

# NRM UPDATE



## For NSW Local Government

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The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Update provides council elected representatives and staff with information across the broad spectrum of natural resource management policy and programs

### LGNSW News

#### Save the date - 2017 Environment Awards

This year we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards. The timing of the awards has changed this year, with entries opening in April and the Finalists' Forum and ceremony taking place on 11 October 2017. Now is a great opportunity to start thinking and planning for what projects you could celebrate and share with your local government colleagues.



#### Consultation

LGNSW has been busy in recent months preparing submissions to a number of government initiatives including:

- Submission to the Explanation of Intended Effect: State Environmental Planning Policy No 44 – Koala Habitat Protection
- Submission on the Review of the Load Based Licensing Scheme
- Submission on the State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2016.

- Inquiry into flying-fox management in the eastern states
- Draft Submission on the Clean Air for NSW Consultation Paper
- Submission on Container Deposit Scheme draft Regulation 2016
- Submission to the Environmental Future Funding Package

### Local Government Case Studies

#### Marrambidya Wetland

Wagga Wagga City Council's major sewerage treatment works was extensively upgraded to improve efficiency of the facility and to improve the quality of the water discharged into the Murrumbidgee River. The decommissioned tertiary ponds were decontaminated, reshaped and landscaped to create a wetland.

The wetland is an ideal location for cultural activities and learning by the Wiradjuri community, and is a new public tourist facility. Council formed a steering committee involving the Local Aboriginal Lands Council and other Indigenous groups from the outset. The local Wiradjuri community now use the site for cultural activities.

#### Connected Corridors for Biodiversity

The member councils of Sydney Coastal Councils Group and Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils collated and consolidated existing mapping of habitat corridors along with mapping from the Office of Environment and Heritage. As a result, opportunities for connectivity and contiguity across council boundaries have been identified and highlighted. Greater Sydney Local Land Services is hosting this



[mapping](#) and will facilitate the annual updating of the GIS layer.

## NSW Government

### Planting to conserve pollinators

The Office of Environment and Heritage has released a [new planting guide](#) to conserve threatened nomadic pollinators in NSW. Highly mobile vertebrate pollinators (birds and bats) disperse pollen over large areas during feeding bouts, promoting out-crossing and increasing genetic variation in the plants and plant populations they visit. This genetic variation builds ecological resilience in ecosystems, increasing their capacity to withstand or adapt to pressures from anthropogenic change. Long-distance pollen flow is particularly important in highly fragmented landscapes. It may also provide a mechanism to help long-lived eucalypts withstand the challenges of climate change.

Key winter and spring food plants for nomadic pollinators are identified in this report, as are the vegetation communities that contain them.

Recommendations for plantings in key regional areas are made, and the threatened pollinators that may benefit from the plantings are identified.

### Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board

Do you have the skills and experience to contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in NSW through private land conservation and strategic biodiversity offset outcomes? The NSW Government is inviting [applications](#) for membership on the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board until **10 March 2017**.

### Hollows as homes

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust have developed an [online tool](#) to engage and teach community members to record the attributes of hollows and trees, and to monitor wildlife use of hollows. This project provides information to land managers about the types of hollows being used by different species and provides a landscape scale assessment of hollow resources which will aid in conservation outcomes. Participation of Bushcare and Landcare groups would be ideal as they can monitor their sites over time.

### Guideline for the Relocation of Large Tree Hollows

Central Coast Council and Greater Sydney Local Land Services have produced a set of [guidelines](#) on the relocation of large tree hollows including the relocation of a whole trunk that is then tethered to another living tree.

### SEED: Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data

This new [portal](#) has been developed with and for the community of NSW, as a central place for everyone to

find data about the environment. The portal enables users to visualise data without requiring scientific expertise or specialist mapping software.

### Developing a NSW Koala Strategy

The NSW Government is seeking community input into the development of a NSW Koala Strategy and the Saving our Species Iconic Koala Project. The NSW Government is inviting comments on developing a state wide framework to ensure koalas will continue to live and thrive in NSW. The closing date for written submissions is **3 March 2017**

Please contact [Kirsty](#) or [Rod](#) if you wish to contribute to the LGNSW submission or share your council's submission.

### Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans

[Regional strategic weed management plans](#) have been prepared to set the vision for weed management over the next five years. Each regional plan has been developed collaboratively through regional weed committees and alongside Local Land Services, and establishes strategies and actions to achieve goals that focus on shared responsibility for weed management, sustainable landscapes and collaborative leadership and innovation.

The plans will guide resource allocation and investment in the region and provide a consistent basis for regional planning and delivery. Submissions are due **8 March 2017**.

### NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment

The Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) has completed a statewide threat and risk assessment of the marine estate. The assessment identifies, assesses and prioritises threats and risks to the environmental assets and the social and economic benefits of the marine estate. MEMA has released the NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment Draft Report and is seeking your feedback on its findings.

[Submissions](#) on the draft report can be made until 31 March 2017 through an interactive tool.

## Australian Government

### Inquiry into Shark mitigation and deterrent measures

The Senate Environment and Communications References Committee have called for submissions into the efficacy and regulation of shark mitigation and deterrent measures by 3 March 2017.

Refer to the [Terms of Reference](#) for further information.



## Biodiversity adaptation competition

The [National Adaptation Network for Natural Ecosystems](#) is offering prizes for original case studies that demonstrate activities that minimise the impacts of climate change on Australia's biodiversity and ecosystems. Up to four winners will be awarded \$3000 each to support their conservation initiatives. Deadline is 24 March.

### VegeSAFE

VegeSAFE is a community science participation program run by Environmental Science staff at Macquarie University. The program aims to inform the community about metal and metalloid contaminants in their garden soil through a FREE soil metal testing program. Participants receive a formal report with their soil results and are provided with links to information and advice about "what to do next" in the event of soils containing elevated concentrations of metals and metalloids. Samples can be sent in from across Australia. For Sydney based councils, view the [latest findings for contamination in your area](#).

## Grants

NSW Flying-fox grants [applications open](#).

### Environmental Research grants

The [NSW Environmental Trust](#) is inviting EOI for applied research projects that help address environmental problems in NSW. Grants up to \$150,000 will be awarded to projects under the following themes:

- contaminants and pollution;
- biodiversity;

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- climate adaptation; and
- mechanisms for social engagement.

EOIs close 3pm Monday, 13 March 2017.

### Public Reserves Management Fund

The Department of Industry – Lands is calling for applications to the Public Reserves Management Fund Program. The PRMFP funds a diverse range of activities each year in the following categories:

- General development, maintenance and protection activities on any eligible Crown reserve.
- Pest and weed projects on Crown land.

[Applications](#) close 24 March 2017.

## Events and Training

2017 Floodplain Management Australia National [Conference](#) 16-19 May 2017, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

### Bushfire Conference Fire

The Nature Conservation Council is hosting the [Fire, Fauna and Ferals: from backyards to bush Conference](#) on 30- 31 May 2017.

This multi-disciplinary conference will explore how fire management can support ecological values across the landscape: from our backyards through to the bushland interface and beyond. The program will examine the interactions between fire and fauna across a range of ecosystems and look at integrated approaches to managing fire, native fauna and flora, weeds and pest animals.

### MORE INFORMATION

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