peter Woods	<i>Representing the Local Government Association and Shires Association</i>	0	2
Deputy: Mr Robert Verhey	Strategy Manager – Environment, Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW	2	2
Cr Genia McCaffery	<i>Representing the Local Government Association and Shires Association</i>	1	1

## Technical Committee Membership

Under Section 9 of the Act, the Trust has established several technical committees. Membership of each Committee during 2004/05 is set out below. The Trust did not establish any new committees in 2004/05.

### Restoration and Rehabilitation Program

**Mr Joe Woodward (Chairperson)**

Executive Director Operations, DEC

**Dr Greg Bowman**

Principal Scientist, Centre for Natural Resources,  
Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources

**Dr Lynn Webber**

Manager Education and Community Involvement Unit,  
Parks and Wildlife Division, DEC

**Ms Ellen O'Brien**

Principal, Envirostrategy (representative of the Nature  
Conservation Council of NSW)

**Mr Peter Dixon**

President, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

**Mr Robert Clegg**

Indigenous Land Management Facilitator, Department of  
Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (indigenous  
representative)

**Ms Jane Book**

Program Coordinator Hunter Councils Inc (representative of  
Lgov NSW)

**Ms Charlotte Webb**

Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers

### Environmental Education Program

**Mr Geoff Young (Chairperson)**

Manager Community Education, Department of Environment  
and Conservation (NSW)

**Dr Daniella Tilbury**

Senior Lecturer in Environmental Education and Sustainable  
Development, Graduate School of the Environment,  
Macquarie University (Australian Association for Environmental  
Education representative)

**Ms Maree McCaskill**

Chief Executive Officer, Beverage Industry Environmental  
Council (industry representative)

**Dr Lynn Webber**

Manager, Education and Community Involvement Unit,  
Parks and Wildlife Division, DEC

**Ms Jane Smith**

Executive Officer, Central Coast Community Environment  
Network (Nature Conservation Council representative)

**Mr Vince Scarcella**

Senior Education Officer, Education and Community  
Programs Unit, Parks and Wildlife Division, DEC (indigenous  
representative)

**Ms Vanessa Parkes**

Manager Environmental Services, Blacktown City Council  
(local government representative)

### Environmental Research Program

**Dr Klaus Koop (Chairperson)**

Director, Environment and Conservation Science, DEC

**Dr Judy Henderson**

(community representative)

**Dr John Keniry**

(industry representative)

### Protecting Our Places Program

**Mr Mick O'Flynn (Chairperson)**

Manager, Environmental Funding Programs, DEC

**Mr Michael Duncan**

Cultural Heritage Coordinator, Parks and Wildlife Division,  
DEC

**Mr Cliff Daylight**

Aboriginal Boards and Committees Coordinator, Department  
of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources

**Mr James Ingram**

Coordinator, Wagga Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council  
(community representative)

**Mr Anthony Siever**

Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Aboriginal Affairs

**Mr John Lennis**

Aboriginal Environment and Cultural Education Officer,  
Gandangarra Local Aboriginal Land Council (representing  
NSW Aboriginal Land Council)

### Eco Schools Program

**Mr Geoff Young (Chairperson)**

Manager Community Education Unit, DEC

**Mr Kevin Butler**

Chief Education Officer, Environmental Education Unit, NSW  
Department of Education and Training

**Ms Janelle Hatherly**

Community Education Manager, Botanic Gardens Trust,  
Sydney

**Ms Wendy Kinsella**

Australian Association of Bush Regenerators

**Mr Tony McArthur**

Professional Assistant to Executive Director Catholic  
Education Commission







## Photos

- Page 3 Landscape. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW.
- Page 4 Yanga Aerial Image. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW.
- Page 6 Banksia. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer W Goldstein.
- Page 8 Yanga Swans on River. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW.
- Page 9 Little Tern Chicks. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW.
- Page 13 Kosciuszko Lake Jindabyne. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW.
- Page 15 East Pygmy Possum. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer K Gillett.
- Page 22 Workshop Participants. Photo courtesy of Department of Primary Industries.
- Page 24 Scheyville. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer Fisheye Photo.
- Page 25 Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer Fisheye Photo.
- Page 29 Scientific Apparatus. Photo courtesy of CSIRO Energy Technology.
- Page 30 Scientific Apparatus. Photo courtesy of CSIRO Energy Technology.
- Page 31 Dissemination Products. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW
- Page 32 Greenfields Beach. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer Jervis I Charles.
- Page 36 Grass Tree. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer M Van Ewijk.
- Page 38 Alpine Flowers Kosciuszko National Park. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW.
- Page 39 Sturt Desert Pea. Photo courtesy of Department of Environment and Conservation NSW. Photographer Kinchega B Collier.

